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West India

Committee

Circular

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THE
West India Committee Circular.

VOL. XXXIV.



Nos. 529 to 554.

JANUARY to DECEMBER, 1919.



LONDON :

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS.

The West India Committee Circular.

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The present number is the first of Volume XXXIV. of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. In order to economise paper and postage, the index for Volume XXXIII., which will shortly be published, will only be posted to those subscribers sending special application for copies.

The West India Committee Rooms,

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LONDON, E.C.3.
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The General Election.

THE General Election resulted in a sweeping victory for the Coalition party and a personal triumph for MR. LLOYD GEORGE. The Pacifists and the remnant of the old Liberal caucus were routed, MR. ASQUITH and several of his Ministers losing their seats in the *débâcle*. Speaking for ourselves, we have to welcome the election of SIR OWEN PHILLIPS and SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL THOMSON, both members of the Executive of the West India Committee; of SIR EDWARD GOULDING and MR. JOSEPH HOOD, Directors of the Colonial Bank; and also of MR. GIDEON MURRAY, erstwhile Administrator of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, who will form the nucleus of a useful West Indian party in the House of Commons, and our only regret is that MR. SANDBACH PARKER should unfortunately have fought a losing fight at Barnstaple. The Dominions and Colonies very properly took no part in the election campaign; but they are justly entitled to record their satisfaction with the results. It is true that what really mattered was the fate of Wilhelm II. the question of indemnities, reconstruction and Imperial Preference taking a second place as the date of the election drew near; but the electorate was fully aware of the determination of the Coalition party to give effect to the pledge of the Government to accord favoured treatment to Colonial produce, and the

reason why that policy was not more actively canvassed is undoubtedly attributed to the fact that a great majority of the electors took its adoption for granted. Our friends in the West Indies will, therefore, be able to appreciate the full significance of the majority of 262, which the Coalition will now have in the House of Commons. Not only is all fear of subsidised foreign competition at an end, for dumping is to be effectively prevented, but a preference in the duties is to be given on colonial products, which are now dutiable or are to be made dutiable, and we have the authority of MR. BONAR LAW for stating that the PRIME MINISTER'S letter to him, which intimated that the Coalition would be free to give a preference on all duties which the Government, for its own purposes, has imposed, covers the case of sugar. A new vista of prosperity is thus opened up for West Indian Colonies, which will, we hope, rise to the occasion, and by activity and enterprise reap full advantage of the opportunity of development which will now be afforded to them.

Limes or Lemons?

WE hope that the authorities will not consider as conclusive the findings of the ladies who, on behalf of the Lister Institute, have been investigating the respective merits of limes and lemons in the treatment of scurvy, which we published in the last two issues of the CIRCULAR. On the face of it, the evidence which they adduce appears to be overwhelmingly in favour of the lemon; but it will be gathered from a footnote attached to the report that the experiments have not yet been completed, and in the circumstances we trust that judgment will be suspended until further investigation has been made and the views of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which will no doubt take the matter up, have been received. We gather that the experiments already conducted were made with the juice of fresh fruit expressed in this country, and as, under war conditions, limes were frequently from six to eight weeks in transit, while lemons arrived here after a journey of only ten days or a fortnight from Sicily or Italy, lime juice was placed at a distinct disadvantage at the outset. Again, the West Indian crude lime juice seems to have been compared with lemon juice squeezed in this country from fresh lemons as imported, the whole of the fruit being used for this purpose. If this is so, it is obvious that a fairer comparison would have been made between the juice of lemons squeezed in Sicily and Italy and that of limes similarly produced in the West Indies. Under present conditions of shipment and transport the lime fruit for experimental purposes should arrive in this country in much better

condition than it could do during the dark days of the war, and when, as we hope will be the case in the near future, the length of the voyage will be reduced to two or three weeks, a much fairer comparison between the two fruits will be possible. We are glad, therefore, to learn that the ladies who conducted the experiments on behalf of the Lister Institute have undertaken to investigate the properties of the juice of limes only two or three weeks old, in order to see if the minimal protective dose for guinea pigs cannot be lowered with juice obtained from the fresh samples of fruit.

Meanwhile producers of limes in the West Indies may take heart from the knowledge that abundant evidence is forthcoming as to the value of limes for other purposes. Some years ago COLONEL KERR, V.C., called our attention to their value as a remedy for gout. MR. JOSEPH SHORE, of Jamaica, testified to their advantages for curing rheumatism. It is, moreover, beyond doubt that they afford a certain cure for biliousness if taken on an empty stomach on rising in the morning. They furnish also an excellent embrocation for animals as well as human beings in cases of bruises, and for toilet use lime juice is unsurpassed. Incidentally it may be mentioned that DR. REIGEL discovered that the microbes of typhus, diarrhoea, and cholera could be destroyed by the acids of limes, a solution of three-fifths per cent. of citric acid and five per cent. of cane sugar with water being found to kill the germs of these complaints in fifteen minutes, five hours, and 24 hours respectively. Apart from this, it is an admitted fact that by all residents in the tropics, and certainly in America, the flavour of limes is infinitely preferred to that of lemons, and it may be recalled that the *Lancet*, which recently published the memorandum of the Lister Institute, reporting on Dominica limes submitted by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, itself stated that the anti-scorbutic properties of lime juice might be regarded as more marked than those possessed by the juice of the lemon, adding: "While the alkaline salts amount to practically the same in both fruits, yet the phosphoric acid is greater in the lime than in the lemon. It is probably owing to the richness in alkaline salts that the use of lemon juice, as well as other fruit juices, is helpful in some diseases of the skin and in preventing eczema. The juice of the lime is equally valuable in this respect, if, indeed, in regard to some dietetic points, it is not superior."

STEAMER SAILINGS.

OUTWARD.

To.	From.	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Manzanares</i>	Jan. 12.
West Indies	London	<i>Spheroid</i>	Jan. 17.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Nessian</i>	Jan. 24.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Coronado</i>	Jan. 27.
B'dos. & T'dad,	Liverpool	<i>Oranian</i>	Feb. 1.
West Indies	Calcutta	<i>Ganges</i>	Feb. 17.

HOMEWARD.

From.	To.	Packet.	Due.
West Indies	London	<i>Ormiston</i>	Jan. 12.
West Indies	London	<i>Saba</i>	Jan. 18.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Barranca</i>	Jan. 18.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"UNWILLING pickny neber hab fren."

* * *

MR. G. MOODY STUART, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, left for the West Indies in the R.M.S. *Quillota*, on Tuesday last and hopes to visit Trinidad, Antigua and St. Kitts.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Lieutenant Alan C. F. Bruce, R.N., of H.M.S. *Morris*, to Barbara Clarributt, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Skinner, of Mayfield, Sussex, and formerly of Trinidad.

* * *

MR. LANCELOT HENRY ELPHINSTONE, Attorney-General of British Honduras, has been appointed Solicitor-General of Trinidad; but will not take up his appointment until after the arrival of the New Governor at Belize.

* * *

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has recently addressed an important communication to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the further improvement in telegraphic communication with and between the West Indian Colonies.

* * *

LIEUTENANT I. D. PETERKIN, Highland Light Infantry, of Harrison College, Barbados, has been selected as an instruction officer under the new education scheme for service with the troops in France, and is at present undergoing a preparatory course at Oxford.

* * *

MR. GEORGE F. HUGGINS, O.B.E., "Father" of the Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent, has arrived in London, where he has received a cordial welcome from those of his numerous protégés who are fortunate enough to be in the metropolis. He is as full of enthusiasm as ever, and, we are glad to say, is in excellent health.

MUCH sympathy will be felt for Mr. Mewburn Garnett, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, in the loss which he has sustained through the death of his wife. Mrs. Garnett, we regret to say, died suddenly at a nursing home on January 6th, following the effects of influenza.

* * *

It may now be disclosed that on the occasion of the air raid on June 13th, 1917, the premises of the West Indian Produce Association narrowly escaped destruction. A bomb fell on the next building, demolishing the roof of the W.I.P.A., several employees of which had a very narrow escape.

* * *

At the annual meeting of the Incorporated English Beet Sugar Pioneer Association which was held in Liverpool on December 18th, the chairman (Ald. E. Russell Taylor, J.P.) suggested that the present was a most opportune moment both in the interests of the production of home-grown sugar and the employment of labour, for the Government to take active steps to establish the beet sugar industry.

* * *

MR. TAYLOR said that something like £10,000 had been spent in propaganda work, and experiments in the growth of sugar beet in all parts of the United Kingdom had demonstrated the entire suitability of the land for the cultivation of the industry. In an industry of the magnitude of that under review, it could not be expected that private enterprise alone could carry the burden, and the time had arrived when, if the country desired to produce part of its own sugar within its borders, and by means of deep cultivation involved in beet growing improve the other crops grown in rotation, it was essential that the State should take a hand in the movement.

* * *

THE amalgamation of Dick, Kerr & Co. with other important businesses has now been completed and a new company entitled the English Electric Company, Ltd., has been formed with a capital of £5,000,000 to carry on the undertakings. The company will be one of the three powerful electrical manufacturing concerns in the country and considerable further expansion of business is anticipated.

It was Mr. Follett Holt, who was recently elected a Member of the West India Committee, who suggested to the Government the installation of the train ferry system between England and France which has proved such a great success. Mr. Holt, who is chairman of the Entre Rios Railway Company, recently visited South America on an official mission, and we understand that in his report he refers to the question of the development of our only South American Colony.

* * *

A NUMBER of autograph letters now being offered for sale in London include a communication from William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, to Sir John (then Captain) Moore, "Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands." Another letter is from the pen of "Monk Lewis," who assures a correspondent that "the allowance made by my father (independent of whom I do not possess a shilling) is inadequate to support me in London." Lord Rodney is represented also in the collection.

* * *

It is now no longer a secret that two destroyers of the most modern type have recently been named H.M.S. *Trinidad* and H.M.S. *Tobago*. This has naturally been a subject for great satisfaction to the residents in the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, who are contributing to Funds with the object of making a presentation to these two vessels. Permission has been granted for the badges of the islands to be used by the new destroyers. It may be recalled in this connection that there is also an H.M.S. *Barbados* in the Royal Navy, though she is only one of the vessels classed as "Auxiliary Small Craft."

* * *

URGING that no sugar, cocoa, or other raw materials should be sent from this country to Germany, a writer in *Confectionery* draws attention to the falling off—due to adverse weather conditions—of the cocoa output of Trinidad and Grenada, and adds: "Trinidad, therefore, for some time to come will not be of much use to any country but America, for Uncle Sam, unlike ourselves, will not allow this excellent raw cocoa to go roaming around the world *en route* for neutrals, for the sake of a few extra shillings per cwt. The Grenada output is too small to trouble about with a big world demand."

* * *

It is no longer a secret that since the earliest days of the war Canadian troops have been performing garrison duty in St. Lucia. An acknowledgment of their services is contained in the following telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon. Walter Long, to the Governor General of Canada: "Now that withdrawal of Canadian Garrison from St. Lucia has been decided upon, Lords Commissioners of Admiralty and Army Council wish to express their appreciation of the services of the Canadian troops employed, to whom His Majesty's ships and the Mercantile Marine are indebted for the sense of security which the defence of Port Castries has given during the period of hostilities."

MR. CHARLES F. WOOD, chairman of the Colonial Bank, entertained the London staff at dinner at the Cambridge Room, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, on December 19th. Among the directors present were:—Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. Thomas Du Buisson, Mr. Arthur J. McConnell, Col. C. W. S. Whitburn, Mr. Joseph Hood, and Mr. O. V. G. Hoare. Mr. Robert Rutherford was unfortunately prevented from attendance through influenza. After the Loyal Toasts, the chairman, proposing "The Colonial Bank," threw out the suggestion of a Colonial Bank Magazine for circulation among the staff at home and abroad, which was greeted with enthusiasm. After dinner a musical programme was carried out by members of the staff and glees were admirably rendered by a choir of the same composition. A vote of thanks to the chairman for his hospitality was proposed by Mr. Charles H. Hewett, Joint General Manager of the Bank, who referred to the extraordinary progress of the Bank and to corresponding increase in the numbers of the London staff, which in four years had increased from 12 members to 70.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The result of the quietest General Election shows that Britain has been true to herself. The Ministry which represented all parties, and supported the soldiers and sailors in bringing hostilities to a victorious conclusion, has been returned to power with a huge majority. In it Unionists, whose patriotic action decided our entry into the War, and onwards was the chief factor in the strength of successive Governments, largely preponderate. Official Coalitionists number 338; Liberals, 130; representatives of the British Workers' League, 9. Of non-official Coalitionists there are 52. They include 21 Unionists, 2 Liberals, 24 Irish Unionists, and 2 members of the National Party. One of the most marked features of the Election was the revolt of the constituencies against the political machine. These independent members, while they will not vote as they are bidden, are certain to support all measures devised for the welfare of the country as a whole. Another new feature of the election was the number of naval and military candidates returned, 222 in all, the bulk of them men who joined the Services for the War, and many have a fine record of service. The Opposition consists for the most part of Labour, which has nearly doubled its strength in the late House of Commons, and now numbers 64. Of Liberals there are 26, of Irish Nationalists 7, of Independents 7. In Ireland the Sinn Feiners have swept the country and returned the only woman candidate, the notorious Countess Markiewicz, who cannot sit, as she is not a British subject.

In Britain the Pacifist, pro-German cranks have been completely routed—Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Philip Snowden, and Mr. Arthur Henderson, amongst others. As for ex-Ministers there never was such a landslide. The rejected include Mr. Asquith, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Runciman, Mr. McKinnon Wood, and Sir John Simon.

The Peace Conference.

The preliminaries are being arranged, if none too quickly. The truth is that just as the Allies were unprepared for war so they are unprepared for peace, at any rate as regards the formulation of a definite policy on large lines. It is believed, however, that there will be a more or less informal meeting of the Allies in Paris about the middle of January. An "Official" list of the British Delegates was published, and heading it were, naturally, the names of the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law. Other names included those of Mr. Balfour, Viscount Hardinge, Sir William Tyrrel, Sir Louis Mallet, Sir Esmé Howard, Sir Ralph Paget, and Sir Eyre Crowe. Next day the public was told that the full composition of the British delegation had not yet been decided upon.

In the meantime people in the Allied countries are busily engaged in discussing the problems to be considered, and experts in sifting and arranging the mass of documents to supply the statesmen at the Conference with material to support their case on any given subject.

Apparent Divergence in Principles.

On three principles the Allies have arrived at something like agreement—the right of peoples to dispose of their own destinies, the limitation of armaments, and compulsory arbitration—but as to the means by which they are to be achieved there is not the same unanimity. M. Clemenceau, who it is believed will preside at the Peace Conference, has spoken out in defence of the balance of power, which is anathema to the theorists. Mr. Wilson, on the other hand, eschews the doctrine, and says that the United States would never come to the assistance of Europe to maintain it. But she has already done so against Germany, which aimed at upsetting the balance of power. That Mr. Wilson describes American action in the present war as dictated by the desire to maintain freedom and civilisation, does not alter the fact, since freedom and civilisation are always in danger when the balance of power is lost or threatened. The consequence of this difference in outlook as between M. Clemenceau and Mr. Wilson is that the one is in favour of a League of Nations such as came into existence during the War, whereas the other wants a League of Nations which is universal. American as well as Allied opinion generally is divided on the subject, so that there is little doubt but that the subject will sooner or later be associated with compromise—and after, not during the Conference.

The Allies have decided not to send armed forces into the heart of Russia, but to support the nationalities bordering on the sea against the Bolsheviks.

A Great American Navy.

The announcement of Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy in the Federal Government, has thrown a bombshell into the national and international situation by announcing that the United States intends to have the strongest Navy in the world. He says that the alternative is the creation of a League of Nations as part of the peace conditions, or, in other words, that mankind is to be forced into the Wilson political mould by American sea-power, which is a paradox. Britain, on her side, welcomes an increase in the United States Navy, as, hitherto, on her has fallen the burden of policing the seas and oceans of the world and keeping the ring when two nations fell into war. In the future the burden promises to be borne jointly by the two great Anglo-Saxon communities, neither of which is likely to follow out a policy of aggression. Moreover, it is natural that, when Americans perceived how much they were indebted for their security to British sea-power, that they should resolve to develop their own. The American Fleet, which co-operated so splendidly with the British Navy in the War, has gone home.

President and Mrs. Wilson, who arrived in England on Boxing Day, were given a magnificent welcome by enthusiastic crowds and entertained royally with a warmth that was more than diplomatic, more than the result of common service in common cause, more than a recognition that this country and the United States have helped one another to escape a great danger. It was a consciousness that they are of one race, language, and ideals. In short, Presi-

dent Wilson was treated as the representative of the greatest branch of the Anglo-Saxon family. He and the British Cabinet discussed the big problems which will arise at the Peace Conference at several fateful meetings.

The President is now on a visit to Italy, after which he will go to Brussels and make a tour of the French battlefields, which will convey more to him of German mentality than the most vivid written or spoken word has yet been able to do.

Lord Jellicoe and the Dominions.

Incomparably the greatest sailor of his time is soon to proceed on a tour of the Empire, in order to advise the several Governments concerned in connection with naval defence. Apparently, Whitehall, after thirty years of obstruction, has agreed to the decentralisation of Naval power, and desires India, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa to come into line with Australia, whose Fleet Unit, expanding into a South Pacific Division of the Imperial Navy, has done such good service in the War. Lord Jellicoe is to give the benefit of his strategical, administrative, and technical experience, in order that the wardens of the outer sea marches, as they will be in practice, may organise and administer their naval forces on common lines approved by the Admiralty. It is to be hoped that Lord Jellicoe will visit the Caribbean, which still holds the keys of sea-power.

The Situation in Germany.

The disintegration and decay of Germany continue, and, unless the various parties understand that the only alternative to unity is foreign rule, perhaps preceded by a Bolshevik invasion, will increase with every month. The Christmas holidays in Berlin were disturbed by the Extremists, aided by the sailors, who had a grievance of their own. The Royal Palace and other public buildings were occupied, and rioting was only checked by military force. The three Independent Socialists in the Cabinet, to show their disapproval, resigned, but their places were immediately filled by more moderate men. The victory was Pyrrhic, however, since the Chief of Police has been obliged to resign. Nevertheless, the extremists have sustained a crushing defeat by the decision of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils, by 400 to 75 votes, to hold the elections for a National Assembly in January, and not to make the Councils the basis of the New Constitution, which deprives Prussia of her privileges and partitions her electorally.

In Russia.

The Bolsheviks are organising a large army, which is disciplined and led by ex-officers of the Imperial Armies. They are a source of terror at home, and threaten to overrun Europe. Against them the Poles and Austro-Hungarians are organising resistance amongst the able-bodied and younger men, the older men being sent home. In Estonia the Bolsheviks were moving on Reval, when their designs were frustrated by ships of the British Navy, which, however, will have to be withdrawn on account of the ice.

The Allied forces in North Russia are maintaining order in a large area, providing a refuge for patriotic

Russians, who are being armed and trained, and preventing the Bolsheviks from establishing bases on the Murman coast. M. Ivolsky, Russian Ambassador to France, draws a very black picture of the immediate future of his country, and says that if the Allies do not help her she will have to turn to Germany.

And in Portugal.

President Sidonia Paes, steady friend of the Allies, has been assassinated. Portugal, it is feared, will now return to something like political chaos, and is in danger of falling into Bolshevism.

A Disaster at Sea.

The *Iolaire*, an Admiralty converted vessel, with nearly 300 sailors on board, most of them on leave for the first time since the War began for a New Year's holiday, was wrecked in a squall on a dangerous jagged rock to the right of the entrance to Stornoway Harbour in the West of Scotland. Only for the skill and endurance of two sailors few would have been saved. But they managed to get a footing on the rock with a life-line. The seas were so heavy, unfortunately, that many were washed off in sight of home.

Future of Flying.

An Allied Conference is to take place in Paris shortly, with a view to establishing some sort of basis for future aerial navigation. Two of the important questions to be discussed are the means to be taken to prevent airmen of different nationalities from avoiding the Customs barriers and of preventing Germany from so devising her postal and commercial aeroplanes that they can be converted into bombing machines in a few moments.

The Germans are handing over thousands of aeroplanes to the Allies in accordance with the terms of the armistice. One is a monster, not unlike the Handley-Page machines, which have inaugurated a flying service to India. The publication of General Trenchard's despatch on the work of the British Aviation Forces constitutes a wonderful record of their achievements, and accounts for the admiration with which they are regarded in every Allied country. One fact, which has not hitherto been generally known, is that all preparations were made for raiding Berlin, and were only prevented from materialising by the armistice.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON.

The New Year's Honours List included the name of Mr. Edward Davson, President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, on whom the King has conferred the honour of Knighthood.

Sir Edward Davson is a son of the late Sir Henry Davson, Chairman of the West India Committee, and was educated at Eton. He is senior partner of Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co., West India Merchants, and chairman of Messrs. S. Davson & Co., Ltd., sugar estate proprietors, which has been established in the Colony of British Guiana for over a century. This firm has always been noted for its public spirit, and in this connection it may be recalled that at the commencement of the war it presented a gift of produce to the value of £2,000 to the British Government, and that more recently it established the Davson Centenary Fund and Gold Medal for the encouragement of Medical Research in British Guiana.

Sir Edward represented the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in 1906 and 1912, and represented the West India Committee at the Agricultural Conference at Trinidad in the same year. He also represented the West India Committee at Ottawa during the conference on Canadian-West Indian reciprocity, and the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce at the Imperial Council of Commerce Conference in London in 1916. In 1914 he proposed the formation of an Associated Chamber of Commerce for the West Indies, and made a tour of the West Indian Colonies and addressed meetings on the subject. The Chamber was eventually formed successfully, and Sir Edward presided at the first meeting held in Trinidad in the early part of 1917. This meeting was an unqualified success and was recognised as marking a distinct stage in the commercial unity of the West Indies. Sir Edward was later entertained to dinner by 60 leading representatives of British Guiana "in recognition of his services to the West Indies and to British Guiana in particular."

He is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, of the Committee of the West Indian Club, and also of the West Indian Contingent Committee, and is well known as a writer and lecturer on Colonial subjects, for which he holds the silver medal of the Royal Society of Arts.

A TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

Now that the British West Indies are more prosperous than they have been for many years, the moment is opportune for establishing a tropical Agricultural College in those Colonies.

The need for such an institution has for long been apparent. A College is urgently wanted where men—especially including local men—can be trained in the higher branches of tropical agriculture in connection with the cultivation of cacao, coffee, bananas, coco-nuts, limes, sugar-cane and other tropical plants; and in the manufacture and chemistry of sugar, and in veterinary science, in all of which subjects research and experiment could with advantage to the communities concerned be conducted to a fuller extent than at present.

The objects of such a College would be:—

1. To carry out research with the view of protecting crops and live stock from insect pests and disease, and improving the breed of plants in desired directions, and of improving the recovery of sugar and finding means of utilizing bye-products.
2. To provide post-graduate training in Tropical Agriculture, Aboriculture and Sugar Technology for those holding University degrees in science, with the view of their carrying on research or of qualifying for the management of estates or factories.
3. To provide courses of training for estate proprietors and managers in planting, grafting, pruning, manuring, guarding against or exterminating plant diseases and insect pests, in the care of live stock, and in sugar-making and sugar chemistry. Courses limited to two or three months might be arranged to admit of the attendance of those who can only leave their estates for short periods.
4. To provide training in the above subjects for young men desirous of becoming planters or sugar chemists who have received sufficient agricultural or scientific instruction elsewhere.

It is a matter for regret that there are at present very few sugar chemists of British nationality who have the scientific combined with the practical quali-

nations to justify their being classed as such. These few men have qualified themselves by long years of work and study and are not open for fresh appointments, so that when a sugar chemist is required for the British West Indies, one has to be found outside the Empire. This applies also *mutatis mutandis* to entomologists. When trouble arises from plant disease or insects, entomologists and mycologists from the College would be available to come at once to the aid of the local Agricultural Department.

Trinidad has recently been suffering severely from "frog-hoppers." An expert from England has been conducting investigations, but as he is under the disadvantage of being new to the West Indies and working single-handed, his investigations are necessarily slower and less complete than if carried out by a fully qualified West Indian Research Department. The loss in a single season from this pest has been estimated at £200,000, so the saving of time is important. Other insect pests and plant diseases cause havoc in various Colonies from time to time, and if it were established to cope with these alone, the expenditure on a research department would be more than justified.

Through the research and experiment work, further progress will be made in the breeding of improved species of plants, in finding better methods of planting, pruning and grafting, of saving and utilising manure, of increasing the recovery of sugar from the cane and in turning bye-products to good account.

It will be easily realised what scope there is for a college which would bring about a marked alteration in the circumstances of West Indian Estates and Factories.

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, in the House of Commons' debate on the Colonial Office vote, in August, 1917, showed the enormous benefits that had accrued in India from the establishment of a college for research. He told how a great scientist, Mr. Howarth, and his wife, had brought out a new wheat which was rust-proof and strong in the straw, and the estimated increase in revenue to the wheat growers in India through this was £5,000,000 per annum. He suggested that similarly gains might be secured in the West Indies, and urged that research is the basis of all progress in agriculture. This is undoubtedly true, but it is equally true that to carry the knowledge gained by research to the fields and factories, higher education must be provided for those who manage the work in fields and factories. With adequate provision for this research and education, such an increase in production can be assured as will yield a revenue that will make the position of the proprietors more secure and provide for adequate salaries and wages, and have something over from which all classes will benefit if the West Indies fall in with the movement that is spreading widely in home industries to give all contributors towards production a share in its profits.

The need of such a College is now generally recognised and the only obstacle to its establishment has been the question of funds. Even before the War the Imperial Government was unwilling to meet the expense, and in view of the heavy burden which the nation will now have to face, the chances of assistance from Parliament are remote. More-

over, having regard to the recent improvement in the condition of the Colonies, it would be unreasonable to ask for it. During the long period of depression from which they have now emerged, the British West Indian Colonies were not in a position to charge themselves with fresh expenditure. But in these recent years they have been prosperous, and the expenditure of money on higher agricultural education and on agricultural research is the best means to ensure a continuance of prosperity.

THE TRADE OF JAMAICA.

The Report of the Hon. J. H. Miles, Collector of Customs of Jamaica, for the year ended March 31st, 1918, shows that the revenue amounted to £448,465, as against £554,540 in the preceding year. The falling-off of £106,075 was to the extent of £22,300 attributable to the abandonment of the duties on the export of cocoa, logwood, and rum, other causes being the shortage of shipping and restrictions on the free interchange of commodities, and a hurricane of considerable intensity which passed over the Eastern parishes and utterly destroyed standing crops.

Mr. Miles shows by tables the very complete manner in which Jamaica has been thrown into the arms of the United States in regard to her import trade. In regard to foods and drink, trade with the United Kingdom receded by 13.7 points, while with the United States it increased by 16.3. In raw material, home trade declined by 1.4 points, and American trade advanced by 2.4, and in regard to trade in manufactured goods, which in former days belonged to the United Kingdom, the volume with the United Kingdom receded in one year by 10.1 points, while the United States' participation advanced by 7.9 points. There will thus be considerable leeway to make up before the balance of former days is re-established after the war.

The imports for each tenth year for the past forty years shown at ten year rests, the years chosen being those with the terminal 7, show the following results:—

1877-78	March	...	...	...	£1,422,722
1887-88	September	...	...	...	1,695,605
1897-98	March	...	...	...	1,660,667
1907-08	March	...	...	...	2,614,013
1917-	December	...	...	...	3,297,742

In forty years the value of the imports has more than doubled, and each decade that is ticked off the calendar of time marks further progress in the transference of our Island trade to the United States. War conditions have given a filip to the rate of progress in this direction, but they are not responsible for the inevitable tendency noted, and it will remain, says Mr. Miles, for Empire policy to arrest this trend.

The acceptances of the United Kingdom have shown a percentage improvement, and had Jamaica been able to ship all the rum, coffee, and cocoa offering for that market, the relative figures would have been much better than shown. The disaster, too, that overtook the banana industry, while keeping the percentage of exports to the United States low, tended to improve the relative position of the

Mother Country. The relative position of Canada has improved, and the efforts made to find outside markets is reflected in the percentage of exports to other countries.

Mr. Miles gives the following table to show the relative importance to the island of its staple products and of the minor items, though it is obvious that if some articles are given preferential transport and others are laid under embargo, the statement is no true index of relative values:—

	1915.	1916.	1917.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Coffee	5.8	5.2	4.8
Cocoa	9.3	6.0	4.8
Coco-nuts	4.7	6.5	6.1
Dyewoods	8.0	14.7	6.5
Fruit	29.4	9.3	10.3
Logwood Extract	10.7	14.3	16.4
Pimento	2.5	1.6	2.9
Rum	8.4	12.7	2.3
Sugar	11.6	18.1	29.0
Minor Products	9.6	11.6	16.9

The following is an abstract of the classification of lands subject to tillage, showing the figures of 1917-18 against a four-year average:—

	1917-18.	Average.
	acres.	acres.
Minor Items	2,431	3,345
Canes	37,951	32,554
Coffee	20,280	19,252
Coco-nuts	35,923	25,534
Bananas	61,987	84,922
Cocoa	14,590	11,375
Ground Provisions	77,092	64,973
Mixed Cultivation	29,503	28,783

For the third year in succession the island was swept by an autumnal hurricane and again a general destruction of the banana fields took place, while in the parishes of Portland and St. Thomas cyclonic effects approaching in gravity those brought about by the great hurricane of 1903 were experienced. In certain sections of the eastern end of the island the damage to buildings and permanent crops was very serious, and a heavy loss of coco-nut trees has resulted. This loss has been even greater than at first appeared to be the case, for many hundreds of trees that were judged to have withstood the storm so as to offer promise of recovery have since fallen victims to various forms of parasitic diseases and bud-rot decay. A fair proportion of these coco-nut trees were insured, but although the payment of insurance may assist an owner to finance the resuscitation of his plantation, it by no means replaces the actual loss of capital and of revenue involved. 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 of shortage of shipping 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 assisted by favourable conditions for crop production, has established a modern record for sugar in Jamaica by an export of 32,000 tons in 1917, valued at £672,000 at £21 per ton. This represents just about double

the value of the sugar crop of Jamaica forty years ago, when sugar was the chief staple of the colony and fruit was still an unimportant minor product.

While the embargo on the entry of rum into the United Kingdom, except for use as alcohol in the manufacture of munitions, seriously affected the exports of rum, which were only about 4,000 puncheons in 1917, as against 18,000 for 1916, the sugar planters have been able to sell their rum at very good prices in the island to large buyers, who foresee a good market for Jamaica rum when shipping facilities are again free from extreme war restrictions. The export figures for rum, therefore, do not in reality indicate a loss of revenue to the sugar planters from this source, for although a reduction of nearly 300,000 for rum has been recorded in the schedule of exports, there is reason to believe that a very substantial sum has been received by the planters for rum sold in the island, and, in fact, the local price of rum is at present high, and stocks of this spirit are in strong demand.

The scheme of Sir Francis Watts, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, for the financing of Central Factories by General Revenue, which was adopted by the Legislature last year, has been revised by the Secretary of State so as more equitably to secure the interests of the general taxpayers. No practical projects for Central Factories have so far been established under this scheme. On the other hand, the planters themselves have shown commendable enterprise in sugar development under war conditions, and three new factories have already been provided for in the irrigable area of St. Catherine. One of these sugar factories is reported to be capable of producing a crop of 15,000 tons of sugar at the rate of 100 tons a day, and is being transferred from its original site in Texas, U.S.A., to Jamaica.

Honey has also become, under war conditions, a lucrative product. The honey exported in 1917 was sold for £46,000, or an average of 5/6 per gallon. This sum is three times the value of the honey exported before the war in 1913. At the present moment Jamaica honey is selling for three times this price, and bee-keepers are reaping a profit that had never been dreamed of in the past.

The banana borer that occasioned so much alarm and excitement has now been recognised to be an insect of limited capacity for injury to well-cultivated bananas, and to be controllable by methods of clean cultivation so as to be negligible as a pest of bananas in Jamaica.

The Indian Government has announced its intention of controlling rice. It having been stated that only 4,000 tons would be allotted for export to the British West Indies, the West India Committee has written to the Colonial Office on the subject, pointing out that the requirements will be approximately 25,000 tons, and that the British Guiana rice crop will be short.

It is to be regretted that the promised arrangements to obviate the double payment of Excess Profits Tax have not yet been completed, and that the Government of British Guiana has been collecting the local duty from those liable to the Excess Profits Tax in the United Kingdom. Representations on the subject have been made to the Colonial Office by the West India Committee, whose letter has been forwarded to the Governor.

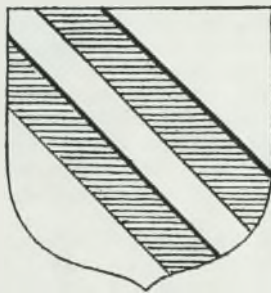
JAMAICA GOVERNORS.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

I.—Edward Doyley.

Edward Doyley, who was born in 1617, was the second son of John Doyley, of Albourne, Wiltshire, by his wife Lucy, daughter of Robert Nicholas, a relation of Sir Edward Nicholas, Secretary of State to Charles I. and Charles II.—"good old Secretary Nicholas." The Albourne branch of the family was an off-shoot of the Doyleys of Chisclampton, Oxfordshire, with which county the family had long been associated; Robert de Oyley having, in 1129, founded the Abbey of Openey.

From a letter which he wrote to Cromwell, on Sedgwick's death, in May, 1656, we learn that Edward Doyley was "of no inconsiderable family, but persecuted these many years for the cause of religion"; that he was educated at the Inns of Court, that he had had "continual employments, not mean



THE ARMS AND CREST OF DOYLEY.

ones, in civil and Martiall affairs these fower-teene years past," and that he had quitted a good employment in Ireland at the Commonwealth, prepared to "live and dye" in Cromwell's interest. He fought on the Parliament side in the Civil War, first in Wiltshire, afterwards in Ireland.

Samuel Long, a relative of Doyley came out with him as Secretary to the Commissioners who superintended the expedition to the West Indies: he was a lieutenant in the regiment to which Doyley was appointed in Barbados:

and it is possible that the Major, John Coape (or Cope) "a Quaker and ancient rebel," later a member of the Council of Jamaica, with whom Doyley was connected in an illegal purchase of negroes from Dutchmen in 1661, may have been a relation of Doyley's great-grandfather, Sir Anthony Cope.

In the army that Venables brought over in 1655, Doyley started as lieutenant-colonel to the Commander-in-Chief, but at Barbados Colonel Lewis Morris, a planter, who had helped to raise a regiment and was appointed Colonel, declined to go unless his debts were paid, and Venables gave the command to Doyley. He did not play any very important part in the attack on Hispaniola—nor in the very early occurrences in Jamaica; albeit he was one of the five Commissioners to sign the treaty of capitulation by the Spaniards—the other four being Fortescue, Goodson and Holdipe. But on the death of Fortescue, in October, 1655, he was joined to Goodson and Sedgwick as Commissioner; on the death of Sedgwick, in May, 1656, he acted with Goodson, being, as he said, "commander-in-chief, commissioner, judge, advocate and treasurer;" in

the December Brayne arrived and took command, with Goodson and Doyley under him; in January, 1656-7, Goodson left, and in September, 1657, Brayne died and thereby Doyley was left in supreme command. From that date he acted as Governor by Court-martial till June, 1661, when he received his commission from Charles II. to be the Civil Governor of the colony.

In March, 1655-6, he wrote home to Thurloe, whom he only knew by correspondence, that their condition was "very good, considering where we are, and that our soldiers drink nothing but water"; the soldiers were busy, fortifying, planting or guarding, of which they liked planting least. He complained much of being importuned by officers for leave to return to England, which he withheld till he heard from the Protector. He shows in this letter, what often appears in his correspondence, a jealousy of the Navy, when they had to purchase supplies "at treble rates." Writing again in April, he alludes to the soldiers' unwillingness to plant, and to the difficulty of their situation with the "continual clamour of home, home," but he said that he was "not borne for myselfe but for my nation." He had just repressed a revolt in Colonel Burre's regiment, three of the ringleaders being executed. In June the army "yet consists of neare seven and twenty hundred, but begin to fall sick." In October he wrote that for upwards of eight months they had received no letter from England, and even his bold heart allowed him to say "we are almost afraid we are forgott." In April of 1657 he told Thurloe that the Governors of the other British West India Islands (except, of course, Nevis, whence many settlers had come over under their Governor Stokes) were opposed to the settling of Jamaica.

On the 27th of August, 1657, Brayne wrote at Cagway—as Port Royal was then called—an appointment for Doyley to be Commander-in-Chief, both by sea and land "in these parts of America," which was handed to him after Brayne's death on the 2nd of September.

In writing to the Protector he calls it "a burthen indeed, too heavy for me to beare," and speaks of the difficulty of commanding an army without pay. He, however, had the advantage of the affection of the people "beyond any that yet ever commanded." Nevertheless, he begs to be relieved of the charge and to be allowed to return home to settle some business which his long absence had "discomposed," and he suggests that Colonel Barrington should act in his place.

In 1657 a letter from Bayona, the Governor of Cuba, to a certain Spanish sergeant-major in Jamaica, making arrangements for an attack on Jamaica, to be aided by the whilom Spanish slaves in the island, was intercepted. Immediate steps were taken by the resourceful Doyley, and Arnoldo Yssasi, the Spanish Governor, who after having yielded up Jamaica to Penn and Venables, had re-landed on the north side from Cuba, was signally defeated by Doyley in person at Ocho Rios, whither he had sailed round from Passage Fort.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LIBRARY.

The number of books on the West Indies, presented to the West India Committee by Mr. William Gillespie, is now so considerable that it will not be possible to mention them all in the CIRCULAR. To the lists already published may, however, be added the following books, which are among the rarer works in the collection:—

"The Dominica Almanack for 1868." By Charles Augustus Fillan, Dominica.

"The Leeward Islands Almanack, with which is incorporated the Dominica Almanack, 1879." By Alexander Ramsey Lockhart, Editor of the *Dominican*, Dominica.

"The West India Pocket Book: Book I.—The Leeward and Windward Islands." London: S. W. Silver & Co. 1880.

"A History of the West Indies." By Thomas Coke, LL.D. In three volumes. Liverpool: 1808.

"The Laws of Jamaica, passed by the Assembly, and confirmed by His Majesty in Council, 1684. To which is added The State of Jamaica as it now is under the Government of Sir Thomas Lynch." London: 1684.

"A Letter to John Beckles, Esq., Attorney-General at Barbadoes." London: 1802.

"Memoirs of the First Settlement of the Island of Barbados and other the Carribbee Islands." London: 1743; reprinted 1891.

"Eight Chapters in the History of Jamaica, from A.D. 1508 to A.D. 1680, illustrating the Settlement of the Jews in that Island." By Richard Hill, C.M.Z.S. Kingston: M. De Cordova, McDougall & Co. No date.

"A Descriptive Account of the Island of Jamaica." By William Beckford, Esq. Two volumes. London: 1790.

"A Naturalist's Sojourn in Jamaica." By P. H. Gosse. London: 1851.

"Reports on the Geology of British Guiana." By Charles B. Brown, F.G.S., and J. G. Sawkins, F.G.S. London: 1875.

"Camps in the Caribbees: The Adventures of a Naturalist in the Lesser Antilles." By Frederick A. Ober. Boston: 1880.

"The Coffee-Planter; or, An Essay on the Cultivation and Manufacturing of that article of West India Produce." By John Lowndes. London: 1807.

"British Honduras: An Historical and Descriptive Account of the Colony from its Settlement, 1670." By Archibald Robertson Gibbs, Esq. London: 1883.

"Truths from the West Indies." By Captain Studholme Hodgson. London: 1838.

"Waikna; or, Adventures on the Mosquito Shore." By Samuel A. Bard. London: 1855.

The above by no means exhausts the tale of books presented by Mr. Gillespie, but it will suffice to show what a valuable addition has been made to the library thanks to his kindness.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 16, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rev. P. K. P. Bolton. | A. Wellesley Lewis, Esq., K.C. |
| Geoffrey Brooke, Esq. | Frank Mahabir, Esq., M.D., L.R.C.P. |
| Hon. D. C. Cameron, C.M.G. | T. M. Marshall, Esq. |
| W. W. Craib, Esq. | G. F. McF. May, Esq. |
| Dickson Fraser, Esq. | C. Martin-Sperry, Esq. |
| Duncan Fraser, Esq. | Michael McTurk, Esq. |
| J. J. A. Gordon, Esq. | Dr. Frank Oliphant. |
| John T. Greg, Esq. | C. W. M. Saunders, Esq. |
| Mrs. E. Havnes. | Capt. J. B. Saunders. |
| Rev. Thos. Huckerby. | C. W. Scott, Esq. |
| Mr. G. F. Huggins. | R. B. Short, Esq. |
| E. C. Jackman, Esq. | P. H. S. Warneford, Esq. |
| S. W. Knaggs, Esq., C.M.G. | |

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

From December 24th last to January 9th, the following additional subscriptions were received in response to the special appeal of the West Indian Contingent Committee to enable them to meet the heavy expenses which will be incurred during the period of demobilisation:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Manning & Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Nassau Girls' Garden Fête (part proceeds, per Mrs. P. M. Lightbourn)	30	0	0
Alex. W. Gordon, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs. G. W. Bennett, Bryson & Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. W. S. Goodhugh & Co.	5	5	0
Alfred Pawsey, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co.	5	5	0
C. W. Doorly, Esq.	2	2	0
W. H. Farquharson, Esq.	2	2	0
N. Scott-Johnston, Esq.	2	2	0
A. Cameron, Esq.	2	0	0
Robert Challenor, Esq.	2	0	0
A. O. Thurston, Esq.	2	0	0
J. W. Thurston, Esq.	2	0	0
Walter R. Durie, Esq.	1	1	0
Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., D.Sc.	1	1	0
Guy Wyatt, Esq.	1	1	0
Dr. M. H. C. Irving	1	1	0
R. F. Garraway, Esq.	1	0	10
H.E. Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G.	1	0	0
A. R. C. Lockhart, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss A. C. Arrindell	10	0	0
J. A. Davy, Esq. (October sub.)	1	0	0

Contributions, which will be gratefully 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 COMPANIES.

The St. Kitts' (Basse Terre) Sugar Factory, Limited.

The Directors in their Seventh Annual Report (for the year ended September 30th, 1918) state that the greater part of St. Kitts suffered severely from exceptionally low rainfall from January to December, but especially in the last quarter of the year, and also in the beginning of 1918.

The factory plant worked well throughout the crop, the mill work showing a further improvement, which is the more notable in view of the difficult nature of the canes. The cost of production per ton has been considerably higher than in the preceding year, mainly owing to the output of the factory being 38 per cent. lower. For the same reason, the charges for Sinking Fund and Interest weigh much more heavily this year, these two causes together reducing the rate of the supplementary payment on canes very considerably. The total rate for the year is, however, not much below last year owing to the sugar having been sold at a better price. The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with previous years:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Canes Tons	52,912	58,967	101,248	97,372	62,354
Sugar Tons	5,870	6,128	11,591	11,843	7,314
Sucrose in Cane %	13.49	12.02	12.84	13.38	13.02
... .. Megass	3.65	3.18	2.59	2.60	2.50
Purity of Juice	86.86	84.40	84.70	85.5	86.2
Recovery of Sucrose in Cane	79.01	83.09	85.57	87.08	86.56
Yield of Sugar 96 degrees	11.09	10.39	11.44	12.16	11.73
Price of Sugar per ton	£9 3 10	£16 6 5	£17 18 10	£18 13 2	£20 9 1

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 £32,751 18s. 10d. to be allocated as follows:—To original contractors £16,375 19s. 5d. giving a supplementary payment of 5/10.48 per ton, making a total of 25/10.48, and to "A" shareholders £16,375 19s. 5d. The amount remaining at the credit of the "A" shareholders, after additions and deductions as shown in the Balance Sheet, is £25,274 6s. 7d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 1/- per share, which will absorb £3,250, leaving £22,024 6s. 7d. subject to Excess Profit Duty.

The Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited.

The Directors in their Fourteenth Annual Report state that the year ended September 30th, 1918, was one of gloom for Antigua. The crops very generally were 33 per cent. below the normal, and on some estates were 50 per cent. short owing to drought which lasted from December to March. The water supply at the factory held out, thanks to ample storage capacity. The high price of sugar, however, saved the position, enabling the factory to make a fair profit, and it also did so in the case of the better placed estates; but others had severe losses.

"A still graver cause of anxiety has been lawlessness amongst a portion of the population. The stealing of ground provisions has been so persistent as to be a serious deterrent to the growing of them, and there were also cases of robbing fields openly. Further trouble was raised over the method of calculating the payment for cane cutting, and in some cases intimidation and violence were resorted to in order to prevent cutters from cutting by the ton, the system which they themselves had willingly adopted many years ago, and on which they had continued to work because it paid best. When trouble arose a Commission, appointed by the Government, agreed that the system of payment by the ton was 'the only fair and equitable way of computing wages for cane cutting,' but they felt 'compelled by the circumstances of the situation' to decide that it must be abandoned for the present by all, including those who had long worked on it. The trouble culminated in a riot last March, in which two of the rioters were killed. The Board had pleasure in learning that all the factory employees behaved loyally and well during the disturbances, as they have also done throughout the year."

There was no improvement in the cane deliveries, notwithstanding repeated requests. The factory was left 627 hours out of cane. Had it not been for this, the crop would have been finished six weeks earlier, a higher cane bonus would have been earned, and ratoons would have had an earlier start for next crop, also the preparation of the land for replanting would have begun so much earlier. The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with previous years:—

		1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Canes	Tons	83,030	81,520	112,356	102,601	64,282
Sugar	"	9,150	8,390	12,371	11,705	7,316
Sucrose in Cane	%	13.50	12.00	12.52	12.96	13.10
Sucrose in Megass	%	3.60	3.05	3.01	2.66	2.45
Purity of Juice	%	84.67	83.07	83.95	84.78	83.66
Recovery of Sucrose in Cane	%	79.09	82.60	84.48	84.52	83.56
Yield of Sugar 96°	%	11.03	10.29	11.01	11.42	11.39
Price of Sugar per ton		£9 1 6	£16 7 9	£17 13 8	£19 3 5	£20 8 0

After charging Revenue with £10,500 for Debenture and Addition Sinking Funds, there remains a surplus of £51,997 1s. 7d. to be allocated as follows, in terms of the Agreements:—To new contractors £19,219 2s. 8d., equal to 804.02 per ton of canes, making total price £1 9s. 4.02d. per ton. To original contractors £16,388 19s. 6d., equal to 20/1.78 per ton of canes, making total price £1 19s. 0.78d. per ton. To "A" shareholders £16,388 19s. 5d., making a total at their credit (after crediting interest on the undistributed balance) of £30,081 17s. 9d. It is proposed to distribute 10s. per share, less income tax, or £6,250, carrying forward the balance of £23,831 17s. 9d. subject to liability for Excess Profit Duty and Income Tax.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Barbadian Labourer.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—There is an old saying: "Give a dog a bad name and hang him." As a rule, the Barbadian labourer bears a bad reputation, not only in his own country, but also abroad, of being light-fingered, and if you wish to tease a Barbadian labourer, first tell him that a "B'dian thief like a cat and jumps like a rat," and after using these words, you must be prepared to jump yourself, otherwise look out! Prædial larceny has become such a nuisance in Barbados that attempts are now being made with a view to its suppression by means of the betterment of the social conditions of that class of persons who are the principal offenders. At a meeting held in Bridgetown some time ago, with this object in view, one of the speakers advo-

cated compulsory education as a means of suppressing the evil. Compulsory education may be necessary, but I am of opinion that compulsory work, plenty of work with good wholesome food, would have a better tendency of remedying this evil.

I find that where the Barbadian labourer is permanently employed and properly fed, with proper supervision over his work, you cannot wish for better results. No matter what his antecedents may have been, but under such conditions you find in him an honest workman. In support of my statement I may quote an extract from the Road Commissioner's Report upon the state of the roads in Dominica, which reads as follows: "Our remarks concerning road gangs refer only to native labour. Major Burdon, when Acting Administrator, in his programme for road construction in the island, suggested the importation of the necessary labour from Barbados. Administrator Drayton, his successor in office, advised against this class of labour as he considered it unsuited for Dominica; but your Honour [Mr. Arthur Mahaffy] in 1915, very wisely as it turns out, got from Barbados with the assistance of Major Burdon, who was then Colonial Secretary of that Colony, over 50 labourers and two experienced drivers to be employed on the reconstruction work which was then begun. The experiment has turned out an unqualified success, the men worked well and diligently as long as they were in the island; and the drivers, who are still here, have proved thoroughly efficient. Evidence as to the excellent work of the Barbadian labourers was given by some of the witnesses, indeed one of them said: 'The only time I have seen good labour was by Barbadian labourers on the Loubière-Bellerne road. The men began work early, worked all day, and did good solid work. They did better work after they had got some experience. They had good drivers who kept them at work.'"

There is no doubt that it is the idler whose hands find some mischief to do, and if those hands were compulsorily kept properly employed, in some way or the other, there would be an amelioration of the evil of prædial larceny in our midst, and which is such a curse throughout the West Indies.

Dominica,
2nd December, 1918.

Yours truly,
R. T. GARRAWAY.

Banana Figs.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.
Sir,—My attention has been drawn to an article in your CIRCULAR of 12th inst., regarding banana figs manufactured in the Cameroons.

I am interested in Jamaica and its products and take this opportunity of placing in your hands the following facts about a similar product (probably the one referred to by Mr. Fawcett) made there and known as Jamaica Dehydrated Banana Figs, which may be of some interest to your Committee.

I bought a quantity in September, 1912, and took them to Glasgow, where I put aside a one pound packet to see what effect the climate would have on them, and to my surprise on examining them last week found that they had in no way deteriorated, in fact they were quite as good as some I had just received by post. In my house they have been successfully used in the following ways: As a table delicacy without any preparation, as an addition to other dried fruits in cake making, in shortcrust pies, and stewed.

They are quite as attractive as figs in appearance, being nearly of the same colour, and of a similar flavour. The fruit from which they are manufactured is fully matured on the plants before being cut for the factory, and contains more nutriment than fruit cut to be shipped in its natural state.

It loses none of its virtue in the process which it is put through, and is both pleasing to the eye and palate, as well as being very nutritious. They are put up in attractive packages to suit the convenience of customers.

I am, very truly,

ALEXANDER SINCLAIR.

31, Melville Street, Pollokshields,
Glasgow,

December 12th, 1918.

[Banana figs are now manufactured by several companies in Jamaica.—ED. W.I.C.C.]

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—A Wise Enactment.

The *Gazette*, of November 23rd, contains the rules made by the Government in Council for the grading and inspection of all sisal under the Act passed last year. The object is to maintain the good name of Bahamas sisal, which will be graded with special reference to its clearness, dryness and colour, and to the length and evenness of the strands. Consideration will also be given to baling and labelling.

BARBADOS—Proposed Oil Depot.

The news of the signing of the Armistice was the occasion of patriotic demonstrations throughout the island, in which all classes participated. The prospects of a bumper sugar crop remain excellent. News of the death of Bishop Mitchinson was received with deep regret, and much dissatisfaction has been expressed at the failure of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company to mention it in their Press cables.

Sales of plantations include those of Upton, St. Michael, to Mr. S. Hawkins, for £18,500 exclusive of the dwelling-house and 12 acres; Hopeland, St. Peter, for £8,955 to the Spring Hall Company; Waterford for £80,000; and Lears, St. Michael for £70,000 to the Applewhaite Syndicate.

The Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, of which Sir John Dimsdale, Bart., is local representative, are seeking to establish a fuel oil and petroleum supply depot in Barbados, and Mr. W. H. Reece has introduced a Bill and Petition on the subject.

BRITISH GUIANA—Sugar Experiment Work.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, NOVEMBER 23rd:—I am very glad to report a break in the drought. We had some heavy showers on the 16th instant followed by good rains on the 21st, 1½ to 2 inches being recorded. These have been very welcome, but a good deal more is required. The news of the cessation of hostilities was enthusiastically received throughout the Colony. The 15th and 16th instant were declared public holidays, and for the whole of that week various places in Water Street and throughout the town were decorated. A Committee of the Sugar Planters' Association is to meet Professor Harrison on the 25th inst. to discuss with him matters relating to the extension of experimental cultivation. The collection for the Red Cross throughout the Colony on the 4th inst. has realised up to the present some \$15,000.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Well Deserved Award.

Lieut.-Colonel Cran, O.B.E., has been awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Medal.

DOMINICA—The Question of Federation.

The Chamber of Commerce has appointed a special Committee comprising Messrs. Archer, Green, Rawle, Harris, Woolward, Lockhart and Frampton, to consider what instructions should be given to the Dominica delegates to the proposed Conference of Chambers of Commerce on the subject of Federation. Meanwhile the date of the meeting is doubtful; Barbados having only approved of a meeting in February provided the question of Federation is not discussed. The *Chronicle* states that on the occasion of the Armistice Celebrations, a tree of victory was planted at Fort de France.

GRENADA—Representative Government Sought.

A movement for securing some measure of representative Government for Grenada was inaugurated on November 21, at a meeting held at the Agricultural and Commercial Society's room in Goring Street. The Hon. D. S. De Freitas, and later the Hon. W. S. Commissiong, K.C., presided and the speakers included the Chairman, Mr. F. H. Copland, Mr. W. G. Donovan, Mr. Lucas, Mr. G. W. Smith, and Mr. C. R. Fleming. It was decided to form an Association with Hon. W. S. Commissiong, K.C., president and the Hon. W. S. Commissiong, vice-president, to organise meetings in various parts of the Colony and to be strictly responsible for the campaign. St. Georges: Hon. W. S. Commissiong, Messrs. W. G. Donovan, T. A. Marryshow, G. A. De Freitas, John de la Mothe, M. E. H. Martin, C. F. P. Renwick and A. Æmilius Richards. St. Andrews: Messrs. C. R. Fleming, H. A. Berkeley, C. H. Lucas and F. S. Noel. St. Patricks: Messrs. F. H. Copland, J. R. Phillip, George Kent and Clive Alexis. St. John's: Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Messrs. D. A. McIntyre and A. J. Rose. St. Mark's: Messrs. A. H. B. Gall, H. A.

Hosten and Henry C. Noel. St. David's: Hon. J. T. de la Mothe, Messrs. J. Bain Wells and J. I. C. Andrews. Carriacou: Samuel Corion and W. E. George, with Mr. T. A. Marryshow, treasurer, and Mr. Hudson Phillip, secretary.

A Committee was appointed to draft a resolution and it is understood that the final draft was as follows:—

Whereas the system of pure Crown rule established since 1876 is unsuited to present conditions in Grenada, and affixes the stigma of political incapacity to its inhabitants generally:

And Whereas it is desirable, in the interests of just and progressive government, that the element of popular representation be introduced into the Legislative Council, which is at present composed of officials and Crown nominees only:

Be it Resolved: That a humble Petition from the people of Grenada be presented to His Most Gracious Majesty the King, praying him to bestow upon them such a measure of Representative Government as may be deemed best suited to this loyal Colony.

JAMAICA—A Good Season Expected.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—A special session of the Legislative Council was opened on the afternoon of December 3rd. The following measures were presented: the appointment of a food controller, the establishment of coco-nut nurseries, the acquisition of the Constant Spring Hotel for disabled Contingent men, war bonus to public officials and income tax. The Myrtle Bank Hotel, in Kingston, which went into liquidation a short time ago has been purchased by United Fruit Company for £22,500 and will be carried on by that concern. The Titchfield Hotel is now being put into first class order, and it is understood that the United Fruit Company is negotiating for Constant Spring also. A good season is evidently expected.

Local subscriptions to King George's Fund for Sailors amounted up to November 19th to £919.

In the opinion of the *Gleaner*, there is direct connection between the outbreak of influenza and the insanitary conditions under which, it alleges, much of the food of Kingston is sold. A representative of the journal who visited the market and other centres describes a condition of affairs which calls for official investigation. "Bread, fish, cakes, and other edibles," says the *Gleaner*, "are dispensed to the people in a most horrible form, regardless of the primary principles of sanitation."

The Governor, in a message issued to the people of Jamaica on the conclusion of hostilities, appeals to them to relieve the world's shortage of foodstuffs. "The performance of this neighbourly duty," adds His Excellency, "will be extremely profitable, if Jamaica produces foodstuffs on sufficiently large scale."

A fire, which caused damage estimated at several thousand pounds, is reported from Lacovia.

NEVIS—The Red Cross Effort.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, NOVEMBER 20th. The news of the signing of the Armistice reached us by heliograph on November 11th and all were greatly elated thereby. The Presidency has subscribed £2,098 10s. 1d. to the Red Cross Fund, made up as follows:—St. Kitts £1,460 19s. 9d., Anguilla £100 5s. 1d., and Nevis £537 5s. 3d. Hon. C. C. Greaves, chairman of the local committee, worked for the cause with great zeal. After a prolonged drought, which gave the cotton crop a set back, we have had abnormal rains with the result that the cotton bolls have turned black, the seeds germinating in some instances, and the outlook, therefore is not rosy. It is hoped that in any new arrangements which may be arrived at, Nevis may be made a port of call for the colonial steamers. The Captain of the R.M.S. *Balanlia* stated authoritatively that it entailed no extra expense nor inconvenience whatever for steamers to drop anchor at Charlestown, Nevis, when coming North or South, and the island certainly deserved to be placed on a better footing.

TOBAGO—Visit of Bishop Anstey.

MR. ROBERT S. REID.—The erratic weather has curtailed the cocoa crop for this year and planters hopes are, perforce, centred in the dry season. Coco-nuts have also suffered but to a less extent. Ground provisions, with the exception of corn are, however, plentiful and the growers are reaping a rich harvest at war prices.

If the holds of the R.M.S. *Belize* are not filled with cargo, her passenger space is fully occupied on the Tobago trip. Besides planters, business men and others, this week we were pleased to welcome Bishop Anstey, who came to

instal Rev. H. R. Davies as senior rector at Scarborough, and intended to take a short tour to the principal churches in the island. Unfortunately, his health did not permit of this programme being carried out. With the exception of a brief landing at King's Bay, his Lordship remained on board the *Belize* for the round trip. He promises to return to Tobago in February, and will then receive a hearty welcome.

Corporal Shaw, late Gordon Highlanders, arrived by the same steamer and being the first soldier from Tobago to return from active service, he was given a cordial reception at Scarborough, his friends entertaining him to dinner. Mr. Shaw is an Irishman who despises Sinn Feiners, and volunteered for active service when on a home trip in 1915. He owns Indian Point Estate.

The wireless message telling Scarborough that the Armistice had been signed was received with great rejoicings. Flags were flying everywhere and the people expressed their joy all over the island.

ST VINCENT—Estates for sale.

MR. W. N. SANDS, NOVEMBER 25th.—The glad news of the cessation of hostilities on the 11th instant led to much rejoicing everywhere. Thanksgiving services were held in the different churches, and practically the whole week ending the 16th instant was kept up as a holiday in celebration of the event.

The weather has been rather wet, and some damage has been done to the cotton crop—especially that planted in May and June—the later plantings are, however, of fair promise. Lieut. R. M. Hughes returned recently from active service. He was invalided out of the Army owing to the effects of gassing, and rheumatism received and contracted in the trenches in France. We were all pleased to see him back, although much regretting his permanent injuries. Mr. W. H. Beach, part owner of the Brighton and Belvidere estates, died on the 23rd instant. The well-known estates of Mr. Bentinck, Langley Park and Fancy, are offered for sale by Hon. Conrad J. Simmons. The estates of Colonarie and Gorse have recently been sold by Mr. G. R. Corea to Messrs. Da Santos Bros.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

January 9th, 1919.

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. The Royal Commission has been purchasing British West Indian 96's at 25/10½, but have now stopped bidding.

In view of the great number of complaints received from customers, a new standard of quality for muscovado and syrup sugars is to come into force on February 1st. This has been rendered necessary by the very poor quality of sugar lately imported from certain West Indian islands which bade fair to damage seriously the good name of muscovado sugar. The West India Committee have pointed out that the new standard suggested will handicap certain sugars imported as grocery for some years past; but in the special circumstances of the case they feel that it is not possible to take exception to the decision. They have urged, however, that existing stocks may be cleared off before the new standards are put into force.

From New York a few transactions at the old price 4.799c. c.i.f. are reported, and first sales at the new Cuban price of 5.88c. c. and f. or 5.90 c.i.f. have taken place.

Czarnikow Rionda Co. state that it is reported that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has accepted one-third of the 1918/19 Cuban crop, *i.e.*, about 1,200,000 tons. It is also said to have purchased 100,000 tons of white plantation sugar from Mauritius.

Willet and Gray place the world's cane crop for 1918-19 at 12,336,635 tons against 12,311,700 tons in 1917-18 and 11,233,284 tons in 1916-17; and the beet crop at 4,356,000 tons against 4,517,212 in 1917-18, and 5,503,414 in 1916-17. They anticipate a Cuban crop of 3,600,000 tons.

The strike in Cuba being over, factories are starting on the new campaign for which the weather has been favourable.

The West India sugar statistics in London on Jan. 4th were:—

	1919	1918	1917
Imports	326	758	120 Tons.
Deliveries	588	1,499	972 ..
Stock	5,930	10,246	7,163 ..

RUM. We cannot report anything fresh.

The stocks in London on Jan. 4th were:—

	1919	1918	1917
Jamaica	3,768	7,077	11,065 puns.
Demerara	10,551	5,173	10,195 ..
Total of all kinds	19,378	19,270	35,719 ..

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

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports shipments of Trinidad cocoa during month of November, 1918, as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	2,281,369
Total for November	2,281,369
Shipped previously	53,296,973
Total from January 1st	55,578,342
To same date 1917	68,229,372
" " 1916	52,875,425
" " 1915	45,869,353
" " 1914	61,638,496
" " 1913	46,431,247
" " 1912	40,472,755
" " 1911	43,496,702
" " 1910	53,684,899
" " 1909	45,480,098
" " 1908	39,790,047
" " 1907	35,062,616

The stocks in London on Jan. 4th were:—

	1919	1918	1917
Trinidad	17,625	16,822	17,466 bags.
Grenada	7,015	16,234	12,184 ..
Total of all kinds	95,096	208,589	209,447 ..

COTTON. The total West Indian imports into the United Kingdom for the year 1918 were 6,191 bales as compared with 2,504 bales West African and 12,488 bales British East African. Exports from St. Vincent of white Sca Island, Jan. 1st to Nov. 30th, 321,609 lbs., and from St. Kitts, Jan. 1st to Oct. 31st, 579,569 lbs.

COPRA. The market continues unchanged and controlled. Quotations are nominal. £46 in United Kingdom, £47 c.i.f. Marseilles. It is possible that prices will be reduced owing to lower freights.

ARROWROOT. We do not hear of any business. By cablegram, grade M, *i.e.*, medium quality, is fixed at 1/- by St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' Association.

SPICES. Pimento still lifeless. There have been sellers at 5½d., but no buyers. Ginger is also neglected and the recent quotations for Jamaica of 140/- to 160/- are to-day nominal only.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, quiet, nominal 14/- to 15/-; Distilled very quiet, value about 5/9. Lime Juice: Concentrated, firm with more enquiry; raw, very quiet, 3/- to 3/6 asked for the good. Citrate firmer.

HONEY. Still very quiet. Buyers holding off in the belief that prices will decline. Quotations based on small sales would be misleading.

RICE. Exports from British Guiana, Jan. 1st to Nov. 28th, 17,960,178 lbs.

RUBBER. The market has been fairly steady, but not very much business is doing. Crepe is now quoted at 2/2½ and sheet at 2/1½. Singapore is unchanged at 1/10 for crepe and 1/9½ for sheet.

MAHOGANY. Exports from British Honduras, Jan. 1st to Nov. 30th, 8,177,993 feet.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON. January 23rd, 1919.

Guiana's Immigration Problem.

AS we anticipated, the labour situation in British Guiana consequent upon the cessation of East Indian immigration has already become serious. According to a cablegram which the West India Committee has received from the Sugar Planters' Association of that colony the shortage of labourers has already necessitated a reduction in the acreage under cane cultivation. The estate proprietors accepted the decision of the Indian Government to terminate the indenture system almost without a protest, confidently believing that some arrangement for immigration on a free basis would be substituted for it. An Inter-Departmental Committee devoted much time and careful consideration to alternative schemes; but though many months have elapsed since their findings were published the Indian Government has shown no disposition to declare its intentions in the matter. We have all along felt that if it were more fully realised in India that British Guiana is to a great extent an Indian colony, nearly one-half of its inhabitants being East Indians, and that Indians enjoy there all the rights and privileges of the European and creole inhabitants of the colony, her people would take a broader view of this question; but we fear that we must attribute the hostility towards emigration to the attitude adopted towards East Indians in the Dominions— notably South Africa—where a very different policy prevails. The advantages offered by British Guiana for the settlement of East Indians and their families could, we venture to think, be made the subject of propaganda in India with very great advantage. Meanwhile, however, British Guiana cannot afford to wait, and it has become imperative to seek out other sources of labour supply. In this

connection we are reminded by an interesting ceremony which took place recently in Trinidad that there exists already in the West Indies a considerable Chinese community, which might form the nucleus of a much larger one. Our esteemed hon. correspondent, MR. EDGAR TRIPP, gives an account in the present issue of the inauguration at Port of Spain on November 27th of a new building of the Chinese National Association, which, we believe, owes its inception, as it does much of its success, to the enterprise and enthusiasm of MR. LEE LUM, a prominent citizen and a respected member of the West India Committee. Could not the assistance of this influential Chinese community be invoked towards securing a resumption of Chinese immigration into the West Indies? In his valuable work entitled "The Chinese in British Guiana," which he published in 1915,* MR. CECIL CLEMENTI explains very clearly why Chinese immigration in the past has only met with such a moderate measure of success, the chief reasons being the insufficient number of females, the fluctuations in the annual requisitions of the estates, and the lack of communication between China and British Guiana—the main cause of the failure being due to the scheme having been neither initiated nor pursued in the interests of colonisation. Circumstances have now, however, changed; steamers have replaced sailing ships and the Panama Canal has been opened, with the result that the duration of the voyage between Hong Kong and Georgetown has been reduced by about half; health conditions in British Guiana have improved; new industries have sprung up, and the relations between Chinese and the West have undergone marked improvement; while Hong Kong has undergone such remarkable development that the tide of immigration from that port rose from 14,683 in 1855 to 122,657 in 1912. Like Trinidad, British Guiana has its Chinese community, and there is little doubt that its members would welcome further immigration from China and would do all in their power to assist the newly-arrived immigrants, racial solidarity being, we are told, one of the most marked characteristics of the Chinese all the world over.

The Roads of Dominica.

IT is to be feared that those interested in the future of Dominica will not derive much comfort or encouragement from the recommendations of the Local Roads Commission, which were summarised in the CIRCULAR of December 26th last. That DR. H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS, the Chairman, and his colleagues have performed a difficult task with ability and tact will be generally admitted; but we

* "The Chinese in British Guiana." By Cecil Clementi. Georgetown: The Argosy Co., Ltd.

are bound to add that the results of their enquiry do not justify the hope we confidently expressed that the Commission would solve the problem of road development, which has been a matter of discussion and also of deplorable inaction and muddle—as the report shows—for many years. Without going into the earlier history of the question, it may be recalled that in January, 1914, the Legislative Council of Dominica unanimously adopted a programme of road development submitted by the Acting Administrator, MAJOR J. A. BURDON, and approved by the Colonial Office. That scheme was comprehensive and very complete, its author having been at pains to inspect personally every part of the island concerned. The financial side of it was admirably thought out, it being arranged that the work of road construction should be undertaken by sections year after year. An important and, in fact, essential feature of the scheme was that it was to be entrusted to an engineer with practical knowledge and experience of road construction, who was to be appointed for the purpose of carrying it out. The war supervened, and as the Royal Engineer who had been already selected could not be spared by the military authorities, the Crown Agents were instructed to engage in his stead a capable civil engineer with practical experience of road work, and they were, as we understand, already making enquiries for such an expert when, for some unexplained reason, it was decided to entrust the undertaking to the Colonial Engineer as part of the ordinary routine of the Public Works Department. MAJOR BURDON'S plan of campaign was then set on one side, and a modified scheme was substituted for it, with the result that the £28,000 which was available has been, as many people think, simply frittered away. A considerable proportion of that sum was used to repair storm damage, in a manner which has evoked much criticism, and generally speaking there is little to show for the expenditure of so much money. The reserve fund which was built up during the administration of MR. DOUGLAS YOUNG is now exhausted, and the road question is farther from settlement than ever. There can be no doubt that if it were necessary to postpone the Burdon scheme it would have been much better to have postponed it altogether than to have adopted half-measures, which have resulted in the present unfortunate situation.

We are still convinced that the road problem of the island calls for the employment of an expert appointed specially to deal with it. The Commission, however, does not hold this view, but suggests the reorganisation of the Public Works Department, and the appointment of an assistant to the Colonial Engineer. They advocate the macadamising of the main roads, and the construction of donkey tracks to the lands of peasant proprietors yielding sufficient produce to justify the expenditure. Beyond this we can find no suggestions whatever for the construction of new roads. Possibly the Commissioners may have felt that their hands were tied by reason of the fact that no money is available for the purpose of development; but we must confess that we would like to have had some practical suggestions as to how funds for road construction might be

raised. It is in this connection a regrettable fact that while many of the West Indian islands have actually benefited from the war, which has brought enhanced prices for their produce, Dominica has been a sufferer, owing to her great dependence on lime products, the trade in green limes being killed temporarily, and the demand for concentrated and citrate reduced to such an extent as to seriously prejudice the revenues of the island. If we might make a suggestion, it would be that the Burdon Road Scheme be reintroduced as soon as possible, and that a loan be raised to carry it out, the conditions of the island in normal times being such as to justify such a policy.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The West India Committee has begun the year well, twenty-three new members, whose names are given below, having been elected at a meeting of the Executive held on January 16th.

Proposers and Seconders.

Messrs. D'Souza & Foster... (London)	Messrs. Czarnikow, Ltd. Messrs. C. M. and C. Woodhouse.
Mr. Percival Junor (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass, F.R.G.S. Sir Edward Davson.
Mrs. Alexander Grey (Trinidad)	Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E. Mr. William Gillespie.
Mrs. N. M. Brailey (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. A. Wolseley.
Mrs. E. H. Shorey (Antigua)	Sir William Trollope, Bart. Mr. W. A. Wolseley.
Capt. Edwd. H. Quin (Jamaica)	Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Dr. Norman L. Boxill (Barbados)	Mr. Joseph Briggs. Sir F. J. Clarke, K.C.M.G.
Mr. S. A. Hawkins (Barbados)	Mr. Jos. Connell. Mr. J. J. Law.
Mr. A. G. Gill (Barbados)	Mr. A. O'N. Skinner. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mrs. E. G. Skeete (Barbados)	Mr. A. O'N. Skinner. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Sir John Dimsdale, Bart. (Trinidad)	Mr. F. N. Martinez. Mr. H. F. Previté.
Lt. Wm. A. Yearwood (Barbados)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. B. Rutherford.
Dr. E. C. A. Wilson (Dominica)	Mr. Alex. W. Duncan. Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G.
Rev. R. P. K. Bolton (Antigua)	Mr. Robert Bryson. Mr. D. D. Bryson.
Dr. C. G. Deane (Barbados)	Lt.-Col. A. De Boissiere. Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E.
Capt. O. H. Keeling (Jamaica)	Mr. A. P. G. Ellis. Mr. William Gillespie.
Mr. V. D. C. Henriques (Jamaica)	Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. Mr. C. Lyon Hall.
Dr. J. E. Ramdehl (British Guiana)	Mr. Thos. Flood. Mr. John Brummell, J.P.
Capt. C. R. S. Pike, B.A., C.F. (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. F. L. Lyon (Jamaica)	Mr. Fawcett, B.Sc. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Sgt. M. Alberga (Jamaica)	Sgt. Lloyd C. Byer. Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E.
Mrs. C. A. Clarke (London)	Mr. Chas. Hewett. Mr. L. H. Miller.
Second Lieut. P. S. Stoby... (British Guiana)	Mr. Luke M. Hill, M.I.C.E. Mr. Guy Wyatt.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

Our New Ministers.

While the departure of Mr. Walter Long, who has shown much sympathetic interest in West Indian affairs, from the Colonial Office is a subject for regret, the appointment of Viscount Milner as Secretary of State for the Colonies in the new Ministry will be received with genuine satisfaction throughout the Dominions and Colonies. As Governor of the Cape (1897-1901), and subsequently of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies from 1901 to 1905, Lord Milner gained wide experience of the requirements of our overseas Empire. Since 1916 he has been a Member of the War Cabinet, and it is gratifying that a statesman of his standing should be appointed to watch over the destinies of the Dominions and Colonies. Lord Milner will have the assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Leopold Amery, M.P., as Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and it would be difficult to devise a more ideal combination. Like his Chief, Colonel Amery is a Balliol Scholar. For some years he was on the editorial staff of the *Times*, whose war correspondence he organised during the South African war. He is widely travelled, and has, we believe, visited every part of the Empire except the West Indies an omission which he hopes to make good.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN you sleep wi' dog, you catch him flea."

Our contemporary *The Trinidad Guardian* publishes a Christmas number in magazine form which is full of interesting matter.

COPIES of the report and accounts of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the six months ended June 30th last can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 15 Seething-lane, London, E.C., post free, on application.

DURING the 1918 season the B.W.I.'s played twenty-eight cricket matches, of which they won eighteen and lost eight, two being drawn. Their largest score was 284 runs, which they put up against the Cleopatra Signals.

EVERY subscription reminder costs money and worry. Will, therefore, members of the West India Committee who have not done so already kindly pay their subscription in to any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada?

THE Agricultural Society of Trinidad has adopted the report of a select committee recommending the establishment of a Labour Exchange in the colony. It is hoped that this measure, in conjunction with the laws regarding habitual idlers, will have a beneficial effect.

AMERICA is said to be making rapid progress with the recovery of potash from blast-furnace gas, which is also being effected in England. A 200-ton blast-furnace smelts as much potash-bearing materials in twenty-four hours as a 3,000-barrel cement plant in the same length of time.

IN reply to an enquiry as to when the proposed Conference of Customs Officers in the British West Indies

was likely to be held, the West India Committee was informed on December 24th that Mr. Walter Long had no information on the point, but was consulting the Governor of Trinidad.

MR. A. J. PAVITT, Imperial Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, has established a temporary office in the Red House at Port of Spain. On his arrival he received a cordial welcome from the Chamber of Commerce, of which he has been made an Honorary Member. His telegraphic address is "Trincom."

VENEZUELA is regarded by the *Statist* (January 4th) as the most promising, as it is the largest, source of supply of balata, "because at present the Guianas are largely inaccessible, owing to the fact that the approach from the sea into the forests of the interior is obstructed by rapids, and these countries have not so far been opened up by means of railways." Will this reproach never be removed?

West Africa pays the West Indian Contingent Committee a compliment by referring to the recent meeting of that body as revealing a "highly creditable state of affairs." After quoting the resolution which was passed regarding the gallantry of the British West Indies Regiment, our contemporary proceeds: "Our brave West African troops have done equally well. Why have we in Britain no general West African body which can speak about them in terms like the above?"

ACCORDING to Mr. Eduardo Montouliou, in the *Cuba Review*, asphalt is very widely disseminated all over Cuba, and occurs in really remarkable quantities. To give an idea of the vastness of the Cuban asphalt supply, he mentions that the whole of Cardenas Bay, a sheet of water over 10 kilometres wide and 20 in length, is completely underlaid by solid asphalt, which has been mined for years in crude and primitive fashion. The asphalt differs, however, from that dug from the famous Pitch Lake of Trinidad, resembling more closely manjack.

IT appearing that applications for the B.V.L.A. (British Volunteer Latin America) badge from N.C.O.'s and men of the British West Indies Regiment were being refused on the technical grounds that the men enlisted in Jamaica, and not in the United Kingdom, the West Indian Contingent Committee took the matter up with the War Office. They have now received the satisfactory reply that the Army Council has agreed "that officers and soldiers who came from South America (including Central America and Mexico) and joined the British West Indies Regiment shall be eligible for the B.V.L.A. Badge, authorised by Army Council Instruction 1067 of 1918 for officers and soldiers who came to this country to join the Army." The General Officers Commanding-in-Chief have been notified of this decision by the Army Council.

ACCORDING to a report of the United States Postmaster-General, quoted by the *Telegraph and Telephone Age* of New York, a wide extension of the aerial mail service has been planned, and outlines for four routes, two of which extend outside the county, have already been laid down. These are Key West via Havana to Panama, and Key West via the West Indies to South America. "The Post Office Department," says the American P.M.G., "awaits only the day when the aircraft production of this country can more than supply the needs of our own Army and those of our Allies to make effective the programme for aerial mail that I have directed to be put into operation as speedily as the war conditions will permit." He adds that planes for the overseas service decided upon must be powerful, fitted with wireless, and of special construction.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The Peace Conference, which will determine the destiny of the nations, individually and collectively, for generations to come, held its first formal meeting on Saturday, January 18th. Several preliminary meetings were, however, convened during the previous five days: (1) To decide the procedure of the Conference; (2) the character of representation thereupon; (3) the substance of the agenda. With regard to the first, the direction of the discussions will be left to the delegates of the five Great Powers. They will appoint Inter-Allied Committees of plenipotentiaries or experts, who will be charged with the examination of particular problems. Representatives of the smaller Powers interested in the solution of these problems will be called before these special Committees. The results of their deliberations will be submitted for the approval of the representatives of all the Allied nations at a plenary sitting. With regard to representation, the Great Powers have five delegates each, the minor States—including Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India—two each; while New Zealand, Newfoundland, and Central American Republics have one each. But, as the voting is by States, the size of the delegation is not a matter of great consequence. Moreover, as the panel system has been adopted, the personnel of the British delegation will not always be the same. When British Ministers are in London, for instance, Dominion Premiers will take their place in Paris. The representation of the Empire at the Conference is therefore truly Imperial. As the most pressing business on the agenda is the Russian problem, it is being considered first.

At the first breath of reality the leaders of democracies have fallen into line with the leaders or aristocracies and autocracies by muzzling the Press. No information as to the proceedings of the Conference is to be given for outside consumption beyond what is contained in the *communiqué* which will be issued regularly by the Inter-Allied Press Committee appointed for that purpose. Secret diplomacy depends not upon the form of government, but upon the nature of its business.

Renewal of the Armistice.

Marshal Foch is at Trèves, where negotiations for a renewal of the armistice are proceeding. New and drastic conditions are to be imposed. In the first place, while the Allies propose to provide food for Germany and adjacent countries at an estimated cost of £80,000,000, they require her as the ultimate cause of world-wide scarcity to help in the matter of transports by handing over all her merchant ships, either in her own ports or interned in neutral harbours. If they are in the same dirty and neglected condition as her warships— even the *Baden* just completed—some time must elapse before they are seaworthy. Apparently the seamen are trying to organise opposition to this scheme on the ground that no food should be sent to Germany until she has made reparation for the 20,000 sailors of all countries she has sent to their death by her use of the submarine. If Britain's naval representation at the Conference is inadequate—one of its three chiefs, Admiral Wemyss, carrying all the weight—the repre-

sentation of the British Mercantile Marine is *nil*. More of this glaring omission will be heard when Parliament opens.

A further armistice condition is the restitution by Germany of all materials taken by her troops from factories in the invaded territories—at any rate, so far as it can be identified. Her Government, in furnishing Marshal Foch with the number and character of the machines looted in Belgium and France which are now available for surrender, declined to substitute German machinery required at home for the replacement of machinery carried off. This, we are told, would amount to a boycott. The Hun, whatever he calls himself as a political unit, is unalterable.

Germany will also have to give up the 170 submarines which in November last were at various stages of construction, and concealed till the search of the British Naval Mission brought them to light, complete; the surrender of aeroplanes, many of those handed over being unserviceable; and expedite the transfer of railway and transportation material. For instance, of locomotives the required total is 5,000, whereas only 1,967 have been surrendered.

The Demobilisation Problem.

Both in this country and in France there have been demonstrations in which soldiers have expressed their dissatisfaction with the methods of authority in regard to demobilisation. As usual, there has been mismanagement, no effort having been made to inform the men serving of the essential difference between an armistice and peace, or to check the stream of ignorant criticism directed against the War Office by a certain section of the Press. The culmination was reached when soldiers were induced to believe that they could be released on leave. Moreover, the difference between "pivotal" and "slip" men was not explained fully either to the Army or to employers. The first constitute the skilled labour on which other skilled labour depends for employment. For instance, without the riveter other ratings in a shipyard would be at a standstill. But because the position of the military authorities was not understood, employers asked for "slip" men when they should have asked for "pivotal" men. The task of demobilisation is a gigantic one, and, on the whole, is being tackled with competence. In two months 460,000 men have been released, priority being given to men whose posts are kept open for them and who are necessary to vital industries. To flood the labour market with discharged soldiers would create unemployment and other dangerous social ills, an elementary fact which irresponsible organs of opinion have forgotten. As for the Army of occupation, it will continue to be based on conscription. The organisation of our future military forces has not yet been decided.

The Russian Sphinx.

Have the Allies a definite policy with regard to Russia? If so, it is time they not only declared it, but began to work it out. An authoritative announcement has been made that no more troops are to be sent to Russia, and certainly the Naval Squadron has been withdrawn from the Baltic. On the other hand, Allied forces are still in the Archangel area, in Siberia, and in Trans-Caspia, while

sea-power is co-operating with General Dennikin in the Don region, and he is being supplied with arms, equipment and material. The Bolsheviks have been badly beaten in the vicinity of Perm, losing 30,000 prisoners, and generally there are hopeful signs that the Allies in Archangel may in the spring be able to co-operate with the Russians in Siberia and these again with the Cossacks in the South. The danger grows and threatens in Middle and East Russia, where anarchy reigns in a terror unexampled for ferocity, the 25,000 Chinese imported as labourers early in the war constituting part of Lenin's barbarous Pretorian Guard. That, owing to climatic conditions, little can be done to help Russia is obvious, but she cannot be left to the exploitation of Germany, or the war will have been fought in vain. There is no doubt that the whole question will be thoroughly discussed by the Peace Conference, and the future policy of the Allies formulated.

With regard to the representation of Russia at the Conference there is still some doubt. She has earned it by her priceless services early in the war, and by the price she has paid for the triumph of the great cause 2,000,000 dead. By an indiscretion of the *Humanité*, Mr. Lloyd George is said to have urged that her delegation should consist of all the different Governments in Russia, including the Bolsheviks. But France will have none of them, M. Clemenceau describing them as even more deadly to civilisation than the Huns. It is probable that Prince Lvoff and other patriotic Russians in Paris will form a worthy delegation from our badly-stricken Ally.

"Revolution" in Germany.

The Spartacus (Extremist) Group having been exploited by the Government as long as was considered expedient has been suppressed in the manner familiar under the old régime. The soldiers who performed the task were enthusiastically applauded by the populace, and there was small consideration paid to life. Consequently the casualties were heavy. The result of the elections for the National Assembly in two of the Federal States—Baden and Württemberg—is another sign that the docile German is not going to turn Bolshevik at the cooing of Liebknecht or the roar of Radek, the Bolshevik director of propaganda who has ventured to enter, though he may find it difficult to get out again. The voters, on the basis of adult suffrage, lean towards a democratic republic, but utterly reject the Extremists. It is probable that this lead will be followed by the other Federal States. Marshal Foch has warned the German High Command that disorders of the Bolsheviks caused by their possession of arms left with them by the Germans in the evacuation of Poland and the Baltic Provinces will be charged to the responsibility of Germany.

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.
GARNETT.—On the 6th January, at a Nursing Home in London, suddenly, from the effects of influenza, May Munro, beloved wife of Mewburn Garnett.

SUGAR FACTORIES FOR JAMAICA.

Sir Leslie Probyn, Governor of Jamaica, has intimated to the Legislative Council of the colony that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has raised no objection to his proposals for establishing at Government expense a central sugar factory on the alluvial plain of the Plantain Garden River in St. Thomas in the East. The Governor, in his dispatch to Mr. Walter Long dated November 6th, described the favoured area as being "literally like a billiard-table," on which transporting tramways can be laid not only at a minimum cost but also in every direction. The district has suffered so much from strong winds, gales and hurricanes that its planters have decided to give up the cultivation of the "fragile banana." "Each of them," to quote the Governor, "now regards his property in that district as being an abyss which swallows up money."

The credit for bringing this question of central factories to a head is due to that active body the Jamaica Imperial Association, which, it is gratifying to note, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica on the subject, referred to the fact that as early as October, 1914, the West India Committee of London had canvassed the possibility of the development of British-grown sugar. It will be recalled that, in response to their inquiry, the Director of Agriculture estimated the possible production of the island at as low a figure as 20,000 tons, expressing his opinion that it would be very rash for the planters engaged in banana, coco-nut and cocoa cultivation to sink much capital in sugar manufacture. To this narrow view the Association took exception, and declared that from 150,000 to 200,000 tons of sugar could be annually produced.

Among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past month have been:—

ANTIGUA.—Sgt. Oriel Duke, M.M.

BAHAMAS.—Cadet C. P. Bethel, Cadet G. M. Cole, Sgt. Geo. R. Kemp.

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Pte. C. I. Proverbs, Cadet J. E. Crawford, Pte. C. de C. Skeete, Lieut. D. A. Knight, R.N., 2nd Lieut. A. Greenhalgh, Pte. H. A. Honychurch, 2nd Lieut. F. N. Dowlen, Pte. H. B. Leslie, Pte. A. P. Cox, Pte. A. G. W. Browne, Lieut. C. E. Murphy, C. C. Bynoe, K. F. Pilgrim, Pte. H. H. Williams, Pte. P. E. Williams, 2nd Lieut. D. E. Chase, 1st A.M. R. B. Armstrong.

BRITISH GUIANA.—M. McTurk, Cpl. Van Sertima.

JAMAICA.—L. L. Smith, 2nd Lieut. H. Austin Cooper, Lieut. C. Lawton Hall (B.W.I.R.).

ST. LUCIA.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Laffite (B.W.I.R.).

ST. VINCENT.—Trpr. F. L. McLeod, Cadet C. O. Hazell, 2nd Lieut. D. A. Richards, 2nd Lieut. J. A. Hadley.

TOBAGO.—Lieut. Kenneth Reid.

TRINIDAD.—Cadet V. O. da Costa, R. M. Anderson, Cadet R. Campbell, Pte. A. H. de Silva, Pte. C. H. Rooks, Rfm. L. Hamel Smith, Sgt. R. Hale, Pte. C. A. Richardson, J. Scott, Pte. F. C. Gibbon, Flight-Cadet E. A. O'Connor, Capt. C. G. Deane, M.C. (B.W.I.R.), Cadet K. G. McClean, 2nd Lieut. C. McClean, E. M. Henderson, Lieut. E. G. Rooks, Gnr. Garnet Simmons, Pte. P. J. Stone, Lieut. F. Evelyn, 2nd Lieut. R. Dunn, Flight-Cadet M. A. K. Smith, Flight-Cadet W. Bushe, Cecil J. Smith, Gnr. W. S. Braham, Capt. Esni McDonnell, 2nd Lieut. A. P. Huggins, Trpr. S. G. Harragin, Trpr. H. de G. Gellizeau, Sapr. J. A. Hernandez, 1st A.M. S. O. Seon, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel Smith, Cyclist G. C. R. Edghill.

B.W.I.'S SUCCESS IN PALESTINE.

The Record of the Second Battalion.

In the CIRCULAR of November 14th, 1918, we published an account of the participation of the British West Indies Regiment in Palestine, with special reference to the work of the 1st Battalion. We are now able to supplement this by the following report regarding the part played by the 2nd Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. S. Poc. A correspondent writes under date December 20th last:-

The 2nd Battalion British West Indies Regiment entered the Jordan Valley on August 11th, 1918, having marched from Ludd via Jerusalem—only ten men out of 1,100 falling out and being admitted to hospital on the way. On the night of August 13th to 14th, 1918, the Battalion took over a portion of the front line defences known as the "W" Works, which lay at the foot of and to the east of the Judæan Hills. They were faced by the Turkish positions at Rishah, Musetterah and Bakr Ridge, which overlooked them. These works were shelled daily. The Battalion was firstly attached to the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade, then to the 1st A.L.H. Brigade, and afterwards to the N.Z.M.R. Brigade. The usual patrols were carried out towards the enemy's positions nightly, and several prisoners were brought in. Valuable information was obtained, for which the Battalion received the thanks of the G.O.C., as one of our prisoners was an enemy artillery observer, who disclosed the positions of Turkish batteries which our aeroplanes had been unable to locate.

On September 19th, whilst attached to the N.Z.M.R. Brigade, General Meldrum ordered the Battalion to make a demonstration towards Bakr and Chalk Ridges, to keep the enemy engaged and prevent him making a flank attack on the right of the XXth Corps, with whom we linked up, as the Commander of that Corps had expressed some anxiety about his right flank. "B," "C" and "D" Companies moved forward, leaving "A" Company in reserve to hold the works. The three attacking companies moved forward in artillery formation, and under a very heavy H.E. and shrapnel fire, advancing as if on parade. This advance was watched by General Chaytor and General Meldrum, who both sent their congratulations to the commanding officer next morning on the steadiness of the men and the way in which the advance had been carried out. Our First Battalion were also spectators of this individual action, and also sent their congratulations, as it was the first occasion on which a B.W.I. Battalion had been in action as a complete unit.

The object of the demonstration having been accomplished, we were ordered to return to our line of defence at 1900.

Our casualties were 5 killed and 35 wounded.

No. 2063 Private (A/L/Cpl.) D. S. Sampson, and No. 2401 Private Spence, both of Jamaica, have received the Military Medal for gallantry in this action.

On the morning of September 20th, two platoons of "B" Company occupied Chalk Ridge, the enemy having evacuated it during the night. At 1700 on September 21st orders were received for both Battalions of the B.W.I.R. to move forward and assemble at Kh Fusait at midnight. September 21st-22nd, a distance of about 11 miles. On arrival, the 1st Battalion was ordered to proceed to Jisr Ed Damieh, the 2nd Battalion to throw out outposts.

On this day one platoon from Chalk Ridge rejoined the Battalion. On the morning of September 22nd, at

about 13 hours, orders were received that the Turks were advancing across Mafid Josele Bridge to capture the positions between the outpost line we had taken up and Jisr Ed Damieh, to which place our 1st Battalion had marched with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade. An officer's patrol was thereupon sent out to get contact with the enemy and was supported later by a platoon.

The Turks then attacked this party, and the remainder of the Battalion moved out to drive them back. On arrival at the scene of action, we found that our patrol had been slightly driven back, and the enemy, about 400 strong, were within 1,000 yards of the Roman road from Fusail to Jisr Ed Damieh. An immediate attack was then made which forced the enemy to withdraw to a very strong position in the Wadis, covering Mafid Josele Bridge, where we were held up at about 1500 hours. About this time word came from the O.C. A.L.H. Regiment that he was held up on our right. A little before this the G.O.C. 53rd (Turkish) Division and his Staff were being brought under escort along the Roman road, and the object of the enemy's attack was to release him. At dusk, however, we were able to advance, and reached the River Jordan at 1850 hours.

The Commanding Officer and the Adjutant with a small party surprised and captured forty of the enemy, and found others destroying the bridge, which was stopped. At about 2300 hours the Battalion was able to report to the G.O.C. 1st A.L.H. Brigade, who was in charge of the operations, that the west side of the Jordan as far as Jisr Ed Damieh was clear of the enemy. The casualties in this action were two wounded, one of whom subsequently died, and two missing. The Battalion returned to Kh Fusail at about midnight.

No. 1955 Sergeant Halliburton, M.C., of Jamaica, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in this action.

All Our Colonies Represented.

The majority of the men who took part in these operations were Jamaicans, but all the West Indian Islands, British Honduras and British Guiana, were represented.

At 1200 hours on September 23rd the Battalion marched to Jisr Ed Damieh, arriving there at 1500 hours, and took over the bridgehead from our 1st Battalion, who, in conjunction with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade, had captured it at the point of the bayonet on the previous night. The 1st Battalion then moved on with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade to Es Salt, and thence to Amman, making an almost phenomenal march. On September 24th the remaining platoon on Chalk Ridge rejoined the Battalion. On September 29th the Battalion moved to Shunet Nimrin, where they arrived at 0600 on October 1st. They remained there until October 9th, when the Battalion, less one Company ("D") Company, moved back to Jerusalem, arriving on October 13th, from which date they came under the orders of the Palestine Lines of Communication.

"D" Company was left at Shunet Nimrin on salvage duty. During these operations a Turkish mine in a captured ammunition dump exploded, killing three O.R.'s and wounding five O.R.'s of the Battalion, also killing an officer and six men of the Camel Transport Corps. Among our killed was No. 1619 Sergeant L. R. Edwards, who had, previous to enlisting, been deputy-assistant clerk of the courts at St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica. This N.C.O. had been with the Battalion since formation, and was extremely popular with all ranks, by whom his loss was keenly felt.

During the whole period under review the conduct and discipline of the men left nothing to be desired, and drew a very complimentary letter from Major-General Sir E. W. C. Chaytor, K.C.M.G., C.B., G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division.

JAMAICA GOVERNORS.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

I.—Edward Doyley.

(Continued from page 6.)

Doyley himself gave to Cromwell an account of the expedition in "A narrative of the Great Success God hath been pleased to give his Highness' Forces in Jamaica, against the King of Spain's forces. . . . As it was communicated in a Letter from the Governor of Jamaica. Published by His Highness' Special Command. London. 1658." The English had only four men killed and about ten wounded.

In spite of the fact that he felt aggrieved at having been twice superseded by Cromwell in military command (by Sedgwick and by Brayne, both avowed followers of Cromwell), and not being appointed actual Governor, and showed his resentment by asking to be allowed to return home, he loyally did his best for the infant colony, which fate had more than once entrusted to his care; and it was owing to the wise and prompt methods he pursued that the last serious attempt made by the Spaniards to retake Jamaica was frustrated. In February, 1657-8, he acknowledges the supplies received, "and it was high time"; he also writes of apprehended attack by the Spaniards and of an increase of population of about two hundred and fifty, most women and children, from Bermuda. He said, "There are some people lately come hither, called Quakers, who have brought letters of credit, and do dispense books amongst us."

In the May of 1658 reinforcements of troops from Spain, consisting of thirty small companies, making in all about one thousand men, landed at the mouth of the Rio Novo in St. Mary, where they erected a fort of some strength on a rocky eminence near the sea and not far from the west bank of the river.

Doyley, again, fortunately wrote a complete account of the engagement, which is given in Thurloe's "State Papers." On June 11th he, with 750 officers and men, sailed from Cagway. He had difficulty in beating round Point Morant and the Nevis; settlers there quartered 400 of his men for a week. Eleven days later he landed at Rio Novo, in spite of the opposition of the Spaniards. Doyley summoned Yssasi to surrender. Yssasi promptly declined. The English thereupon forded the river, scaled the heights, and drove out the Spaniards, killing about three hundred persons and taking about one hundred prisoners. The English losses were five officers and twenty-three men killed, and thirty-four wounded. William Burrough, the steward-general, wrote home, "Has seen a great deal of bloody work in his time, both by land and sea, but never saw any action carried on with so much cheerfulness as this was, the Commander-in-Chief, Colonel D'Osley, telling the soldiers that a great deal of England's glory lay at stake, and therefore hoped they would consider it and carry themselves accordingly, going himself from party to party, and following the rear of the forlorn in a very signal habit. His gallant behaviour was answered both by officers and soldiers with a silent, cheerful obedience, and through God's gracious goodness there was found such a joint unanimous

willingness to the work that the truth is it was of God, and it hath exceedingly endeared us one to another since we came here."

Hickeringill tells us that Doyley, at Rio Novo, made amends for the loss of British honour at Hispaniola: "To whom our Nation in some measures stands indebted for the Reprizal of the Honour at Rio Novo which was so shamefully Lost under the Debauch'd conduct of General Venables in Hispaniola: the Spaniards till then having so mean and despicable Thoughts of English Courage, that upon the Onset at Rio Novo they upbraided our Men with the opprobrious mention of Sancto Domingo, till the repeated Assay of their Valour, disciplin'd them in to better manners."

In June, 1659, Doyley suspended and sent to England Myngs, of the *Marston Moor*, who had brought in "an abundance of wealth" from the Spanish Main, for plundering a prize of 12,000 pieces of eight, but Myngs managed to clear himself of the charge.

In the beginning of the year 1660, Long tells us, Doyley was informed by the friendly negroes that his old opponent Yssasi, unwilling to resign his pretensions to the government so long as he could maintain the least party or show of authority, was lying *perdu* on the north side of the island. Doyley ordered out a detachment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Tyson, consisting of eighty officers and soldiers, and twenty-one of the revolted Spanish blacks, which, after a tedious march across the mountains, found Yssasi in a swampy place, now part of Shaw Park, with one hundred and thirty-three men. Yssasi himself was then old and infirm, but his second in command was an experienced soldier, who had served in Spain, and had engaged in this new service in consideration of double pay and a promise of succeeding to the chief command after the Governor's death.

The English advanced upon them with intrepidity, and at the first onset the Spanish Lieutenant-General received a lance wound, of which he died in two hours. On the loss of this able leader, upon whom all their hopes had been fixed, the whole of the little army was panic-stricken. Yssasi was one of the first to retreat, and "ran so nimbly as to save himself from being taken." Several, however, were made prisoners, and about fifty officers and soldiers slain on the part of the Spaniards, without any loss to the victorious side. The Spaniards finally left the island from Runaway Bay.

In August, 1660, Doyley was met by internal rebellion, got up by Colonel Raymond, who persuaded the gallant Colonel Tyson to participate in it.

Of Raymond little is known beyond that Beeston calls him "a discontented reformed officer," and Long "a factious officer." Tyson, we know, was not one of those who came out with Venables, but arrived a year later. Leslie tells us that they were "two gentlemen who adhered to the Protector and had a mighty influence on the soldiers." In the face of contradictory evidence it is a little difficult to discover the real origin of the outbreak. Some writers have considered it a Cavalier and Round-head affair; others, that the rebels wished for a simple life in preference to military control; while

against this Doyley is himself said to have favoured planting. Finally, dislike of Doyley as a martinet may have in part prompted the outbreak. Doyley acted promptly, and, bringing up reinforcements, persuaded the soldiers to give up their leaders, and Tyson and Raymond were shot at Spanish Town the next morning.

Cornelius Brough had written home in January, 1660, "We are here just like you at home; when we heard of the Lord Protector's death we proclaimed his son, when we heard of his being turned out we proclaimed a Parliament, and now own a Committee of Safety."

The news of the Restoration arrived at Jamaica on August 15th, 1660, but direct communication from the King did not reach the anxious colonists, who were ignorant whether Jamaica was to be handed back to Spain or not till June 1st in the following year (Jamaica's birthday as a British colony with a duly qualified civil Governor), when Doyley received his commission (dated February 8th) as Governor.

Although Blagrove and Waite, regicides, and others of their way of thinking, had settled in the island—and there were many adherents of Cromwell here—yet at the Restoration the young colonists, as Bryan Edwards puts it, "caught the reviving flame of loyalty"; and the King, anxious to conciliate their affections, confirmed their favourite general in command and even appointed him Governor of the island.

In his instructions as Governor, which accompanied his commission, Doyley was ordered to release the Army, to create courts of justice, and govern with the advice of the Council—elected by the people, not chosen by the Governor. This was thus the forerunner of the House of Assembly, rather than of the Council which was formed a few years later. As a rule, this Council met once a month at Point Cagway. By the well-thought-out instructions, Doyley was also required to suppress drunkenness, to encourage the Protestant religion, to complete the fortifications at Cagway, to encourage the people to plant, to make a survey of the island, to require those claiming lands to plant a proportionate part within a limited time, to encourage merchants and traders, and to employ ships that could be spared from the defence of the island in fetching planters from other colonies.

And thus a beginning was made of getting rid of military control, under which England herself had suffered too much during the Commonwealth.

Amongst the principal men of the island at the time were Richard Povey, the first island Secretary (whose commission from Charles II. was earlier than Doyley's), Thomas Lynch, the Provost-Marshal and future Lieutenant-Governor, and John Man, Surveyor-General, who was also commander at Cagway, the fortification of which occupied much of the attention of the authorities both here and at home.

In March, 1661, Doyley wrote home to his kinsman Nicholas that he had, by proclaiming peace with Spain, "sufficiently enraged the populace who live only on spoil and depredation"; yet there is evidence that he himself was not unwilling to share unduly in such spoil and depredation.

(To be continued.)

FEDERATION AND FREE TRADE.

A Controller of Customs' Views.

The Hon. J. M. Reid, Controller of Customs in British Guiana, has contributed to the *Commercial Review* of that colony an interesting article on Federation and Free Trade in the West Indies. He does not believe that the time has arrived when the West Indian colonies can be united under one Governor-General, but considers that some form of working agreement might be arrived at in respect of external or non-domestic matters, the following being subjects in which uniformity might with advantage be effected—

Legislation connected with Merchant Shipping, Shipping, Quarantine, Customs Laws and Regulations, Commercial Law, Merchandise Marks, Trade Marks, Aliens Immigration, Food and Drugs (Importation), Animals (Importation), Contagious Diseases, and Dangerous Goods (Importation).

In the event of uniformity being achieved in any or all of these matters, it would be necessary, in order to maintain uniformity, that all amendments or additions to any such legislation should be submitted to and arranged by a duly appointed council or board, which would require to be thoroughly representative of the varied interests in the different colonies, and the senior Government representative of each colony attending the board would require to be armed with plenary powers in order to accept the findings of the board on behalf of his Government; otherwise unvaried sameness would not obtain for any length of time.

Mr. Reid attaches great importance to the adoption of inter-colonial Free Trade, a modified system of which in West Indian products would, he thinks, have in itself a unifying effect amongst the various colonies and would prove mutually advantageous.

He expresses his conviction that all protective duties in the West Indies and British Guiana should be abolished as far as West Indian products are concerned, and that articles of local produce which are free in the British Guiana market should be allowed to be imported free of duty when declared to be the produce of any of the British West Indies, and all articles which when of local produce or manufacture are subject to excise duty should be charged a similar rate of duty on importation from any colony belonging to the Federal League.

The abolition of these fiscal barriers would have to be provided for in the Customs Duties Ordinance of each colony adhering to the League, and if each colony adopted a common Customs law and a common code of Customs regulations, Mr. Reid sees no insuperable difficulty in framing a uniform Customs Duties Ordinance, except that the rate of specific and *ad valorem* duties would have to be fixed by each legislature independently, and also export duties on colony produce. In other words, a uniform practice could be established regarding the mode of ascertaining *ad valorem* values, definitions of wine and malt liquor, refunds of duty, and Customs tariff matters generally. The tables of articles liable to specific duty, *ad valorem* duty, and exempt from duty could be made the same in each colony.

PINEAPPLES IN HAWAII.

The rise of the pineapple industry of Hawaii has been phenomenal. Prior to 1901 small quantities of this fruit were canned in the island, but the industry really dates from that year, when 2,000 cases were packed. Next year 6,000 cases were put up, and the increase has since been rapid, until in 1914 nine canneries produced no fewer than 2,262,806 cases. The 1919 pack is estimated by a correspondent of *Dun's International Review* at over 3,000,000 cases, about one-half of which has been purchased by the United States Government.

When the pineapple begins to ripen the fields are picked carefully every day or two, and only the fruit that is fully ripe is selected. The fields are in no instance more than a few miles from the cannery, and the fruit is canned a few hours after it is picked. Ripe Hawaiian pineapples are rich in sugar, but this is practically all acquired after they begin to ripen. If picked green they contain but little sugar and gain none after they are taken from the plant.

Scrupulous care is given to every detail of growing and canning. Before the plants are set out the land is put in as fine condition as a garden, and the fields are kept free from weeds by frequent hoeing and cultivation, to encourage a healthy and rapid growth and the production of the choicest fruit. Extensive experiments have shown that the smooth Cayenne pineapple is far superior to all others, and it is now the only variety grown on a large scale for commercial purposes in Hawaii.

Pineapple canneries in Hawaii are equipped with labour-saving machinery designed and manufactured specially for their use. Aside from grading the slices and filling the cans, all the work is done by machinery. The people who handle the fruit in the cannery wear rubber gloves, and throughout the most modern sanitary methods are observed. Sanitary cans make the use of acid and solder unnecessary. Each night each machine and every part of the cannery is steamed, scrubbed and washed as clean as it is possible to make it. From the time the pineapple goes to the peeler until it is in the can, sealed and ready for the cooker, is only about six minutes, and there is no chance for the fruit to come in contact with anything not clean. It is this incessant care in the growing and handling of Hawaiian pineapples, together with its superior quality, that has made the fruit so popular.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Rev. P. K. P. Bolton.	Frank Mahabir, Esq.
Geoffrey Brooke, Esq.	T. M. Marshall, Esq.
R. Bryson, Esq.	G. F. McF. May, Esq.
Hon. D. C. Cameron, C.M.G.	C. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
Dickson Fraser, Esq.	Michael McTurk, Esq.
Duncan Fraser, Esq.	Dr. Frank Oliphant.
J. J. A. Gordon, Esq.	H. Alfred Nicholls, Esq.
John T. Greg, Esq.	C. W. M. Saunders, Esq.
Mrs. E. Haynes.	C. W. Scott, Esq.
Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E.	R. B. Short, Esq.
Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G.	F. H. S. Warneford, Esq.

OUR WEST INDIA TRADE.

The total value of trade between the United Kingdom and the British West India Islands rose from £2,115,929 in 1913 to £6,216,052 in 1917, and that with British Guiana from £648,323 to £1,856,743 in the same period. This increase was mainly due, of course, to the enhanced value of sugar-cane products and to the diversion of West Indian sugar to the United Kingdom, the imports of raw sugar from the islands into the United Kingdom rising from 587,273 cwt. in 1913 to 1,869,910 cwt. in 1917, and those for British Guiana from £367,439 to £717,931. Imports of cocoa from the islands remained about stationary, the quantities being 16,698,032 lb. in 1917, against 16,633,624 lb. in 1914, while values rose to £582,068 from £480,847.

Apart from sugar-cane products, the most notable increase in imports is shown by honey, of which 23,139 cwt., valued at £98,115, were imported in 1917, against 7,138 cwt. only, worth £11,646, in 1913. Our imports of bananas increased slightly in quantity—from 499,763 bunches, valued at £132,635, in 1913 to 556,918 bunches, valued at £388,004, in 1917; but these figures are no real criterion, as the banana plantations were suffering from the effects of a succession of "blows" in the pre-war year. Fruit-juice imports showed an expansion from 609,127 to 915,478 gallons, the value increasing from £79,967 to £161,325.

WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN W. B. ROWLAND, Royal Field Artillery, who was killed in action in France on November 1st, 1918, aged nineteen, was the only son of Dr. E. D. Rowland, I.S.O., of Georgetown, British Guiana. Educated at Cheltenham College, he left for the Front in July, 1917.

SECOND LIEUTENANT NEIL ALEX MCKINNON, Royal Suffolk Regiment, second son of the late Neil R. McKinnon, K.C., Solicitor-General of British Guiana, was killed in action in Palestine on September 19th, 1918, aged nineteen. His elder brother was previously killed on the Western Front.

CAPTAIN W. J. FOGARTY, South Irish Horse, eldest son of Mr. Wm. Fogarty, merchant, of Georgetown, British Guiana, and of Artane, Co. Dublin, previously reported wounded and missing, is now known to have been killed in action in France on March 21st, 1918, aged twenty-three. He joined up in November, 1915, and had 2½ years' service on the Western Front.

CAPTAIN J. A. NISBET, Royal Scots Fusiliers, who was killed in action in France on September 28th, 1918, aged twenty-six, was a native of Scotland, and joined up in 1916 from British Guiana, where he had been manager of the stationery department of the Argus Company, Limited.

PRIVATE ROBERT W. SERVICE, 4th Canadian Division, Trench Mortar Corps, late Horticultural Superintendent, Department of Science and Agriculture, British Guiana, was killed in action in France during September, 1918. He was a popular young Scotchman, and enlisted in the Canadian Forces in April, 1917. He was previously wounded, and after returning to the Front saw much fighting in France during last year.

SUGAR FACTORIES FOR TRINIDAD.

A Committee appointed by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago to consider ways and means for the establishment of one or more co-operative sugar factories in the colony has now presented its report, which is signed by Sir Norman Lament, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. James Black, Mr. F. J. Le Blanc, Mr. A. B. Carr, and Mr. L. de Verteuil Scuty.

In this they state that they are agreed that certain obvious advantages would accrue from the erection in Trinidad of Co-operative Central Sugar Factories, provided that such factories were:—

- (a) Suitably located to ensure an adequate supply of cane;
- (b) Of sufficient size to justify the payment of salaries likely to attract competent managers, engineers, and chemists; and
- (c) So financed as to enable them to withstand a series of years of low prices or short crops, as well as to continue to make such improvements as became needful from time to time in their machinery and equipment.

The Committee is of opinion that the establishment of such factories in new districts is the only manner in which any considerable extension of the sugar industry is likely to be attained. This industry has scarcely increased its output in the last half-century. Furthermore, it has scarcely extended beyond the frontier of the very limited districts in which it was operating fifty years ago. This has created an erroneous impression in certain quarters that only these limited areas in the whole colony are suitable for cane, with the deplorable result that large areas of land have been, and are still, planted in cacao where cacao is exceedingly unlikely to succeed. A profitable alternative crop in such areas would be a godsend alike to the small proprietor and to the tenant farmer.

They proceed:—

A second advantage likely to accrue from co-operative factories if established by means of Government assistance with commensurate Government control would be in regard to the long-voiced question of the price of farmers' canes. It may be assumed that the price to be paid for canes at such factories would be arranged in advance of each crop by a conference of representatives of the factory, the participating estates, and the cane farmers, with a representative of the Government in the chair. Any scale of prices adopted by so authoritative a tribunal might tend to become a standard scale to be applied (allowing for local differences) in disputed cases at other factories throughout the island. The immense impetus certain to be given to the industry by the settlement of this long-standing difficulty can hardly be gauged in money value.

A third advantage would be in regard to agricultural education. If a corresponding degree of Government control were to accompany Government assistance in financing the establishment of co-operative factories, it may be hoped that the Government would not lose such a golden opportunity for laying, in the factory, the foundations of a sugar school. Whether the College of Tropical Agriculture of the future is established in Trinidad by our own Government for our own colony alone, or whether it is established under Imperial auspices for the whole of the West Indies, the technical training of experts for the various branches of the sugar industry cannot fail to be one of its most important objects. The practical side of such training might well

be given to a limited number of selected students at State-aided co-operative sugar factories.

After expressing doubts as to whether, under existing conditions, capital will be forthcoming, the Committee continues:—

It is probable that a factory capable of turning out a crop of at least 3,000 tons of crystallised sugar in a year is the smallest which would serve the purposes which the Committee has had in view. A factory of less capacity would be unable, when normal prices of sugar return, to work so economically; nor could it afford to offer salaries sufficiently high to attract a staff of the requisite scientific or technical attainments. Such a factory, with its railways, water-supply, dwellings, barracks, and with due provision for working capital, could certainly not be erected, for many years to come, for a sum lower than £100,000. Indeed, such an estimate is probably too low.

Discussing ways and means, the Committee, believing that neither London nor local capital would be forthcoming, says:—

There remains then only the Government; and the Committee does certainly not feel justified in recommending the Government, at any rate until the financial and economic future becomes very much clearer than it is, to adventure anything like so large a sum as £100,000 of the public money on a commercial speculation. A fourth possible course would be for planters having estates adjacent to the proposed site of a factory to provide "at least a part of the capital required for the factory," with the Government finding the balance. The Committee regards this method as probably the soundest, and, in the long run, the most satisfactory in Trinidad; just as the Secretary of State "prefers" it in Jamaica.

But the difference between the two Colonies must be borne in mind. In Jamaica there is but one great industry, banana cultivation.* Its precarious character creates an urgent need for others. There are, moreover, numerous estates where cane has been, or is being, grown, or where sugar is still being made in a small way. It would be easy therefore in many districts to find a nucleus of estates ready to federate for the purpose of a central sugar factory, and to guarantee such factory with a minimum supply of cane. In Trinidad, on the other hand, we have several industries. We have cacao and coco-nut cultivations, covering large areas, a rapidly rising oil industry, and an established sugar industry of considerable magnitude. There is not therefore the urgent need for fostering the erection of new factories.

The Committee considered the desirability of the erection of a new factory or of new factories anywhere within the three existing sugar "belts" of the Colony, and came to the conclusion that no such factory is needed; nor would it be likely to achieve success. First, the ground within these belts is already adequately covered with factories. During the past season several of the larger factories, indeed, could have handled much larger supplies of cane than they received, while the Malgretout factory was not even started up at all, because it was found by the lessees that the whole of the crop could be taken off at the Usine Ste. Madeleine. The 1918 crop, it is true, was a very short one; but no difficulty was experienced by the factories in handling even the "record" crop of 1917. The capacity of several of these factories is to be increased as soon as war conditions allow; consequently it is evident that their owners intend their equipment to keep pace with any future expansion in the supply of canes in their respective areas. Moreover, unless it were found that considerable quantities of farmers' canes were repeatedly left standing at the end of crop, owing to the inability of existing factories to grind them, or in case of a continued refusal to pay a reasonable price for farmers' canes, it would scarcely be fair—it would certainly not be thought fair

* (1) Bananas, 78,890 acres; (2) cane, 33,500 acres; (3) coffee, 20,427 acres.

by the factory owners—for the Government to establish in their midst a new factory, which would not only compete with them for canes, but also for their labour.

It is clear, then, that if new factories are to be established, they must be established in new districts. The Committee would not consider it desirable that a new area of Crown Lands should be taken up for the purpose. In Trinidad there is no lack of employment. There is, in fact, "work for all." Besides, the most pressing need of local agriculture is not an extension of its acreage, but the more intensive cultivation of the area already under crop. Four districts, however, where most of the land is already in private hands, and under partial cultivation, commend themselves to certain members of the Committee as providing suitable sites for co-operative sugar factories. They are (1) Moruga Road, (2) Suparia, (3) Tabaquite, and (4) either Arma or Sangre Grande. There are already, it is true, numerous patches of peasant cane in these, especially in the first two of these districts. These patches could certainly be multiplied. And there are sundry small estates, some of which are covered with more or less derelict cacao, whose proprietors would doubtless be glad of an opportunity of exchanging into a more profitable cultivation.

The Committee is of opinion that no factory would be successful if completely dependent on farmers' canes. The supply of canes would be too irregular. If, then, a 3,000-ton factory is aimed at, at least 2,000 acres of land must be annually harvested to supply it, and of this not less than one quarter, or, say, 500 acres, must belong to the federating estates. Here, again, the Committee has no means of knowing whether proprietors in any of the four districts named would be willing to combine to guarantee the proper cultivation for ten or fifteen years of such an area in cane. It is for the proprietors themselves to discuss the matter privately in the first place and then to approach the Government. It has occurred to the Committee that if there should be increasing evidence of growth of a peasant cane industry in any suitable district, and of a disposition on the part of neighbouring landowners to support it, the owners of the Malgretout factory might be approached with a view to the acquisition of that factory outright, for transportation to the new locality in question. The feasibility of such scheme, of course, would entirely depend on the arrangements and intentions of the two great firms owning and leasing the factory.

Failing, however, the guarantee by landowners of at least one quarter (500 acres) of the requisite land, and the subscription by them of at least one quarter (£25,000) of the requisite capital, together with the subscription by other private capitalists of another £25,000, the Committee is of opinion that co-operative sugar factories are for the present best left alone, and that the sporadic developments of cane-growing in districts such as those indicated may be adequately met by an extension of facilities for transport to existing factories. The construction of light branch feeding lines, or the introduction of motor lorries by the Trinidad Government Railway would certainly be vastly cheaper than the erection of sugar factories. It would probably be more remunerative. It would meet the needs of pioneer cane-farmers, and it would enlist the support of existing factory owners by increasing their supply of canes, instead of antagonising them by diminishing their supply of labour.

In the concluding paragraphs of its interesting report the sub-committee deals with the economic aspect of the question, counselling caution in view of the possibility of Great Britain producing in England all the sugar which she requires, a contingency which, for various reasons which have already been given in the CIRCULAR, is, to say the least of it, extremely remote.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

Contributions towards the West Indian Contingent Fund are still urgently needed. In some quarters there appears to be an impression that with the signing of the Armistice the need for money is at an end. So far from this being the case, it is more wanted than ever, since, as was expected, the expenditure continues to increase, though every care is taken to ensure that money shall be only spent where it is really required. It must not be forgotten that the Committee has under its care upwards of fifteen to sixteen thousand men, while the average annual revenue of the Contingent Committee has only been £4,000, or only about five shillings per man! It is understood that the British West Indies Regiment will be repatriated as a unit, but comforts will have to be provided for the voyage, and in the case of men who came over independently and are serving in the Imperial Regiments, board and lodging pending repatriation must be provided for them, and the meagre clothing grant supplemented in a number of instances.

In the circumstances it is hoped that some of our organisers in the West Indies will kindly get to work and arrange fêtes, theatrical performances, &c., on behalf of "Our Fund," as many have already done for their own particular Contingents. Meanwhile, the balance of the General Fund at the present moment is less than half a year's normal expenditure. Since our last list was published the following additional subscriptions have been received:

	£	s.	d.
War Workers' Lunch Room, Barbados,			
per Miss M. D. Skeete	25	0	0
C. E. Gooding, Esq., M.D.	2	0	0
J. D. Sellier, Esq.	5	0	0
J. C. King, Esq.	2	2	0
H. J. Rudolf, Esq.	2	2	0
C. E. Gooding, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0
C. S. Stollmeyer, Esq.	2	0	0
F. G. Iuniss, Esq.	1	0	0
B. Thompson, Esq.	1	0	0

Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged in these columns, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

A WEST INDIAN UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—The proposal of a Tropical Agricultural College, which has been put forward by a correspondent in the current issue of the CIRCULAR, has so much to commend it that one cannot doubt that it will be favourably received by the Committee.

May I point out, however, that the proposal might well have gone further? We want a University in the West Indies. The financial difficulty should not be insuperable, but, as I tried to point out to the home authorities and to you last year, a scheme for an International University, embracing all the islands and under the joint control of the nations interested, has special features which should favourably appeal to the various Governments.

In the newly-elected Parliament there are several friends of the West Indies, and it is to be hoped that with their influence something definite may come out of the proposal.

A. S. A. ORMSBY.

27, Beverley-road, Barnes, S.W. 13.

January 16th, 1919.

TRINIDAD'S STEAMER SERVICES.

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce has approved a report of a Sub-Committee comprising the Hon. Alex. Fraser, Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., Mr. D. S. Webster, and the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., on the shipping question after the war. The principal recommendations are as under:—

1. Transatlantic Service.—A fortnightly service first-class passenger and mail steamers at least equivalent to the service existing before the war between the United Kingdom and the West Indies should be re-established, with Trinidad as headquarters.

2. Intercolonial Service.—An Intercolonial passenger and mail service, same as obtained before the war, should be resumed. This is necessary for the linking up of the islands, and will be imperative if the projected federation of the West Indies is carried out. We are of opinion that in this case State aid will be necessary, as the traffic is not yet sufficiently large to make the running of desirable steamers remunerative, nor can it be for a long time to come.

3. Canada and U.S.A.—We are of opinion that the steamship service with Canada as it was run before the war, and that with New York as it exists now, should be maintained.

4. Cargo Steamers.—As regards a cargo service outwards and homewards between this Colony and the United Kingdom, that given before the war by cargo steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Messrs. Scrutton Sons & Co., Messrs. Prentice, Service & Henderson, Messrs. Leyland, and Messrs. Harrison was quite ample, and if these services are resumed after the war our requirements will be provided for.

The Committee also recommended that, in view of the disadvantages to which British steamship companies were subject during the war as compared with neutral companies, cargo between Great Britain and her Colonies should be carried for preference exclusively in British bottoms, and alternatively in those of our Allies.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for five lines and 6d for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

EX-OFFICER, married, 12 years' mercantile and shipping experience British Guiana. 2 years New York, desires position of trust. Fully qualified to undertake secretarial duties. C. S., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

URGENTLY REQUIRED. COPIES OF CIRCULARS, Nos. 503, 508, 509, 511, 520, 526, 527. 6d. per copy for copies returned to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-five, educated Oxford, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies; keen and energetic; first-class references. Army discharge. Apply C. V. H., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

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.

GENTLEMAN, 42, seeks post as Manager of Estate. Over 20 years' experience in Tropical Agriculture, including Tea, Cotton, Sugar, &c., in Ceylon, South America, West Indies, Rhodesia, Nigeria. Good testimonials. Apply "Q.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

HOMeward MAILS.**BRITISH HONDURAS.**

HON. E. G. GRABHAM, December 10th.—Miss Hart Bennet left for England on the 15th ult. We were suffering from a terrible epidemic of influenza when the news of the Armistice came, which quite spoilt all rejoicings, but I think it has been very deeply felt here. For the moment things are rather anxious, particularly as regards food supplies, but I hope they will soon be straightened out. There is much to be done in organising for the development of the Colony. The Government has now made a move over the road question, and it is quite certain we can never hope to get the Colony opened up for agriculture or anything else until we have some system of roads that people can travel over. The next big task is the reconstruction of the public buildings, and a Committee is now sitting for drafting the plans, &c. We want to put up buildings with a view to the future, and something the Colony can be proud of. We are anxiously looking forward to the arrival of our new Governor. We are still much worried over our mail service, and so far the Government and the United Fruit Company have not been able to come to terms; we have now come down to an irregular fortnightly service; it is doing infinite harm to the Colony. We are urging to be included in the West India Federation scheme, and get some regular communication with Jamaica and Canada, from which latter place the States have just told us we are to get our flour supplies; quite how they are to come one doesn't know, as we have no communication whatever with Jamaica, except by first going to New Orleans. The Chamber of Commerce is progressing.

BRITISH GUIANA.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, December 10th.—Good showers continue to fall almost daily, but in some places the rainfall has not yet been heavy enough. The Combined Court completed its Session on the 4th inst. The Scotsmen in the Colony entertained several friends at dinner on St. Andrew's Night at the Park Hotel. On the 4th and 5th instant the Municipal Elections took place, with the result that Mr. P. C. Wight defeated the Hon. N. Cannon for the North Cummingsburg Ward, the Hon. E. G. Woolford defeated Mr. H. L. Humphrys for South Cummingsburg. Mr. J. A. Gonsalves defeated Mr. J. S. Johnson for Werk-en-Rust, and Mr. M. R. Nascimento defeated Mr. J. Wood Davis for Bourda. The following were returned unopposed:—Mr. J. A. Phillips, for Kingston; Mr. J. Cunningham, for Robbstown; Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C., for Stabroek; Mr. M. P. Comacho, for Charlestown; and Mr. E. A. V. Sampson, for Albertain. The nomination for Mayor takes place during this week, and under the new ordinance this is done by the ratepayers, and not by the Council, as formerly.

TRINIDAD.—The Chinese National Association.

MR. EDGAR TRIFE.—Our Day's collection for the Red Cross amounted to \$16,339.20, and has been remitted by the Governor, who took the opportunity of stating that the Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the Red Cross Society had transmitted £29,739 15s. 4d. since the outbreak of the war. For this excellent result too much praise cannot be awarded to Mrs. E. M. Phillips, the Hon. Treasurer, and the whole-hearted body of ladies who have rendered such continuous and devoted service to the cause month after month as the years of the war have gone on. In the "Our Day" list, the grant of the Legislative Council, £500, is included. Other leading contributions came from Mrs. L. M. Hobson, represent-

ing the Southern quarter, \$5,095.55; proceeds Lady Chancellor's Garden Fête, \$2,026.02; proceeds of the Portuguese Gala Concert, \$1,031.81; Chinese National Association, \$480; Sangre Grande, per Mrs. Tree, \$461.18; Mrs. Perez, part proceeds of Fête Champetre, \$720; Ladies West India Committee, Sports, \$305.53, &c.

Trinidad's champion organiser of good works in connection with war funds has added another star to the many decorations which are still owing to her. Let us hope they will one day be paid. This one took the form of a "Mammoth Fair" at the Prince's Building, entitled "Petticoat Lane." Any number of charming ladies served at the various shops, the contents of which had been provided by themselves and friends, and a roaring trade was done during afternoon and evening to an ever-ending crowd of willing purchasers. Every sort of shop was there, from a pawnshop to that which offered baby-linen. There were sports and entertainments for young and old, a bar which never for one moment lacked thirsty visitors, a quiet corner where the moderate gambler could try his luck against the odds in favour of the fund, and a supper whose only fault was that it proved quite insufficient for all of those who sought to partake of it. And it all wound up, as most of these affairs, when successful, do, with a dance, which kept every one merry until the small hours. There is a magnetic influence about Mrs. Perez which attracts every able and willing worker throughout the country to her aid, and ensures the hall-mark of success to all she undertakes. The proceeds will be devoted to a Fund in aid of disabled Trinidadians returning from the war.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, December 13th.—The news that Mr. S. W. Knaggs is retiring has been received with genuine regret throughout the Colony. There has been no official in my time here who has more truly deserved and enjoyed personal respect and confidence. From the time he entered the Service as a junior in the Post Office to the present date, when he occupies the honoured position of Colonial Secretary, with the Commission of Deputy Governor, his career has been one which may fitly be described as *sans peur et sans reproche*. The word of "Willy" Knaggs was always his bond in public as in private life, and during his time the reputation of the Colonial Secretary's office for the highest integrity was never questioned. As Acting Governor, on many occasions, he most worthily maintained the dignity of the office and the credit of the Colony. No one was more firm or consistent in opinion, but it was always expressed with tact, and his temper was wonderful. I never heard him say an unkind or malicious word of any one, and I think I may claim the privilege of being his friend for very many years, not more than we care to remember, but years that I trust may be looked back to with pleasure and satisfaction.

Mr. Gideon Murray has telegraphed expressing regret that the question of Federation should be further postponed, and the message has been circulated round the Islands and in British Guiana. Mr. Murray was justly very popular when acting as Administrator in these parts, and his opinion carries much weight. As you will have heard, Mr. Bazea will shortly be submitting the matter to the Legislative Assembly in Barbados. If the result is favourable it will be a great stride in the furtherance of the movement, which appears to be receiving general approbation throughout the Colonies.

In the Estimates of 1919, laid before the Legislative Council on 1st instant, the revenue was estimated as £1,160,552, or £62,369 more than in 1917. The receipts from Customs having been based on a war standard, it is to be hoped will now prove much in excess of the sum expected. The estimated expenditure is £1,171,936, being £11,029 in excess of the revised estimate for 1918. The income tax or war tax on incomes, as we are

pleased to call it, is to be continued at such rates as will produce a sum of about £50,000 yearly.

On Produce, the following will be charged—

Sugar, 2s. per 1,000 lb.
Cacao, 7d. per 100 lb.
Coco-nuts, 5s. per 1,000.
Copra, 16s. 8d. per 1,000 lb.
Rum, 2d. per gallon.
Molasses, ½d. per gallon.
Cedar, 2d. per cubic foot.

At the instance of Sir Norman Lamont a Bill was introduced and passed through the various stages to provide for the censorship of cinema films, with a view of preventing those likely to have an injurious effect, particularly on the minds of the young, being shown. The measure was needed, as the magistrates here have testified to the increase of particular crimes which have been of late prominently displayed at the theatres. Another useful measure passed was the Truck Ordinance to prohibit the payment of wages otherwise than in money. This measure of protection to the labourer against a system of extortion which has too long obtained should long ago have been introduced, and is another instance of the good all-round work now being accomplished by the Executive of the Colony.

Our Chinese fellow Colonists have long been a quiet, but growing and important, element in our midst, and now comprise many educated, wealthy, and respected members of the commercial and planting community, whilst their general body is probably the most law-abiding and trustworthy to be found anywhere. They have recently formed a Chinese National Association, and have built a handsome Club-house of three stories. To inaugurate the latter a most imposing ceremony was held on the 27th, when the Club was formally opened, and a banquet held in the evening, at which were invited and attended the Judiciary, most of the members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and the leading merchants. Everything was done that could be done to make this function a memorable one, and no one present could have been otherwise than impressed with the courtesy and gracious hospitality extended to them. The speeches delivered were equal to the occasion, and a most enjoyable evening was spent, which extended nearly to the small hours. A special feature was the brilliant illumination of the building by electric light. I send you part of a paper, the *Argus*, owned by a Chinese gentleman, in which will be found a portrait of Mr. John Lee Lum, the "Pioneer of Chinese activity in Trinidad," now retired, but for many years was a prominent merchant of the most unblemished integrity. His son, Mr. George Lee Lum, is now the President of the Association and the Club.

SECOND LIEUT. EVAN MAGINLEY THOMAS, R.F.A., eldest son of the Rev. F. Thomas, of Kenwyn Vicarage, Truro, and late Rector of St. George's, Antigua, and of St. Kitts, and a nephew of Mr. J. W. A. Maginley, has been awarded the Military Cross for a deed of valour, thus described:—At the Piave on October 27th, 1918, he was Forward Observation Officer with right Battalion, left Infantry Brigade. This officer succeeded in laying a cable across the river at the commencement of the attack. He was wounded early in the day, but, in spite of this, carried on with his job for thirty-six hours. The Officer Commanding, right Battalion, writes as follows:—"I wish to bring to your notice the gallant conduct of Second Lieut. E. M. Thomas when attached to my battalion as F.O.O. on October 27th and 28th. He repeatedly got cable communication before the brigade signallers, and invariably showed a fine example of courage and devotion to duty."

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEERTING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
January 23rd, 1919.

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.	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 first sales of new crop Cubas were effected on December 30th last at 5.88 c. and f., and full-duty sugars a few days before at 5.64c. c.i.f. For old crop the figures are unchanged.

Willett and Gray's estimates for 1918-19 include—

Louisiana	244,135
Porto Rico	410,000
Hawaii	550,000
St. Croix	6,500
Cuba	3,600,000
B. W.I. Islands	180,000
B. Guiana	125,000
Java	1,700,000
Formosa and Japan	375,000
Philippines	230,000

The Royal Commission has now purchased 75,000 tons of British West Indian new crop sugar for the United Kingdom, and as a set-off the Canadian Food Board has purchased 120,000 tons of the San Domingo crop, which will be delivered by the end of July.

The new standards set up in the United Kingdom for muscovado and syrup sugars, the adoption of which was necessitated by the wretchedly poor quality of the sugars which some estates were sending over, are decidedly lighter. The West India Committee have pointed out that some sugars usually shipped to this market for grocery purposes will thus be shut out, but have induced the Commission agreeing to the present stock of low-grade muscovado and syrup sugar at present in this country (say 500 tons) being allocated for purposes other than domestic consumption.

The West India sugar statistics in London on January 11th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	1,625	976	469	
Deliveries	1,736	2,793	1,557	
Stock	6,081	9,170	6,927	

RUM. The embargo continues in force, and there is nothing fresh to report. The stocks in London on January 11th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	3,717	6,927	11,182	
Demerara	10,401	5,085	9,892	
Total of all kinds	19,201	18,889	35,558	

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 local prices December 23rd, 1918, \$16.50 for estates', and \$16.25 for ordinary and Venezuela. The island's exports from January 1st to December 23rd, 1918, amounted to 57,600,500 lb., as against 67,732,600 lb. for the same period in 1917.

The stocks in London on January 11th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	15,514	16,571	17,327	
Grenada	6,807	14,947	11,305	
Total of all kinds	90,993	208,410	207,491	

COTTON. In the first three weeks of the year 72 bales British West Indian were imported into the United Kingdom. St. Vincent Sea Island exports, January 1st to December 15th, 1918, 321,609 lb. 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.

COPRA. The Government price is reduced to £40 per ton ex ship U.K. from January 27th. The market at Marseilles is easier at about £43 per ton usual c.i.f. terms.

ARROWROOT, like much other produce, is suffering from a general lack of confidence, and business is practically at a standstill. Quotations are nominal.

SPICES. Pimento lifeless. Small sales in second-hand lots at 4½d. Jamaica Ginger quite neglected. Nutmegs slow at about 2d. decline. Mace ditto, at 3d. to 4d. decline.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed very quiet; 14/- to 15/- nominal. Distilled, 5/9 nominal.

Lime Juice: Concentrated firmly held; more enquiry. Raw very quiet; 3/- to 3/6 sellers. Citrate firm.

HONEY. Generally 20/- to 30/- lower at auction. A small sale of Jamaica at 97/6 to 100/- was forced, and does not represent the real value, which is about 50/- to 60/- per cwt. above these figures. Hayti sold at 120/- to 150/-. Brazilian, 130/- to 140/-. The demand is slow, and traders pursue a cautious attitude.

RUBBER. Market again weaker. Business in plantation crepe at 2/0¼ and sheet at 1/11¼ for all positions to December.

BALATA. Market dull and easier. W.I. sheet lower at about 3/10 net spot, and forward 3/8 nominal. Venezuela block, nominal at 3/3 to 3/4 c.i.f.

ASPHALT. Trinidad exports, January 1st to December 21st, 1918, 55,923 tons, as against 205,030 tons for the same period in 1913.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

OUTWARD

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Liverpool	Coronado	Jan. 27.
West Indies	Glasgow	Crown of Cordova	Jan. 29.
West Indies	London	Sargasso	Jan. 30.
B'los & T'lad.	Liverpool	Oranian	Feb. 1.
Jamaica	Liverpool	Engineer	Feb. 7.
B'los & T'lad.	Liverpool	Nortonian	Feb. 1.
West Indies	London	Quillota	Feb. 28.

HOMEWARD

From	To	Packet.	Due.
West Indies	London	Crown of Granada	Feb. 10.
Jamaica	Liverpool	Manzanares	Feb. 15.

PASSENGER MOVEMENTS.

The R.M.S.P. *Quillota* left London for the West Indies on January 1st with the following passengers:—

Mr. & Mrs. J. Temple-Johnson and Maid.	Miss Fagan.	Mrs. Hare.
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. G. Austin.	Mr. R. A. Elton.	Mrs. G. G. Brown.
Miss Austin.	Mrs. and Miss Centeno.	Miss Chen Hoa Shoo.
Miss Denehy and Maid.	Mr. G. Moody-Stuart.	Mr. and Mrs. G. Iles.
Miss Packer.	Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Jones.	Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lloyd.
Mr. C. C. Bynoe.	Rev. Thos. Huckerby.	Rev. and Mrs. Poulbrey and Two Children.
Miss Shepherd.	Mr. Hamilton Ross.	Mr. B. Robinson.
Mrs. Edwards.	Lady Cox.	Miss Campbell.
2nd Lt. T. W. B. and Mrs. O'Neal.	Lieut. C. E. L. Cox.	Miss Dansey.
Mrs. Warner.	Mr. G. W. Taylor.	Mr. F. Page.
	Mr. G. W. Robinson.	Major & Master Edge.
	Miss Hare.	

The Elders and Fyffes' s.s. *Manzanares*, which left Liverpool for Jamaica on January 9th, took the following passengers:—

Lady Swettenham.	Captain T. P. M. Alexander.	Sir Henry Gibson.
Miss R. McCrindle.	Mrs. Wm. Thomson.	K.C.B.
Miss K. Lister.	Miss E. Kirkham.	Mr. F. J. St. Hill.
Mr. R. P. Williams.		Dr. Robinson.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL, 15, SEETHING LANE,
3743 AVENUE, LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

February 6th, 1919.

The Fight Against Consumption.

THE annual report of the Trinidad Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis, which was read by Dr. G. H. Masson, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, at the annual meeting of that body held in Port of Spain on December 23rd last, demonstrates how successfully the dread disease of consumption can be combated in the West Indies. From 1902 to 1905 the deaths from tuberculosis in Trinidad rose from 617 to 783. Within two years of the establishment of the Association and the opening of its dispensary and of a vigorous educational campaign the upward tendency of the death-rate was reversed, and from that time the mortality from consumption has steadily declined, until last year the deaths from tubercular ailments of all kinds totalled 505 only. The fall in the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption has been even more marked, the figures being 475 in 1907, as against 754 in 1905. These results, eminently satisfactory in themselves, compare very favourably with what has been effected in the United Kingdom. SIR ROBERT PHILIP, in his inaugural address on the occasion of the institution of the Chair of Tuberculosis in the University of Edinburgh, showed that the mortality from consumption in England in 1890 was 168 per 100,000 as against 116 in 1915—i.e., a drop of 30.9

per cent. and for Scotland 193 per 100,000 as against 111 in 1915—i.e., a drop of 42.4 per cent. In Trinidad and Tobago the consumption death-rate has fallen from 249 per 100,000 to 126 in 1917, or, in other words, the rate has diminished in the colony by 49.4 per cent. in nearly half the time which it took to effect a reduction of 30.9 per cent. in England and of 42.4 per cent. in Scotland. We agree with Dr. Masson that it speaks well for the intelligence of the masses of the population that they have not only shown a readiness to assimilate the teachings of the Association, but, also, by co-operating to a commendable extent with the efforts made on their behalf, have actually succeeded, notwithstanding unfavourable domestic surroundings, in making themselves largely responsible for the great decline in the rate of infection which is necessarily implied by the above figures. Incidentally the results attained in Trinidad form an interesting commentary upon the established belief that native races are particularly susceptible to tuberculosis. As the report points out, the word "ignorance" should probably be substituted for "racial susceptibility," for it would seem that when the native does not know that tuberculosis is an infectious disease he freely exposes himself to it generally under conditions of housing and overcrowding which make infection easy, and he becomes infected just like any other human being would if exposed in a similar way. On the other hand, when the native is taken in hand sympathetically and instructed as to the true nature of tuberculosis and its mode of spread, he very naturally begins to take the precautions he is advised to adopt, with the result that evidence of his "special" susceptibility is waning. We certainly cannot compliment the medical staff sufficiently on their efforts, which furnish an admirable example of what can be done to cope with a disease which was becoming a serious menace in the West Indies.

The Dutch Standard.

IN Canada two methods of assessing sugar for duty purposes are employed—those of the polariscope and the "Dutch Standard." By means of the polariscope the actual sugar content of the sugar is gauged, the duty being levied according to the degrees of polarisation. The Dutch Standard is also employed in order to protect the Canadian refiner. This "D.S.," as it is called, consists of a series of bottles containing samples of sugar of various colours graduated from very dark brown to white and numbered from 8 to 25. Under the Canadian tariff sugar lighter than the sample numbered 16 is subject to a prohibitive rate of duty,

the object being to shut out sugars suitable for direct consumption which would compete with Canadian refined sugar. The Dutch Standard was originally an official standard of colour prepared and issued by the Customs authorities in Holland when the sugar duties in that country were assessed according to colour. Other countries also levied their duties in the same way, and when the Netherlands ceased to assess sugar by colour the colour standard was continued in the interests of the Customs authorities of those countries, and of sugar planters and shippers generally. When this ancient system of classifying sugar for duty purposes was discarded by most countries in favour of the polariscope test the preparation of the standard of colour devolved on two Dutch sugar brokers, who now prepare them annually under the auspices of the Netherlands Trading Society. Describing the manner in which the Dutch Standards are now put up, Mr. E. J. LABARRE, British Vice-Consul at Amsterdam, in a Memorandum submitted in 1914 by the Foreign Office to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE (which had complained that they varied from year to year) wrote:

"They . . . are obtained by skilful mixing of the first boilings of Java sugar to arrive in Holland. The aim and object of the experts preparing the standard is to make and maintain it as constant as possible—viz., that the shades and intervals between them shall be as similar as practicable to those in previous years. This renewal of the standard is necessary because of the deterioration of the samples indicating the colours in consequence of exposure to atmospheric influences." This variation in the standards is a serious disadvantage. It is not unnaturally regarded as very prejudicial by the West Indian planters when the tendency is towards their becoming darker as in 1915, and as is again the case with the 1919 samples. A very slight variation in the colour of the 16 Dutch Standard may render sugar on the border line subject to the high protective duty in Canada, and it is not surprising that loud protests should in such circumstances be raised against the continued use of this archaic and foreign system of standardisation. Mr. LABARRE, in his memorandum, referred to the inconsistency of the Dutch Standard. "It happens," he wrote, "that the colour of sugar of one year may vary from that of another in its tint; it is said that the sugar may have a red, grey or yellow tint, and that the one or the other frequently produces the effect of a deeper shade of colour." Mr. JOHN McDUGALL, C.M.G., the Canadian Commissioner of Customs, has also recognised this shortcoming. In a letter dated to the West India Company of Montreal, who, with the Canada-West India League and Messrs. Good-hugh & Co., have been actively taking the matter in hand, he wrote:—"The Dutch Standard is not a fixed definite colour exactly the same every year, but it varies more or less each year according to the colour of the sugar for the season in which the standard is prepared." It will be noted that the West Indian producers are thus at the mercy of climatic and other varying conditions in Java, on which the general colour of the output of that Dutch colony must depend. In considering what can be done to remedy this state of affairs, it must be remembered that the use of the standard is rendered

obligatory not only by Act of the Canadian Parliament but also by the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, and that for its abolition or for the substitution of some other form of standardisation legislation and conference between the parties to the agreement would be necessary. It is hoped that by these means the antiquated Dutch Standard may eventually be abolished and some British test set up in its place—if this is absolutely necessary (and it would ill become West Indian producers to grudge Canadian refiners some measure of protection in their home markets). Meanwhile it certainly seems to us that, as a temporary expedient, the standard in force in the year in which the trade agreement was signed might—as a concession to West Indian interests—be used in lieu of the new series which is now the subject of complaint. If the Dutch Standards were official in the country of their preparation we should be inclined to say that all earlier issues were of necessity suspended by the most recent issue. As, however, they carry now no official imprimatur whatever, the Canadian authorities could, we believe, use any of the Dutch Standards which they might like without going behind their Act of Parliament.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL RELAXED.

Import Embargo Modified.

The Board of Trade has announced several relaxations of the import restrictions. Among the articles which may now be imported into the United Kingdom under general licence till July 1st are:—

Bananas,	Sugar-cane,
Cocoa (raw),	Cassia lignea,
Coffee,	Hides,
Fruit (canned, bottled and preserved),	Pimento,
Nuts,	Rum.

It is understood that the licence will be extended after July 1st, provided the tonnage then available is adequate.

Molasses Control Ended.

Following the representations on the subject made by the West India Committee, who strongly urged that the molasses trade might be allowed to resume its course through the usual channels, the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply have announced that all restrictions limiting the importation of syrup, molasses and other articles of like nature and use will be removed on and after Monday, February 24th next.

The prices at present in force, which are given below with such additions and variations as are allowed by the Order, will remain in force as maximum prices only:—

60/- per cwt. for syrup and refined treacle in barrels.
80/- per cwt. for syrup and refined treacle in containers.

45/- per cwt. for molasses for manufacturing purposes only.

15/- per cwt. for molasses in bond for cattle feeding and distilling.

The Royal Commission hope that an increase in supplies will enable them and others to sell at a lower figure.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN cow hab no tail, Goramighty brush fly from him."

THE BISHOP OF NORWICH has conferred an honorary canonry in Norwich Cathedral upon the Rev. Dr. Bindley, rector of Denton.

DURING the armistice festivities at Speightstown, Barbados, a man was heard to ejaculate, "Well, I never see such happiness come to Barbados since it was a world!"

MR. ALAN HAY MILNE, C.M.G., first Secretary of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, whose death has just occurred, was son of the late Very Rev. A. J. Milne, LL.D., and was born in Jamaica.

AMONG recent gifts received by the West Indian Contingent Committee for distribution has been 120 barrels of oranges from Mr. Ernest Verley, which were forwarded through the Jamaica Agricultural Society for Hospitals.

THE engagement is announced of Major S. B. Sweet-Escott, M.C., and Croix de Guerre, R.F.A., eldest son of Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., and Lady Sweet-Escott, to Helen Mary Conroy, only daughter of the late T. C. Fair and of Mrs. Fair, of Woodside, Walton by Clevedon, Somerset.

THE many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Oliphant, late of Antigua, B.W.I., now of Bridport, Dorset, will be interested to know that in the recent passing-out list of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, appears the name of their son, Cadet George Oliphant, who passed out 42nd. He is appointed to H.M.S. *Cumberland*.

THE revenue of the Trinidad Government Railways for the year 1917 was £157,636 6s. 8½d., and the expenditure £134,228 14s. 6½d., the surplus thus amounting to £23,407 12s. 2d., or 1.58 per cent. on the capital, which stood at £1,477,477 5s. 4d. The miles open for traffic were 115½, the passengers carried 1,701,665, and goods carried 277,370 tons.

"TRINIDAD," said the *Observer* of January 19th, "is a barren and inhospitable spot, but its mineral resources are believed to include a famous pirate hoard." We must hasten to add that our contemporary was referring to a barren rock in the South Atlantic, of which a French adventurer posed as king, and not to the Land of the Humming Bird.

REV. JOHN MITCHINSON, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, and late Bishop of Barbadoes, left £4,800. He gave a presentation clock to the common room parlour of the college; his episcopal robes and dress clothes to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for some colonial or missionary bishop; and the residue of the property to Pembroke College.

TWO American aluminium corporations—the Norton Company and the Aluminium Company—are operating in Dutch Guiana at the "Surinam Motor Company" and the "Surinaamische Bauxite Maatschappij" respectively. The latter has reached the producing stage and has a large amount of bauxite ready for shipment after two years' work, but none has as yet been exported.

ADAM HILGER, LTD., of 75a, Camden-road, London, N.W., publish an attractive illustrated pamphlet regarding their Abbe Refractometer with water-jacketed prisms, for which new applications are constantly being found. From the same firm comes the first volume of R. Kanthackes' *Tables of Refractive Indices*, which have been edited by Dr. J. N. Goldsmith, and deals with essential oils.

A SPECIAL conference of the Imperial Union of Teachers is to be held under the auspices of the League of the Empire in London from February 8th to the 22nd. The inaugural meeting will be held at the India Office on February 8th at 3 p.m., when the Duke of Connaught will preside. Mrs. Ord Marshall, C.B.E., Hon. Secretary of the League, will be glad to hear from any soldier-teachers from overseas who may like to attend.

A KIND friend in Jamaica has presented to the library of the West India Committee the second edition of Bryan Edwards's *History of the West Indies*, the first edition of which was published in 1793. The volumes are handsomely bound in calf and were purchased at the sale of the library of Lord Napier, later Lord Napier and Ettrick, by Mr. Craig Brown, the historian of Selkirkshire. Lord Napier's signature and also his book plate appear in each volume.

WE welcome the reappearance of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucres*, the brightest and best of the Continental sugar organs, which has just been celebrating its diamond jubilee. Founded sixty years ago by M. Dureau, who was properly regarded as the saviour of the French sugar industry in 1884, it is still conducted by a member of the same family, M. Georges Dureau, who we may be sure will take a prominent part in the reconstruction of the French sugar industry, which suffered so severely through the war.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. WOOD HILL, D.S.O., writes from Egypt:—"We received the wallets presented by the Contingent Committee some few days before Christmas, and they were presented to the men on parade on Christmas Day. Will you please thank your Committee on behalf of the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of this battalion for their kind gift, which is much appreciated by all the men, who, of course, like to know that your Committee and those working with you take so much interest in their welfare and happiness? This is the first fine Christmas Day since we have been in Egypt, and what with your gift, special ration of Christmas plum-pudding from the Government, and a free ration of beer added, with fruit and extra ration of sugar, &c., the men spent quite a happy Christmas Day."

"BEACHCOMBER" writes in the *Daily Express* that he has heard that during the period of acute shortage due to submarine activity "a carefully prepared compound of carbonate of soda and saccharin was sold as sugar." It is, however, most improbable that saccharin could be "camouflaged" to give it the bulk and appearance of sugar. The objectionable little pellets of "saccharin" which people with good digestions take into their tea contain bi-carbonate of soda. Otherwise they would not dissolve in water. As "Beachcomber" says, the mixture has a sweetening quality, but a little of it goes a long way to disorder the average digestion. He adds, "At present we are waiting hopefully for the cane sugar that stimulates and nourishes; the beet sugar, whatever its qualities, is not to be compared with it as a food."

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Progress of the Peace Conference.

As was expected, acute differences of opinion arose the moment the Conference got seriously to work. The first and most urgent question discussed was Russia, on which the decision was stupefying. But in spite of courteous though firm protests on the part of France and the Russian Council in Paris, the idea has moved another step forward. As, however, the French will not allow their soil to be contaminated by Bolshevik agents, all the various Governments in Russia have been invited to send delegates to meet an Allied Commission at Prinkipo on Princes Island in the Bosphorus. The place, as unkind French critics point out, is used for destroying the superfluous dogs of Constantinople. But so far the Bolsheviks have shown themselves shy of accepting the proposals as patriotic sections of Russians. But the very fact that it has been made is a diplomatic triumph for Lenin and Trotsky.

The next business considered was the proposed League of Nations, on the formation of which again there was great divergence of opinion. The discussion ended in the adoption of the principle and its reference to a Committee under the guidance of M. Léon Bourgeois, who is an authority on the subject, for working out details. Should the League ever materialise the Dominions will enter it as nations, allied to but not part of Britain. It should be noted that of all the statesmen and publicists who talked so much and so eloquently on the League of Nations none has produced a scheme.

General Smuts, soldier and frontiersman, excepted. His plan, however, does not exclude war; does limit but does not abolish, existing fleets and armies; and does recognise that the Great Powers—Britain, for instance—should not be outvoted by such very minor States as Hayti and Liberia. He, however, does propose that the great territorial problems before the Conference should be settled by a mandate from the League. That is to say, a particular Power, whose armed forces are limited by an extraneous authority, is to be responsible for the Government of, say, Mesopotamia. But if Britain, in full possession, sovereignty of a supreme Navy, and of the power to increase her Army, found it difficult to settle the South African problem, how shall she, or any other great nation, settle even more difficult problems hampered by the interference of a League of Nations, however well meaning?

The Mandatory Principle.

This has, nevertheless, been adopted by the Peace Conference, after much and heated discussion. At first it was proposed that all the German colonies as well as Turkey in Asia should be placed under the Supreme Council of the League of Nations, which is still in the clouds. But the opposition of France, Italy, Japan, and the British Dominions was so strong that the Conference has taken refuge in compromise. The mandate theory is to apply from now on to Mesopotamia, Arabia, and other Turkish territories, which were won almost exclusively by British and Dominion valour; but the Pacific Islands and African colonies are for the present to remain

in the hands of their conquerors. Later on, when the League of Nations is a reality instead of a hope, those regions which, like Arabia and Syria, are capable of organising their own government will be allowed to do so under the protectorate of one or other of the Great Powers. With regard to the German colonies, Japan is to administer the Marshall and Caroline Islands; Australia, New Guinea; South Africa, South-West Africa; the League "intervening continuously" until finally it assumes sovereignty. No wonder Australia is "obdurate." On this question Great Britain has ranged herself on the side of the United States rather than on the side of the Dominions. One wonders if she will get adequate compensation in a phantom International Government.

As for the indemnity principle, that has not yet been considered, though France has prepared a detailed bill for presentation to the Conference. What of ours? It has been decided that the Kaiser and other German criminals in high places are to be brought to the bar of justice and tried. Committees are to be formed to work out resolutions of the Conference in relation to breaches of the laws of war, reparation for damages, international Labour, and international régime of ports, waterways, and railways.

The States in the making have been induced to abandon their attempt to forestall the decisions of the Conference by occupying coveted territory. Consequently Poland has retired from rich mining areas in Silesia, which are now occupied by the Allies, and Rumania from the Banat, and it is hoped the Balkan States will follow suit.

The Army of Occupation.

This is to consist of about 900,000 men, a smaller figure than that fixed for the French and the Americans on account of our preponderance at sea and in the East, and, for obvious reasons, that Army must make up in quality what it lacks in numbers. Consequently the aim of our authorities will be to render it the best trained, organised, and equipped on the Western Front. At present it cannot be raised except by compulsion, but as those who enlisted before January, 1916, who are over thirty-seven, and who have more than two wound-stripes are discharged, it is hoped that volunteers for one year's service will present themselves. The pay is to be liberal, the lowest addition to present rates being ten shillings weekly, and leave is to be regular. In addition to the strategic value of the British Rhine Army of Occupation, large numbers of men will be required to collect valuable material which has not been used, more in assisting demobilisation, guarding horses, and looking after German prisoners. Then an interesting development in Germany requires to be watched. It is the formation in Germany of a large volunteer army, liberally paid, under the direction of Hindenburg. Nor should it be overlooked that the Germans have beaten the Bolsheviks at Libau, and that complaints are appearing in the German press that the forces in the East must be strengthened.

The Strike Epidemic.

Bolshevism, which is stronger than it should be on the Clyde and in Belfast, is directly challenging

the Government. First of all an eight-hour day was demanded and conceded. Before it could be put in operation a fresh demand was made for a six-hours' day, the leaders dissenting. Unfortunately this strike involves engineers and the whole shipbuilding interest. Then the London dock labourers are "out," as well as miners and clerks, and the list may be added to in the near future. In Belfast the strikers broke windows and looted shops, whereupon the Ulster Volunteers took the city in charge and restored order. In Glasgow, where violence and intimidation have been carried even further than in Belfast, the police charged the strikers and the Riot Act was read. The situation is very serious.

Shipping.

British shipping has been released from State control except in so far as ships are required in connection with the Armies of Occupation. The measure is a great relief, as, however necessary it may have been, it worked adversely to the carrying trade. In that heavy risks must be taken, whereas State officials play for safety, thereby wasting cargo space and building ships of types useless either in war or peace. Apparently in the United States there is a marked slackening in the shipbuilding output, so that not half of the 9,000,000 tons promised next year will be available. But Japan has not only enormously increased her merchant tonnage, but taken over trade Britain, owing to the war, was obliged to abandon. But her natural aptitude for the sea, her long experience and successful methods should—strikes permitting—enable her to recover her lost ground.

The 2,500,000 tons of German shipping interned in home ports or in neutrals' harbours are to be taken over by the Allies in connection with the scheme for re-provisioning Europe. The passenger vessels will take Australasian and American troops home and bring food back, when the Allies, occupied territories, neutrals and enemy countries will be given supplies in the order named. German cargo vessels will also be used for the same purpose.

A NEW EMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

The Government Emigration Office, with headquarters on Horse Guards Parade, S.W., has superseded the old Emigrants' Information Office, whose Managing Committee has been superseded by a new Committee, comprising: Chairman, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; vice-chairman, Mr. T. C. Macnaghten, C.B.E. (Colonial Office); and Mr. J. Ambrose, Sir Alan Anderson, K.B.E., Mr. G. E. Baker (Board of Trade), Lord Burnham, K.C.V.O., Brigadier-General C. de Saumarez, C.M.G., D.S.O. (War Office), Mr. A. B. Lowry, C.B. (Local Government Board), and Mr. T. W. Phillips, C.B.E. (Ministry of Labour); with Mr. G. F. Plant of the Colonial Office as secretary.

It will be the special object of the Committee to endeavour to enable his Majesty's Government to deal effectively with the problems connected with emigration which are likely to arise during the period of reconstruction.

JAMAICA GOVERNORS.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

I.—Edward Doyley.

(Continued from page 21.)

In June, 1661, the full Council met at Point Cagway. Of the members, Samuel Barry and Thomas Ballard later became best known in history. Three courts of justice were arranged for—Point Cagway, St. Jago de la Vega and Port Morant. The killing of wild horses and wild cattle was prohibited; the price of sugar was fixed at 25s. per cwt., cocoa at 4d. per lb., and tobacco at 4d. per lb. Captured horses were to be sold in "overt market" at not less than 40s. a head.

The Council then proceeded to draw up Jamaica's first Budget, as follows:—

600 pipes of wine imported per annum	
at £2	£1,200
10,000 gallons brandy, at 6d.	250
100 tons beer, at £1	100
20 ships (say), at 1s. per ton	100
	<hr/>
	£1,650

This was to be disposed of as follows:—To the Governor, £800; for a prison, £200; for judges, £200; storehouse, &c., £80; for a church and court-house, £150; for contingencies, £150; for a court-house and prison at Port Morant, £60.

In this same month Doyley wrote home to the Admiralty, sending the *Chestnut* frigate home and begged that the captain might be returned "in a better"; he expected more from him than from "the wonder-doing captain of the *Marston Moor*" (Myngs)!

During the next two years many useful laws were passed, dealing with the social, moral and commercial conditions of the island; for creating roads and bridges, for maintaining ministers of religion and religious observances, regulating hunters in order to see that the wild horses and cattle were not killed wastefully, encouraging agriculture and manufacture, dividing the island into parishes, for the management of slaves, for raising revenue, and for the settling of the militia.

The laws regulating the conduct of servants were stringent, rendering their position very little better than that of the negro slaves. It was arranged that a market should be held every Saturday at Colonel Barry's store-house in Lygenee, which was probably somewhere near where the Marescaux road now runs.

Doyley quarrelled with his Council by his high-handed action in purchasing, contrary to British law, a load of negroes from a Dutch ship, in order to make a personal profit, he telling the Council that he "could not forget he had been a general, though it was for the rebels," and that he was not answerable to them, but to the King.

Although he had—as we have seen—on February 8th, 1660-1, signed a commission for Doyley to be Governor of Jamaica, Charles II. soon found an opportunity to supplant him. In July he, "understanding that Colonel Doyley is pressed by private affairs to leave the island," appointed Lord Windsor

Governor, and on August 2nd, 1661, he signed his commission.

Doyley left Jamaica on September 10th, 1662. He apparently had a trying voyage home, for Sir Thomas Lynch, writing in January, 1672-3, says he hopes Sir Thomas Modyford "arrived without so tedious a voyage as Colonel D'Oyley had."

In the following April he petitioned the King for a "grant of pardon for all treasons, murders, felonies and misdemeanours committed from the time petitioner was made Governor until June 1st, 1661, when he received his Majesty's lawful commission: he having been compelled to suppress mutinous and seditious persons in order to prevent anarchy after Cromwell's death"; which was granted.

His later years were spent chiefly in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. He died in 1675.

Distrusted at first by Cromwell on account of his Royalist proclivities, albeit he did his duty loyally and well as head of a troublesome army, and possibly disgusted with things in general, Doyley was, if we may believe the records of the Privy Council of England, relieved of his office at his own request.

Long gives the following testimony of his worth: "By his personal bravery and wise conduct in defeating every attempt of the Spaniards to retake the island, as well as by the spirit of industry he excited among the troops and other inhabitants, without relaxing their military discipline too much, he gained more honour than either Penn or Venables by their invasion of it. If to this we add that he appears not to have sought advantage to himself by the monopoly of land, which undoubtedly was within his power, or by practising any extortion or oppression on the subjects abandoned to his entire command, but, on the contrary, manifested a firm and persevering zeal in maintaining good order among men disheartened and averse to settlement, improving and establishing it by humane, vigorous and prudent measures, while in its infancy, and finally delivering it out of his hands to the nation a well-peopled and thriving colony, we shall see cause to applaud him as an excellent officer, a disinterested patriot, a wise Governor, a brave and upright man; and must lament that, although it is to his good conduct alone we owe the possession of Jamaica, he received no other reward for his many eminent services than the approbations of his own heart."

A perusal of all available documents tends to confirm Long's opinion. It is to be regretted that search has failed to discover any portrait of Doyley. His arms were: Or, two bends azure. His crest a demi-dragon.

Two hundred and twenty-two new members were elected to the West India Committee in 1918, and it is hoped that this record figure will be exceeded this year. The members elected during 1918 reside in the following countries—

Barbados	52	Bahamas	4	Cuba	1
Jamaica	47	Tobago	4	Dominica	1
Trinidad	36	British Guiana	4	Montserrat	1
Great Britain	36	Canada	3	Mauritius	1
British Honduras	8	Grenada	3	St. Lucia	1
West Africa	7	St. Vincent	3	France	1
Peru	6	Guatemala	2		

AGRICULTURE IN TRINIDAD.

Mr. W. G. Freeman, Acting Director of Agriculture for Trinidad and Tobago, in his annual report refers to the growing importance of the cane farmer, which is well seen by comparing the returns of 1917 with those of ten years ago—1907. Then estate canes contributed 35,597 tons of sugar to the colony's total of 50,564—i.e., 74 per cent. This year estate canes contributed almost the same figure—36,102 tons, but to a total of 70,891 i.e., 51 per cent. In other words, cane farmers who produced 24 per cent. of the crop in 1907 produced 49 per cent. in 1917. In numbers the cane farmers have greatly increased in the same period: West Indian from 5,777 to 8,984, and East Indian from 6,557 to 12,055. In both years the average weight of canes supplied by a farmer was about 13½ tons. In 1907 it took on the average 113 tons of farmers' canes to make 1 ton of sugar and 11'05 in 1917.

Investigations regarding the frog hopper (*Tomaspis saccharina*) have been continued by Mr. C. B. Williams, M.A., the Entomologist-in-Charge of Frog-hopper Investigations, in the hope of finding a non-indigenous parasite. Mr. Williams has visited British Guiana, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, as well as neighbouring West Indian islands, and it has been disappointing to find in these places different species of *Tomaspis*, but no important parasites or other enemies other than those already in the colony. There appears at present but little hope of finding and introducing an efficient non-indigenous parasite. Such may occur in more distant parts of the world, but, with the irregularity of communication due to the war, it is very improbable that they could be successfully introduced now if found.

With regard to cocoa, the task of recording the individual yield (in pods) of some 10,000 trees has been continued. The results show that, speaking generally, the heavy bearers continue to be heavy bearers, and the poor bearers to be poor bearers—i.e., that bearing capacity—other things being equal—is a characteristic of the individual plant. If this be so, it is reasonable to suppose that the character should be hereditary. With seedlings, variation and the results of cross pollination come into play, but by budding and grafting the characteristics of the individual should be transmitted unimpaired. In a 6-acre block at River with seedlings, budded and grafted plants from the same thirty selected heavy bearers, this important point is being put to a practical test on an estate scale.

In his preceding report Mr. Freeman was able to record that the coco-nut crop had apparently recovered from the effects of the cycle of dry years, and that the export was the largest on record, 17,849,207 nuts and 3,339,848 lb. of copra—i.e., on the basis of three nuts to make 1 lb. of copra—an export of practically 28,000,000 nuts. In 1917 the combined export of coco-nuts and copra on the same basis was equivalent to 38,000,000 nuts, an increase of 10,000,000. In value the exports increased from £142,788 to £200,862. Tobago has contributed to the increased output, the shipments of coco-nuts and

copra to Port-of-Spain being equivalent in round figures to 2,000,000 nuts in 1915, 2,500,000 in 1916, and 3,500,000 in 1917. A much larger proportion of the Tobago produce is now exported as copra.

Lime cultivation continues to go ahead, and planting is being continued, as is shown by sales of 20,824 plants from St. Clair Experimental Station, and 8,330 from the Botanic Station, Tobago. Efforts have been made to induce planters to take plants from beds, as is usual in Dominica, St. Lucia, &c., instead of in bamboo pots as formerly. Custom dies hard, but the lower cost of the plants, the reduced freight charges, and the equally successful results are combining to make the new method popular.

In Tobago it is estimated there are about 150 acres in limes mainly from one to about three years old. Mr. Freeman is of opinion that the crop is a desirable one for the Windward district and also for certain parts of the Leeward district. The latter end of the island is not suited to cacao, but a profitable crop which would help to reclothe some of these lands in trees would be of great advantage, as it would tend to prevent loss and deterioration of the soil by exposure and waste. A lime industry would also, it is hoped, provide a permanent staple crop for many small proprietors. Advice has accordingly been given at public meetings to plant up in limes some of the additional lands which are being cultivated in ground provisions this year, so that when the need for increased food crops ceases limes may already be established instead of the lands going back into grass and "bush." For the encouragement of a small proprietors' lime industry, and also for the benefit of those planting on a larger scale, until they reach a stage warranting a separate factory, a Government co-operative lime factory would be of great advantage.

RICE FOR THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The position with regard to the export of rice from India to the British West Indies is explained in the following extract from a letter addressed to the West India Committee by Viscount Milner on January 28th:—

"Owing to the failure of the autumn crops the exportable surplus of Indian rice will be greatly reduced, and . . . in these circumstances, the Wheat Commission, recognising the greater needs of the colonies, has agreed to surrender the allotment proposed for the United Kingdom in 1919. Exportation from India will accordingly be confined to British Colonies, &c., having an Indian population and dependent on India for their supply; and under these arrangements which are, however, subject to alteration if the necessity should arise, it is hoped that about two-thirds of their usual requirements will be available. Colonies to which Indian rice is supplied will be required to prohibit re-export except to approved British destinations on sufficient reason being shown."

In conclusion Lord Milner states that he is in communication with the India Office as to the needs of the West Indian Colonies, which have already been ascertained from the Governors by telegram.

COCO-NUTS IN CEYLON.

There is increasing evidence, says the Director of Agriculture, Ceylon, in his annual report, of the benefits to be derived from ploughing or harvesting coco-nuts, and when normal conditions again prevail there will be a considerable extension of these practices. The results of experiments carried out by the Department in co-operation with estates and proprietors are demonstrating the value of the cultivation of coco-nuts, and these results appear to be closely watched by a large number of persons interested in the industry. Large estates have been utilising poonae and ashes from burnt coco-nut refuse, leaves, and husk for manure.

Preliminary trials have been made at the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, on a small copra drier, constructed on the plan of similar driers used in Sumatra, and upon the principles of the West Indian cocoa "boucan." It appears to be probable, says the Director, that this form of drier may prove suitable for handling small quantities of copra. There have been further erections of copra driers in the colony during the year, and there is evidence that satisfactory results are being obtained from these driers even in districts which were formerly considered to be sufficiently dry as not to require these drier equipments.

THE VALUE OF MOLASCUIT.

Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., makes the following reference to Molascuit in an article in *Tincheri*, the official organ of the Agricultural Society of British Guiana:—

In 1897 the sole by-products of the sugar industry were molasses and rum distilled from it, but a few years later Mr. George Hughes, F.C.S., introduced a process for the preparation from the molasses of the sugar-cane of a high-grade cattle food. This food consists of a mixture of the vacuum-pan molasses, with the finer particles of the interior spongy tissues of the sugar-cane, which are separated from the megass produced during the grinding of the sugar-cane. The mixture results in a dry, brown-coloured, coarse powder, possessing a very fragrant and attractive odour. Its characteristic is the high proportion—72 per cent.—of its readily digestible constituents, especially the high digestibility of the fibre present in it. In some years during the period under review, the exports of cattle food—Hughes' "Molascuit," and modifications or imitations of it—have been in excess of 12,000 tons. War conditions, unfortunately, have recently greatly reduced the exports of this important by-product.

Commenting on this, Mr. George Hughes writes:

The pith of the sugar-cane from which the juice has been expressed is highly digestible to cattle, more so than hay, and should not be burnt for fuel, but obtained by screening from the rind, which can be used for fuel as hitherto. The megass meal is a perfect absorbent, and will take up five or six times its weight of molasses. With the larger quantity of megass it makes a meal for cattle-feeding; with the smaller quantity, it can be compressed into blocks, and would be used in distilleries for making alcohol for industrial purposes, which will be so urgently wanted in the future. It is an easy, practical, and economical means of transporting molasses, and in a suitable form for these purposes.

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The sugar situation in Mauritius which, as was shown in the CIRCULAR last year, was giving rise to much anxiety, has to a great extent been stabilised. It will be recalled that the refusal of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to bid for the 1918 output left the Mauritius crop "all dressed up and nowhere to go." Following protracted negotiations, the Commission finally announced that they would buy 50,000 tons, or, roughly, one-fifth of the crop, at 17s. 8d. per cwt. f.o.b., and gave indications that they might take more if more were forthcoming. The Government then took the matter in hand and appropriated the balance of the crop, paying 10s. per cwt. delivered Port Louis and making themselves responsible for marketing it, pooling the proceeds and dividing subsequent proceeds, if any, among the sellers *pro rata*.

The operation is being financed by a loan of one and three-quarter millions sterling by the Federated Malay States Government at 5½ per cent. Sales are effected by the Government on the advice of a Committee comprised partly of officials and partly of unofficials. The final estimate of the crop was 252,000. To December 6th the Sugar Committee had sold to sundry merchants 90,000 tons of sugar, and to the Sugar Commission 95,000 tons. There were pourparlers for 2,400 tons, making a total of 187,400 tons. There only remained available, therefore, a small quantity of vesous. The division of the 95,000 tons bought by the Commission proved a problem which taxed the resources of the local Department of Agriculture to the uttermost, owing to the large number of small planters, who took payment for their canes from the fifty-four factories in sugar instead of cash. Each man has his own broker and a separate account with him, and the crop of each had to be estimated in advance and a definite amount of sugar allotted. Further difficulties arose owing to the conflicting prices paid for canes, the factories, which took an optimistic view, having offered nearly the same figure as in the preceding season, while elsewhere, where the competition was restricted, less favourable views were taken, prices being opened at the weighbridges below previous values. The Indian cane grower, always suspicious, saw in this an attempt to "do" him; but gradually the conflicting interests are going together. Mr. H. A. Tempany, the Director of Agriculture, proved fully equal to the occasion, and thanks in great measure to the assistance of Mr. Robert, the statistician, who possesses an intimate knowledge of the complexities of the local sugar industry, the arrangements have worked smoothly.

SECOND LIEUTENANT J. O'CONNOR, of Trinidad, 145th Coy., Labour Corps, has been awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer was in charge of a working party detailed to construct a water point, which it was important to complete quickly. The work took fourteen hours, during which time the party were subjected to heavy shell fire, and it was largely due to his coolness and the encouragement he gave to his men that the task was completed in time."

SUGAR FACTORIES FOR TRINIDAD.

The report on Central Sugar Factories for Trinidad, which was published in our last issue, was accompanied by minority reports by Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Carlee, who differed from the unduly pessimistic views of their colleagues.

Both Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Warner advocate co-operative factories, the former complaining that his colleagues' report suggests the work of a Committee appointed to find reasons why co-operative sugar factories should not be established in the colony. He believes that the fallow lands near almost every existing factory could alone double the output of cane, and that even in such districts co-operative factories would be a boon. Mr. Warner also stoutly favours co-operative factories, pointing out that cane growers have saved the sugar industry in the past.

Mr. Carlee, while admitting the difficulties, differs from the Committee in its view that the operation of a central sugar factory in Trinidad could not be a success. He points out that it is a significant fact that of the about 1,100 modern cane-sugar factories in the world, perhaps not more than a dozen are worked on the co-operative plan. Yet there are innumerable beet-sugar factories, dairy plants, canning houses, fruit-picking establishments operating successfully in various countries under co-operative ownership. The reason for this, he thinks, is due to the difficulty that faces the promoters of co-operative cane-sugar factories to bring together a sufficient number of homogeneous factors that have to compose the management and administration of a co-operative factory.

"The Antigua and St. Kitts factories are operated by planters of standing—men who understand the ups and downs of a business undertaking, and who are capable to shoulder financial responsibility. Many of them were independent sugar producers before they became shareholders in these modern factories. This class of planter existed in this colony some thirty years before their estates were amalgamated under the central factories. I believe that if at that time efforts had been made in this colony to establish a co-operative sugar factory there might have been a considerable chance in favour of its successful operation. But this class of planters has since almost entirely disappeared, and in its stead we have the cane farmers, who form a most important and a most useful element in our sugar industry, but who are as an aggregate force not financially strong enough to make the operation of a co-operative sugar factory beyond peradventure firm.

"I am further of opinion that the success of the Antigua and St. Kitts co-operative factories has nothing to do with the co-operative feature of its ownership, but rather to the remarkably high quality of the cane produced in those islands—a quality which far exceeds that of Trinidad, British Guiana, Cuba, Porto Rico, Louisiana, and Java. From the data published by Sir Francis Watts I conclude that any factory operated in Antigua and St. Kitts working with fairly efficient equipment and under fairly good management must pay. The reason that factories operated in those islands did not succeed was not due to the fact that they were not operated on the co-operative plan but because they were hopelessly out of date and too small to use modern machinery."

Four engines of the Trinidad Government Railway have now been converted into oil-burners, and are run on locally produced fuel oil.

FRUIT JUICE BOTTLING.

Experiments on a commercial scale are being made in Porto Rico (according to the report of the local Agricultural Department), certain methods developed by the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, for bottling and shipping the juice of oranges and grape-fruit. The custom of serving these juices in the glass is increasing at soda fountains, in hotels, and on dining cars, and laboratory tests indicate that the demand can be successfully met with bottled juices. Not only will fruits discarded for off-size or blemish of the skin be saved, but freight rates will be lowered, loss by decay in transit will be prevented, and a higher average market for the whole fruit will result, as the low-grade stuff will be bottled at the packing houses and not put on the market to depress the general quality and price of the crated goods.

During the past year a survey of the coco-nut plantations of Porto Rico was inaugurated by the local Agricultural Experiment Station, and data have been collected regarding the number and size of nuts harvested in the respective groves, the soils planted to this crop, and the cultivation given, in an effort to determine the most profitable practices. As a coco-nut grove, if planted in suitable soil, will withstand prolonged neglect, many of the groves in Porto Rico are left entirely without care, and the annual production of this important food, as well as the grove owners' profits, are far below what might readily be obtained. Cultivation to eradicate grasses, break up sod, and stir the surface soil, and the planting of catch crops, as beans, peanuts, or similar plants, between the palms in young groves or in older groves where the palms are spaced so as to permit the entrance of sufficient light, will doubtless prove profitable in all sections. Animal manures, coco-nut husks, or any vegetable matter available should be spread over the grove and worked into the soil.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE USE AND ABUSE OF SACCHARIN.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—The recent article in your periodical on the subject of saccharin recalls the fact that its discovery was due to a chemist, Dr. Fahlberg, who at one time was chemist to the then "Colonial Company" in British Guiana in the 'seventies, and who subsequently became engaged in research work on the coal-tar products in the United States.

The whole question of the use of saccharin as a substitute for sugar, *when sugar cannot be obtained*, may be summed up as follows:—

Does the advantage of supplying sweetness to a person accustomed to the use of sugar compensate for the prejudicial physiological effect of the drug itself? Probably it does.

But on no account should saccharin be used when sugar can be obtained.—Yours truly,

FREDERIC I. SCARD.

[Evidence as to the harmful effect of saccharin on the digestion is accumulating.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

LABOUR PROBLEM IN GUIANA.

As will have been gathered from the leading article in last CIRCULAR, the labour problem in British Guiana is engaging the close attention of the West India Committee. A letter on the subject was addressed to Mr. Walter Long, and following a meeting held to consider a cablegram received from the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association a further communication was addressed to his successor, Viscount Milner. The Association's message ran:—

"Serious crisis due to labour shortage, strongly urge approach Colonial Office *re* introduction Chinese, and families rapid reduction acreage in cane has taken place and is continuing. Idea propaganda in India good, but dare not wait."

The Association also sent the following cablegram to the British Empire Producers Association:—

"Respectfully appeal to you use your influence with Colonial Office, aid under Government control introduction from China of labourers and families for work on sugar estates. Canadian Pacific Railway could probably secure large numbers. Immigration from India practically prohibited; no immigration since April, 1917. Exceptionally heavy mortality from influenza. Shortage of labour so serious, rapid reduction acreage in sugar has taken place, and is continuing. All other industries suffering ultimately leading to falling off of trade of Colony and holding up developments Empire resources."

This was considered at a meeting of the Council on January 20th, when the following resolution was passed:—

(a) That immediate steps to augment the labour supply of the sugar industry in British Guiana are urgently necessary.

(b) That failing the immediate adoption by India of the scheme of emigration approved by the Colonial and India Office, and if labour from India or other parts of the British Empire is not promptly obtainable, the introduction of Chinese on the lines suggested in the cable be permitted as a temporary expedient.

(c) That a copy of these resolutions with the cable received, be sent to H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request that he will give the matter his immediate attention.

Why not Kanakas?

Apropos of the suggestion made in The West India Committee Circular that Kanakas from the Pacific might be brought to British Guiana through the Panama Canal, it may be useful to recall that until Australia went white the Queensland sugar industry depended almost entirely upon immigrants from the Pacific Islands for its labour. The minimum wage was £6 per head per annum, "all found," including clothes. During the last ten years of immigration from the Pacific Islands, 14,173 Kanakas reached Queensland, but in 1904 it ceased altogether. As far as can be ascertained, the Kanakas do not now emigrate elsewhere.

As we go to press we have learnt with deep regret that Mr. Roger Swire Haughton died at Kingston, Jamaica, on January 23rd. A memoir of this popular Jamaican will be published in next CIRCULAR.

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS.—£83 per acre.

Hardly any showers fell in the first week of December, but on the 9th from 30 to 80 parts fell over the southern and central districts. Since then light showers have fallen generally. Rain is now very necessary for the young crop.

Captain J. B. Hovell, who has been acting as Inspector of Police since Major Thorne left, has become chief clerk of the Colonial Secretary's Department. His transfer was made the occasion for the presentation of an address from the members of the force which he has so ably commanded and for compliments from the bench. The Bridgetown Brotherhood has held a patriotic meeting, which was attended by the Governor and Mr. O'Brien, who are already winning golden opinions. The annual peasants' Agricultural Exhibition under the auspices of the local Department of Agriculture was held at Drax Hall on December 4th.

Bucks Plantation (St. Thomas), comprising 60 acres, has been sold to Mr. T. M. McCanney for £5,000.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The Influenza Epidemic.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, DECEMBER 30TH. The weather has continued showery and favourable generally. The epidemic of influenza has spread all over the colony, and there have been many fatal cases. The hospitals in town and country are full, and many members of the staffs of offices and stores are laid up. The Hon. E. G. Woodford has been elected Mayor of Georgetown for 1919. January 4th.—The influenza epidemic continues, and there have been many deaths on the estates. Recent victims have been the Rev. F. C. Chidley, curate of St. George's Cathedral, and Mr. Pavey, sub-editor and cartoonist of the *Argosy*.

JAMAICA.—Encouraging Banana Outlook.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The Government has purchased the leasehold interests of the Hamburg America Company and the Atlas Company in the No. 2 pier, Kingston. Both these concerns being of enemy origin, their interests were taken over at the beginning of the war by the Government in trust. It is likely that considerable developments in shipping, docking, foreshore and other schemes long in abeyance will take place as soon as conditions permit.

The joyful news of the signing of the armistice, which reached Kingston before 3 a.m. on November 11th, arrived in the very midst of the influenza epidemic, and found many mourning the loss of loved ones and others hovering over sick beds. Nevertheless, the church bells ceased to toll and rung forth chimes of glad tidings and made those afflicted realise that at last the greatest burden had been lifted, and one and all raised their hearts in thankfulness to the Great Power Who had vouchsafed such a glorious victory to the Allied arms. It is planned to set apart a day, or days, in the near future when Jamaica shall celebrate in a truly royal manner the victory in which her sons have been privileged to bear their part. One index to the people's spirit was an immediate flow of subscriptions into the various war funds still open, and notable among these King George's Naval Fund, everyone realising how great a part the sailors had played in bringing about the final victory.

The shipping situation has not yet shown any signs of improvement—indeed, Jamaica has been worse served recently than at any other period since the war started owing to the taking over of all the United Fruit Company's large steamers for transport purposes by the American Government, and for the present we have to be satisfied with an occasional small Norwe-

gian boat from New York. The Elder's and Fyffe's service with Great Britain is still being carried on with the small boats of this line, and we learn that a fortnightly service, instead of the recent monthly one, will be inaugurated almost at once, and the early return to this service of the large modern liners taken over by the Government at the beginning of the war, or at least such as remain, is anticipated. It is also hoped that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the pioneers of British West Indian steamship service, will very soon be in a position to once more resume their sailings to Jamaica.

The outlook for bananas for 1919 is encouraging, and the plantations present a pleasing appearance everywhere. Shipments of genuine Jamaica bananas (not the Costa Rican "Jamaica" variety so often foisted on the unsuspecting British public) are being made regularly. By the end of the year the United Fruit Company expect to have shipped 3,000,000 bunches, and their estimate for next year is 5,000,000, or, given sufficient shipping facilities, even 9,000,000. The latter would equal the figure of pre-war days. The Jamaica War Contingent has been disbanded, and the officers stationed here for training purposes are under orders to return to England, and many of them have already sailed. The arrangements to be made to receive the returning soldiers from Europe will be brought to a definite head at the coming session of the Legislative Council.

ST. VINCENT.—The Canadian Steamer Service.

MR. W. N. SANDS, DECEMBER 21ST.—The weather continues favourable for crops, and the reaping of arrowroot and cotton is in full swing. The first shipments of this season's crops went forward recently. The cessation of hostilities appears to have affected immediately the demand for arrowroot, and growers are much concerned. It is to be hoped that the market position will improve when conditions assume a more normal aspect. Mr. R. Popham Lobb, C.M.G., returned to the colony from St. Lucia on the 16th instant and resumed the administration of the Government. The Governor is expected to pay a visit to the colony, and is due to arrive by R.M.S. *Caracquet* on her return from Grenada.

The resumption at an early date of the regular fortnightly mail steamship service from Canada will be welcomed. During the war we have experienced many delays in the receipt of mails and opportunities for their despatch, and suffered many inconveniences in the matter of travel between the islands and the receipt of cargo. We have had to rely for mails chiefly on the movements of small sloops and schooners trading between Barbados and Grenada, and passengers to Barbados have frequently had to pass several days of great discomfort in order to get there from St. Vincent. Often we have been six weeks without letters from home. Of course we have loyally accepted the situation, and realised that these drawbacks were unavoidable, and therefore they were accepted in good spirit. Now that the war is over, however, we trust that at no distant date the situation will be relieved.

The outbreak of "Spanish influenza" in neighbouring colonies has led to the introduction of special local measures which, it is hoped, will prevent the disease getting a foothold here. The sum realised as a result of the "Our Day" efforts on behalf of the Red Cross was £450. This has been remitted by the administrator.

TRINIDAD.—The High Cost of Living.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, DECEMBER 21ST.—Naparima has been well to the fore in the encouragement and practical financial support of war funds since these were first started in the colony; but its efforts culminated on the 14th, when the long-heralded and looked-for winter-garden fête was held with triumphant success in the new sugar house just erected at the Usine St. Made-

leine, and said to be the largest building of its kind in the British West Indies. From all parts of the country people flocked to the Usine, where a most delightful and varied afternoon and evening's entertainment was provided under the effective organisation of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes Todd. A special train left Port of Spain for the occasion and carried a goodly number of visitors from town and intervening stations and remained until the small hours so that all should have the opportunity of participating in the concert, dance and supper most liberally provided. The attendance was no doubt somewhat affected by the lamentable death of Mr. Thornton Warner, Warden of Tacarigua, which happened the day before. Mr. Warner was a conscientious and good officer of the Government, and was beloved in his ward. He was retiring on January 1st with the best wishes and regard of everyone with whom he had business or social relations, and he will be missed for many years in the district he served so well. The coming Christmas finds us with much to be thankful for—as much, I imagine as, in our small way, is enjoyed by any part of his Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas. Peace once more reigns, and although there are many homes on which the shadow of the great sacrifice of some cherished member has fallen, the loss is bravely borne in the memory of its honour; and, on the other hand, there are so many grateful hearts filled with thankfulness and rejoicing that the days of anxiety are over, and that before the new year gets old the loved ones now absent will be home again. Otherwise we have been indeed fortunate. It is true that clothing and food have risen in price till the thrifty housewife sometimes despairs of making both ends meet; but against that is to be recorded four years of prosperity for our staple productions, and more money generally in circulation than one can remember at any previous period. As I write the retail stores are doing a roaring trade, crowded with eager buyers of the good things of the season even at the much enhanced prices. We have been spared all the near horrors of war, but we rejoice none the less at the peace that has come, and the hearts of all look forward to Christmas with gladness.

TOBAGO.—Shortage of Labour.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, DECEMBER 18TH, 1918.—We are having excellent weather, and the young cacao crop is again most promising. With our usual January showers there ought to be a fine dry-season crop. Small pickings are being made and will continue, but a rush of cacao is not expected before March-April. This is rather disappointing now that prices have advanced, but we must just hope for the best when supplies do increase. Coco-nut planting is extending in this district, and, indeed, all over the island, and exports are increasing every year. There is some hesitation about lime planting on account of scale blight; but the cultivation is gradually increasing and will shortly show in our exports. School anniversaries and Christmas and patriotic concerts and dances are now in full swing. Our workers are keen to know when food prices will be easier, but for that they must exercise patience. The high prices of agricultural implements and building materials is a serious drawback. I hope that reconstruction and shipping will solve that question before very long. As you know, shortage of labour is a serious matter in Tobago. For thirty years or more the island was practically derelict. Labour was transferred to Trinidad, and, although emigration practically ceased some years ago, the natives seem content to jog along with their few odd acres and occasional work on the estates when necessity compelled. Most of the large estates now have a few East Indian labourers, and would gladly get more. The opening of the steamship service to India will undoubtedly reduce our East Indian workers, as many of them are saving money for their return.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

A further list of contributions towards the emergency demobilisation appeal on behalf of the above fund will be published in an early issue. Meanwhile the hon. Treasurers ask us again to point out that the expenses during the period of demobilisation are proving very heavy indeed, and that to meet these they have less than a half-year's expenditure in hand. The Government of Bermuda provided the Bermuda Contingents Committee with £1,500 in the first year, and £1,000 annually for expenditure on 400 men. No such Government assistance has been afforded to the West Indian Contingent Committee, which has under its care no fewer than 15,000 men. It is hoped, therefore, that all interested in the West Indies will continue to contribute liberally towards the funds of the Committee.

Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged in these columns, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

EX-OFFICER, married, 12 years' mercantile and shipping experience British Guiana, 2 years New York, desires position of trust. Fully qualified to undertake secretarial duties. "C. S." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

URGENTLY REQUIRED, Copies of CIRCULARS, Nos. 503, 508, 509, 511, 520, 526, 527. 6d. per copy for copies returned to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-five, educated Oxford, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies; keen and energetic; first-class references. Army discharge. Apply "C. V. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

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, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

GENTLEMAN, 42, seeks post as Manager of Estate. Over 20 years' experience in Tropical Agriculture, including Tea, Cotton, Sugar, &c., in Ceylon, South America, West Indies, Rhodesia, Nigeria. Good testimonials. Apply "Q." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

EUROPEAN WARRANT OFFICER, B.W.I. Regiment, awaiting discharge, seeks position of trust at home or in colonies. Married. Experienced book-keeper and correspondent, with advertising ideas. Accustomed handle native labour. Excellent testimonials. Apply "W. O." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

"VARSITY" MAN, aged 29, married, experienced rubber, hemp, sugar, rice, requires position abroad. Thorough knowledge Hindustani. Practical knowledge surveying, internal combustion engines. Discharged officer. Apply "Kents" c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, age 23, requires post, Overseer or otherwise, with good prospects. Willing to go abroad anywhere. Experience of business before war. Served in ranks in France three and a-half years, commission service in England and France; three times wounded. Still fit for active service. Military Cross and 1915 Star. Good leader and commander. Apply "H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, expecting to be demobilised very shortly, single, 28 years old, requires a position in England. Eleven years' experience in Jamaica, B.W.I., in shipping, fruit-growing and purchasing; also as clerk, and manager of Copra Factory. Apply Captain, c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

Particulars regarding membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3. The subscription is £1 1s., or \$5.00 per annum.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
February 6th, 1919.

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.	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.

As announced in another column, the restrictions on the importation and sale of syrup, molasses, and other similar articles are to terminate on February 24th. The West India Committee is to be congratulated upon having induced the Royal Commission to arrive at this satisfactory decision. The present wholesale prices will remain in force as maximum prices.

The West India sugar statistics in London on January 25th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	2,475	1,235	1,827	
Deliveries	3,245	4,416	3,532	
Stock	5,422	7,806	6,310	

The contract for the purchase of 120,000 tons of the Santo Domingo crop by the Canadian Food Board has now been signed. The price fixed is *gc.* per lb. below the Cuba *c.* and *f.* price, the Santo Domingo price thus being equivalent to 576*c.* c.i.f. New York. Many restrictions on the use of sugar in Canada have now been removed, and sugar may now be purchased without a permit or coupons.

The United States Shipping Board has fixed the following freight rates on sugar per 100 lb.:—Havana-New York, 38½*c.*; Cienfuegos-New York, 45½*c.*; Santiago-New York, 48*c.*; Porto-Rico-New York, 40*c.*

RUM. The embargo on the importation of rum into the United Kingdom has at last been raised. General licences are being issued and will be valid until July 1st. It is assumed that if tonnage considerations permit the licences will then be renewed. The West India Committee cabled the Jamaica Imperial Association last month: "With reference to permission to ship rum, consider it advisable to arrange for shipment in order of date of distilling; otherwise market will suffer.—Aspinall."

The stocks in London on January 25th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	3,520	6,688	10,897	
Demerara	10,346	4,385	9,913	
Total of all kinds	18,866	17,708	31,739	

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd—viz:—

	s.	d.
Ceylon, Java, and Samoa	160	0
Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam	90	0
Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia and Cameroons ..	85	0
British West Africa	65	0

General licences to import cocoa will continue to be issued until July 1st. It is understood that, though it is impossible for the present to remove all restrictions, licences to sell for export will be granted to importers for 25 per cent. of all cocoa landed by them after a given date, which will be fixed as soon as possible. Such licences will be granted on proof that 75 per cent. of the landings go through the usual channels for grading and distribution, and, provided the cocoa is sold for export, the remaining 25 per cent. may be sold by public sale or private treaty without regard to the standard maximum prices. All cocoa landed before the date of the proposed order will have to be graded and distributed at present prices.

Mr. Edgar Tripp gives the following figures as to shipments of Trinidad cocoa during month of December, 1918:

Destination.	Weight in lb.
To all countries	3,060,230
Shipped previously...	55,578,342
Total from January 1st	58,638,572
To same date, 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

The stocks in London on January 25th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	19,457	15,181	18,005	
Grenada	10,930	13,760	14,656	
Total of all kinds	105,974	207,556	227,967	

COFFEE may now be imported again, and general licences will be issued until July 1st.

COPRA. Market still controlled. £40 ex-ship U.K. up to February 18th, and then £34. Value to Marseilles is £40 to £41 c.i.f.

ARROWROOT. The continued fall in value of kindred products, and the pressure to sell, has diverted all attention from arrowroot, and the market is stagnant, with nominal quotations only.

SPICES. Pimento very quiet. Sellers at 4*d.* on the spot. Nutmegs and Mace easier. Nutmegs, 80*s.* at 1*s.* 2*d.*, 110*s.* at 1*s.*; wormy, 6*d.* to 10*d.* Mace, good pale, 1*s.* 9*d.*; reddish to palish, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.*; pickings, 1*s.* per lb.

PIMENTO. General licences to import are now being issued, and will remain valid until July 1st.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled, unchanged. Value nominally 5*s.* 6*d.*, but little inquiry. Hand-pressed, nothing doing. Value nominally 14*s.* to 15*s.* per lb. Lime Juice: Concentrated firmly held. Raw very quiet. Sellers at 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, according to quality. Citrate firm.

HONEY. Continues very quiet, with buyers generally looking on. It is impossible to give exact quotations, as there is so little actual business.

BALATA. Demerara sheet, some business at 3*s.* 9*d.* net spot. Venezuela block, 3*s.* 3½*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* c.i.f.

RUBBER. The market has been much firmer during the last few days, and there seems more interest in all positions, both from America and the home trade. Prices show a sharp recovery to 2*s.* 2*d.* for crepe and 2*s.* 1*d.* for sheet. The Eastern markets are also better, business being done in Singapore at 1*s.* 10*d.* for sheet. Crepe is worth 1*s.* 11*d.* Para grades dull at 2*s.* 6*d.* for fine hard and 1*s.* 8*d.* for ball.

Among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

- ANTIGUA.—Sergt. Oriel Duke, M.M.
- BAHAMAS.—Gnr. A. H. Sands, 2nd Lieut. F. S. Armbrister, Cadet C. E. Bethel, Cadet G. M. Cole.
- BRITISH GUIANA.—Lieut. J. R. Ozzard, Lieut. C. Haydock Wilson, Hugh Haydock Wilson, Lee. Cpl. W. Harrison, Cadet F. Thornhill.
- GRENADA.—Pte. Jas. E. Ross.
- JAMAICA.—Cpl. B. M. Rodriguez, Sergt. Donald Mais, Sergt. A. W. Baxter, Sergt. Mercier, Sergt. V. M. Jones, Capt. H. F. Donald, E. C. Cowper, Cadet T. H. Sharp, Gnr. L. C. Jacobs, Pte. G. Wellesley Bourke, Lieut. A. E. Clodd.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

6342 CENTRAL,
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LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON, February 20th, 1919.

Mr. George Martineau, C.B.

THE death of MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, C.B., which took place at his residence, Gomshall Lodge, Gomshall, Surrey, on February 5th, deprives us of a very charming personality and the West Indies of a staunch friend. It is hardly necessary to remind readers of the CIRCULAR, to whose pages he was a not infrequent contributor, that MR. MARTINEAU was the most eminent living authority on the sugar question, of which he made a close study during a long and active life. Born on September 24th, 1835, he was the son of MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, of Tulse Hill, and grandson of MR. DAVID MARTINEAU, who started the family business of sugar refining in 1797. After his education at University College, London, he entered his father's business on coming of age, and was actively associated with it until 1896, when he retired. In 1872, when the effects of the foreign sugar bounty system began to make themselves felt, the refiners appointed a Committee to combat the evil, with MR. MARTINEAU, who had visited the principal beet-growing countries of Europe, as Secretary. This was the beginning of the long-drawn-out anti-bounty campaign, which culminated in the abolition of bounties by the International Convention of 1902. Thanks in no small measure to MR. MARTINEAU'S personality, the co-operation between the refiners and the West India Committee during this period was complete, various leagues carrying on the good work in the joint interests of both bodies. The sub-

ject of our memoir acted as Adviser to the British Delegates at five Sugar Conferences—namely, those held at Paris in 1876 and 1877 and the Brussels conferences of 1888, 1898 and 1901-2—when he had as his colleague SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, then Chairman of the West India Committee. It may be recalled that it was these two stalwarts who, when it was proposed to postpone the date on which the Convention was to come into force, declined to recommend the adoption of the suggestion unless the British Government afforded "some adequate measures of relief" to enable the West Indies to carry on until the agreement came into effect. Otherwise "the question," they wrote in a Memorandum dated January 24th, 1902, "is one of very little interest to the West Indies, as by the time the effects of the Convention became operative their industry will probably have ceased to exist." As the result of this firm action the principle of Government assistance was agreed to, and, after negotiations between the West India Committee and MR. CHAMBERLAIN, £250,000 was voted for the immediate relief of the planters.

In recognition of his services in connection with the abolition of bounties, MR. MARTINEAU was appointed a Commander of the Bath by KING EDWARD, and in the following year he was the recipient of a handsome testimonial from the sugar refiners of Great Britain. But MR. MARTINEAU'S activities were not at an end. From 1903 to 1905 he was Assistant British Delegate on the Permanent International Sugar Commission at Brussels, and after his retirement in the latter year he continued his work for the British sugar industry on the platform and in the Press with an assiduity altogether remarkable for a man of his age. In 1899 he had read an important paper on sugar before the Statistical Society, and he published about the same time a pamphlet on Sugar in India. He now found time to write an invaluable little work entitled *Sugar-Cane and Beet: an Object Lesson*. As recently as May last he wrote a paper on "Sugar from Several Points of View," which won for him the silver medal of the Royal Society of Arts, before which it was read. His contempt for the "sham Free-Traders," as he called them, was great, and he was never so happy as when he was denouncing their shibboleths. In a letter dated May 11th last, he wrote, "They are slaves of a dogma. Here is good Lord , after listening to my proof absolute proof that preference, even excessively high preference which I entirely deprecate—has in all cases (Hawaii, Porto Rico, &c.) immediately created the utmost energy and efficiency and increased their crop from tens to hundreds of tons, calmly saying, ignoring all my facts, that if

the industry is unduly favoured it would 'create apathy and inefficiency.' The same old shibboleth, which it was the object of my paper to smash." It was impossible to believe that this eminently sound economist had exceeded the proverbial three score years and ten. Though the welfare of the refining industry was naturally his first thought where sugar was concerned, his interest in the West Indies never flagged, and we will conclude this brief memoir with an extract from a letter which he wrote a fortnight before he was laid to rest in the picturesque little churchyard of Shere. He wrote on January 22nd last: "I am so grieved and rather annoyed whenever I read the accounts and the balance-sheets of our West Indian friends' new central factories. They are evidently doing their work very well. After thirty years of misery they have bucked up and started their new ventures, and then H.M.G. steps in and walks off with nearly all their profits. . . . It is cruel, and such an unwise and suicidal policy. We industrials always invest our profits in our business by growing larger and turning out more profits."

The West India Committee.

FOR some years past the West India Committee has given on its note-paper and publications "circa 1750" as the date of its establishment. The earliest surviving minute-book of its proceedings being dated 1769. From a letter which we have received from Mr. FRANK CUNDALL, the cultured Secretary of the Jamaica Institute, it would appear that that claim is altogether too modest. He writes: "Why not try 1654? On looking through Firth's *Narrative of General Venables* I came across the following extract from Thurloe's State Papers on page 29, 'Holdipp had been specially recommended for employment as a Commissioner by a committee of merchants and others acquainted with the West Indies.' " It is thus established beyond doubt that a body of West India merchants was in existence in 1654. MR. VERE L. OLIVER, the well-informed editor of *Caribbeana*, who is fortunate enough to possess a fine large-paper copy of the Papers, has noted frequent references to such Committees; but in spite of much research has been unable to find the actual connection with the West India Committee or the date of the foundation of that body. In the manuscript room at the British Museum MR. OLIVER read an interesting paper of the middle of the seventeenth century setting out proposals for the formation of a West India Committee. He also found a report on Tariff Reform, from which it appeared that at that unenlightened period the planters petitioned for free trade, whilst the merchants who provided the capital for developing the plantations desired protection and security for their risks. From this it will be gathered that the planters and merchants did not at first pull together, their interests not being identical, and it is noteworthy in this connection that the West India Committee now possesses three sets of old minute-books— one for the West India merchants, another for the West India planters, and a third for the "Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants" a title which continued to be used until 1904, when the members were incorporated by King

Edward VII. as "The West India Committee." The Calendar of State Papers abounds in references to petitions of the West India merchants and planters, but the word Committee is never mentioned. MR. OLIVER believes that the merchants frequented some "walk" in the Royal Exchange or some coffee-house, and that, though in touch with each other, they were not officially recognised. Each island had its own special interests, and there was in the early days no action in common such as is now so successfully effected by the West India Committee. It is certain that for many years before the date of the Committee's earliest minute-book the various Members of Parliament were in touch with each other and acted together, and so, too, on occasion did the island agents, who we find later sitting on the Acting Committee of the West India Committee. We should be grateful if any of our readers would help us to throw some light on this subject of the origin of our Committee. One would imagine that among the records preserved in the West Indies there must be documents of earlier date than 1769 referring to this ancient body, and we would willingly offer substantial reward to anyone who could clear the matter up. Meanwhile we should point out that even if the West India Committee had not been established earlier than 1750 it would still be the doyen of colonial bodies in this country, and it will, we think, be generally agreed that for its venerable age the West India Committee is still an essentially virile and live body, and that the work which it has been and is doing to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras is of real and lasting value. This being taken for granted, we can confidently invite the members to show their practical interest in the work which is being done by introducing eligible candidates for election and by helping to bring this publication before a still wider circle of readers.

British West Indies Regiment's Pay.

THE West Indian Contingent Committee is to be congratulated upon having secured the adjustment of a legitimate grievance under which the British West Indies Regiment has been suffering. It will be recalled from the reply to a question kindly asked by SIR JOHN BUTCHER, M.P., in the House of Commons on November 14th last that the increase of pay granted to other Imperial Units under Army Order 1 of 1918 was withheld from the regiment on the slender grounds that its depot was not in the United Kingdom. Following representations on this subject by the West Indian Contingent Committee, which included the despatch to LORD MILNER of a letter signed by no fewer than seven ex-West Indian Governors, this decision has, we understand, now been reconsidered and the non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment will now enjoy the same privileges in respect of pay as their fellow soldiers in other Imperial regiments. It will, we think, be generally agreed that this decision is eminently satisfactory, and we would go so far as to say that if it had only the settlement of this question to its credit the West Indian Contingent Committee would have justified its existence.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"ROCKATONE a ribber bottom nebber feel sun hot."

A DETACHMENT of B.W.I.'s was recently received by the Pope at the Vatican.

MR. CARL AUGUSTUS BOOS, of Harriman & Co., Port of Spain, has been placed under arrest for alleged breach of the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

MR. JOHN LOCKE, late manager of the Colonial Bank, Barbados, who died on September 16th last, aged 78, left, among other philanthropic bequests, £50 to the Goodridge Home, Barbados. His son is William John Locke, the novelist.

MR. D. C. CAMERON, C.M.G., Central Secretary of Nigeria and formerly of British Guiana, was entertained at a dinner by the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on February 4th, prior to his return to West Africa.

THE Koninklijke West Indische Maildienst (Royal Dutch West India Mail Service) resumed its sailings to the West Indies on February 6th, when the new steamer *Stuyvesant* left Amsterdam, to be followed by the steamer *Commevyn* in the second half of March.

ATTRACTED by the rumour that labourers in British Guiana were being paid \$1.20 per day, 139 Barbadian labourers recently went to Georgetown at their own expense by schooners. Most of them have found permanent employment, whilst others are working casually. Only six returned to Bridgetown.

IN view of the prospective shortage of field labour in Cuba, the representatives of the United States War Trade Board has, says the *Cuba Review*, offered to see what can be done in connection with the furnishing of labourers from Porto Rico. To this end a circular letter has been sent by the Cuban Department of Agriculture to all sugar mills asking them to furnish as promptly as possible a statement of the number of labourers they need for the coming crop.

"THE end of the war," writes "Ajax" in the *South African Sugar Journal*, "has brought about greatly changed conditions for the sugar industry. Everyone is looking forward to the next few months to see what is going to happen. The price of sugar has not fallen . . . nor is there any indication of it falling for some time to come. Everyone recognises, however, that sugar must come down in price sooner or later, and the question which agitates most people is how far it can fall without creating a very serious position for the planter and the manufacturer."

"IT is generally agreed that under present conditions sugar cannot be sold at a profit at £18 a ton. The average price for the three or four years preceding the war was £17 10s. a ton. To-day the manufacturers are faced with extraordinary high costs of maintenance and everything required for the estates, while the planters also have to pay high prices for their rations and general farming equipment. No doubt as all kinds of supplies become cheaper sugar will decrease in price, but with the promise of a record output this season, the question of export will soon have to be faced, and people are naturally looking forward with interest to see what policy the British people intend to adopt with regard to their supplies of sugar."

THE Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, formed at the suggestion of the Imperial Conference, has appointed a governing body consisting of representatives of the Home Government, the Dominions, India, and the Colonial Office while six representatives of the mineral, mining, and metal industries were appointed by the Minister of Reconstruction. Committees have been appointed to deal with (1) Intelligence and publications; (2) research and development; (3) legal matters; and (4) general purposes and finance. Offices have been taken at 14, Great Smith-street, Westminster, and the advice of all interested is sought.

THE Red Cross efforts of Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., in British Guiana culminated in the collection of \$24,152.91 on "Our Day." A novel feature of the day was Mr. Douglas' "£8-a-minute" appeal, in response to which fifty-six "minutes" were contributed. The highest amount from any one district came through Mr. and Mrs. E. Essex, who in the Corentyne collected over \$700, Mr. and Mrs. Dodds at Anna Regina netting over \$620, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gibson \$608 at Plin Port Mourant, Mr. R. Strang and Mrs. J. B. Wallace \$524 at Uitvlugt, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Beach \$515 at Plin Diamond and Farm. Mr. Cassels received valuable help from Miss M. A. Forsyth, a cheerful and willing organiser.

THE HON. F. C. MARRIOTT, the Acting Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad, in an interview with a representative of the *Port of Spain Gazette* recently, stated that the planters in the island, with the exception of cocoa-planters in the Montserrat ward, were quite satisfied over existing conditions of labour. Trinidad had, he said, been very fortunate in that its annual birth-rate was approximately (he could not remember the exact figures) about two thousand over the death-rate. In any case, it was far from likely, and certainly not desirable, that the Trinidad planters would be brought to the necessity of soliciting Chinese labour for the plantations. The report on the proposed Labour Bureau is now in the hands of a Special Committee.

HIS many friends will sympathise with Mr. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., Government Secretary of British Guiana, in the loss which he has sustained through the death of his father, Colonel Montagu Clementi, which occurred at Tiverton on January 30th, at the age of seventy-nine. Colonel Clementi, who was a member of the Bengal Staff Corps, and formerly Judge Advocate-General in India, had a distinguished career. He entered the Indian Army in 1858, served in the North-West Frontier in 1863, and was present at the capture of Umbeyla, for which he won the medal and clasp. He served in the Egyptian War of 1882 as Deputy Judge Advocate-General with the Indian Contingent, and was present at Tel-el-Kebir, winning the medal with clasp, the fourth class of the Osmanieh, and the Khedive's Star.

ON November 25th General Chaytor visited both Battalions of the B.W.I.'s at Ram Allah and, in an address, thanked them for their services whilst under his command, and presented ribbons for decorations won. In a letter to the O.C. of the 2nd Battalion he wrote under date October 12th:—

DEAR COLONEL,—I regret that your Battalion has left my command, but hope to see both Battalions at an early date to thank them for the very good work they did both while 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. Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. W. C. CHAYTOR.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Renewal of the Armistice.

The Peace Conference is scourged by two conflicting policies—one represented by Marshal Foch, who faces realities, the other by President Wilson, who cherishes hopes. Whether the alternation of force and persuasion which ensues is making for a strong and effective peace only time can tell. But while for the past few weeks President Wilson has been having his own way, the European Allies, especially France, have become increasingly uneasy at the growing insolence of Germany in the spoken and written word, and her reluctance to return the securities stolen from French and Belgian banks and private persons, and to hand over submarines which at the Armistice were not ready to take the sea, to transfer to the Allied Maritime Transport Council German merchant tonnage, and to render a statement of stocks in hand whether of food or raw material. Consequently the Armistice is to be renewed on more stringent terms, which are now being dictated to the representatives of the German Government at Treves by Marshal Foch and Admiral Browning, both of whom are successful in dealing with Hun mentality.

The New Terms.

In the first place the Armistice is not to be extended for a short period as heretofore, but is to be put on a stable basis, which will be operative and definitive until the Peace Treaty is signed. To safeguard the carrying out of the new main provision the Allies reserve to themselves the right to renounce the Armistice at three days' notice. Should this action be required, military operations will at once be resumed and a march on Berlin commenced. In addition to the fulfilment of terms laid down at earlier Conventions, the Allies demand the reduction of German military forces to a certain strength, which is not to be increased for a long period of years. This is to guard against a surprise attack on France. At present Germany has a standing army of about 450,000 men. Then there is the Eastern force of 100,000 men, which is the only part of the war army still to be mobilised, and a volunteer army of about 90,000 men, whose discipline is said to be poor. Another important new condition of the Armistice is the delimitation of a frontier in Poland, beyond which the Germans must not pass.

Indemnities and Reparation.

On these questions the mandate of the country at the General Election was so clear and decisive that it is satisfactory to learn officially how earnest British statesmen are in pressing British claims. Both the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law have renewed their pledges under both heads. If Germany, whose industries have not been so dislocated by the war as ours and whose debt is lighter, could escape without making reparation to the Allies who have suffered so badly from her depredations and without paying a large part of the cost of the war into which she plunged the whole world for her own ambition, justice would be outraged in two ways—

(1) the criminal would remain unpunished, (2) could start again economically on better terms than her victims. As to her ability to pay opinion is diverse; but it is worth noting that Herr Helfferich, a director of the Deutsche Bank, has lately said that Germany's income is larger than it was before the war. As for her natural resources they are both large and rich.

With regard to reparation, Britain will ask for it on two grounds—damage done by air raids and shipping losses. Her claim will probably reach a total of £250,000,000.

Other Questions at the Conference.

The number of Councils and Committees appointed to consider the numerous and often delicate matters which come up for settlement is increased by new ones, which are thoroughly to investigate the claims of Belgium, Greece, Czecho-Slovakia, and Arabia. Greece wants large additions of territory, including Constantinople and Cyprus, which is a British colony. Apparently the conflict of interests between Italy and Czecho-Slovakia is on the way to an amicable settlement, it is to be hoped not at Italy's expense, since the strengthening of her naval position in the Adriatic is favourable to Great Britain; but without the possession of good harbours on the northern or north-eastern shore of that sea she is at a disadvantage. For it is not as well known as it should be that there is not a single safe anchorage on the whole western coast of the Adriatic, whereas they are numerous at its head and on its eastern coast. It would upset the balance of sea power in the Mediterranean if the Slavs were allowed to gain control of the Adriatic and Black Seas.

An Economic Council is to be formed to deal with all questions arising out of the blockade, supply of materials, and resumption of normal trade conditions. Lord Robert Cecil is to be one of the British representatives. Feeling in the United States just now is bitter in some circles because of the British embargo, which prevents American cotton from entering Germany, where high prices would be given for it. But meantime if the blockade is the Allies' most potent weapon in forcing the enemy to carry out the terms of the Armistice, to allow her to draw supplies of raw material without restrictions would be disastrous to the economic interests of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium. Again, it is proposed by American financiers with an axe to grind that German property in the United States valued at not less than £250,000,000 should be used as a pledge with a view to a loan—a proposal which the Allies could not in justice entertain. If the liabilities are discharged in common, the assets should be similarly held. Germany is using all her cunning in diplomacy to try and get economic questions considered apart from the peace terms—a blunder against the perpetration of which Allied statesmen must be constantly on their guard.

German Shipping.

At last after many delays, which were not all due to disorganised conditions in Germany, 750,000 tons out of the 2,500,000 available of German shipping

are ready to sail. They are to be allocated to the Associated Governments, who will employ the ships in the transport of troops returning home and in carrying food to Allied, neutral and enemy countries as the Allied Maritime Transport Council directs. This body has arranged that, until the Peace Conference decides the ultimate fate of the German Mercantile Marine, the ships thereof will fly, in addition to the flag of the nation amongst whom they will be temporarily divided, the flag of the Allied Maritime Transport Council—surely a new flag to the seas of the world.

Russia.

The situation here remains practically unchanged except for the worse. In the north the Allied Forces are still withdrawing, and in such a way that it is evident the Bolsheviks are making a successful converging movement eighty miles from Archangel. As for the conditions in Russia generally, an appalling account is given by Colonel Ward, a Labour M.P., who has done good service in the war, and has just returned from Omsk. Unfortunately, the Allies have not consulted the Russian Council in Paris, consisting of representatives of the best elements in their country. In their eyes insult has been added to injury by the Allied invitation to meet Bolsheviks at Prinkipo, which they have refused.

THE INDUSTRIES OF GRENADA.

For the second year in succession, the Grenada cocoa crop exceeded all previous records in 1917, 77,275 bags of 180 lb. each having been exported, or 124,192 cwt. 57 lb. The value of the crop was £486,519. In his report on the work of the Agricultural Department of Grenada for the year ended March 31st last, gives the following figures of cocoa exports for the last eleven years:

Crop year ended September 30.	No. of bags exported.*	Crop year ended September 30.	No. of bags exported.*
1907	60,089	1913	63,456
1908	64,398	1914	65,510
1909	67,329	1915	62,166
1910	73,863	1916	76,980
1911	67,144	1917	77,275
1912	70,082		

*Bags calculated at 180 lb.

The local sugar industry, which is confined to the production of muscovado sugar and rum for local consumption, has, on the whole, shown no tendency to expand in sympathy with the high prices that have ruled. The Marie Galante cotton crop of Carriacou shows a considerable reduction, being only 2,453 cwt. 77 lb. of lint, and 6,199 cwt. 65 lb. of seed, aggregating in value £11,529 13s. 8d., as compared with the 1916 exports, which were 3,116 cwt. 40 lb. of lint, and 6,033 cwt. 23 lb. of seed, of an aggregate value of £16,088 10s.

The expansion of the lime industry was—temporarily, it is hoped—checked owing to a prolonged dry season in Carriacou, the output expressed in barrels of fruit being 19,433 barrels as against 27,253 in 1916, and 2,684 only in 1914. The spice crop, which plays second fiddle to cocoa, amounted to 1,538,886 lb. of nutmegs and mace, valued at £34,789, as against 1,940,965 lb. worth £51,690 in 1915-16.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has never been more busy than it is at present. The Committee rooms are daily thronged with visitors seeking information regarding the thorny problem of demobilisation, and it is as much as the staff can do to cope with the work. It is expected that the British West Indies Regiment will be on the move in a few weeks' time, but it is feared that many months must elapse before all the men who came over independently can be repatriated, and the expenses of the Committee are increasing, though every possible economy is exercised. In the circumstances it is hoped that the Contingent Fund will continue to meet with support. Since the last list was published the following contributions have been received:

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of a dance at Roman, Dominica, per Mrs. Didier	28	5	6
James J. Law, Esq.	10	0	0
E. L. Skeete, Esq.	10	0	0
Congregation St. Anthony's Church, Montserrat, per Rev. Canon Haines	7	10	0
R. P. Pile, Esq.	5	4	2
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arthur	5	0	0
Thos. Flood, Esq.	5	0	0
H. Jason Jones, Esq.	5	0	0
J. A. Mahon, Esq.	5	0	0
R. H. McCarthy, Esq., C.M.G.	5	0	0
Charles P. Rojas, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. E. H. Shorey	5	0	0
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (November)	1	2	0
Kingstown Club	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	0
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10	0	0
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	0
Jas. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	0
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	0
James A. Davey, Esq.	1	0	0
F. A. Layne, Esq.	3	6	4
G. Eliot Seay, Esq.	3	0	0
O. E. Whitehead, Esq.	3	0	0
G. Seton-Browne, Esq.	2	10	0
Hon. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G.	2	2	0
Dominion Cannery, Limited	2	0	0
Hon. W. L. C. Phillips, O.B.E.	2	0	0
J. R. Yearwood, Esq.	2	0	0
Hon. D. C. Cameron, C.M.G.	1	1	0
D. Macgillivray, Esq.	1	0	10
Dr. J. S. Gabriel, M.R.C.S.	1	0	0
R. Knight, Esq.	3	0	0
"Anon"	3	0	0

CORRECTION.—January 23rd, the name of C. E. Gooding, Esq., who kindly subscribed £2, was printed twice over by error.

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.

Further relaxation of export restrictions were announced on January 30th. The following, among other articles, the export of which was prohibited, may now be sent to all destinations other than countries neighbouring enemy countries—

- Arrowroot.
- Banana meal and flour
- (preparations thereof).
- Farina.
- Ginger.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN CUBA.

Some interesting economic points are brought out in the third annual report of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation, which controls four large centrals in the island known as the Pearl of the Antilles.

The company ground 4,574,782 tons of canes, which yielded 13.31 per cent. of sucrose. The total losses in milling, mudcake and undetermined were 2.36 per cent., and the directors hope to reduce it below 2 per cent. To emphasise the importance of this they point out that $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. gained in either way on the quantity of cane estimated for the coming crop would mean an additional yield of 100,000 bags of sugar without any outlay other than the cost of the bags, railroad freight and shipping expenses. Therefore $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. decrease in losses in manufacturing or increase in sucrose in the cane would mean at present prices from \$1,500,000.00 to \$1,750,000.00 increased net earnings.

The general practice in Cuba is to purchase cane from the tenant farmer (colono) by allowing him a percentage in sugar per hundred of cane. This sugar is then bought by the mill at a price based on the ruling market price. As the price of sugar fixed by the contract with the United States Sugar Equalisation Board, Inc., for the 1918-1919 crop will be about 20 per cent. higher than that of last year's, the price of cane will also be higher; but this increase in cost will be offset to the company by its obtaining a correspondingly higher price for its sugars. Careful calculations show that the average cost of producing sugar in many plantations in Cuba was 50c. to 60c. per pound greater than in the previous year. The increased cost to your company was .567c. per pound. Realising the importance of increasing the sucrose in the cane and the tonnage of cane per acre, your company has been carrying on experiments in a small way for the improvement of the cane seed, in irrigation and in mechanical devices for cutting the cane (cane cutters being the only class of labour in Cuba that is really scarce) and for hauling it, in order to discard the primitive and slow ox-driven carts and to economise in labour employed in driving these carts. The experiments have not progressed far enough as yet to warrant any report being given. The installations of machinery to which the management had directed its efforts being about completed, more attention can be given henceforth to these experiments.

The properties of the coca plant from which the much-discussed drug cocaine is derived were recognised by the native inhabitants of the New World long before Europeans availed themselves of them. In his *Exact Description of the West Indies* (which name then included the mainland as well as the islands), published in 1655, N. N. wrote of the coca-tree:—"It is in estimation onely for its broad leafe, which it casteth forth every fourth moneth new, to which leafe the Indians attribute I know not how many strange vertues and operations. This is certain and confirmed by daily experience, that it helpeth much against the weariness of the bodye in any kinde of labour or travell, that it reviveth and exhilarates a man's spirits, seeming to infuse new courage and strength into him; insomuch that the Indians will oftentimes goe three or four daies together about business with no other meat or victuals but a few leaves of this Coca champed in their mouthes."

THE OUTLOOK FOR SUGAR PRICES.

A correspondent writes to the *Sugar Market Review*, published by the Federal Sugar Refining Company, regarding the purchase of the Cuban crop by the International Commission:—

"We quite share your feeling that it was, and is, a very poor bargain for the buyers, and quite unnecessarily so. Having been made, it has, however, to be carried out, with the result that nearly another year of artificial prices will rule in the consuming countries..

"On its own merits sugar would be considered to be just now in a weak position, and next autumn the weakness may easily be still more pronounced, so that when the Government control is withdrawn, a precipitous decline in values may be seen. The addition to stocks in Java and Cuba on the past year must be about 1,500,000 tons and with the same crops, and the same consumption in the coming year there would be apparently about 3,000,000 tons excess a year hence. Half of this may be neutralised by increased consumption in Europe and America, and by a smaller crop in Java, but would still leave something like the accumulation of the present time to be dealt with a year hence. If the outlook then should show no prospect of a further decrease in crops and the Government control have meanwhile come to an end, the situation would be so weak that an acute crisis might arise in the sugar markets before the prices reached a natural level again. Beyond a certain point consumption cannot cope with the supplies, and in a time of readjustment the market will get no support from the distributing interests until a solid basis of values on the merits of the position has been reached.

"The tonnage difficulty may help in maintaining the present level of prices during the coming year, but twelve months hence freights, while still above the standard of former times, may be expected to rule at a very different level from now, and the volume of available tonnage will always be increasing.

"We are interested to see your estimate of a possible increase in consumption in the United States next year. Some increase will no doubt take place in the United Kingdom, also upon an increase of ration a month hence, and still more upon the withdrawal of restriction altogether, but the retail price of the article here will remain so much greater than in America that the increase will probably not be so marked as with you."

MR. J. J. QUELCH MISSING.

His many friends will be shocked to learn that Mr. J. J. Quelch, the well-known West Indian naturalist and explorer, who was formerly Curator of the Georgetown Museum, has been missing in Dominica since the end of November. Writes the *Dominica Guardian* of December 12th:—"Mr. J. J. Quelch . . . left Roseau on the morning of the 28th ult. with the object of visiting the Boerie Lake. He was told to proceed to Laudat, where he could be put on the right track. He took only such food with him as sufficed for a meal. He was seen near Laudat later on the same day, but since then nothing has been heard or seen of him, and grave fears are being entertained. Search parties scouted the locality in various directions, and the telephone has been active making inquiries, but until now in vain. The hope is very slender that if found at all he will be alive."

THE USE AND ABUSE OF SACCHARIN.

Sir Jesse Boot, presiding at the annual meeting of Boots Cash Chemists (Eastern) Limited, stated that the company had contributed to the national needs 1,785,000,000 tablets of saccharin, from which the revenues of the country had benefited by nearly £500,000 in revenue charges. Before the war all the saccharin used in the United Kingdom was of foreign manufacture. It had been the intention of his company to set up a small plant only, but when they made application for supplies of Toluene—a controlled substance necessary in the manufacture—the Government urged them to undertake production on a much more extensive plan.

After describing the difficulties which the company had to overcome owing to the obstruction of various Government Departments Sir Jesse went on to say that their entire production was taken by the Government, who distributed it to tablet makers.

Dealing with the future of the trade, he said that strong endeavours had been made to create a prejudice against the use of saccharin, which had been traced to interested parties, such as sugar cultivators and manufacturers. It was true that saccharin was without nutritive value, and so it was not recommended as a substitute for sugar in feeding children. The highest medical authorities were, however, fully agreed that it was perfectly innocuous and had no effect whatever on metabolism. It was therefore useful for general sweetening purposes, and had a special value in the case of those subject to adiposity. With the removal of the rationing orders, moreover, many quite healthy people receiving sufficient nourishment from other foods, and conscious that they were benefited by abstinence from sugar, would take advantage of the sweetening properties of saccharin.

Foreign stocks of saccharin which accumulated under the impetus given to foreign manufacture through unrestricted prices now threatened to swamp the market; and the home producer, who as yet had had no time to overcome all the difficulties of new work under extraordinarily adverse conditions, would have to compete in a market where saccharin would be offered at unremunerative prices. Though a convinced Free Trader, it did seem to him that in these circumstances the Government might reasonably give some encouragement to a business largely undertaken to assist them, until its infancy was past, and until business conditions generally resumed their normal course.

In this connection it is of interest to note that the *Louisiana Planter*, commenting on an article in a contemporary advocating the use of saccharin in America, where it may not be used even to sweeten tea or coffee, said in a recent editorial: "We know of no objection to good soda water, but that it should be sweetened with saccharin, a coal-tar product, which, under Dr. Wiley's administration, was taboo, and which the present manufacturers have to conceal the identity to carry it into the saccharin prohibition countries just as morphine and other opium products are now smuggled in is very undesirable. To quote the instances of people suffering with disease of the kidneys, diabetes and Bright's disease who are using saccharin as a sweetener as a recommendation, is surely a queer recommendation, and could be applied with equal force to other poisons, such as strychnine and arsenic."

MR. LAURENCE KEIR, who has been actively connected with the business for the last seven years, has been admitted to partnership in the firm of Benckendorff, Berger & Co., West India merchants, of London and Kingston.

NO MORE "DUMPING."

Legislation Foreshadowed.

For the full text of the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on February 11th, which was of unusual length, we must refer our readers to the London newspapers of the following morning. It may be noted here, however, that his Majesty foreshadowed legislation "for the prevention of unfair competition by the sale of imported goods below their selling price in the country of origin." This, it will be hardly necessary to point out, is of immense importance. It means that there will be no more "dumping," and that our colonial producers will have a fair field as well as the favour which they confidently expect in the shape of Imperial Preference.

In this connection it may be useful for purpose of reference to give the text of the Dumping clause in the Canadian Tariff, which is as follows:

"In the case of articles exported to Canada of a class or kind made or produced in Canada, if the export or actual selling price to an importer in Canada be less than the fair market value of the same article when sold for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course in the country whence exported to Canada at the time of its exportation to Canada there shall, in addition to the duties otherwise established, be levied, collected, and paid on such article, on its importation into Canada, a special duty (or dumping duty) equal to the difference between the said selling price of the article for export and the said fair market value thereof for home consumption; and such special duty (or dumping duty) shall be levied, collected and paid on such article although it is not otherwise dutiable.

"Provided that the said special duty shall not exceed 15 per cent. *ad valorem* in any case."

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The West India Committee has received the following letter from the Food Production Department under date February 10th.

"The board are now prepared to recommend the issue of licences for the export of sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate to the West Indies, and to give preference to such applications as far as possible, provided you can supply particulars of the estimated quantities required at a very early date. If you can let me know not later than, say, the middle of next week what are the approximate quantities which you expect to require, we will arrange for these amounts to be kept in reserve, subject, of course, to definite arrangements being made with the sulphate of ammonia export traders, without delay.

"In the case of sulphate of ammonia it will be necessary to purchase your requirements through the sulphate of ammonia export traders, as in the past. In the case of superphosphate a somewhat similar arrangement will be necessary, in order that the subsidy which is paid in respect of the production of superphosphate in this country may be recovered before export. Definite arrangements in regard to this matter have not yet been made, but I am in communication with the Ministry of Munitions on the subject.

"We shall also be willing to allow the export of certain quantities of compound fertilisers, subject to the repayment of the subsidy in respect of the sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate they contain. I am in communication with the Ministry of Munitions as to the procedure to be adopted in such cases."

COLONIAL REPORTS.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. George Ball Greene, Assistant Government Secretary of British Guiana, in his report on the Blue-book of the Colony for 1917, refers to the cattle trail to the Rupumni District which was commenced during the year and has since been completed. By it it is hoped to develop the trade in cattle. At the same time it will facilitate the making of surveys and the obtaining of information which will be useful when the question of the construction of a railway is being considered. East Indian immigration ceased with the arrival of the ss. *Ganges* in April. The number of Indians who arrived during the year was 692 only. Some 20,509 cattle were owned by East Indians on estates, besides 4,815 sheep and goats. The value of the real property which passed into their hands was £42,677. The property acquired by Chinese immigrants during the same period is valued at £12,904. The total value of imports for the year was £3,271,017, and that of the exports £4,315,939.

There was an increase of £399,612 in the value of sugar exported in 1917. The quantity exported was 114,007 tons, valued at £2,500,029, as compared with 101,650 tons, valued at £2,100,417 in 1916. The year 1917 was a prosperous one for sugar-estate proprietors, as good prices were obtained. The quantity of rum shipped during the year fell, however, from 4,384,834 proof gallons valued at £626,490 in 1916 to 3,415,921 proof gallons valued at £558,111.

The area under sugar was 77,800 acres, of which only 5,000 were devoted solely to the Bourbon variety, the remainder being cultivated in new varieties, mainly raised from seed in the colony. The area under rice amounted to 58,100 acres, of which 6,700 acres yielded two crops. The total yield was 81,000 tons of paddy, equal to 48,600 tons of rice. Very large areas of the front lands of the colony are pre-eminently suitable for the cultivation of rice, and hence the proportion of them planted in paddy increases year by year.

The acreage under cocoa remains stationary at about 2,000 acres. A very large proportion of the cocoa produced—at least 150,000 lb. annually—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 be. The planting of Para rubber has not materially increased. It is estimated that 5,100 acres are planted with Para rubber in the colony. There was very little demand during the year for Para rubber plants; only 6,500 were sold to planters by the Department of Science and Agriculture. It has been proved that the Para rubber tree grows well on suitable lands in the colony. Tapping operations are conducted on a small scale, as the majority of the trees in the planted area are young. The tappings of five-year and six-year old trees have proved that yields of dry rubber per tree compare very favourably with those obtained in the Straits Settlements, Malaya and Ceylon, whilst the quality of the product is excellent. Difficulties in obtaining a reliable labour supply for tapping operations are becoming very serious and are the main cause which restricts Para rubber cultivation in the colony. The area reported to be under coffee was 4,900 acres. The export of coffee during the year amounted to 2,347 cwt., as compared with 4,474 cwt. in 1916, this decrease being due to lack of shipping facilities. Coco-nuts are now planted on 23,900 acres of land, whilst the acreage last year was 20,100. The export of nuts increased from 1,631,000 to 1,911,000, but in addition 1,507 cwt. of copra and 26,674 gallons of oil were exported. By far the greater number of the nuts grown is used locally for the manufacture of oil. There is still 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.

COCOA EXPORTS SANCTIONED.

With reference to the announcement made in the Produce Markets Summary of last CIRCULAR to the effect that 25 per cent. of cocoa imports might under certain conditions be exported, the West India Committee has received the following letter from the Ministry of Food:—

Ministry of Food, Palace Chambers,
Bridge-street, London, S.W. 1.

February 7th, 1919.

SIR, I am directed by the Food Controller to state that he has decided that all importers of raw cocoa may exclude from the raw cocoa distribution scheme a quantity not exceeding 25 per cent. of each consignment arriving in the United Kingdom on and after February 17th, 1919, provided this quantity is sold for export only. The object of this scheme is to enable the export trade to be resumed so far as the existing regulations permit.

Importers who desire to avail themselves of this permission should make applications to the Secretary, Raw Cocoa Distribution Committee, Ministry of Food, Room 403, Palace Chambers, Bridge-street, Westminster, S.W. 1, giving the following particulars:—

(a) The quantity of raw cocoa comprised in the consignment in respect of which the application is made.

(b) The quantity it is desired to exclude from the distribution scheme.

(c) The name of the ship.

(d) The port to which the ship is destined, together with an undertaking (a) that at least 75 per cent. of the consignment will on arrival be sent to the appropriate grading committee to be graded and distributed in accordance with this Ministry's scheme of distribution, and (b) that the "excluded" quantity will be offered for sale for export only.

A certificate will then be issued to the importer specifying the number of bags out of the consignment which he may exclude from the distribution scheme, and so far as this Ministry is concerned, the raw cocoa mentioned in the certificate will be free for export, but applications for export licences should be made to the War Trade Department, quoting in all cases the number of the certificate issued by this Ministry relating to the raw cocoa in respect of which an application for an export licence is made.

In order to facilitate the grant of export licences, care should be taken to see that whenever the raw cocoa changes hands the number of this Ministry's certificate is quoted, in order that it may accompany the application for an export licence. If the "excluded" cocoa is put up for sale by public auction, the catalogue must be marked "*For exportation only*" and it must be made a condition of sale that the cocoa in the catalogue is sold for export only. If the sale is by private treaty, it must be made a condition of the contract that the cocoa is for export only. If an importer is not able to find a market for the raw cocoa which he has excluded, and desires to dispose of it in this country, he should send it to be graded and distributed in the ordinary way.

I am, Sir, &c.,

HORACE WOODHOUSE.

The Secretary,
The West India Committee,
15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to increase. It now stands at 1,806, which is satisfactory, compared with the 200 of twenty years ago, but is far lower than the figure at which it should stand, having regard to the work accomplished and before us. It is hoped, therefore, that all will help by introducing eligible candidates for admission. At a meeting held on February 6th the following were admitted:—

NAME	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Paymaster C. V. S. Hooman (Trinidad)	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
Paymaster Shirley F. Tuck, R.N.R.	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
Sgt. H. C. Billings, R.N.	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
Lieut. H. J. Hayward R.N.V.R.	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
Col. George H. May V.D. (Trinidad)	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
D. S. Webster (Trinidad).	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
Capt. J. A. Goodwin, R.E.	Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Hon. R. S. A. Warner
Mr. Phineas A. Neckles (Grenada)	Mr. John C. King. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Stuart Poole Davidson (Jamaica)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. F. Previte.
Mr. William James Cox	Messrs. Paines and Reid. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Messrs. John Leckie & Co., Ltd.	Mr. R. Rutherford. Sir Edward Davson.
Mr. Guy O'Reilly (St. Lucia)	Mr. George Barnard. Mr. H. H. Prudhomme.

Last year Barbados headed the list of the countries of residence of the new members elected. Which colony will have the premier position in this respect in 1919? So far 35 new members have been elected, residing in the following places:

United Kingdom	13	Jamaica	4	Dominica	1
Barbados	6	British Guiana	2	Grenada	1
Trinidad	6	Antigua	1	St. Lucia	1

DURING January no fewer than 272,467 oz. of saccharin were imported into the United Kingdom.

The agricultural side of the sugar industry offers a particularly inviting field for the further development and more general adoption of labour-saving machinery, says *Facts About Sugar*. From the time sugar beets or sugar canes enter the mill they are handled almost automatically by wonderfully complex and effective machinery and with a minimum of hand labour. But from the time the plough starts to turn its furrow until the growers' product is delivered to the factory it is hardly an exaggeration to say that almost the exact contrary is the case. . . . We urge upon sugar growers a careful and practical study of extent to which they can obtain better crops and bigger profits through the adoption of some one or more of the numerous excellent implements and machines already available or rapidly being developed for use in practically all the agricultural operations involved in sugar production.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS.—Estates Change Hands.

The weather has been exceedingly favourable, not only for the young canes but also for the old crop. An address and a silver-mounted inkstand were presented to the Hon. E. T. Gramm, C.M.G., the retiring Auditor-General, by the Audit Office staff on December 23rd. The *Barbados Advocate* records the following sales of plantations:—Rose Hill, St. George, 65 acres, by Mr. W. G. Croney to Mr. G. G. Gale for £6,600; Clifton St. Thomas, 241 acres, by Messrs. Robert H. King and F. G. B. King to Mr. W. H. Bryan, merchant, of Roebuck-street, for £26,000; Bloomsbury, St. Thomas, by Mr. F. W. Greaves to Mr. S. H. Streate, manager of Stutges, for £8,500; Bucks, St. Thomas, 60 acres, by Mr. G. H. Ward to Mr. T. N. McConney for £5,000; Norbury (Strong Hope), St. Thomas, 123 acres, by Mr. H. Lashley to Messrs. J. Edwin Croney and A. L. Marshall for £11,000.

Says the *Advocate*: "Mr. Dudley C. Hawkins, manager and part owner of Foursquare plantation, has withdrawn from that syndicate, which, it is understood, is now the sole property of Dr. J. W. Hawkins. It is stated that Mr. Dudley Hawkins was paid out £24,000. He is succeeded as manager by Mr. W. W. Williams, formerly manager of Mount Pleasant plantations, St. James, Lascelles, St. James, Spring Garden, St. Michael's, are offered for sale."

BRITISH GUIANA.—The Canadian Steamer Service.

A Sub-Committee of the Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has made the following recommendation regarding steamer communication:—"That in view of the decision arrived at at the West Indian Conference in 1913 to the effect that after 1917 when the Royal Mail contract would expire it was the duty of each colony to endeavour to contribute a subsidy towards a satisfactory service between Canada and the West Indies, and looking to the possibility of the further development of trade between the Dominion of Canada and this colony that may ensue in the near future, it would be in the best interests of the colony to have a fast service running on a trunk line and that the Canadian Government should be met in a very liberal spirit as regards a subsidy. The contract should contain the following conditions—viz:—

- "(1) Fortnightly service.
- "(2) Ports of call both ways to be confined to Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara.
- "(3) Steamers to maintain an average speed of twelve knots on the voyage.
- "(4) Space to be provided which could be adopted for shipment of fruit and other perishable goods in cold storage, if necessary.
- "(5) The colony to have a voice in the fixing of the rates, which should be so arranged as to be on an equally favourable footing both ways, and to provide freight *via* the new service not exceeding the rates ruling *via* New York to any Canadian port in Eastern Canada.
- "(6) That the Canadian Government should be asked to continue to pay the greater portion of the subsidy.

"We are strongly opposed to any subsidy being paid for a slow service calling as at present at all the West Indian islands. While we have no desire to do anything which would appear to run counter to the negotiations which are pending for a separate service between Great Britain and the West Indies, we greatly favour every encouragement being offered toward the establishment of a first-class subsidised service between Canada and this colony.

"We think the subject is one that could be advantageously discussed at the fortnightly meeting of Customs officials and merchants in Trinidad, and we recommend that the necessary power be given to the colony's delegates."

ST. KITTS.—Brighter Crop Prospects.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, JANUARY 16th.—December was a very favourable growing month for both the maturing and

the young cane crops; January also is giving us some nice showers. Crop prospects are decidedly brighter than last year's. The factory output should be considerably higher than for 1918, for while there is very little length of cane to be seen in the Basseterre Valley and neighbourhood, yet the north side estates should reap very fair crops. The St. Paul's parish also looks well. War conditions have evidently led to a considerably larger consumption of sugar locally, both crystals and muscovado, and for some weeks there was quite a sugar shortage in the island. Only about 1,600 tons of muscovado were exported last year. Many of the muscovado estates now make cane syrup, for which there is a ready market at paying prices, and, except for local consumption, within a short time the old brown muscovado sugar will disappear altogether.

The Christmas holiday season passed without incident, and was quieter than usual. A novel and pleasant feature was the writing and production of a local revue, "Hits and Skits," by Mr. W. F. Delany, of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, with the assistance of a few friends. Under the patronage of His Honour the Administrator and Mrs. Burdon, the clever little production went very brightly, and was well received by a large audience. Close on £20 was raised for the poor of all the churches in Basseterre. The November and December rains seriously affected the later planted cotton everywhere; only the early planted cotton gave satisfactory returns last year. A Cotton Ordinance has been passed, with the approval of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, fixing close seasons for various districts in the island, and active steps are now being taken to eradicate the plant hosts of the Cotton Stainer, this pest having been very troublesome last season.

We are pleased to note the appointment of the Hon. W. M. Wigley as Crown Attorney for the Presidency, in conjunction with his Magistracy. The Government might do worse than appoint Mr. W. H. Semper Registrar and Acting Magistrate to the other Magistracy, as his knowledge of the law and our people is indisputable. Mr. M. Keith Shamar has arrived from Antigua as manager of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory; we wish him a long and successful term of office. Having disposed of the last of their properties here, the Misses Pogens will shortly be leaving for England. An accident at the Bourke's sale on the 2nd inst., when the floor of the dining-room collapsed, taking with it a large sideboard and a crowd of bidders, might have been a very serious one. Luckily, everyone kept quiet and calm; but it is wonderful that no limbs were broken and serious injuries to many sustained.

A West Indian Press cablegram reports that at a well-attended meeting on January 13th of the St. Kitts-Nevis Representative Government Association, eligibility for membership of which is statutory qualifications of a juror, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"Be it resolved that the members assembled at this the first meeting of the St. Kitts-Nevis representative Government Association, pledge themselves to wholeheartedly support the effort of the Association to secure popular representative Government for the Presidency and to work for a federated autonomous West Indies." A meeting was fixed for the 30th inst. for passing a resolution sending a petition to his Majesty praying for popular representative Government for the Presidency, that the people may have a voice in their affairs, and especially in the matter of West Indian Federation, and not have the matter decided for them by Councillors nominated by the Government.

ST. LUCIA.—New Administrator Arrives.

Lieutenant W. B. Davidson Houston, C.M.G., the new Administrator, arrived at Castries on December 13th, and was sworn in at the Council Chamber on the

following morning. His Honour, who, it will be recalled, was seconded from the position of Commissioner of Monsterrat to rejoin the Army, and subsequently saw active service in France, and was complimented by Mr. G. O. F. Walton, Acting Chief Justice, who referred to the problems ahead, which were mainly agricultural. The Hon. William Peter, on behalf of the members of Council, assured His Honour that they would give him always the best advice in their power. The colony was a small one, and the scope for development not great, and earning powers will be endangered if hampered by cumbersome legislation. The Hon. W. V. Degazon, chairman of the Castries Town Board, then presented an address. The gallant Colonel, in reply, said that he proposed with their help to obtain a knowledge of conditions existing in St. Lucia at first hand, and assured them that his best efforts would be devoted to the advancement of the colony.

TOBAGO—Cocoa-picking Begun.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, DECEMBER 5th. —We have had cool and pleasant weather, with occasional showers. The trade winds have set in, and breezy weather and heavier cargoes are delaying the movements of the coastal steamer. Cocoa-picking is in progress all over the island, and steady, if not abundant, supplies are expected from now onwards. The improvement in prices is welcome, and cocoa-planters will be glad of a favourable turn after the erratic prices in the last four years, mostly tending against them.

January 1st. —The recent satisfactory concession as to cocoa exports has borne speedy fruit, as prices are now more in accord with values in Europe. The action of the West India Committee is very much appreciated, and without doubt now it is regarded as the head centre of the West Indies. What a change from the "good old days" of the blue paper market report! The general movement towards federation of these islands may further enhance the usefulness of the West India Committee, and one sees visions of a Resident Commissioner associated therewith.

From January 1st Tobago ceases to have a Commissioner-Warden. Major Walter Harrigan, now on active service, has been appointed Warden and Magistrate, with an assistant warden, and until his release from military duties Mr. J. S. Sorzano, our former Postmaster, will act as Warden and Magistrate. The changes and appointments are doubtfully discussed here, but those who know Major Harrigan feel sure he will be a useful officer and an acquisition in other respects. No one regrets the abolition of the Commissionership, as it is generally realised that the prosperity of the island rests with its close association with Trinidad, and even nominal separation is not satisfactory. The original idea of a Commissioner was nominal supervision over the other departments of the service, but interference by an outsider was naturally resented by the heads of departments. The ornamental portion of the "duties" can easily be spared in an island in the process of development. Attacks of influenza and matrimony have caused some temporary shuffling in our local medical service, and this fortunately has permitted Dr. Gibbon to return on duty for a few weeks to his former district.

The weather is delightfully cool, with light showers, and the cacao pods are ripening up faster than they can be picked, especially as the labourers have taken their usual week off at Christmas. Planters hoped it would extend for a month in these busy times. If favoured with the usual January rains the Spring cacao crop ought to be very productive.

No doubt you are on the *qui vive* for our Mail Steamship Service. One almost feels that the Scrutton's steamers ought to get special consideration, as they have most loyally stood by the West Indies during the war.

TRINIDAD—Congratulates Sir E. Davson.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, January 7th.—Trinidad lifts its hat in cordial salute and congratulation to the new knight, Sir Edward Davson, whose whole-hearted and generous interest in everything tending to the progress and welfare of the West Indies is generally acknowledged. Especially pleased are the members of the Associated Chamber of Commerce at the well-deserved honour bestowed upon their President. Another well-known and well-deserving son of Trinidad has been welcomed back from active service in the person of Major Bowen. Unfortunately he landed late in the evening, and the fact that he was coming was not generally known, so that many of his friends—myself among the number—were deprived of the pleasure of greeting him on landing, but we are all none the less glad to see him back safe and well, and to know that his gallant son "Pops" has also come out of the war unscathed after many months of daring flights in the air over enemy country. The colony owes Major Bowen much for his excellent work, especially in connection with the first and largest Merchants' Contingent which went to England in his charge, and was so well looked after by him on arrival and until all the men were provided for.

January 22nd.—At the last meeting of the Board of Agriculture Mr. C. B. Williams, the entomologist in charge of frog hopper investigations, read a lengthy report on Mr. J. E. Glasgow's frog hopper cure, his ultimate conclusion being that "the demonstrations so far given by Mr. Glasgow do not prove that his liquid is sufficiently effective in destroying either eggs or nymphs of the frog hopper, or the fungi causing root disease. Possibly further demonstrations which he hopes to give next season at a more suitable time of the year may be more conclusive." To this opinion Mr. Glasgow demurs in a long letter to the *Trinidad Guardian* this morning, and I do not suppose we have heard the last of the controversy. Meanwhile it is good to report that the pest has been nothing like so serious as affecting canes for coming crop as for the last, and something above the average may, I think, be looked for in sugar exports, 1919. By the way, the greater part of Trinidad crop has already been acquired by the British Government at about 27s. 6d. f.o.b.

At the instance of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, through the Associated Chamber of the British West Indies, a further effort is being made to induce the Government of Canada to abrogate the law in regard to the application of the Dutch Sugar Standard in the Dominion, and telegrams with this view are being despatched to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, by some of the colonies interested in hopes of relief from the vagaries of this archaic test (as it was aptly described by Mr. Pavitt) during the present crop.

The St. Madeleine Sugar Company advertise that they will pay for farmers' canes under a sliding scale rising from 9s. per ton if price of sugar is above 10s. per cwt., up to 18s. per ton if price of sugar is above 20s. per ton. This liberal payment will undoubtedly result in a very considerable extension of cane cultivation in the Naparimas and elsewhere. Of course there will be many who will query the wisdom of the course taken by the St. Madeleine Company; but if we are to compete successfully with Cuba, Porto Rico and other high-wage places we must attract labour, and this we shall never do in agriculture until we are prepared to make this so-called most honourable of callings one on which it is possible for the working man to exist in the commonest of decency. Is it not the world's experience that where wages are liberal prosperity reigns? We are pining for want of labour to fill some of the most fertile lands on earth, but we shall not get it until we realise that the labourer is worthy of his hire.

Mr. Pavitt, who has attended the meetings of the Chamber of Commerce since his arrival here, has been elected an honorary member. Your letter of December 2nd was handed to me just as I was proceeding to the last meeting of the Chamber, of which I enclose newspaper report, by which you will see I referred to the intention to include sugar in the items of preferential tariff, without giving my authority, in accordance with your wish. You will also see what I said in regard to federation. The Consular Body paid its usual New Year's visit to the Governor, when a very happy interchange of compliments and good wishes was made.

CORRESPONDENCE.**KANAKA LABOUR.**

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—The answer to the question, "Why not Kanakas as immigrant labour for British Guiana?" is obtrusively evident to anyone with knowledge of the labour conditions in the Pacific Islands. The natives of those islands are already too few for the needs of the islands, and are becoming fewer every year. Personally, I am satisfied that it is for the advantage of the "Kanakas" occasionally to transfer them, under strictly guarded conditions, to other islands than their own, but not to take them to distant places where the conditions are entirely dissimilar to those to which they have been accustomed. Moreover, Australia prohibited the use of Kanakas in Queensland, not because they were not useful there, but because Australian statesmen recognised that it was unfair upon the Kanaka to place him under such unfamiliar and unsuitable conditions as surrounded him in Queensland, and the Commonwealth authorities would certainly not be satisfied to see the Kanaka, released from Queensland, transferred to British Guiana. The right solution of the Kanaka question is to use any of these people who may be superfluous in their own islands for coco-nut cultivation, not sugar, in islands adjacent to their own homes, especially in Fiji, and in Samoa and the Bismarck archipelago if these islands remain, as we all hope and believe will be the case, under the Union Jack.

EVERARD IM THURN.

February 9th, 1919.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

URGENTLY REQUIRED, Copies of CIRCULARS, Nos. 521, 373. 6d. per copy for copies returned to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

EX-OFFICER, married, 12 years' mercantile and shipping experience British Guiana, 2 years New York, desires position of trust. Fully qualified to undertake secretarial duties. "C. S." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-five, educated Oxford, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies; keen and energetic; first-class references. Army discharge. Apply "C. V. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

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, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

GENTLEMAN, 42, seeks post as Manager of Estate. Over 20 years' experience in Tropical Agriculture, including Tea, Cotton, Sugar, &c., in Ceylon, South America, West Indies, Rhodesia, Nigeria. Good testimonials. Apply "Q." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

EUROPEAN WARRANT OFFICER, B.W.I. Regiment, awaiting discharge, seeks position of trust at home or in colonies. Married. Experienced book-keeper and correspondent, with advertising ideas. Accustomed handle native labour. Excellent testimonials. Apply "W. O." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
February 20th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

A cane contract is to be substituted for the pre-war 88 per cent. beet Hamburg contract for dealing in futures. The basis will be 96 per cent. polarisation cane sugar in bond London, Liverpool, or the Clyde. It is hardly necessary to point out that if this cane contract catches on it will greatly facilitate the marketing of cane sugar, besides providing a daily quotation.

New York quotations: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c.; Porto Ricos, St. Croixs, Hawaii, and Philippines, 7.28c. c.i.f. 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64 c.i.f.

Imports into the United Kingdom in January amounted to 1,638,479 cwt., against 1,598,698 cwt., and 2,402,663 cwt. for the same month in the two preceding years. Of last month's imports, 1,380,257 cwt. were raw and 258,222 cwt. refined. The countries of origin of our January imports in the last three years included:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Java	1,742,428	965,561	64,400
Cuba	—	879	752,967
Dutch Guiana... ..	6,482	—	8,360
Peru	117,121	45,317	180,456
Brazil	91,218	189	—
Mauritius	—	405,847	343,070
British West Indian Guiana	52,632	13,520	30,772

During January 1,784,914 cwt. were entered for home consumption.

As from Monday, January 27th, supplies of sugar to all manufacturing trades in the United Kingdom have been upon the basis of 100 per cent. of their consumption of sugar in 1915. Sugar confectioners, bakers, mineral water manufacturers, and other traders, who since December 28th have been receiving supplies of sugar at the rate of 50 per cent. of their 1915 consumption, now receive supplies at the same rate as manufacturers of jam, marmalade, and condensed milk, and wholesale druggists who have been receiving the full 100 per cent. of their 1915 consumption. The domestic ration was raised to 12 oz.

Guma-Mejer estimates the Cuban crop now being reaped at 3,991,571 tons, against Mr. Himeley's estimate of 4,010,571 tons, and Messrs. Willett and Gray's 3,600,000 tons.

The directors of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation, in their third annual report, which is signed by Mr. Manuel Rionda, take an optimistic view of the future. They say: "The scarcity of sugar being world-wide, prices, whether controlled by the Government or otherwise, may be expected to be satisfactory for several years after peace."

The United States Sugar Equalisation Board now sanctions the export of sugar to neutral countries under certain conditions.

All restrictions on the use of sugar have now been removed in Canada, and it is expected that consumption will now go ahead rapidly. Eastern Canada will probably absorb 260,000 tons, and to meet this the Canadian Government has acquired 12,600 tons of Perus and 165,000 tons of Santo Domingos, while the balance will be made up of British West Indian raws.

The West India sugar statistics in London on February 8th were:—

	1918.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	3,493	1,781	4,266	
Deliveries	4,436	6,160	4,837	
Stock	5,249	6,608	7,444	

RUM. Imports into the United Kingdom in January: 199,143 proof gallons, against 69,193 and 943,194 in the corresponding month in 1918 and 1917. The Customs authorities continue to classify rum and imitation rum together, which we consider an enormity. We contend that the ersatz article is not entitled to the name rum in any form. Entered for consumption in January, 172,788 proof gallons.

The stocks in London on February 8th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	3,391	6,433	10,509	
Demerara	10,806	4,030	9,876	
Total of all kinds	19,179	16,655	34,499	

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.

January imports into the United Kingdom:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Ecuador	33,231	939	12,910
Brazil	12,030	1,980	60
British West Africa	89,039	52,252	181,087
Ceylon	6,042	918	8,122
British West India Islands	4,112	2,997	43,649
Other Countries	26,913	249	8,103
Imports	171,367	59,335	248,931

Entered for consumption, 97,065 cwt.

The stocks in London on February 8th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	19,789	13,977	17,942	
Grenada	11,014	11,404	14,080	
Total of all kinds	124,800	208,193	232,834	

COFFEE. January imports into the United Kingdom:

	1918.	1919.
Brazil	4,060	16,771
Other Foreign Countries... ..	4	91
British India... ..	5	—
British West India Islands	1,483	3,470
Other British Possessions	57	5,969
	5,609	26,303

Since 1917 no coffee has been imported from Mexico, Central America, and Colombia. Entered for home consumption in January, 31,053 cwt.

ARROWROOT may now be exported to all destinations except countries neighbouring enemy countries. Meanwhile there is no improvement to report, supplies in second-hands competing seriously with new arrivals.

COPRA. The market is still controlled. £40 per ton ex-ship if shipped before February 18th, £34 per ton if shipped after that date. Marseilles quiet. £35 c.i.f. terms.

HONEY. Again lower at auction. St. Lucia, 110s.

LIME OIL. Handpressed: No change to report. **Distilled:** Value nominally 5s. to 5s. 6d. per lb., but little enquiry. **LIME JUICE. Concentrated** continues firm. **Raw** very quiet, with plentiful supplies. **Citrate** unchanged.

SPICES. Following representations made by the West India Committee to the Board of Trade, the Director of the War Trade Department has announced that he is now prepared to consider applications for licences to export spices, including pepper. Exporters are reminded that it will be necessary for the Department to limit the total quantities of spices exported to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Switzerland. All applications for licences to export to those countries should be accompanied by the various certificates issued by the respective importing associations in those countries.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephones: 6642 CENTRAL, 3743 AVENUE.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
March 6th, 1919.

Demobilisation.

THE British West Indies Regiment will, we understand, shortly be on its way home to the West Indies, where all classes of the communities will, it is certain, be vying with one another in preparing for all ranks the cordial reception which they so thoroughly deserve to get after over three years' arduous campaigning in nearly every theatre of war. The men should return in a happy and contented frame of mind—happy in the knowledge that, after serving their King and Empire, they will again see their friends and relations and the sun-kissed colonies from which they have so long been separated, and contented, because, thanks to the activities of the West Indian Contingent Committee, they will receive the full pay and gratuities which they feared might be withheld from them. Both in the fringe-line in Palestine and with the heavy batteries in France the men have done splendidly, winning golden opinions for themselves, and our readers will, we may feel sure, endorse the message of God-speed, published in another column, which the West Indian Contingent Committee has sent to all ranks through COLONEL A. E. BARCHARD, the senior officer commanding. For the comfort and amusement of the battalions on their homeward voyage the Committee has despatched many thousands of mufflers and cigarettes, besides such requisites as deck-quoits, boxing sets and games generally, to the Officer Commanding Records to be distributed; and if, in the absence of a decision as to what the port or ports of departure will be, the gifts fail to reach all the

battalions before they leave, we can only hope that the intended recipients will take the will for the deed. Meanwhile, the simple problem of repatriating the men who came over from the West Indies independently, or at the expense of local committees, appears to be exercising the ingenuity of the dispersal officers to the utmost. For the information of relatives and friends in the West Indies it may be explained that the men may be discharged under one of two "Groups," namely, Group 45 A—where a man is released immediately and can claim a passage to the West Indies at any time within six months—and Group 45B, where he remains with his regiment, or at a dispersal camp, until a passage is found for him and receives his discharge at the end of the voyage. For men without means or without friends with whom they can stay, the advantages of the immediate over the deferred passage are obvious, and the dispersal officers have had strict instructions only to discharge men under Group 45A if they were satisfied that they had sufficient money on which to live pending their ultimate repatriation. Unfortunately, these instructions, which are perfectly clear, were not strictly carried out, and quite a number of men were discharged immediately under Group 45A, though they had no visible means of support. The men themselves were not altogether to blame. They were eager to be in "civvies" again, and the idea of a holiday in London not unnaturally appealed to them. Besides, they were led to believe that they could claim and obtain a passage whenever they liked, not realising that every available berth on the outward steamers has been booked for many months ahead—a fact which our friends in the West Indies have, we fear, also failed to appreciate. However, the West Indian Contingent Committee has taken the matter up, and the War Office has consented to all men already placed in Group 45A for the deferred passage being given the opportunity of being transferred to Group 45B, and we cannot too strongly urge every man concerned to exercise this option. With the demobilisation of the British West Indies Regiment, which will not, however, be completed for several months, the labours of the Contingent Committee will be to some extent lightened; but by far their greater anxieties are at present, and must for some time be, concerned with the repatriation of men from the West Indies who came over independently, and we dread to think what might happen but for the existence of this paternal body. The West Indies occupy a comparatively small place in the sun—which we in England so rarely see—and the

ignorance regarding them in this country is still simply appalling. During the last few years we have constantly been asked whether the inhabitants of those sea-girt isles spoke English; but the limit has surely been reached when two gallant young sailors from the West Indies were given *railway* passes from the Crystal Palace to Trinidad, and when a young West Indian soldier was sent to Liverpool and put aboard an East Indian transport to reach his home in an island in the Caribbean Sea. These and many similar mistakes it has been the privilege of the Contingent Committee to correct. In conclusion, we would most strongly urge all men who are in any doubt as to the group under which they should take their discharge to communicate with the Honorary Secretary at 15, Seething-lane, who will be glad to advise them in the matter, and in no circumstances to take their discharge under the deferred passage arrangement unless they can afford to live in England for an indefinite period.

The Advent of Civil Aviation.

WITH the passing of the Aerial Navigation Bill by Parliament it is expected that permission will immediately be given for the resumption of civil aviation, which has been suspended during the war. Judging by what has already appeared in the Press, many large and influential aviation companies which, during the war, devoted their energies to turning out military aeroplanes, have for some time past been looking about for fresh fields to conquer, and there is evidence that the company promoter is also on the warpath. Commercial trade routes are being planned both for aeroplanes and airships, and it is certain that we are at the beginning of a period of unparalleled development of civil aviation. The Bill recently passed by the House of Commons, and now before the Lords, seeks to regulate air navigation over the "British Islands and territorial waters adjacent thereto," and enables a Secretary of State by Order to provide for such matters as the grant of licences, registration of aircraft, and the conditions under which aircraft may be used for the carriage of goods, mails, and passengers. The measure is a temporary one, and will be followed by more elaborate and lasting permanent legislation when the International agreement on the subject of flying has been arrived at, and it is assumed that corresponding measures will be adopted in other parts of the King's Dominions. In introducing the Bill, MAJOR-GENERAL SEELY said that MAJOR-GENERAL SYKES was to be Controller-General of Civil Aviation, and that he would be charged with the mapping-out of air routes, &c., and with the arrangements being made to link up this country, not only with the Continent, but with our overseas Dominions. We understand that the Air Ministry, which will now be concerned with civil aviation, proposes to send Commissions to certain parts of the Empire, comprising pilots, mechanics, and a complete equipment, to give demonstrations and test the possibilities of the various localities for air navigation. We trust that the British West Indies will be included in the programme. This is extremely desirable, for several

reasons, the most important being that in civil aviation in the West Indies we shall otherwise be behind America, whose Government, as the CIRCULAR has already pointed out, has issued a preliminary itinerary of State air services, which includes a line between New York and Brazil, calling at various West Indian islands *en route*. Moreover, American aviators, as we were able to announce to the Press on January 18th, have already been the first to carry a British mail from one of our West Indian islands to the mainland, having conveyed a not inconsiderable number of letters and parcels from Nassau, New Providence, to Miami, a distance of 160 miles, which they covered in as many minutes. We do not grudge these aviators their success, but must confess that we would have preferred it if the pioneers in a British colony had been British. Again, the absence of a Commission will, unless the local Governments adopt drastic measures to counteract his activities, leave the West Indies a prey to the company promoter, whose only care will be to transfer the savings of the communities to his own pocket. Wild-cat schemes will probably be launched, and the whole business will get a bad name unless the Governments step in and take up a strong attitude. We contend that those colonies present a most interesting field for experiment, especially with seaplanes and flying boats, and though there may be some doubt as to whether the volume of mails delivered would make a regular intercolonial air service a paying proposition from the outset, it is certain that in the time to come aviation will greatly facilitate the administration of the far-flung islands, and will forge another link in federating them one with another. It will, too, greatly facilitate the work of surveying the vast areas of undeveloped territory in British Guiana.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

It being understood that the demobilisation of the British West Indies Regiment was likely to commence very shortly, the General Purposes Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee on the occasion of their last meeting on February 21st decided to forward the following telegram to Colonel A. E. Barchard, the senior Officer Commanding, for communication to all Commanding Officers:—

"West Indian Contingent Committee desires convey to officers commanding and all ranks all Battalions British West Indies Regiment cordial good wishes for safe and prosperous voyage home and to congratulate them upon splendid and gallant services during war under most trying conditions. Please communicate all officers commanding.—Everard im Thurn (Chairman). Algernon Aspinall (Hon. Secretary)."

To the above message the following reply was received on February 25th:—

"Officers and all ranks British West Indies Regiment now stationed at Taranto thank the West Indian Contingent Committee for their kindly wishes and congratulations, and tender them most heartfelt thanks for the great services the Committee have rendered British West Indies Regiment.—A. E. Barchard."

The West Indian Contingent Committee has also cabled a message of God-speed to the Battalions in Egypt and the detachment in Mesopotamia.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WATER never run up mountain side."

ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM GRANT had the honour of being received by the King on February 22nd upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the North America and West Indies Station.

It is understood that the Conference of West Indian Customs Officers which was to have been held in the autumn of 1914, but was postponed on account of the war, will meet in Trinidad this month. A draft ordinance and customs tariff have been circulated.

It is recorded in the statement of the Rhodes Trust for 1918 that one Jamaica scholar—F. R. Milholland (1916)—gave his life in war service during the year; whilst N. W. Manley (1914) and R. M. Murray (1904), both from the same island, received the Military Medal and M.B.E. respectively.

At the Investiture at Buckingham Palace on February 18th, the King bestowed the insignia of the British Empire Order on Sir Everard in Thurn, K.B.E., and Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., and conferred the honour of Knighthood on Sir William Mitchell Thompson, K.B.E., and Sir Edward Davson.

MR. F. N. MARTINEZ has returned to England *via* Canada after an absence of two and a half years. We regret to learn that he found his wife—who has done so much for Trinidad boys during the war—and also his son ill. Mr. Martinez now has his offices in the ballroom of the Barbados Mutual building in Bridgetown.

THE West India Committee can no more be kept going without subscriptions than an engine without fuel. Will each member therefore ask himself, "Have I paid my subscription?" and, if the reply is in the negative, kindly forward the amount due or pay it in to any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada?

CAPTAIN IAN McDONALD, M.C., D.F.C., son of the Hon. Donald McDonald, hon. correspondent of the West Indian Contingent Committee in Antigua, has just returned to England from that island, where he was feted on the occasion of his visit. He intends to remain in the Royal Air Force, and subsequently to embark on civil aviation.

MR. T. B. MACAULAY, President of the Canada-West India League, leaves Halifax on March 25th for the round tour to the West Indies and back in the R.M.S.P. *Caraquet*. Formerly a staunch advocate of political union between Canada and the West Indies, he now favours a closer commercial arrangement between those two parts of the Empire.

In reply to an inquiry, the West Indian Contingent Committee has been informed by the War Office that men of the British West Indies Regiment who have lost a limb or limbs will be provided with two mechanical and two peg legs for each limb lost. It seems that each limb is separately built, and it would not therefore be difficult to provide the hospitals in the West Indies with spare parts.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL L. E. O. CHARLTON, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., of the Royal Air Force, has been appointed as Air Attaché to the British Embassy at Washington. General Charlton, who is a member of the West India Committee, was A.D.C. to Sir Bickham

Sweet-Escott, Governor of the Leeward Islands. He won his D.S.O. in South Africa and served with distinction in the present war.

OUR contemporary the *Quiver* has discovered that almost every colour used in dyeing can be extracted from the yellow outer cases of bananas or the fruit itself. "Do you want pink? The ripe fruit and skins, treated by a newly discovered method, will yield you a rose that is second to none; for grey you take the pulp only, and treat it differently; the green unripe fruit gives every shade of brown and tan, and also yields yellow, from the palest tint to the richest orange." This is certainly a better use for banana-skins than that of breaking people's ankles and legs.

THE Agricultural and Commercial Society has passed the following resolution regarding federation, on the motion of the Hon. Donald McDonald, seconded by Mr. Scott Johnstone:—"That this society, representing as it does the widest possible interests of the island, desires to place on record its approval generally of the principle of West Indian Federation, and hopes that the question may be discussed at an unofficial conference at an early date, preparatory to its being brought before the authorities." The *Sun*, commenting on this, calls for a popular demonstration to press for federation and advocates representative institutions.

LIEUTENANT SIR JOHN MEYNELL ALLEYNE, R.N., D.S.C., D.S.O., who distinguished himself at the second attempt to block Ostend harbour on May 9th, 1918, is connected with the Island of Barbados through his grandfather, Sir John Gay Newton Alleyne, who resided there for many years. Lieutenant Sir John Alleyne, who had been in H.M.S. *Lord Clive*, was, at his own request, transferred to the *Vindictive* as navigating officer for the blocking operations. He was, unfortunately, seriously wounded by a shell, which burst in the conning tower, killing Commander Godsal at his side. Lieutenant Sir John, being first dropped into the sea, before he was picked up by a motor launch. He has since been awarded the D.S.O. for his work in the raid, and has been appointed to H.M.S. *Cornwall*, which is now on her way to the West Indies. This promising young officer should have a distinguished career before him.

THE outlook for petroleum held nothing but promise of prosperity to those engaged in its production, said Mr. Montague Summers at a meeting of the Institute of Petroleum Technologists on February 18th. The total world production of crude oil up to 1917 was placed at 6,983,567,246 barrels of 42 gallons. He estimated that the amount of authorised capital in limited liability companies under the supervision of English Acts to have been about £190,000,000 sterling, of which there had been issued some £125,000,000. The amount of capital invested in companies registered in America and principally subscribed by Americans was over £380,000,000, making a total of £505,000,000 sterling invested in petroleum companies. It was of paramount importance that there should be a proper control of all the resources of oil production in the hands of the British Empire. Mr. Charles Greenway, the president of the society, said that what was wanted was an extension of the policy initiated when the Government secured the controlling interest in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

MARRIAGE.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. IRVING—GRAY.—At St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on February 25th, by the Rev. Alex. Fiddos, B.D., Captain Thomas Henry Irving (of Demerara), the British West Indies Regiment, to Jessie Gray, younger daughter of Dr. James G. Cattanauch and Mrs. Cattanauch, 3, Alvanley-terrace, Edinburgh.

LABOUR PROBLEM IN GUIANA.

It would appear from letters and papers received by the homeward mail that the cablegrams calling attention to the serious labour crisis in British Guiana, which were published in the CIRCULAR of February 6th, were the outcome of an important conference of representative bodies held in Georgetown on January 28th, which was followed by a public meeting.

At the Conference Professor J. B. Harrison, M.A., C.M.G., presided, and those also present included the Hon. Dr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., J. Hampden King, J. P. Santos, P. N. Browne, K.C., J. S. McArthur, R. E. Brassington, A. P. Sherlock, A. P. G. Austin, G. R. Garrett, A. B. Brown, F. Dias, N. Cannon, E. G. Woolford, Dr. K. S. Wise, and H. B. Walcott, C.M.G. (Collector of Customs, Trinidad), Captain J. M. Reid, Messrs. H. Y. Delafons, A. K. F. Duncan, H. E. Murray, T. T. Smellie, J. C. McCowan, E. R. D. Moulder, C. Farrar, P. Cressall, E. A. Luckhoo (Mayor of New Amsterdam), N. M. Balden, J. A. Luckhoo, W. B. Gray, J. McFarlane Corry, J. Cunningham, H. W. Critchlow, E. A. Millington, G. A. H. Goring, W. McFarlane, M. Nascimento, T. Greenwood, J. M. Fleming, J. B. Cassels, F.R., M.B.E., G. J. De Freitas, K.C., M. P. Camacho, J. Gonsalves, C. F. Wieting, A. E. Craig, J. Wood Davis, E. S. Christiani, C. Hampden King, E. A. W. Sampson, A. McLean Ogle, F.R., Evan Wong, D. J. Ewing, R. O. H. Spence, J. O. Dow, M. Gonsalves, N. J. Bascom, S. S. Wretford, H. L. Humphrys, F. C. S. Bascom, N. J. A. Bascom, A. Rohoman, F. W. Kirby, P. Lawson, J. W. Corley, W. Cunningham, G. F. Greene, J. T. Chung, H. B. Sadler, W. M. B. Shields, H. Seedorff, P. Sawh, J. C. Gibson, F. A. Conyers, J. McLean, A. C. O'Dowd, A. R. F. Webber, J. Smith, J. D'Abreu, J. S. Gamble, G. McL. Ogle, and J. B. Smith, Lieutenant Parker, Drs. C. J. Gomes, W. J. Duncan and F. G. Rose, the Revs. R. L. Macnie, E. R. O. Robertson, J. B. Cropper, and J. B. Hill, and Mr. J. R. Rodway, Assistant Secretary of the R.A. and C. Society.

Dr. Nunan, explaining the objects of the conference, said that a movement to take steps to deal with the colony's labour problem had sprung up almost spontaneously, the labour supply having speedily declined as the result of the absence of a colonisation scheme. It was a question whether a deputation should not be sent to England to ventilate the question.

An Executive Committee having been formed, committees were appointed to call attention to the advantages of the colony, to report on the possibility of securing labour from the West Indian islands, and to make recommendations as to the best method of coping with the labour shortage by mechanical devices. Dr. Nunan then said that the Colonial Office must also be made to see that it was the determination of the colony to proceed with its own colonisation scheme. It was suggested therefore that the following be invited to proceed to England for the purpose:—

The Mayors of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, three representatives nominated by the elective members of the Combined Court, two representatives elected by the Sugar Planters' Association, two representatives of Sugar Proprietors nominated by the West India Committee, one representative of the British

Guiana Branch Royal Colonial Institute, one representative of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, Chairman or a representative of the Village Chairmen's Conference, Chairman or a representative of the British Guiana Farmers' Association, a leading East Indian resident, a leading Chinese resident, and such other persons, whether official or otherwise, as the Governor may nominate.

A resolution having been considered for submission to a public meeting, Dr. Wise said that, in his opinion, mechanical appliances was a question that must be carried infinitely further than it was at present, and they would have to introduce devices specially adapted to their own difficulties. He ventured the opinion that if that were really done they would find that the labour at present in the colony was more than equal for developing all the acreage they had, and almost to multiply it by two. He was strongly in favour of seeing mechanical appliances utilised, not only in the sugar industry, but also in the other industries, such as rice, and if that were done there would be no necessity for the conflict which existed at times between the two industries. If the question of sanitation was tackled in the right way the population would live and increase, but there was no doubt about it that they must spend money on sanitation.

The meeting was then thrown open to the public. The Mayor of Georgetown and the Hon. E. G. Woolford having taken the chair, the Hon. A. P. Sherlock moved, and Mr. P. Cressall seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

Whereas there has been a serious falling off in the sugar acreage in British Guiana during 1917 without any increase in the acreage under other forms of cultivation;

And whereas the shortage of labour threatens the colony with a decrease of the same or a greater rate of the sugar output during the next three years, and also with a large reduction in the acreage and output in other industries such as rice, and with a corresponding reduction in related forms of development and in the public revenue;

And whereas the recent shortage must be largely ascribed to the cessation of labour colonisation, notably the stoppage of the East Indian indenture system;

And whereas the anticipated future shortage will certainly be due to the same cause and to the repatriation of a considerable number of East Indian labourers without replacement;

And whereas no scheme of labour colonisation from India or elsewhere appears to have received official acceptance in England or elsewhere, and the proposals of a Labour and Colonisation Sub-committee appointed by his Excellency Sir Wilfrid Collet, K.C.M.G., nearly two years ago appear to have met with no success;

Resolved that a deputation from the colony representative of all approval and co-operation shall be appointed, and that his Excellency's approval and co-operation shall be sought, and that he be respectfully requested to introduce the said deputation, preferably in person, to the Secretaries of State for the Colonies, for India, and for Foreign Affairs, and, if necessary, to the Indian and Chinese Governments and to the Premier, and to any Conferences, Commissions, or Committees engaged in reconstruction or in safeguarding of Imperial interests, for the purpose of setting out the colony's situation and the advantages which it is ready to offer to labour colonists.

And whereas the continuance of colonisation from the

West Indian Islands (Barbados and Jamaica being the most preferable sources of supply) is highly advisable;

And whereas the ordering, &c., of equipment for manufacture and cultivation appears to be essential;

Be it resolved that an Executive Committee, a General Colonisation Committee (with a special West Indian Colonisation Sub-committee), and a Manufacturers and Mechanical Appliances Committee be appointed;

And whereas the adoption of suitable sanitary measures connected with any scheme of immigration is necessary;

Be it resolved that the Sugar Planters' Association be invited to hold a Conference with the Surgeon-General, any medical and engineering officers engaged in estates and other sanitary work along with Drs. Howard and Dershimer, or any other officers of the International Health Bureau engaged in work in the colony, and be further invited to communicate the result of the Conference to the Executive Committee for the purposes of the deputation.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALARIA.

The British Guiana Government is conducting an active campaign against malaria, to the prevalence of which is attributed the high mortality from influenza in the colony. The following official manifesto is published in the local newspapers:--

It is no accident that the greater havoc has been wrought by influenza in the country districts.

Any one inclined to do so may trace the incidence of fatal cases; and these will be found in greater or lesser degree in those districts with greater or less accumulations of grass-grown water. Grass-grown water means more malaria-carrying mosquitoes, more malaria, and less resistance on the part of the people.

Malaria is the great canker worm, eating out the heart of the people, and making them easy prey to every epidemic that happens along. Influenza will wear itself out and disappear, but malaria will remain so long as neglected sweet water trenches and ponds, roadside trenches and other accumulations of water remain to breed their coffins and impoverish the blood of the people. Then, when some other visitation arrives, the Greater Penalty will again be paid. Meantime unnoticed deaths swell the ghastly sum total year by year, the population stands still, and the labour problem grows more and more acute. Is freedom to live worth a good big pull?

In the same way as clearing the forests drove the poisonous snakes from round about our habitation, so will clearing the sweet water trenches of their weeds and grass drive the death-dealing mosquitoes farther and farther away from human habitation. Then, and then only, will the people grow strong and robust, a factor in the progress of the country, and a force for good unto themselves. Every patch of water, every nearby drain, every water pond with grass, weeds or vegetation, conceals coffins for the unsuspecting people. Drain, drain, drain every useless bit of water; the remainder make clean of grass, weed and vegetation, if you would increase the population and stay the death-rate. Coffins, not cradles, hide in the bulrushes.

Replying to Mr. Young, M.P., on February 17th, Mr. McCurdy said that it was not proposed to terminate the control exercised by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply until conditions in respect of freight and exchange made it possible for the trade to undertake the supply without risk of failure to secure sufficient quantities of sugar to meet the requirements of this country.

A CENTRAL FACTORY FOR HAITI.

The prospectus has been issued in Philadelphia of a company to be called the American West Indies Corporation for developing the industrial and commercial opportunities of the island of Haiti, which has been under the protection of the United States since 1915. The capital comprises \$10,000,000 8 per cent. preference stock, 500,000 shares of no par value, and give notes of \$200,000, repayable over five years. It will acquire 75 per cent. of the common stock of the Haiti Company, which controls a contract for building the National Railroad of Haiti, 400 miles in length, of which 110 miles is completed, three-quarters of the outstanding stock of the West Indian Development Company, which similarly controls coal and copper deposits, and proposes to erect a 100,000-ton central sugar factory at Cape Haiti to take off "cane grown on an adjacent tract 40 miles square." The cost of machinery, equipment, building, &c., is estimated at \$2,250,000, and the annual net profit at \$7,054,365, which is arrived at as follows:—

Cost.	
912,000 tons of cane at \$2.00 per ton	\$1,824,000
Cost of manufacture	503,850
Depreciation, 10 per cent.	225,000
	\$2,552,850
Overhead charges, commission, &c.	255,285
	\$2,808,135
INCOME.	
100,000 tons of sugar delivered dock at Cape	
Haitien at \$100 per ton	10,000,000
5,600,000 gallons molasses at 10c. per gallon...	560,000
	\$10,560,000
Less interest at 6 per cent. on	
\$2,250,000	\$135,000
Sinking Fund, 25 per cent. on	
\$2,250,000	562,500
Cost of production and Sinking	
Fund	2,808,135
	3,505,635
	\$7,054,365

The prospectus proceeds to dilate on the importance of food production and the value of sugar, for which "every human organism craves . . . from the child feeling the pinch in its curtailed supply of sweets, to the housekeeper doling out the family's allotment of sugar."

The Corporation proposes to grow cane on the "colono" or farmer system, and foreshadows a payment of 60 cents to \$1 per ton of cane delivered, and a report by Mr. B. Thoens states that one acre of cane in Haiti produces 50 tons of cane, containing 60 per cent. of sucrose and 10 per cent. of fibre, and adds that "with a mill extraction of 80 per cent. this will give 256 lb. of sugar and 240 tons of bagasse or fibre per ton; but machinery in use to-day assures an extraction of 90 per cent."

The corporation also proposes to produce coco-nuts on a large scale, and draws attention to the "truly astonishing prospects" before this form of cultivation.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

Mr. J. M. Reid, Controller of Customs in British Guiana, in a letter to the Government Secretary of the Colony, has strongly advocated the extension of the present preferential trade arrangements between British Guiana and Canada. After quoting speeches made in the Dominion Parliament when the present trade agreement was under consideration, which tended to show that many members considered that the mutual preference was too small, he suggested a twenty-five years' agreement on the basis of the admission of British Guiana sugar into the Dominion free of duty, with a substantial preference on rice, tropical fruits, &c., and the admission into British Guiana of Canadian articles now on the preferential list, also free of duty. He expressed the opinion that the loss of revenue would not exceed \$300,000, which might be made good by the imposition of an export tax on products shipped to Canada, and which are to enjoy the benefits of the Canadian free tariff:—

"During 1917 products of this colony to a value of \$7,526,461 were exported to Canada, and of this amount 99 per cent. consisted of sugar. The quantity of sugar approximated 70,160 tons. The following are the existing Canadian import rates of duty on raw sugar, not above 16 D.S., polarising 96 degrees—British Preferential Tariff, per 100 lb., \$1.033; Intermediate Tariff, per 100 lb., \$1.374; General Tariff, per 100 lb., \$1.374. With the raw sugar of this colony on the free list, the amount of the preference in the Canadian market would be \$30.80, or nearly £6 10s. per ton. With this substantial preference I consider that all sugar shipped to Canada could easily afford to pay an export duty of \$4 per ton. Based on 1917 exports, such duty would yield a sum of \$280,640 annually."

With an export duty of \$4 per ton on sugar, the revenue loss would be reduced to \$19,360, which might be made good either by an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty on all articles imported, or by luxury and internal taxes. Mr. Reid continues:—

"The benefits to this colony of a fiscal agreement with Canada such as I have outlined would, in my opinion, be very great. Canada has been called the country of the twentieth century. The population to-day is much the same as that of the United States one hundred years ago. At the present time the population of the United States approximates 104,000,000, and is the world's richest market. It seems to me wise to look to the future, and I have no doubt in my mind that Canada is one of the most rapidly expanding markets in the world. Within the seven years 1896-1903 the trade of the Dominion more than doubled, reaching in the latter year an aggregate value of \$467,637,000. Upon this figure there has since been a remarkable increase. Canada's total trade is now approximately \$1,000,000,000. There can be no doubt that the flow of immigration into Canada which has been interrupted during the war will be renewed in greater volume than ever after the peace terms are signed, and before this century closes it is highly probable that the population of Canada will be close upon 80,000,000 if the rate of increase in the United States last century is taken as a standard. That is the market this colony has to look forward to for the sale of its products, and every effort should be made to cultivate it in order to bind us through the trade channels as closely as possible."

Mr. Reid's letter was referred to the Chamber of Commerce, whose members considered it at a meet-

ing on January 18th, the Hon. A. P. Sherlock presiding. The President said that he was not in favour of the export tax on sugar if money could be raised in some other form, as the agreement would benefit the whole colony. Mr. R. M. Parker, who attended by invitation, said that he was in favour of the proposals, but would like to warn the Chamber against the belief that the preference, if secured, would be received by the producer. It would be dangerous to fix an export tax on that assumption. While the present Reciprocity Treaty provided for a preference of 34 cents per 100 pounds in favour of local sugar, the producer had very great difficulty in securing any portion of that benefit. He was therefore at one with the President that some other means should be found to replace the revenue instead of a direct tax on sugar, as it would probably mean taxing them more than the benefit they would receive from the preference. After further discussion, the meeting expressed itself in favour of the proposals in principle, and decided to request the Government to appoint a Committee to decide how the lost revenue could be made up.

BARBADOS REAL ESTATE.

The *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* gives the following list of estates in the island which changed hands last year, showing the acreage and the prices paid:—

Estate.	Acreage.	Amount.
Carrington's	1,104	£110,000
Waterford	582	80,000
Kent and Staple Grove	558	70,000
Lear's	628	70,000
Applewhaite's	456	55,000
Locust Hall	340	50,000
Rycroft's and The Ridge	500	47,000
Mount Gay	386	33,100
Thicket and Fortescue	724	33,000
Stepney	365	25,400
Farmer's	306	25,000
Walke's Spring	328	24,000
Mangrove Pond	234	23,500
Pilgrim	279	23,500
Golden Ridge	181	18,000
Husband's (St. Lucy)	268	15,000
Jordans	247	15,000
Springhead	312	15,000
Collins	194	10,000
Phin Tree	156	10,000
Welches	153	9,100
Hopeland	111	8,955
Spring Vale	184	7,000
Rose Hill	65	6,000
Buck's	60	5,000
The Farm (St. Peter)	130	4,500
Selman's	51	4,400
Belle View	42	4,275
Bayfield	651	4,520
Mount All	1341	1,154
Totals	9,134	£809,264

It is an interesting coincidence that the first group of West Indian islands to enjoy an aerial post should be those in which Watling's Island, the landfall of Columbus, is situated. All interested in the West Indies will hope that these enterprising Americans will be followed by English aviators, for whose operations the West Indian islands afford a particularly suitable field.

FERTILISERS FOR THE WEST INDIES.

Preference for British Colonies.

The West India Committee has received from the Ministry of Munitions a copy of a letter which has been addressed by the Director of Acid Supplies to all manufacturers of superphosphates and compound fertilisers. The letter, which is signed by Mr. H. J. Hall, of the Fertiliser Section, runs as follows:—

GENTLEMEN.—I am directed to inform you that the Minister of Munitions, in conjunction with the President of the Board of Agriculture, has given careful consideration to the altered position with regard to fertilisers, arising out of the Armistice, and has decided that it is now possible to release for export certain quantities of superphosphate and compound manures.

Applications by firms desiring to export will have to be made to the War Trade Department in the usual way for the necessary licence, and under the arrangements made between this Department and the War Trade Department licences will only be granted to firms who have signed the enclosed form of acceptance agreeing to the following conditions:—

Manufacturers to whom licences are issued are to pay to the Minister of Munitions or as he may direct the amounts notified by the Minister as being equivalent to the total loss incurred by the State in respect of raw materials and bags used in the manufacture and packing of the superphosphate or compound fertilisers exported under licence. Roughly speaking, the allowance which should be made by manufacturers for the Government payment when quoting export prices should be £4 per ton in the case of compounds and £3 17s. 6d. per ton in the case of superphosphate.

Upon receipt of a licence, the manufacturer must immediately communicate with the Department of Munitions Finance (X.F.C.1), 16 Old Queen-street, S.W. 1, giving the following particulars duly certified:—

- (1) In the case of superphosphate the quantity to be exported and the method of packing to be adopted.
- (2) In the case of compound fertilisers
 - (a) The name of each ingredient incorporated in the compound.
 - (b) The percentage by weight of each material to be used.
 - (c) The method of packing to be adopted.

The Minister will then notify to the manufacturer the amount which will be payable per ton of fertiliser exported.

Manufacturers must also furnish a certified copy of the invoice rendered to the purchaser, and keep full and correct accounts relative to the manufacture and sale of such fertilisers.

As soon as possible after receipt of the certified copy of the invoice, the Department will render an account for the amount payable to the Ministry, and payment of this amount will be due immediately.

The Minister is to be entitled to examine the manufacturer's books and accounts, if considered necessary, and if such examination discloses any errors in the accounts or payments previously rendered or made, the necessary adjustments are to be made and the payments altered accordingly.

Manufacturers are notified that, in considering applications, preference will be given to the needs of the British Dominions.

If you propose to apply for licences to export, you should return to me at once the enclosed form of acceptance and undertaking duly signed.

OBITUARY.

SIR ROBERT LLEWELYN, K.C.M.G.

We regret to state that Sir Robert Llewelyn died suddenly in London on February 26th.

Sir Robert Llewelyn's death was a great shock to his many friends. He had recently appeared to be in his usual health, though somewhat frail, and he was mercifully spared a long illness. He attended the meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee, of which he was a member, at the close of last year, and was one of the signatories of the letter to the Secretary of State on the subject of the pay and gratuities of the British West Indies Regiment, in which he took a close interest. Sir Robert entered the Colonial Office as a clerk in 1868. In the year following he was posted to Jamaica, and became Clerk of the Privy Council there in 1878. Subsequently he was Chief Commissioner for Turks Islands for seven years, Administrator of Tobago for four years, for brief periods of St. Vincent and St. Lucia, the Gambia for ten years, and Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands from 1900 to 1906.

Sir Robert was a member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club, of which he was a Vice-President. He was a close friend of Sir Alfred Jones, whose place he took as Chairman on the occasion of the annual billiard tournament. His son, Commander Robert Harman Llewelyn R.N., lost his life in H.M.S. *Queen Mary*, and the fortitude with which Sir Robert bore his loss will, we can only hope, strengthen Lady Llewelyn in her bereavement.

MR. ROGER SWIRE HAUGHTON.

As announced in a recent CIRCULAR, Mr. Roger Swire Haughton died in Kingston, Jamaica, on January 23rd.

Mr. Haughton was born in Jamaica on March 15th, 1846. As a young man his time was spent in the parishes of St. Anns and St. Thomas, where he was when the Morant Bay rebellion broke out in 1865, at which period he served in the Volunteers. His first Government appointment was that of Stipendiary Magistrate for St. Thomas, and later on he entered the service of the railway, of which he was Government Director for some time.

He was made Managing Commissioner of the Kingston General Commissioners in 1891, an appointment which he filled until his retirement in 1892. He took an active part in organising the Jamaica Exhibition in 1891. He was one of the executors of the late Colonel Ward, and after his retirement from the Public Service acted as Attorney of the West India Electric Company. A keen sportsman, he captained the Kingston Cricket Club many years, and he was also devoted to riding, shooting and athletics. He was a member of the Jamaica Cricket Council and one of the oldest members of the Jamaica Club. He was also a prominent Mason. Mr. Haughton was twice married, first to Miss Alice Katherine Swire, who died at Bedford on December 1st, 1893, and secondly to Mary Bryner in 1897, who survives him. He had two sons and four daughters by his first wife and one daughter by his second, all of whom survive him.

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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The League of Nations' Covenant.

The draft of this international instrument, prepared by a special Commission, is now being examined and discussed everywhere. For not only has it to receive the assent of the Peace Conference, but of the various Parliaments of the High Contracting Parties. In practice it will either work out as a revival of the Concert of Europe, enlarged so as to include the nations of the world, or of the balance of power, the Entente Powers forming one League, Germany, with any friends that may be left to her, another. For the present the outstanding feature of the Covenant is that it binds the United States to act in association with Britain and France as the leading members of the Executive Council of nine ultimately to be established with a body of delegates from all the Powers which are members of the League. But to gain this guarantee of security Britain must sacrifice her pre-eminence at sea, America her isolation, and, with all the other members of the League, undertake to fight whenever they are called upon by the Executive Council. It is hardly credible that Anglo-Saxon communities would consent to such an invasion of their sovereignty.

With regard to armaments, these are to be reduced according to a fixed scale, and an inquisitorial Commission is to be appointed to see that the orders of the League are obeyed. In other words, the Powers are taking upon themselves unlimited liabilities and strictly limiting the means of discharging them. Fortunately, however, the Smuts idea of maintaining national forces, instead of the Wilson idea of an international army and navy, has been adopted. But the thing is, would the League provide in time the necessary men to meet such an emergency as confronted France and Britain in 1914? Both of these Powers are uneasily conscious that it would not now, whatever the remoter future may bring forth.

The New Armistice Terms.

Apparently, the third renewal of the Armistice is to embody the preliminaries of the Peace Treaty. The work of the various Commissions appointed by the Conference to deal with special subjects is being co-ordinated in co-operation with the Allied War Council at Versailles. Therefore the instrument which the German representatives will be asked to sign at Treves will include vital naval, military, territorial, economic and financial conditions, as they will appear in the Peace Treaty. The second renewal of the Armistice, which was signed by the enemy under protest, on February 16th, imposed but three new terms. They were the cessation of German offensive movements against the Poles, a demand for the carrying out of the conditions of previous Conventions, the right of the Allies to end the Armistice on three days' notice.

The exact military terms of the final Convention have not yet been made public, but the complete demobilisation of the German Army is to be insisted upon. Its strength is not to exceed twenty-five divisions, and an Inter-Allied Commission is to inspect munition factories with a view to their reduc-

tion. The Kiel and Heligoland fortifications are to be razed, and the canal between the Baltic and the North Sea opened to navigation as an international waterway. Warships under construction, including many submarines, are to be broken up, the passage between the Mediterranean and Black Sea is to be free, and German wireless stations are to be controlled. On these conditions there is a general agreement. So there is on the seizure of all interned enemy ships, the surrender of the whole Austrian fleet, and the surrender of more German battleships and light cruisers, forty-two modern destroyers, and fifty of the latest torpedo boats. They virtually amount to the disarmament of the Central Powers.

The Future of the German Fleet.

It is on the question as to what is to become of enemy warships that there is difference of opinion. Apparently what is intended is their destruction by sinking them at sea. But French opinion objects to this solution of the problem on the ground that they would be useful to France, which, owing to the strain of the war, was unable to add to Navy and Mercantile Marine in a reasonable proportion to her needs. There is no doubt whatever that any claim made by her in this direction will receive sympathetic consideration from the British delegates to the Conference. On the other hand, a considerable body of opinion in Britain is averse to the destruction of enemy warships as wicked waste, especially when tonnage is so scarce. After all, the country most entitled to decide on their future is our own, seeing that it was to our Navy they surrendered, and our Navy was the main cause of Germany's defeat at sea. But, it is said, both naval and commercial authorities agree that the enemy warships, having been constructed purely for service in the North Sea as agents for the annihilation of the British Navy, and how admirably that was done may be gathered from Lord Jellicoe's book on the Navy in the War, they cannot be adapted to other purposes with success. This does not apply to German auxiliary cruisers, which, of course, will be transformed into cargo carriers.

The Speeding-up of the Conference.

To this end a Committee was appointed, and, as a result of its labours, various Commissions are expected to report between March 8th and 15th. With regard to the Jugo-Slavs the situation is still delicate, their appeal from the Conference to the arbitration of President Wilson having been vetoed by Italy. But it is hoped that their territorial claims, as well as those of Belgium, Poland, Greece, and Armenia will be laid before the Council of Ten during the next few weeks.

Our War Trade with America.

American producers and manufacturers have taken no pains to conceal their indignation at the restrictions on British import trade. But the publication of a belated official statement setting forth the reasons actuating the Government should silence all adverse criticism. Between 1910 and 1913 the total exports of the United States amounted to £1,768,400,000. Between August, 1914, and December, 1918, they had swelled to £4,466,200,000, of which £2,135,600,000 were taken by the British

Empire. At the same time, the imports into the United States only amounted to £713,000,000—that is to say, the balance of trade against us during the four years stood at £1,422,000,000. Of this £200,000,000 has been paid in gold, while the United States receives £20,000,000 annually from American securities she holds in pledge and £40,000,000 on British loans. No wonder the British Government cannot afford to allow Germany to escape without paying an indemnity. But it is not correct to say that the United States is in the position which England held after Waterloo. After all, the staggering totals of Anglo-American trade do not represent a burden which cannot be quickly liquidated. But it accounts for some otherwise inexplicable happenings in Paris at the Conference.

The World's Unrest.

Everywhere the world is troubled with unrest, which breaks out in violence now here and now there. Quickly following on the attempt on the life of M. Clemenceau by a youth whose brain had been turned by Anarchist teaching, was the scene of murder in the Bavarian National Assembly, the President-Minister, Kurt Eisner, and two of his colleagues having been shot dead, as well as several members of the National Assembly, and that again by the assassination of our staunch Ally, the Amir of Afghanistan. Eisner, like so many who rise on the shoulders of democracy, was a tyrant, who held his place by force. Count Arco, who shot him and was himself killed, was a soldier, and evidently is regarded by the populace as a hero.

The unity of the Allies, the stern conditions of the second renewal of the Armistice, and the yet sterner conditions now being drafted for the third, have stayed reaction in Germany, and its leader, Count von Brockdorff. Pantzan, the Foreign Minister, has resigned. The Germans are, in fact, beginning to understand the true inwardness of their position.

H.M. ships *Cumberland* and *Cornwall* have recommenced their cruises with naval cadets on board for instruction. Both ships are visiting the West Indies. Their West Indian itinerary as at present arranged is as follows:—

<i>H.M.S. Cumberland.</i>			
Arrive	St. Lucia	...	March 5
"	St. Vincent	...	" 12
"	Trinidad	...	" 15
"	Barbados	...	" 20
"	Dominica	...	" 30
"	Jamaica	...	April 7
"	Santiago (Cuba)	...	" 15
"	Bermuda	...	" 22
<i>H.M.S. Cornwall.</i>			
Arrive	Trinidad	...	March 21
"	St. Lucia	...	" 28
"	Barbados	...	April 5
"	Grenada	...	" 14
"	Dominica	...	" 21
"	St. Kitts	...	" 26
"	Bermuda	...	May 5

It should be noted that these itineraries are subject to alteration, and our friends in the islands named should therefore make enquiries locally before killing the fatted calf for their prospective visitors

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

A large and representative gathering of members of the West Indian Club assembled at Whitehall Court on February 25th to do honour to Sir Edward Davson, President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies, on the occasion of the knighthood conferred upon him. Mr. R. Rutherford presided, and those present included:—

Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D., Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G., Mr. E. A. de Pass, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. H. F. Previte, Captain Eric Park r, Mr. C. Richardson, Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G. (Acting Hon. Secretary), Mr. S. Musgrave, Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E., Mr. Alex. Elder, the Hon. J. C. Lynch, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. E. Nicholls, Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Davson, D.S.O., Captain Eric Mitchell, Mr. Guy Wyatt, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. Harold Carey, Mr. B. R. Glover, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. G. McG. Frame, Mr. G. Parrott, Mr. Chas. H. Hewett, Mr. J. W. Clark, Lieutenant Clifton Wright, Captain C. W. Davson, Lieutenant-Commander F. C. Archer, Captain G. B. Mason, Captain E. A. de Pass, Captain Harold de Pass, Captain W. H. Owen, Mr. G. Hughes, Captain C. Martin-Sperry, Mr. G. J. Johnston, Lieutenant Claud Robinson, Captain W. A. G. Kaye, Lieutenant J. F. B. Kaye, Captain Maitland Heriot, Lieutenant C. H. E. Shepherd, M.C., and Mr. Chas. H. Smith.

Letters of regret at their inability to be present from Sir William Goode and Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd having been read, the Chairman proposed the health of the guest, referring to his public work for the West Indies, notably in founding the Associated Chamber and in establishing a gold medal for research in British Guiana.

The toast having been cordially honoured, Sir Edward Davson, in reply, said that he regarded the honour as an official recognition of the Associated Chamber of Commerce which he hoped would strengthen its influence for good in the West Indies. This recognition came at a time when commerce was being recognised as an important factor in the State, and when it was being realised that the industries of a State were the basis of its prosperity and happiness. He pointed out that at the present time we were faced with the need of the commercial reconstruction of the Empire, and he indicated the principles which should guide us in this, especially with reference to the safeguarding of our markets, the development of industry throughout the Empire, the organisation and co-operation of trades, and the relations of employers and employed.

As regards the West Indies he urged that the benefits to be derived from any preferences in duties which might be granted should be devoted to improving methods of industry by scientific research and the adoption of the latest inventions, so that the output might be increased and the cost reduced. He touched on labour, health, steamship and cable questions, and also referred to the possibilities of bringing about the federation of the West Indies, ending with an appeal to realise the opportunity which now lay before the Empire for constructing and strengthening its commercial fabric, not only for its own benefit but for that of the civilised world.

The next West Indian Club luncheon will be held on March 12th, when Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.R., D.S.O., and Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., will be the guests of honour.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

General Chaytor's Glowing Tribute.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has received for publication the following despatch from Major-General Sir E. W. C. Chaytor, K.C.M.G., C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force:—

At the beginning of August, 1918, the 1st and 2nd Battalions British West Indies Regiment received orders to proceed by march route from Ludd to the Jordan Valley, a distance of 50 miles, where on arrival they came under the orders of Lieutenant-General Sir H. G. Chauvel, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., commanding the Desert Mounted Corps. On August 11th, 1918, the 1st Battalion British West Indies Regiment relieved a regiment of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade in the Musallabeh-Abu Tellul sector, and on August 13th the 2nd Battalion relieved a second regiment of the same brigade in the Wadi Abeid sector which formed the extreme left of the Jordan Valley defences. From this time onwards until the main offensive took place the two Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment were busily engaged in improving the trenches and general defences of their sectors. Great initiative was displayed in patrolling both by day and night, and much valuable information was obtained from prisoners captured by their patrols. Shortly before the main operations took place the bulk of the troops of the Desert Mounted Corps was withdrawn from the Jordan Valley, and a composite force, consisting of a Cavalry Division and eight Infantry Battalions, of which the two Battalions British West Indies Regiment formed part, were placed under the command of Major-General Sir E. W. C. Chaytor, K.C.M.G., C.B., A.D.C.

On September 19th, the day of the main attack, the 2nd Battalion British West Indies Regiment was ordered to carry out a demonstration towards Bakr and Chalk Ridges, with the object of preventing the enemy from operating against the right of the XXth Corps. This demonstration, which necessitated an advance against heavy artillery fire, was carried out with great steadiness and was completely successful. No. 2063 Pte. (A/Lee-Corporal) Sampson, D.S., No. 2401 Pte. Spence, both of Jamaica, received their Military Medals for gallantry in this action. On the morning of September 20th a detachment of the 1st Battalion British West Indies Regiment occupied Chalk Ridge, while Grant Hill and Baghait were occupied by the 2nd Battalion, the enemy having evacuated these positions during the night. During the same morning a concentration of enemy cavalry was observed at Khurbet Fusail, and as it appeared probable that it was the enemy's intention to make a counter attack against our advanced posts, a company of the 1st Battalion under Captain R. J. Craig (British Guiana) was ordered to reinforce the detachment holding these positions. On leaving their trenches, the company came under heavy artillery fire from the direction of Red Hill (east of the Jordan), which was passed through with slight casualties. It was here that No. 46 Sergeant Chan, A.V. (Georgetown), was killed. Throughout the night September 20-21st, the company remained in an exposed position under heavy artillery fire. The following immediate awards were given for gallantry in this action:—

Captain R. J. Craig, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (British Guiana), awarded Military Cross.

Lance-Corporal R. Turpin, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Trinidad), awarded D.C.M.

Private H. Scott, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Jamaica), awarded D.C.M.

During the night September 21st-22nd the 1st and 2nd Battalions, together with the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade, moved forward to Khurbet

Fusail, and at 3 a.m. on the 22nd the 1st Battalion B.W.I. were directed on Jisr Ed Damieh to co-operate with the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment in an attack on the bridgehead at that place. The Battalion arrived in the vicinity of Jisr Ed Damieh at 5 a.m. after a march of eight miles. After an hour's rest the Battalion deployed on the right of the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment and attacked the bridgehead. The attack was checked by the enemy until 10.30 a.m., when the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment and the 1st Battalion British West Indies Regiment broke through the bridgehead defences with a spirited bayonet charge and occupied the high ground commanding the bridge. Small detachments pressed down to the river under heavy rifle and machine gun fire and secured the crossing. The fire of the Battalion Lewis guns was very effective on this occasion against parties of the enemy attempting to cross the river. The following immediate awards were given for gallantry:—

Major A. E. A. Harrigan, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Trinidad), awarded Military Cross.

Sergeant W. G. Julien 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Grenada), awarded D.C.M.

Lance-Corporal M. Leckham, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Trinidad), awarded Military Medal.

Private G. Dick, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Tobago), awarded Military Medal.

Private A. Marques, 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Trinidad), awarded Military Medal.

While the attack on Jisr Ed Damieh was taking place the enemy began to concentrate on the west bank of the Jordan in the neighbourhood of Mafid Jozeleh Bridgehead, thus threatening the right flank of the New Zealand Mounted Brigade and 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment. A patrol of the 2nd Battalion B.W.I. Regiment was sent to gain touch with the enemy. The patrol was attacked, and the remainder of the Battalion was ordered to move up to support it. When the Battalion arrived the patrol had been driven back, and the enemy, about 500 strong, were within a thousand yards of the Roman road, which is the only means of communication between Khurbet Fusail and Jisr Ed Damieh. The 2nd Battalion B.W.I. Regiment, co-operating with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, attacked the enemy at once and forced him back towards the Jordan, till at 6 p.m. he had been driven back to the neighbourhood of Mellahet Umm Afein, a mile and a half south of Mafid Jozeleh. The 2nd Battalion B.W.I. Regiment captured forty prisoners in this action. The majority of the men who took part in these operations were Jamaicans, but all the West Indian islands, British Honduras, and British Guiana were represented. No. 1955 Sergeant M. C. Halliburton, 2nd Battalion B.W.I. Regiment (Jamaica), was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in this action.

On September 23rd the 2nd Battalion B.W.I. Regiment moved to Jisr Ed Damieh, where they took over the defence of the bridgehead from the 1st Battalion, who were ordered to march to Es Salt by the steep mountain track which connects these two places. The Battalion arrived at Keshudeh, four miles west of Es Salt, at noon, September 24th, after having climbed 4,000 ft. in 15 miles. On reaching the crest of the Keshudeh ridge the advance guard of the Battalion was opposed by small parties of enemy riflemen and bombers, which were soon overcome, thirty-two prisoners being taken. Es Salt was reached at 4 p.m. the same day. The advance eastwards was continued, Suweilah being reached on the 25th and Amman on the morning of the 26th.

The bearing of these two Battalions was excellent throughout the period. In the trenches their discipline was of a high standard, and great enterprise was displayed by their patrols. During the operations they displayed great steadiness under fire and dash in the attack, and gave proof of marching power of a high order.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Imperial Preference.

In the debate on the Address Mr. Arthur Bigland made reference to the possibilities of British Guiana in support of a resolution expressing regret that no reference was made in the King's Speech to Imperial development. The colony had a greater area than Great Britain. The part under cultivation was less than half the size of Kent. The fertility of its soil was so great that experts said we could grow 2,000,000 tons of sugar there, in addition to that area's enormous resources in timber and minerals. He claimed that by giving Imperial preference you could build up the trade of British Guiana which would produce 2,000,000 tons of sugar per year, and in payment for that 2,000,000 tons of sugar you would have a constant demand in this country for all kinds of machinery, railway plant, hardware and textile goods of all kinds. He remembered when America gave Cuba a preference as against the British West Indies. The result of that was a demand in Glasgow within a short period for half a million pounds' worth of sugar-crushing plant. The effect was instantaneous! Imperial Preference, not in terms of the 44 millions of people in this country, but of a preference given within the British Empire to 400 millions of people to grow certain articles within their own Dominions—would the men of this country never realise what it meant? Canada had set us an example. She had said: 'We will give a preference on sugar grown in the British West Indies as against sugar grown in Cuba.' That had arisen out of the mutual interests and trade between the British West Indies and Canada. Let us do this here, not on a scale of 44 millions, but with the idea in our minds of a preference given to 400 millions of people in the British Empire.

Mr. Bigland continued (according to "Hansard"):
 "In British Guiana the land is under the jurisdiction of the local government in regard to its ownership. Let us on reasonable terms make an agreement with them that if we spend millions of pounds in irrigation and transport and the work of opening up their place that we will give them a share in the profits in consideration of their giving us that land. Then let us let it out to those who will till it on reasonable terms, and at the end of eight years let it be sold, as we sell land in Ireland, for a long term of forty years. Let us own the town sites of the towns which will come there, and I say that this great debt of ours will vanish, and we may out of the British Empire not have to find taxation, but be receiving money on the balance from income over our expenditure. This may be a fairy tale to some people."

Lieut.-Colonel Leopold Amery (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), in the course of his reply, said:
 "The hon. Member referred to the immense help which the principle of Imperial Preference might be in the development of these places. That principle, which caused bitter party conflict for many years before the war, has, I think, now reached a position where it stands above and to one side of party conflict. We are all agreed that in so far as the interests of the Revenue, industrial interests, or whatever they

may be, of this country necessitate any particular duty being imposed in any particular direction that duty should be lowered as regards the produce of the Empire. That imposes no obligation on the country to tax itself in any way for the benefit of anybody."

Demobilisation.

On January 25th Mr. Gideon Murray asked the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that dispersal officers were, in many cases, discharging non-commissioned officers and men from overseas serving in Imperial units under Group 45 A without satisfying themselves that such non-commissioned officers and men had sufficient means on which to live pending repatriation; whether, in view of the danger of such non-commissioned officers and men being stranded, he would give instructions that they might be given the opportunity of being transferred from Group 45 A to Group 45 B for immediate repatriation; whether he was aware that dissatisfaction existed in the West Indian colonies at the delay in repatriating non-commissioned officers and men who gave up their work to join his Majesty's Forces, and were now urgently needed for the development of the trade and industries of those colonies; and whether he would give instructions for the repatriation of such non-commissioned officers and men to be expedited.

Captain Guest replied: Non-commissioned officers and men who came from overseas and enlisted in the British Army are entitled under Army Order 300 of 1915, and Army Demobilisation Regulations, to elect to take a deferred passage on discharge or demobilisation, provided that such passage is claimed within six months from the termination of their Army service. Those electing a deferred passage—*i.e.*, Group 45 A—are notified before leaving their unit that they must be in a position to maintain themselves and their families and dependents (if any) after dispersal whilst awaiting embarkation, and even if they do elect for a deferred passage they are nevertheless given the option of transferring, if they so desire, the Group 45 B—*i.e.*, to remain in the Service until passage is provided. On arrival at the dispersal station the personnel of Group 45 A are again asked and notified that their pay and allowances will cease at the expiration of the twenty-eight days' furlough, and are again given the option of transferring to Group 45 B if they so desire. The majority of the battalions of the British West India Regiment are now concentrated at Taranto, and the remainder will be sent as soon as accommodation is available. Preparations are being completed for their return journey, and it is hoped that the embarkation will commence early next month. The shipping problem is a difficult one owing to the number of different islands in which the men are domiciled, which necessitates the sorting and regrouping of the men to suit the various ports at which they will be disembarked.

The Hon. J. B. Laing, on his retirement from the management of the British Guiana Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, was the recipient of an Address and cheque for \$1,600 from his friends and fellow-colonists at the Town Hall, Georgetown, on January 29th. The subscribers included:—Hon. A. P. G. Austin, Hon. R. E. Brassington, Hon. G. R. Garnett, Hon. J. Hampden King, Hon. A. P. Sherlock, and Messrs. J. R. D. Bray, G. O. Case, A. B. Clarke, F. A. Conyers, P. Cressall, jun., T. H. Dalgleish, Dr. F. R. Edmonds, C. Farrar, B. H. Gainfort, T. Greenwood, G. A. H. Goring, J. R. C. Gordon, G. Ball Greene, C. A. Hicks, H. C. Humphrys, H. Humphrys, J. A. King, F. W. Kirby, J. Kidd, J. A. Laing, H. E. Murray, J. C. McCowan, W. Mearns, C. J. Maggs, A. C. O'Dowd, Jules Pairadeau, J. B. Pairadeau, T. A. Pope, Capt. J. M. Reid, T. Smellie, C. E. Shepherd, E. M. Walcott, Dr. C. C. Walton, R. Strang, Carl Wieting, and C. F. Wieting.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

THE WEST INDIAN PRODUCE ASSOCIATION, LTD.

For the first time since the formation of the company no dividend was earned. The directors attribute this to the following exceptional circumstances:—The Government control of most of the commodities in which the association deals; the restriction of import of West Indian produce; and the absence on military service of several indispensable members of the staff. They add, "The association commences the year 1919 with the staff back at work and the prospect of Government restrictions being relaxed at an early date. In these circumstances there is good reason to hope that the working of the current year will prove to be more satisfactory."

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.

The directors recommend a maiden dividend of 10 per cent. (less income tax) for the year ended June 30th last. The accounts show that the profit for the year, after providing £63,533 7s. 5d. for amounts written off and depreciation, and charging administration and general expenditure in Trinidad and London, interest, &c., amounted to £183,316 6s. 7d., to which has to be added the balance to credit of profit and loss at June 30th, 1917, £22,496 2s. 3d., making a total of £205,812 8s. 10d., which the directors propose to dispose of as follows—namely:—To reserve, £70,000; to payment of the dividend, £69,950; and payment of additional remuneration due to the directors under the Articles of Association, £3,497 10s.; leaving a balance of £62,364 18s. 10d. to be carried forward. The authorised capital was increased to £850,000 by the creation of 300,000 new shares of £1 each. The issued capital is now £699,500 fully paid. The lenders of an advance of £200,000 exercised their option at par on 132,500 shares in February, 1918, and subscribed for a further 37,500 shares at 36s. per share. The funds thus obtained were devoted to the repayment of the loan. The absorption of the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company's undertaking was completed as from January 1st, 1918, and 112,000 fully-paid shares have been issued in discharge of the purchase price. In addition to the consideration paid for the property mentioned in the previous paragraph, the sum of £152,804 has been expended upon property account, which, as shown in the balance-sheet, includes all permanent works. This expenditure, as well as a further sum of £70,242 spent on stores and similar items, has been financed out of revenue. The area held under lease from the Government shows a slight increase, and now totals 63,900 acres. The additional 400 acres is represented by grants of oil-rights over areas adjoining the Forest Reserve Field. On the recommendation of the company's geologists, 1,500 acres of freehold land, oil-rights over 1,450 acres and surface rights over 390 acres have been purchased. The greater part of these purchases was effected after June 30th, 1918. Drilling operations on the Forest Reserve have been increased during the year under review, a total of 14,657 ft. having been drilled, as compared with 9,765 ft. last year. Producing wells at June 30th numbered nineteen. The output from this field for the year amounted to 132,000 tons, against 56,200 for the previous year.

The production for the six months ended June 30th last from Barrackpore (formerly owned by the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Limited) was 22,400 tons derived from five wells.

The engagement is announced of the Hon. Norman Lubbock, second son of the late Lord Avebury, and Miss Edith H. Lubbock, eldest daughter of the late Sir Nevile Lubbock, President of the West India Committee.

HOMeward MAILS.

ANTIGUA.—Lieut.-Colonel Bell Decorated.

The annual session of the local Legislature was opened by Mr. T. A. V. Best on January 28th, when his Excellency took the opportunity of bestowing the insignia of the British Empire Order on Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Bell, M.B.E., in recognition of his work for the Defence Force. In his opening speech Mr. Best anticipated a deficit of £7,000, which would reduce the Presidency's surplus assets to £3,780. Revenue for the year was estimated at £64,000, and expenditure at £63,761. Expense of charitable institutions remained high, and it was imperative that these should be reduced to some figure more in proportion with the island's needs. The Hon. Secretary of the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association has issued a timely warning regarding the cotton-stainer pest, which has increased the percentage of "stained" cotton from 1 to 4 per cent. to no less than 50 per cent. On January 16th Miss Anna Florence Henry, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henry, of St. John's, was married to Mr. A. W. W. Osborne, head master of St. Peter's school. The serious illness of Mr. Martin J. Comacho is reported.

BAHAMAS.—The First Aerial Post.

The *Nassau Guardian* of January 29th gives the following account of the visit of American aviators, the news of which the West India Committee recently announced to the Press in this city:—

"The long anticipated yet entirely unexpected happened yesterday afternoon, when two American aircraft from Miami, Florida, hove in sight from the west. Word reached the city over the telephone from Old Fort, 12 miles away, that they were coming towards Nassau, and almost as quickly the buzz of their propellers could be heard and the aeroplanes seen. Immediately there was great excitement, and the streets and yards were alive with people gazing at the novel sight; crowds thronged the waterside and eagerly watched every movement of the bird boats. The Port Officer and the Commandant met the airmen at the western esplanade, the former boarding one of the planes and piloting her to safe moorings. On landing at Rawson-square, there was happily present to meet them an officer of the British Royal Air Force, in the person of Lieutenant Sidney Farrington. After having visited the American Consulate, the officers—four in number—proceeded to Government House, where they spent the remainder of the afternoon, and in the evening they were guests of Mr. R. C. Saunders at an informal gathering at his home. This morning his Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Harcourt Malcolm were taken on a flight, and had an opportunity of getting a bird's-eye view of New Providence. The distance from Miami—about 160 miles—was covered in about 160 minutes, and the course was practically a straight one. Lieutenant Cummings, of U.S. Naval Air Service, was in command."

The following announcement was published in the *Guardian* of the same day:—

OUR FIRST AIR SERVICE MAIL.

"Foreign Mails, for letters only, to be despatched by *Air Service*, and to be so marked, will be made up and closed on Thursday, January 30th, at 7 a.m."

The aviators left punctually to time with a not inconsiderable mail, which was subsequently transhipped at Miami.

JAMAICA.—The Influenza Epidemic.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The Myrtle Bank Hotel has been bought out by the United Fruit Company, which fruit company will continue to run it on the same lines as heretofore. The Titchfield

Hotel is being put into first-class order, and it has been rumoured that the United Fruit Company are also negotiating for the purchase of the Constant Spring Hotel. The Bishop of Jamaica has returned from his visit to the Mother Country and resumed his duties. One of his first acts upon his return was to appoint the first Sunday in January as a day of general thanksgiving for victories vouchsafed to the Allied arms.

The epidemic of influenza has now come to an end, but the toll has been very heavy—how heavy may be gauged from the fact that during the last three months of 1917 there were 5,699 deaths, whereas during the corresponding period of 1918, which except for the influenza was, if anything, more healthy than the previous year, no less than 13,373 deaths were recorded.

The Legislative Council met in special session on the 3rd. Before the business before the session was undertaken, his Excellency the Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, as well as Brig.-Gen. Gilbert, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Troops, Dr. Lawson Gifford, Acting S.M.O., and Mr. Ellis Wolfe, Postmaster for Jamaica, were sworn in. Standing orders having been suspended, a Select Committee was appointed to draft a resolution to be conveyed to his Majesty expressing the appreciation of the Council of the success of British and Allied arms in bringing the war to such a successful conclusion. A further resolution conveying the Council's sympathy to the widow of the late Dr. Ker, S.M.O., was also carried. In his message his Excellency outlined a programme in which the following measures were included:—The appointment of a Food Controller; the establishment of coco-nut nurseries; the acquisition of Constant Spring Hotel, or some other suitable building, for housing returned disabled members of the Contingents; war bonuses to public officers; the expenditure of considerable sums for public works; the raising of a loan to cover pressing expenses, and the levying of an income-tax as security for the loan; and to stabilise the island's finances.

His Excellency stated that the surplus to date was £42,918, and an improvement over the estimates of £13,139. A further improvement to March 31st of £72,957 was expected, but estimated expenditure would reach £84,722, leaving a deficit of £17,765. He proposed to meet the latter by extra taxation to the extent of £11,900.

When the Council adjourned for the Christmas recess, to meet again on January 14th, the Hon. J. H. Park, Director of Public Works, had been appointed Food Controller; a motion had been carried authorising the expenditure of £10,000 towards the cost of housing and training returned disabled members of the Contingents, the use of Constant Spring Hotel for this purpose not being, however, approved; and an expenditure of an amount not exceeding £300,000 from a loan to be obtained for the purpose of public works; and the granting of a gratuity to each member of the B.W.I.R. upon disbandment. The latter clause was carried without division. The Government's Income-Tax Bill, having been read a second time, was referred to a Special Committee for revision, &c., and will be re-submitted at a future date. The first concrete ship, the s.s. *Faith*, of 3,600 tons, to visit Kingston entered port this month. H.M.S. *Berwick*, and the French cruiser *Glaire* have also visited the port, and did much to brighten the city. The former, playing her search-lights freely, helped everybody to realise that the long, dark period of the war had at last in all truth come to an end. Mr. R. Nosworthy, Supervisor of Revenue and Censor, returned to the island after a short visit to England.

ST. VINCENT.—Revival of Cotton Planting.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, January 17th.—An outbreak of influenza is retarding the reaping of cotton and arrowroot. Within the past three weeks the disease has made rapid progress in the colony. Fortunately it

was of a mild type, and with care cases recovered within a few days. Possibly owing to the warm climate pneumonia, which so frequently followed the complaint in colder parts of the world, was comparatively rare. The revival of cotton-planting in the colony was clearly demonstrated in a return recently submitted by the Agricultural Department. It shows a 90 per cent. increase for this season over that of 1916-17. The acreage planted in Sea Island cotton for the 1918-19 crop amounts to 4,583 acres. This total has only once been exceeded—namely, in the 1911-12 season, when 5,068 acres were cultivated. The area planted by estates is 2,767 acres, and by small growers 1,816 acres. The "Marie Galante" plantings in the Southern Grenadines are returned at 1,446 acres, so that the total area in cotton is 6,029 acres. There are 31 estates growing cotton and 2,286 small growers. Of the latter, 1,684 are cultivating the crop in St. Vincent, and 602 in the Grenadines.

The Administrator has recently formed an Economic Products Committee. The object of the Committee was to further the development of agricultural products and industries in the interests of both large and small growers, and to advise Government in regard to any agricultural question referred to it for consideration; also to make recommendations on any similar subject which in the opinion of the Committee required attention. As the members of the Committee are fully conversant with every branch of agriculture and representative of every section of the agricultural community, it should be able to afford valuable assistance to Government in keeping its agricultural policy abreast of requirements. The arrowroot market position was still obscure. There appeared to be few buyers, even at reduced prices.

TRINIDAD.—How Cocoa was Lifted.

The Royal Dutch Line has issued the following statement to show how Trinidad's cocoa crop was lifted last year:—

Line.	Bags.	Destination.
Joint Service	62,182	Europe
French Mail	27,100	"
Italian Line	18,550	"
Trinidad Line Steamers	223,470	New York
Prince Line	500	"
Schooner <i>B. C. Hardwicke</i>	25	Canada
R.M.S.P. Canadian Service	19,620	"

TURKS ISLANDS.—The Conch Shell Industry.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—On November 3rd instant, at 10 p.m., Captain Berkefield and seven of the crew of the Norwegian barque *Stifender* landed at the Lighthouse at Grand Turk, after being adrift in an open boat for twenty-two days, their vessel having been torpedoed on October 13th. On the 14th Mrs. Caroline Darrell, widow of the late Richard Darrell, died after a short illness of paralysis and shock. The death is also announced of Mr. John Wood, one of the oldest inhabitants of Salt Cay. Mr. Wood had been an invalid for the past seven years. Business generally has been somewhat brighter, and several cargoes of salt have been shipped, and a number of vessels are due during the early part of next month for fishery salt. The conch shell industry is opening up again, and quite a number of barrels are to be shipped to the United States at the first opportunity. Nothing much is being done in the sisal and sponge industries. News to hand from various parts of the Caicos group is to the effect that a fair crop of corn and vegetables is expected. In some parts the crop completely failed, due to the lack of rain. At Grand Turk the recent shows have done good, and crops look promising. Great destruction is being caused by worms throughout the dependency, some plantations being laid bare.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
March 6th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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 Brewers' Sugar Order has been rescinded. Low-grade sugar may now be sold to manufacturers and wholesale dealers without the production of a voucher, provided prices do not exceed 50s., less 1½ per cent. discount.

New York quotations: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c.; Porto Ricos, St. Croixs, Hawaii, and Philippines, 7.28c. c.i.f. 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64 c.i.f.

The death is announced of Mr. Joaquin Guma, the pioneer of sugar statistical work in Cuba, which occurred on January 21st.

Himely reports that complaints are coming from the eastern end of Cuba regarding shortage of labour. Not 5 per cent. of the field labourers are natives, most of whom prefer politics and amusements to work, and he adds: "The crop would not be harvested were it not for the Haitians and Jamaicans, thousands of whom have been imported by the larger Centrals. Many estates are stealing labourers from other estates, employing disguised agents for the purpose."

The cut in freight rates from the United States to Europe, amounting to 66 per cent., or 2/2½c. per lb. on sugar, became effective on February 1st.

The West India sugar statistics in London on February 22nd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	3,946	2,132	5,032	
Deliveries	5,724	8,151	6,235	"
Stock	4,414	4,965	6,512	"

RUM. Permission has been given for 75 per cent. of the total quantity of spirits consumed in this country in 1916 to be released from bond. This decision was forced on the country through the inability of sufferers from influenza to procure whisky or brandy. The market is easier in consequence of cheap sales of proof kinds at Liverpool.

The stocks in London on February 22nd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	3,273	6,017	10,167	
Demerara	11,006	3,623	9,284	"
Total of all kinds	19,195	15,575	33,105	"

ARROWROOT. Small sales of second-hand parcels continue to be made, satisfying the very moderate inquiries, at prices much below those asked for importers' stocks.

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.

The official total of the Trinidad crop for 1918 is 58,638,562 lb. The stocks in London on February 22nd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	19,887	13,261	17,342	
Grenada	9,985	11,113	12,080	
Total of all kinds	127,620	205,403	224,198	"

COTTON. During the year to date 520 bales of British West Indian have been imported. Prices remain as fixed, viz.:—Ordinary, 36d.; good ordinary, 40d.; superfine St. Vincent, 45d. to 50d.

COCO-NUTS. Trinidad exports for 1918, 22,200,385 nuts.

GOPRA. Controlled prices, £40 per ton ex-ship if shipped before February 18th, £34 per ton if shipped after that date. As from the 17th inst. business will be free subject to a maximum price to be fixed.

HONEY. There is still very little demand; but as some facilities for export are being given, there should be some improvement in this respect.

SPICES. Pimento lifeless. Sellers on spot, 4d. Jamaica Ginger, very little enquiry at 20s. to 30s. per cwt. below recent nominal values. Nutmegs and Mace: A fair business in W.I. at the recent decline. Stocks are too heavy.

BALATA. Market unchanged. W.I. sheet, 3s. 9d. to 3s. 10d. spot. Venezuela block, 3s. 3½d. to 3s. 4d. c.i.f. Panama, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 8d. c.i.f.

RUBBER. Trinidad shipped last year 39,517 lb.

The market is rather firmer again, and a good business has been done, chiefly for delivery London or Liverpool.

	Spot.	April- June.	July- December.	January- June, 1920.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Crepe	2 1	2 1½	2 1½	2 1½
Sheet	2 0½	2 0½	2 0½	2 0½

Fine Para, 2s. 4½d. spot; 2s. 5d. April-May.

The Eastern markets are steady, but prices are rather lower than those ruling here.

OIL. The total petroleum exports from Trinidad last year were as follows: Crude, 40,856,298 gallons; kerosene, 2,018,455 gallons; gasoline, 2,741,622 gallons, and lubricating oil, 72,859 gallons. Now that companies operating in the island are reaching the dividend-paying stage, interest in the industry is becoming more keen.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, no change. Distilled, lower; sellers at 5s., but no sales to report. Lime Juice: Concentrated continues firm and unchanged. Raw unchanged. Citrate firm. The West India Committee is urging the Admiralty to continue to purchase lime juice, and not to be deterred by the recent Lister Institute's enquiry, which is not yet completed.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

URGENTLY REQUIRED, Copies of CIRCULARS, Nos. 521, 373. 6d. per copy for copies returned to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

EX-OFFICER, married, 12 years' mercantile and shipping experience British Guiana, 2 years New York, desires position of trust. Fully qualified to undertake secretarial duties. "C. S." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-five, educated Oxford, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies; keen and energetic; first-class references. Army discharge. Apply "C. V. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

LIEUTENANT, Scotsman, 28, married, four years on Sugar Plantation, Demerara, including Factory Management, knowledge Coco-nut cultivation, member first British Guiana Contingent, and can claim Repatriation, seeks appointment West Indies, or prepared go elsewhere. Keen, enthusiastic, energetic, and possessed of initiative. Excellent references. Apply "J. M. S." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

LIEUTENANT R.N.V.R., having served two years in the West Indies, desires to return with view of settling there. Managerial post for preference. Has limited capital if suitable opportunity presented. Apply "H. J. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED, by a gentleman who has had many years' practical experience in the Cultivation of Sugar-cane and Manufacture, also in Rubber and Coco-nut Cultivation, both in the East and West Indies and East Africa, Appointment. Address "G." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1919.

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40) Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 4841 CENTRAL.
3743 AVENUE.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
March 20th, 1919.

The Rollicking Rum Surtax.

IT was, unless our memory fails us, our old friend SIR CHARLES LUCAS who, at a dinner given to him on the occasion of his retirement from the Colonial Office, deplored that he would have no more to do with "that rollicking subject—the Rum Surtax." To regular readers of the CIRCULAR the position with regard to this impost will require no explanation. To others it must suffice to point out that extra duties of 4d. and 5d. per gallon are imposed on colonial and foreign spirits entering this country, with the object of compensating the home distiller for various disabilities to which he claims to be subject owing to excise restrictions, &c. From time to time the authorities have been asked to explain how this surtax has been made up, and the reply has been that it includes a variety of items, such as 3d. to compensate the British distiller for the duty on foreign grain—though the wheat duty was abolished in 1870, and only temporarily reimposed in 1902 for a short period! The West Indian case has been that producers of spirits in the West Indies are also subject to disabilities, owing to excise regulations, which, like those in the United Kingdom, are under the

control—though indirectly—of the British Government, and that, therefore, while there may be justification for the imposition of a surtax on foreign spirits, there is none for differentiation against colonial spirits. With Imperial Preference at last within sight, this "rollicking question" again comes to the front, and it must at once be admitted that, with the price of spirits at their present level, and with the existing high rate of duty (the Customs rate being £1 10s. 4d. and the excise £1 10s.), it is of less material importance in regard to rum than when planters could only with difficulty dispose of their spirit at 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. per proof-gallon, and the respective duties were, say, 11s. 4d. and 11s. Still, the principle remains, and we must continue to register our protest against what we still regard as an altogether unjustified differentiation. Where the shoe now really pinches is in respect of industrial alcohol. Spirits manufactured in this country "for methylation or for use in art and manufacture" are duty free. Colonial spirits, on the other hand, if imported for a similar purpose, would have to pay the surtax of 4d. per gallon, which, of course, is prohibitive. It is to be hoped that, with the increasing use of alcohol for industrial purposes, this legitimate grievance may be adjusted in the forthcoming Budget. Meanwhile, we assume that spirits will be included among the other kinds of produce already dutiable in this country for revenue purposes which will be afforded a preference in the immediate future. That British rum should do so is extremely important at the present time, in view of the quantities of Cuban rum which are now being produced and are already being imported. With the United States "bone-dry," other markets will have to be found for Cuban rum, and it is probable that, unless immediate steps are taken to prevent it, the markets of the United Kingdom will be flooded with spirit produced under conditions of which we know nothing, to the detriment of Jamaica and Demerara rum. This is a very real menace which must not be lost sight of. Otherwise we should feel inclined to predict that the prospects before British rum are distinctly good. The merits of this beverage have been brought prominently before the notice of fully six millions of men in our armies for the past four years, and it is reasonably certain that a large proportion of these on their return to civil life will continue to take an occasional tot of the generous and comforting spirit to which, it is not too much to say, so many of them owe their lives.

The Massacre of the Innocents.

EXCELLENT work is being performed in various parts of the West Indies by Baby-Saving Leagues, which have been established with the object of reducing the terrible infantile mortality prevailing in those colonies. As the result of the operations of these organisations (which, we should mention, depend largely, if not entirely, on voluntary support for their maintenance) the death-rate of infants is beginning in some colonies, and notably British Guiana, to decline; but in the West Indies generally it still stands at an appallingly high figure, the average number of deaths of infants being well over 250 per thousand. The causes for this massacre of the innocents are now well known, the principal being congenital disease and improper feeding. At the root of the first of these a determined attack should be made. Steps should be taken to demonstrate the grave and far-reaching dangers of venereal disease, and the advertisement of quack remedies absolutely prohibited. Care of the mother at childbirth and of the newly-born infant can best be taught by a widespread campaign by such bodies as the Baby-Saving Leagues above referred to, which, besides carrying on propaganda by leaflet and lecture, have well-trained nurses, whose services are placed at the disposal of those in the community, whether rich or poor, who may desire them. If we might venture to make a suggestion, it would be that there might be closer co-ordination between the various Leagues, which should regularly exchange literature and reports, and also from time to time nurses, so that all might benefit from the best of the work of each. We would further suggest the desirability of their getting into touch with the Babies of the Empire Society, which was established last year, with SIR ALEXANDER ROGER as Chairman, under the auspices of that essentially live body the Overseas Club and Patriotic League. This Society dates its active existence from the arrival in this country of DR. F. TRUBY KING, C.M.G., its present Medical Director. In the previous autumn, with the sanction of the New Zealand Government, DR. KING, who is a well-known authority on baby-saving, had accepted the invitation called to him by LADY PLUNKET—a sister of the late LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD, Colonial Secretary of Barbados—through the Overseas Club, to come to London to organise a society similar to the Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children, of which he is Founder and General President. DR. KING left New Zealand on January 3rd, 1918, and travelled *via* America, where he spent five strenuous and successful weeks investigating and acquainting himself with the latest work for child welfare there, and addressing various State Conferences and large public meetings in Washington, New York, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, at the request of leading American Child Welfare authorities and promoters and organisers of the present great "National Infant Life-saving Campaign." If DR. TRUBY KING could be induced to visit the West Indies he would, we may feel sure, receive a cordial welcome, whilst his lectures and the advice which he is in a position to give would give

a great fillip to the baby-saving movement there, which is making such good progress. In conclusion, we may mention that the address of the Babies of the Empire Society (whose training centre is at 29-31, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court) is that of the Overseas Club—namely General Buildings, Aldwych, London, to which subscriptions, so much needed to carry on this great Imperial work, may be sent.

The Colonisation of Guiana.

FOLLOWING the public meeting held in Georgetown, an account of which was published in last CIRCULAR, the Combined Court of British Guiana has, with a single dissentient, passed a resolution pledging itself to defray the cost of sending a deputation comprising representatives of various races to England to draw attention to the needs of the colony in respect of labour. It is not too much to say that the present colonisation movement, which is being conducted with such commendable energy, is by far the most important and far-reaching which has been undertaken in the West Indies many a long year. A satisfactory and hopeful feature of it is that all classes of the community, including Indians and Chinese, are solidly united in their determination that immediate steps must be taken to establish a colonisation scheme for British Guiana on a broad basis if the colony is not to go backward instead of taking the prominent place among the King's dominions which it should occupy.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Enough has now been said by Ministers, both in and outside Parliament, to justify the confident belief that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his forthcoming Budget, will announce the details of a scheme of Imperial Preference. It will be recalled that pre-election pledge, which has been confirmed since the General Election, was that a preference would be given to produce of the British Empire in respect of any duties which had been or might be imposed for revenue purposes. Presumably the promised preference will take the form of a reduction in the existing duties in favour of colonial produce, and in the circumstances it may be of interest to give the figures of the existing duties on such produce as is grown or manufactured in the West Indies. They are as follows:—

	C.	S.	d.
Cocoa, per cwt.	2	2	0
Husks and shells		6	0
Cocoa-butter			4½
Coffee, per cwt.	2	2	0
Roasted and ground, per lb.			6
Sugar, 89 deg. pol per cwt.	18	0	8
96 deg. pol per cwt.	1	2	4½
98 deg. pol per cwt.	1	5	8
Molasses, per cwt., 70 per cent. of sweetening matter		16	3
50 per cent-70 per cent.		11	8
Not over 50 per cent.		5	8½
(Molasses for distilling or cattle food is duty free)			
Rum, per proof gallon	1	10	4
Tobacco, cigars, per lb.		15	7
Unmanufactured	8	2 to 9	1

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN breeze no blow, tree no shake."

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. E. WILLIS has been appointed Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General for the demobilisation of the British West Indies Regiment.

THE engagement is announced of Captain H. Clark, M.C., of the Royal Fusiliers, of Trinidad, to Kathleen Elaine, eldest daughter of Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., and Mrs. Huggins, of Port of Spain.

WE welcome the birth of another contemporary, the *Barbados Weekly Herald*, the first number of which was published on February 1st. A feature which, if developed will prove particularly useful, is its inter-colonial news.

THE New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, whose steamers call at Kingston, Jamaica, en route from the United Kingdom via Panama to Australia and New Zealand, have issued an attractive little leaflet entitled "A Day in Jamaica."

A GREAT exodus of business men from Canada to the West Indies is reported by the *Maritime Merchant*. Every ship sailing from Halifax and St. John since the first of the year has been crowded, first-class passengers travelling in second-class cabins rather than miss the trip.

ENGLAND is by far the largest market for Havana cigars. In the eleven months ended October 31st last no fewer than 54,248,652 Cuban cigars were exported to this country. Still, Jamaica cigars are making headway, and connoisseurs are being gradually taught to "smoke Imperially."

A "PETTICOAT-LANE" Fair organised by Mrs. Perez and held in Port of Spain at the close of last year realised no less than \$6,541.70, a record for a one-day show in Trinidad, which will be devoted to the relief of Trinidad disabled soldiers. The entertainment, which was a conspicuous success, was attended by his Excellency the Governor and Lady Chancellor.

THE response to the CIRCULAR'S appeal to members of the West India Committee to pay their subscriptions without delay has been satisfactory. If every member in arrears were to realise what expense and trouble he was causing to the Hon. Treasurer he would, we feel sure, hasten to the nearest branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada and pay in the amount overdue.

ON the afternoon of December 9th last the inhabitants of Havana were surprised to observe a large American dirigible balloon manoeuvring over the city. It attracted considerable attention because it was the first one ever seen over Cuba. That night, says the *Cuban Review*, which was a moonlight one, the airship again passed repeatedly back and forth over Havana, and was a very pretty sight with its searchlights playing on the city. The dirigible came from Key West.

AT the suggestion of Miss Nicholls, of Dominica, who felt that such a big movement should originate in one of the larger islands, Mrs. Perez is organising in Trinidad a federal scheme for collecting subscriptions throughout the British West Indies towards the King's Fund for Sailors. Mr. D. S. Webster and the Hon. Hugh McLelland are to be President and Treasurer, and it

is proposed by subscriptions, entertainments and carnival celebrations to make the response worthy of the islands.

VISCOUNTESS HOOD, who died on March 5th from double pneumonia following influenza, was the youngest daughter of Colonel the Hon. R. S. G. Stapleton-Cotton, grandson of Viscount Combermere, Governor of Barbados and heir-presumptive to the viscountcy, who was Inspector-General of the Police in British Guiana from 1889 to 1891. Lady Hood was the wife of the fifth Viscount, the direct lineal descendant of the first Peer who, as Samuel Hood, commanded the van division under Rodney in the Battle of the Saints off Dominica in 1782.

A NEW steamer service has been established between Kingston, Jamaica, and Santiago, Cuba, by A. Jannini & Co., of Aux Cayes, who recently placed on the route the steam yacht *Lucinda*, formerly the property of the Commodore of the Philadelphia Yacht Club, which has been converted for the purpose. The vessel, which is commanded by Captain J. W. Hunter, can steam at 12 knots and has comfortable passenger accommodation. At a luncheon on board on the occasion of a trial trip recently, M. E. A. H. Haggart, proposing the health of the owners, said that Mr. Albert Gutzmer, one of the owners, was a Jamaican of whom the island might well be proud. Mr. Gutzmer, in reply, said he hoped also to foster trade between Jamaica and Haiti, for which there was ample scope.

THE local Appeal Court has reversed the decision of the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago in favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. in the case in which they claimed damages for injuries to their ship *Saran*, which struck a rock before entering the Government dock in Chaguaramas Bay. Contrary to what was stated in a "Note" last year, it appears that the rock was not unknown to the Government officials who had surveyed the approaches to the dock, and the Chief Justice gave judgment on the question of liability only, there being points of law involved. The Trinidad Government was granted costs in both courts. The Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., and Mr. C. A. Child, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Government; and Sir H. A. Alcazar, K.C., and Mr. W. Savary, instructed by Mr. H. Israel Jeffers, for Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.

DEALING with the labour situation in Cuba, Mr. H. A. Himely, in a recent issue of his valuable *Weekly Review*, reported that while labourers were reaching Cuba steadily from Jamaica, another stream of the same workmen had set towards that island, in fear of the epidemic of influenza, which he stated was worse in Jamaica than in Cuba. He estimates that the crop now being reaped in Cuba will reach 4,010,751 tons, provided labour and weather conditions are normal, and adds: "When travelling the length of the island by train one sees the oceans of standing cane on both sides of the track and considers that all must be cut, cane by cane, by hand, one is deeply impressed with the immensity of the labour required to harvest the crop of Cuba. Should the machines for harvesting cane, which are now being experimented with, be perfected so that they can be employed successfully in Cuban cane fields, it would revolutionise the sugar industry of the world, the saving in labour would be so great."

THE following official statement has been issued by the Ministry of Food regarding our supplies of sugar:—"Stocks in the country amount to 364,000 tons, sufficient to provide the present ration for eleven weeks. The country is now dependent on cane sugar. Before

the war two-thirds of our sugar supply came from Germany and Austria. The wholesale price at which sugar is now being sold in this country is considerably below the price at which it would stand on imports purchased to-day in the producing market. Our present wholesale selling prices are about £2 per ton below the price at which sugar could be got from Java and about £11 per ton below the price of Cuban sugar. The estimate which has been made by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply of the world's production and consumption for 1919 shows that there will only be a moderate margin of supply over consumption. If sugar were released from control the price would almost certainly rise and there would also be a danger that the supply would not meet the demand."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to mount up. In 1918 the recruits exceeded the total membership of twenty years ago, and in the first three months of the current year fifty-five candidates have been elected. Of these twenty, whose names are given below, were admitted at a meeting held on March 6th.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. J. McA. Waddell	Mr. R. Rutherford Messrs. Czarnikow, Ltd.
Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G.	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. W. E. Mandeville (W. Africa)	Mr. W. F. Mandeville Mr. J. H. Wilkinson
Mr. W. McDonald (Antigua)	Mr. H. F. Previté Mr. H. D. Spooner
Mr. W. F. Malone (St. Kitts)	Mr. H. K. F. Smith Mr. W. Gillespie
Miss J. G. Gillespie	Mr. C. T. Berthon, A.M.I.C.E. Mr. W. Douglas
Mrs. M. B. Wigley (St. Kitts)	Mr. E. J. Shelford Mr. W. M. Wigley
Mr. F. S. Thornhill (B. Guiana)	Mr. H. F. Previté Sir W. Trollope, Bart.
Mr. D. S. Lopez (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson Mr. L. de Mercado
Mr. C. C. Henriques (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson Mr. L. de Mercado
Mr. G. C. du Boulay (Seychelles)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. H. E. King (Barbados)	Hon. W. Phillips, O.B.E. Mr. H. B. G. Austin
Mr. G. A. Clarke (Barbados)	Hon. W. Phillips, O.B.E. Mr. H. B. G. Austin
Mr. J. F. Sealy (Barbados)	Hon. W. Phillips, O.B.E. Mr. H. B. G. Austin
Capt. J. McDonald, M.C., D.F.C. (Antigua)	Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. H. D. Spooner
Miss F. L. Hart Bennett	Miss M. Moseley Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. T. Wildman (Grenada)	Mr. G. M. Frame Mr. S. Ewen
Mr. H. V. Alexander (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado Mr. W. Wilson, O.B.E.
Mr. V. E. L. Verley (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado Mr. Wm. Wilson, O.B.E.
Mr. R. Pound	Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E. Mr. W. Gillespie

THE LABOUR CRISIS IN GUIANA.

Active measures are being taken to carry out the recommendations of the public meeting held in Georgetown in January to consider the labour problem of British Guiana.

On February 6th the Combined Court, after a debate in which the speeches—notably one delivered by Mr. Clementi, the Government Secretary, who reviewed the colonisation history of British Guiana—reached a high degree of excellence, passed the following resolution with one dissentient (Mr. Thorne):—

Whereas there are in the colony over nine million acres easily accessible for beneficial occupation and suitable for tropical cultivation;

And whereas the total area is about fifty-eight million acres;

And whereas the actual cultivation is about 200,000 acres;

And whereas there is in the colony insufficient labour to carry out its various industries;

And whereas this insufficiency of labour has led to a reduction of the area under sugar-cane, and will lead to a further reduction;

This Court respectfully requests the Governor to make arrangements to send to the United Kingdom a deputation consisting of members of various races in the colony, with the view of laying before his Majesty's Government a representation of the needs of the colony both for the maintenance of present industries and for their extension; and to show the advantages which this colony affords to immigrants from other countries;

And this Court pledges itself to provide the funds necessary for sending such a deputation, the work of which is to be based on lines to be recommended by the General Colonisation Committee appointed at the conjoint meeting held in the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society's Rooms on January 29th subject to the acceptance of the same by his Excellency Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G.

The General Colonisation Committee met on February 11th, under the chairmanship of the Hon. E. G. Woolford, the Mayor, when various sub-committees were formed, including West Indian and African, Indian, Chinese, Sugar, Rice, Forests and Mines, &c. &c. The colonisation movement is being taken up with enthusiasm and determination by all classes.

DEMobilISATION OF COLONIALS.

Replying to Mr. Charles White, M.P., in the House of Commons, on March 4th, Mr. Churchill said that officers and soldiers of the Imperial Army claiming repatriation overseas, whose claims had been or might be approved under existing Regulations, were not being retained for the Armies of Occupation unless they so desired, and would be repatriated as the exigencies of the Service and facilities of transportation permitted, irrespectively of the date they joined the Colours, or of age, or whether they enlisted voluntarily or were called up under the Military Service Acts, 1916. A considerable number had already been repatriated.

It would be interesting to know where the "considerable number" has gone to. It is certainly not the West Indies, for men demobilised even two months ago are still awaiting passages for that destination.

The new members elected to the West India Committee this year reside in the following countries:—

United Kingdom	15	Antigua	4	Dominica	1
Jamaica	10	British Guiana	3	St. Lucia	1
Barbados	9	Grenada	2	Seychelles	1
Trinidad	6	St. Kitts	2	West Africa	1

TRINIDAD'S WAR MEMORIAL.

At a meeting of prominent citizens held at the Royal Victoria Institute, Port of Spain, last month, Mr. F. E. Scott, the Mayor, presiding, a movement was inaugurated for the erection of a War Memorial in Trinidad. His Excellency Sir John Chancellor, who was present, made some practical suggestions, and after discussion it was decided that the memorial should take the form of a monument to be erected in Marine Square, where it is intersected by Broadway—the quondam Almond Walk. There, said His Excellency, they had a central, dignified and spacious site, which would ensure that the memorial would be seen by almost every visitor to Port of Spain, whether he arrived by road, railway, or by sea.

On the motion of Sir Henry Alcazar, a large and representative committee was appointed to collect subscriptions and to carry out the scheme, and Sir John Chancellor promised that when he returned to England, as he hoped to do in the summer, he would take the opinion of leading artists with a view to securing a design worthy of the islands.

The Mayor of Port of Spain, in a letter to the CIRCULAR, has expressed the hope that firms and individuals interested in Trinidad will contribute towards the Memorial Fund, and it is hardly necessary for us to add that we shall be pleased to forward to the proper quarter any subscriptions which we may receive for this object.

WEST INDIES AND FORMER WARS.

The Hon. John Fortescue, Librarian of Windsor Castle, in a recent lecture at the Royal Institution on the Empire's Share in England's Wars, said that when our first settlements in the West Indian Islands were carried on by slave labour, the white population was a small minority and the black slaves were a large majority. So white men, not necessarily criminals, but men who had no desire for work, were drafted out, generally by recruiting, and were bound to serve for a certain number of years. It was practically tantamount to transportation, and they were frequently supplied by crimps and allotted to certain masters on the various plantations, who took them over as an armed force. At one time, in Barbados alone, there were as many as 7,000 of these able-bodied men officered by the planters. When we were at war with Revolutionary France the Government of the day raised twelve West Indian regiments formed of negroes under white officers. There was a great outcry about this at the time, and planters thought the white population would be wiped off the face of the earth; but these troops were well and kindly treated, and this policy had a very great effect in raising the status of the African negro; in fact, he believed that more was done in this way towards the emancipation of the slaves than by any number of letters, sermons, and speeches. Since those days we had realised on many occasions the value of black troops for operations in the tropics.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

Since the last list was published the following contributions have been received towards the fund, the calls on which are increasingly heavy:—

	£	s.	d.
Barbados War Workers' lunch room, per Miss M. D. Skeete	40	0	0
St. Andrew Food and Stock Farm (Jamaica), per John C. Farquharson, Esq.	30	0	0
Montserrat Women's War Committee, per Miss Haines, part proceeds Bazaar and Christmas Tree	30	0	0
E. B. Skeete, Esq.	25	0	0
Mrs. M. D. Bonthron, proceeds Sale Antigua Seed Work	10	0	0
Captain Wm. Godsal (further donation)	10	0	0
T. S. Skeete, Esq.	10	0	0
R. Bryson, Esq.	5	0	0
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent. December & January.			
	£	s.	d.
Kingston Club	1	2	0
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell	10	0	0
F. W. Reeves	10	0	0
Vincent Hadley	8	4	0
J. H. Hazell	3	0	0
Evan Hopley	2	0	0
J. A. Davy	1	0	0
	6	12	8
Charles Spence, Esq.	2	0	0
G. Seton Browne, Esq.	1	5	0
H. Seedorff, Esq.	1	1	0
E. O. Johnstone, Esq., O.B.E., I.S.O.	1	1	0
Mrs. Brodie	1	0	0
J. Wood Davis, Esq.	1	0	0
Canon Gresham (per Colonial Bank)	1	0	0

Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

The Committee Rooms have never been so congested as they have been during the last few weeks. Among the visitors to them have been—

ANTIGUA.—Sgt. O. Duke, M.M.

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Lieut. H. W. Ince, Pte. H. D. Bovell, Lce.-Bdr. S. H. Phillips, Lce.-Cpl. Hamlet M. Parris, Gnr. R. A. Collins, Gnr. S. Atwell, Miss Ada L. B. Shepherd, 2nd Lieut. J. E. A. Crawford, C. C. Newsam, 2nd Lieut. C. S. Batson, Pte. C. L. E. Burgess, Pte. H. N. McConney, Pte. H. S. Edghill, Lieut. E. K. D. Hinkson, Lieut. Clifton H. Wright, Gnr. W. W. Bowen, 2nd Lieut. D. E. Chase, 1st A.M. R. B. Armstrong, Surgeon-Capt. C. E. Deane, M.C., Sergt. Lloyd C. Byer, Cadet E. D. Bynoe, E. G. Bayne, Sign. A. F. Watson.

JAMAICA.—Sgt. V. Malcolm Jones, E. N. Sanguinetti, R.N., Pte. J. N. Kirton.

ST. KITTS.—Lieut. Basil Davis.

ST. LUCIA.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Laffitte, Capt. J. H. Westall.

ST. VINCENT.—2nd Lieut. D. A. Richards, Cadet C. O. Hazell.

TRINIDAD.—Lieut. A. F. Evelyn, Lieut. John O'Connor, M.C., Pte. P. J. Stone, Cadet R. Campbell, Cadet J. Rodriguez, 2nd Lieut. H. Lawford Knaggs, Capt. John R. Rochford, M.C., Lieut. L. Prada, Lieut. Errol G. Rooks, Cadet K. G. McClean, Sergt. Irwin Watson, Pte. C. A. Richardson, Pte. C. L. Langton, Pte. W. T. King, R. M. Anderson, Cadet V. O. da Costa, Cadet L. de Silva, Cadet C. H. Rooks, Cadet P. D. Ince, Cadet M. M. Nock, Trpr. F. Espindula, Trpr. E. Threadkell, Trpr. D. Belgrave, A. Meades, Rfm. L. Hamel Smith, Rfm. A. H. de Silva, F. C. Gibbon, Sergt. R. Hale, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Maryat, Cadet M. A. K. Smith, Gnr. C. M. Gooch, Trpr. J. A. Campbell, Cadet E. L. Thomas, A. P. Cox

SUGAR AND DRY AMERICA.

It being a physiological fact that abstainers from alcohol have a craving for sweet things, it is certain that the consumption of sugar in the United States will go ahead rapidly if, as at present decided, that country "goes bone-dry," and the consumption of spirits there is absolutely prohibited. Last year the consumption of sugar in America was 73.36 lb. per head of the population, a decrease of 5.104 lb. per cent. over the figure for the preceding year, and much leeway has to be made up before the record figure of 89.14 lb. per head which was reached in 1913.

In actual quantities of sugar the United States consumption has risen from 2,219,847 tons, or 66.6 lb. for export in 1900, to 3,495,606 tons last year. The fact that so high a consumption as 73.36 lb. per head should have been reached in a year throughout which sugar distribution, both as to prices and supplies, is certainly a good augury for the future, and if the increase continues it may help to some extent towards solving the problem of the disposal of immense surplus of production in the countries under American control, which will amount to over 1,700,000 tons.

No fewer than seven new sugar mills will "go about" for the first time in Cuba this year. The largest will, if weather and labour conditions are favourable, produce 15,000 tons of sugar, the average output per factory among the new comers being about 10,000 tons. Mr. H. A. Himely places the 1918-19 Cuban crop at 4,010,571 tons—against Guma-Meijer's figure of 4,600,000 tons. Mr. Himely estimates the Central Delicias will produce during the season 93,000 tons of sugar, the next largest producers being the Chaparra with 78,000 tons, and the Boston with 77,000 tons. Other large producers will be the Stewart (75,000 tons), the Manati (71,000 tons), and the España, Carragua and Moran (64,000 tons each).

It will be noted that every one of these large centrals has a greater output than the average annual crop of Barbados. Not a single factory in the British West Indies can approach these remarkable figures; but with freedom from unfair competition and Imperial Preference we shall see what we shall see.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Scythian-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Rev. P. K. P. Bolton.	E. C. Jackman, Esq.
Geoffrey Brooke, Esq.	Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G.
R. Bryson, Esq.	Frank Mahabir, Esq.
Lieut.-Col. J. Collens, V.D.	T. M. Marshall, Esq.
W. W. Craib, Esq.	C. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
G. Farmer, Esq.	Dr. Frank Oliphant.
Dickson Fraser, Esq.	C. W. M. Saunders, Esq.
Duncan Fraser, Esq.	C. W. Scott, Esq.
J. J. A. Gordon, Esq.	R. B. Short, Esq.
John T. Greg, Esq.	M. J. Turrel, Esq.
Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E.	F. H. S. Wameford, Esq.

THE LABOUR PROBLEM IN FIJI.

A Labour Bureau has been established at the Immigration Department in Suva, Fiji, and is now available to the public for the registration of the names of immigrants seeking employment on plantations in the colony, and of the names of employers desiring to employ immigrants.

No charge is made to any immigrant for registration. Employers desiring to make use of the Bureau are, however, required to remit to the Bureau two shillings for each labourer engaged. On registration at the Bureau, employers make a deposit to cover the cost of engagement fee of labourers engaged. If employers desire the Labour Bureau to undertake the dispatch of labourers to plantations, and the payment of a bonus, a deposit to cover such payments is made in advance.

Employers applying for labour are asked to state the class of work and wages offered, and labourers seeking employment to state the class of work and wage required. In districts where there is a Resident Inspector of Immigrants, a branch office in charge of that officer has been opened. Elsewhere the business of the Bureau is under the management of the District Commissioner.

Meanwhile, the Planters' Association of Fiji has been discussing with Mr. S. Kitamura, representing the Foreign Development Company of Tokyo, Japan, the possibilities of obtaining labour from Japan. The three points principally touched on were wages, conditions, and the class of labour required, and it was pointed out that Fiji could take two or three thousand Japanese labourers every year.

WEST AFRICAN AND MAURITIUS SUGAR.

At a recent meeting of the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce it was reported that information had been received from the Colonial Office that sugar imported into the colony of the Gold Coast from Mauritius, though of good quality, was not popular in the colony with the merchants and consumers, and would prove unsaleable if other stocks of sugar were allowed to be imported. In these circumstances it was understood that further importation of sugar to the Gold Coast had been prohibited until the present stocks were nearly exhausted, and that arrangements had been made for supplies already afloat to be kept in bond until they were required.

The Committee accordingly addressed a communication to the Colonial Office strongly objecting to the trade in the Colonies being held up owing to the importation by the Government of unsuitable quality sugar, and have requested that steps should be taken to allow the sugar already on the way to be imported without being warehoused in bond, and to allow sugar to be generally imported without restriction. The Committee further pointed out that if a mistake had been made by the Government in the purchase of unsuitable sugar they should cut their loss and not hamper the trade in the colony.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

United British Pipelines, Limited.

This private company has been registered with a capital of £100,000, in £1 shares, to acquire, construct and work pipelines for conveying petroleum, and to enter into agreements (a) with the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, and (b) with the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited. So long as the company carries on business in Trinidad it shall at all times remain a British company, free from foreign control, and the chairman and managing director and a majority of the other directors shall be British subjects. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—G. Bailward, 32, Bishopsgate, E.C., manager of petroleum companies; J. C. Inglis, 10-12, Bishopsgate, E.C., solicitor. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, may appoint all the directors.

Trinidad Leaseholds.

Presiding at the general meeting on February 26th, Mr. T. J. Milner, moving the adoption of the report, said that in order to reap the benefit of the company's heavy outlay, the directors considered it advisable to prepare for a still further extension of operations, and for some time past they had been acquiring properties upon which their geologists had reported favourably. The areas were purchased before the increase of prices, due to the present speculative activity in oil lands, had taken effect. Assuming that the board felt justified, after consulting their chief engineer and their manager, in pursuing a policy of expansion, it would be necessary to increase the capital of the company, and they proposed, when a further issue of capital was made, to offer the whole of it to the shareholders at a price which would compare favourably with the market price of the time. Dealing with the progress achieved by the company, the chairman remarked that the full effect of the active development programme undertaken at Forest Reserve was not felt until about the end of 1917. For the period under review the wells there gave a total output of 132,000 tons, as against 56,200 tons in the previous year. The production exceeded by 42,600 tons the total output of the field from the inception of operations up to June 30th, 1917. Their knowledge of geological conditions on the field was now sufficiently extensive to enable them to put down new wells as and when required, with every confidence that they would prove productive. On the Barrackpore field the total tonnage of oil won in the six months ended June 30th was 22,400 tons, derived from five wells. They were now drilling two test wells, from which they hoped to obtain much useful data for future work. The topping and fractionating plant continued to operate with very satisfactory results. The total quantity of crude oil delivered to the plant during the year was 95,000 tons, the percentage of loss in treatment being insignificant. Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

OBITUARY.

We regret to learn that Mr. Claude Keith Bancroft died in Canada on January 11th.

Mr. C. K. Bancroft, who was born in 1885, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bancroft, of Barbados. Educated at Harrison College and at Trinity College, Cambridge, he took a First Class in the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1908. For some time he was research student in mycology at the Royal Gardens at Kew, and from 1910 to 1913 he was mycologist and botanist to the Government of the Federated Malay

States. In 1913 he was promoted to British Guiana as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Agriculture, from which position he retired last year in order to live in a colder climate for the benefit of his health. He accordingly went to Canada, where he took up work with the Imperial Ministry of Munitions as Inspector of Explosives for Toronto District. Mr. Bancroft was a member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club. A first-class cricketer, he was a member of the first representative cricket eleven which visited this country in 1903. He was married to Miss Irene May Booyman, of Faversham, who with two sons survives him.

WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Roll of Honour.

MAJOR HAROLD CECIL RICH SAUNDERS, D.S.O., East Yorkshire Regiment, previously reported wounded and missing, and now believed killed on March 30th last year, was the eldest son of the late Arthur Rich Saunders, F.R.C.S., M.B., and Mrs. Saunders, formerly of Kingston, Jamaica. Mrs. Saunders' second son, Captain Arthur Hugh Rich Saunders, K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles, was killed on March 8th, 1916, when leading an assault on the Dugailer Redoubt, Mesopotamia.

Second-Lieutenant Frederick Cecil (Eric) Man, 3rd Battalion Hampshire Regiment, attached Gurkha Rifles, died at Suez on February 21st from pneumonia, following influenza contracted in Cairo whilst he was on leave. Born at "Harleyford," Bromley, on January 30th, 1897, on the same day as that on which his grandfather died, he was the only son of Mr. F. H. D. Man, O.B.E., and Mrs. Man, of 11 Hyde Park Terrace, W., and Bramsbury, Barton Stacey, Hants. He was educated at Norwich Grammar School and Tonbridge (Mr. Aston's House), where he was in the school cricket eleven as well as the football fifteen. On reaching the age of eighteen he at once left school and obtained a commission in the 3rd Battalion Hampshire Regiment. He was stationed at Gosport, where in October, 1915, he was badly wounded through a bomb, which he was examining, exploding in his face. On June 5th in the following year he left for France and went into action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont Hamel, where he and one other were the sole survivors of his company who got back. Wounded at Fampoux on April 9th, 1917, he came to England for six months and left again on October 9th for Egypt *en route* to Palestine, where he was attached to the Gurkha Rifles, with which he saw much fighting under General Allenby. One of his brother officers wrote: "Your son was loved by everyone, and was a real soldier in action, and I know his men would go anywhere with him." His Adjutant wrote:—

"Before the attack on the Turkish lines, on September 19th, the General ordered us to leave a British officer in charge of the ammunition mules, who would be prepared, at any cost, to bring up the mules through an enemy barrage, however heavy, to the advancing firing line. I at once chose your son, because I knew that, with him to lead the way, the men would follow without fail. And though, fortunately, he was able to come through without great loss, he appeared at a critical moment of the battle when the enemy, not yet completely broken, were massing for a counter-attack on our newly-won position, and we were running short of ammunition."

The Chaplain to the Forces described the funeral of this very gallant young officer as the most impressive which he had ever conducted. "All the officers and a large number, if not all, of the British other ranks attended. Mrs. Eastmead, the Colonel's wife, was there also, while about one hundred Gurkhas came, in addition to the Gurkha firing party and band. The body was carried by his fellow officers, who also lowered it into its resting place."

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The Preliminary Peace Treaty.

The numerous Committees and Commissions entrusted with the examination and presentation of the many questions to be decided by the Peace Conference have now reported to the Council of Ten. It is therefore expected that the preliminary Treaty will be ready by about March 20th. If so, the Peace Congress, at which the German delegates will be present, may be called early in April. They will then be informed as to the nature of the naval, military, financial, and economic terms which the Allies have decided to impose upon Germany, and if they so desire will be permitted to take home the draft of the Treaty for consideration. As the delimitation of frontiers is not included, it is a matter for further examination and discussion.

The League of Nations, which is to create a happy world-family, has not yet come into being before it is subjected to the influences that disturb the relations of individual families. The smaller nations are inclined to resent the Olympian attitude towards them of the Great Powers, and Belgium, Serbia, and Greece, in particular, are not all pleased, remembering their war record, to be placed on the same level as Ecuador and Panama. The trouble came to a head over their representation on the Financial and Economic Commissions, which have just been appointed. The small nations were offered five. Then they struck, though in a diplomatic way, when the Council of Ten was obliged to see things a little from their point of view by increasing their representation on both Commissions. As the success of the League of Nations will largely depend upon the willing co-operation of the small States, tact in dealing with them will have to be shown by the Great Powers, and so far it has often been lacking.

Conscription.

Britain has tried to induce her Allies to agree to the disappearance of Conscription, but none of them was willing, the United States perhaps excepted. In the circumstances, it is not surprising. All the same, one regrets and wonders if the British case was as well represented as it might have been. For if all the armies of the world are raised on the voluntary basis, the organisation of the whole resources of great States for war would be impossible. Moreover, if Germany threatened France, her Allies would be able quickly to hasten to her assistance. Mr. Lloyd George, failing to gain his end by general agreement, has insisted on the abolition of Conscription in Germany. But if she joins the League of Nations she can revive it if it is not by then abandoned by other members. That the Allies penalise it in Germany will, however, have advantages for some time to come, since a long-service army raised on the voluntary system will not permit secret military preparations—(1) By means of the maintenance of cadres; (2) the training of men who could act as officers. The German Army is not to exceed in establishment 100,000 men, and so the once great General Staff will automatically come to an end.

But Prussian ingenuity deceived Napoleon, who similarly limited her military forces in the first decade of the nineteenth century. Will history repeat itself?

Those German Merchant Ships.

It is a pity that civilians are so anxious to interfere in matters which are purely military, the handing over of the enemy's merchant fleet, for instance. The result is that weeks of precious time have been wasted and not a single ship is yet in an Allied port. The negotiations at Spa, so far from initiating better relations with Germany, only led her to think that she could profit by creating division amongst the Allies. We are still at war; therefore communication with her on Armistice terms should be conducted by soldiers and sailors, who never let her get the idea that they can be out-manœuvred. At Spa the Allies' civilian representatives allowed her to understand that there was a difference of opinion amongst them as to the method by which she is to pay for food-stuffs. And so, to further complicate matters, she insolently refused to hand over the ships except under conditions imposed by herself. The result was a complete rupture of the negotiations. In the meantime it has been agreed that payment for food supplied to Germany by the Allies will be made—(1) By the freight of the ships taken over; (2) by the export of certain goods not on the "black list" to neutrals and Allies; (3) by such liquid assets as bills of exchange on neutrals; (4) by gold, which France naturally fears would, if accepted on a large scale, deplete the fund from which Germany will have to draw to make reparation, and introduce a principle which might be extended to raw materials. A Commission with Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss at its head, is now in Brussels, with full powers to secure the immediate transfer of ships, which are so urgently needed by the Allies.

Imperial Preference.

The statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is being eagerly awaited, since he is to indicate on what lines the fiscal policy of this country is to run. But, at any rate, it is clear that Imperial Preference will be a leading feature. Mr. Bonar Law indicated as much with regard to sugar recently, and the Minister of Reconstruction has gone several steps further in revealing the intentions of the Government by announcing that all restrictions on goods coming from any part of the Empire to British ports are to be removed—that is to say, England is giving free trade to all the States and territories under the flag. Whether it will be maintained under the conditions which will develop under the weight of her colossal war debt is not certain. But that is not the essential thing. Neither the Dominions nor the Colonies ever asked her to give their products free access to her markets. All they desired was her practical recognition that they were entitled to greater consideration in trade than strangers. This principle has now been conceded. Adjustment is purely a matter of expediency and arrangement, which must ultimately depend upon the commercial policy adopted by the United Kingdom. That the Minister of Reconstruction suggests will embrace protection, to a certain

extent at any rate, for the present system, prohibition, tempered by licences, cannot continue. In the first place, it is uncertain in its working and incidence; in the second place, it leads to abuses. The truth is the country is moving by gradual stages to the abandonment of one-sided free trade, and the substitution for it of a scientific tariff which will stimulate production at home and oversea; confer upon the Empire, individually and collectively, bargaining power in meeting foreign competition, and enable Britain, in particular, to bear lightly the burdens she has incurred by the war.

Spartacists in Germany.

Disorders in Germany, due to Spartacist excesses, continue to break out from the Rhineland to the capital; but it is not easy to tell exactly their bearing on the national stability. It is the object of Germans in power to represent their country as starving and in danger of falling into Bolshevism with a view to escaping some of the consequences of failure in the war. Apparently, however, the fighting in Berlin has been most ferocious, both sides shooting at sight, and using aeroplanes, trench mortars, and other scientific engines of destruction. Some idea of the savage spirit animating the Spartacists, the Bolsheviks of Germany, may be gathered from the fact that they placed the police guard—sixty in number—of a building they captured and shot them all in cold blood. Herr Noske, the War Minister, is using repressive measures in the true Russian spirit. But as the time for signing the Peace Treaty draws nigh Allied statesmen must be considering if there will be a Government in Germany stable enough for the task.

BARBADOS MOTOR AMBULANCES.

The splendid contribution made by the people of Barbados, through Mr. F. C. Collymore, M.B.E., to the British Red Cross Society for the provision and maintenance of motor ambulances has now been brought up to £8,167 16s. by a final instalment of £687 16s., which has just been forwarded to the Society through the West India Committee. In acknowledging this amount, Sir Ernest Clarke wrote:—

"It is a most magnificent result, and on behalf of the Joint War Committee and all of the Motor Ambulance Department, we thank Mr. Collymore and the subscribers generally for their splendid, generous and unselfish help to us in our work of transporting the sick and wounded in this war. The demobilisation of our Motor Ambulance Service has not yet commenced, but I hope within the next two or three months the majority of the ambulances will have returned to England. Until they arrive here we cannot tell in what condition the Barbados ambulances will be, but if one is fit for service we should like very much to offer it to a hospital at Barbados, if you think such a gift would be acceptable. Should this offer be accepted, and we find one of the Barbados cars is not fit for service, then it would give us great pleasure to select another car for the use of Barbados. Perhaps you would be kind enough to put forward this suggestion to Mr. Collymore, and advise me in due course if one of the ambulances could be usefully employed at Barbados, and would be acceptable."

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Luncheon to Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E.

Mr. G. F. Huggins, of Trinidad, was the guest of the members of the West Indian Club at a luncheon at 4, Whitehall Court, on Thursday, March 13th. Mr. H. F. Previt , the Treasurer of the Club and of the West Indian Contingent Committee, presided, and those present included:—

Captain V. L. Henderson, M.C., M.P., Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. Alex. Elder, Mr. H. K. F. Smith, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. G. McG. Frame, Sir W. H. Trollope, Bart., Captain Mark Kerr, Lieutenant M. S. Moody Stuart, M.C., Lieutenant L. S. Gruchy, Mr. A. E. Barnett, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G., Mr. F. J. Morris, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, Sir Edward Davson, Captain G. B. Mason, R.A.M.C., Second-Lieutenant G. J. V. Crosby, R.E., Mr. E. C. Jackman, Mr. L. H. Miller, Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. E. B. Bonyun, Major R. B. Todd, Lieutenant J. F. B. Kaye, Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Lieutenant Claud Robinson, R.N.R., Lieutenant Hamel-Smith, Lieutenant Trestrail, Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., &c., Captain A. S. Arrindell, Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G. (acting Hon. Sec.), Lieutenant H. A. Arthur, Lieutenant C. Kirkpatrick Pile, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Chapman, Captain Clark, Lieutenant Pogson, Lieutenant Percy Huggins, Captain Archibald de Pass, Captain W. A. Kaye, Mr. George Parrott, and Mr. Harold Carey.

Proposing the toast of "The guest," Mr. Previt  said that the club had hoped also to entertain Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.R., D.S.O., but that officer had foolishly left the health resort of London and had repaired to the country, where he had contracted influenza. Captain Owen had a brave record. A man far over military age, he had responded to his country's call and had done splendid work with the Dover patrol, and latterly on convoy work, for which he had been awarded the D.S.O.—a decoration which he received on the same day as that on which his surviving son was given the Military Cross. After saying a few words about the club, which he considered was serving a useful purpose, not only as a social centre but also in entertaining distinguished guests from the colonies, Mr. Previt  said that he was glad that Mr. Huggins, unlike Captain Owen, was in his usual health. Their guest was a prominent merchant of Trinidad, who was taking an increasingly prominent part in the public life of the colony. Since the outbreak of war he had shown his patriotism and public spirit by founding the Trinidad Merchants Contingent, comprising upwards of 300 young men, whom he sent over to join the Colours. For his services in this connection he had deservedly been decorated by the King.

The toast having been enthusiastically honoured, Mr. Huggins, after thanking the club for the compliment paid him, said that it had been an honour to be associated with Captain Owen on that day, and with Major Bowen, who had come over in command of the first Trinidad Merchants Contingent. No fewer than ten per cent. of the members of the contingent had laid down their lives, while five per cent. had been decorated—a record which he believed was not exceeded by that of any other colony. He had learnt to value the men and had learnt, too, to regard them in a different light than before when he had not fully realised what material there was in Trinidad. For those left behind he had the greatest admiration. He had had to convey to them messages of congratulation and of sympathy, and their bearing had been beyond praise. With regard to the future of the West Indies, he hoped that those colonies would receive greater encouragement from the Mother Country than they had done in the past.

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS.—Centrals "Go About."

The fortnight ended February 6th was very dry and hot. The *Advocate* reports that reaping operations had been started at Sandy Lane, Three Houses, Foursquare and elsewhere, and that sugar was beginning to come to town. \$8.50 to \$9 were being offered for canes. The same authority reports an outbreak of lawlessness arising out of collisions with the police following arrests of individuals for carrying away small quantities of coal claimed to have been recovered from the sea, but believed to be stolen. There having been some stoning and revolvers having in some cases been discharged, an increase in the strength of the police force has been authorised. Food was still short. Hope Plantation, St. Thomas, was offered for sale, and an offer of £13,000 for Sturges' (150 acres in the same parish) had been refused.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The R.S.W.C.

HON. A. R. USHER, M.B.E., February 21st.—We are looking forward to the return of the British Honduras contingent shortly, and arrangements are being made to give them a good reception. A Committee has been formed known as the "Returned Soldiers Welfare Committee," to find employment for the men and to look after them generally. A resolution which was passed at a public meeting on the 13th instant—and public meetings have also been held throughout the other districts of the colony at which similar resolutions have been passed—asking that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales may be pleased to include British Honduras in his proposed Empire tour. Our new Governor, Mr. Eyre Hulson, is expected here next week, and arrangements are being made by the people of Belize to give him a good welcome.

JAMAICA.—Banana Exports.

MR. JOHN BARCLAY, February 18th.—The shipping of bananas has begun again, after an interval of three years. The money lost to the island during these three years without this item of export must amount to about four million pounds. There has been a substantial reduction in the area under bananas; but if we are lucky enough to escape more hurricanes there will be an increase again, though probably not up to the old maximum. Local food crops have occupied the attention of smaller growers to a very large extent, and they have lost interest in banana growing. We have no actual figures as to the increased production of food crops, except corn; but the Food Controller has issued a form requiring every owner of land to give approximately the area under the chief food crops on his land. Many proprietors have a large number of tenants, and much additional land has been given out for the cultivation of such crops. However, we have this to go upon—that our imports during 1917 were tremendously less than during 1913, or the average of any three or four pre-war years, and still we have been fairly well fed even without the ten to twelve million bunches of bananas which are usually produced per annum, a sixth of which are always used locally for food, the rest exported.

Prices of nearly all our products have been high lately—coffee, cocoa and ginger, for instance as well as rum and sugar. I am afraid, however, that the last crops of coffee and cocoa have not been up to the average. The influenza epidemic was so general that it interfered with field work very largely for over three months, and crops suffered. The restrictions on the exportation of foodstuffs from the United States have been removed, and there will be larger imports. How this will effect the prices of local foodstuffs, however, remains to be seen. The Agricultural Society asked

its 225 branch societies with their 8,370 members for continued effort to be kept up this year, and so far there has been general response—even more than last year. The Food Controller is dealing with surpluses in different districts, so that there may be no disappointment in getting markets for what is raised.

NEVIS.—The Need of a Steamer Service.

A series of resolutions have been passed by a representative meeting strongly urging the inclusion of Nevis in the itinerary of any contract steamship service which may be arranged. It is pointed out that the island has a well-sheltered roadstead, better than that of Basseterre, St. Kitts, and an ample supply of large lighters capable of lifting 250 tons of cargo per trip, and further that a call at Nevis would not entail a change of route by the inter-colonial steamers nor a delay of more than an hour, as was proved when the *Berlice* and *Balantic* used to call at Charlestown.

ST. VINCENT.—The Cotton Industry.

MR. W. N. SANDS, January 27th.—The mail brought by the R.M.S. *Quillota*, which left England on the 1st instant for Barbados, reached us by sailing vessel yesterday, and brought the interesting news of the return of the Hon. Gideon Murray, our late Administrator, to Parliament. We had hoped to have received the result of the election earlier, but for some reason or other no word was sent. In this case certainly "no news was good news." Splendid weather is being experienced, and with the abatement of the influenza epidemic planters are enabled to proceed with the reaping of their crops under better conditions with respect to labour.

The arrowroot growers have suspended temporarily the shipment of the product until stocks in London are moved off. The Sea Island cotton crop for this season is still being purchased by the Government on behalf of the War Office, who had, of course, agreed to buy it in advance at fixed prices. The future of our cotton industry is discussed in the local papers of the 17th and 18th instant. The opinion is expressed that a minimum price for Sea Island cotton should be fixed for a term of years in order to stabilise the industry. Some of the large growers would no doubt prefer to take their chances of the market, as they might on an average of years realise satisfactory profits; but the small growers, who for the most part live "from hand to mouth," cannot stand reverses, and therefore we have seen great fluctuations from season to season in the number of growers and the area they plant according as the outlook is bright or the reverse. This season, for instance, we have about 2,300 small growers, whereas in the 1916-17 season there were but 900 of them. The future of the cotton industry of the West Indies will no doubt receive the close attention of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee.

TOBAGO. Cocoa Pickings.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, February 5th.—The month of January has been rather too dry, and one hears of scarcity of water in certain places, which affords a poor lookout if the dry season is even of ordinary duration. As the autumn crop of cocoa was curtailed by the usual "Indian summer" in August and September, rains were much needed in January to nourish the young fruit for the expected spring crop, and planters are now rather anxious about its prospects. Fairly good cocoa pickings were made in January, but not much is looked for now until April, and all depends on the intervening weather. Although coco-nuts are generally regarded as being less thirsty than cocoa, they are equally affected by weather conditions, although the effect comes later, as the fruit takes so much longer to mature. Tobago as a sugar producer is also at the expiring stage. The canes on the few Metayer estates look far from cheerful on account of

the dry weather, and the crop can hardly reach last year's level. Lands in the leeward district might still supply a central factory if labour and capital were forthcoming.

TRINIDAD.—A Topographical Survey.

Mr. Edward Tripp writes under date January 31st: We have had a most delightful January—quite wintry for us. Thermometer from 60 deg. to 65 deg. in the morning. Early risers have quite longed for the sun to come up and warm them. Personally I prefer to remain under the blankets. Fine sugar-crop weather, too. Several mills will be going about soon, and things generally look bright, especially prices of cacao—\$21 to \$22.00 the faultyer.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, February 3rd.—The Inter-Colonial Customs Conference will meet on March 10th. It had been hoped that the meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce would be held first, so that the advantage of its considered opinion might have been at the disposal of the official conference; but owing to the delay resulting from a want of complete unanimity as to the desirability of discussing the question of federation this year, it seems now fairly certain that the commercial gathering will be postponed until 1920. However, that will be decided on the arrival of Sir Edward Davson, who is expected shortly.

Dry weather has prevailed so far this month, and sugar-reaping commences under the best auspices. Over eight million pounds of cacao were shipped during January—not a record, but well over the average, and prices ruled high.

A Council Paper (No. 5-1919) has been published containing correspondence between the Governor and the Secretary of State in regard to a topographical survey of Trinidad, from which it appears that this long-neglected work has been engaging the attention of His Excellency since November, 1918, shortly after his arrival here—yet another instance of the early grasp of the long-neglected wants of the colony to which immediate action was applied by our energetic Governor. As long ago as 1897 an Ordinance was passed providing for the execution of a survey and map of the island. To give effect to this Ordinance a trigonometrical survey was begun in 1901, under the competent direction of Mr. Edward R. Smart, Engineer-in-Charge of Surveys; but work on this was suspended in 1911, and has not been resumed since. Provision has been made in the Estimates for this year for the continuation of the trigonometrical survey. Estimates of the cost of the topographical survey, amounting to £7,500 a year for three years, exclusive of cost of local transport, have been prepared, and with the close of the war, which will render the services of suitable surveyors available, it is hoped that the work will soon be put in hand.

At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce a despatch from Sir George Foster on the question of subsidy to the Canadian West Indian Steamship Service was considered. For the past five years the Dominion Government has paid the whole of the subsidy, amounting to £70,000 a year, and they have lately renewed it for another year, during which time the colonies interested will be able to decide on the proportion they will be prepared to pay in future. The Chamber unanimously passed a resolution as follows:—

(1) That this Chamber desires to record its appreciation of the generous action of Canada in providing the whole of the subsidy which made possible the existence of the efficient and satisfactory steamship service between the Dominion and the West Indies during the past five years, a service to which these islands are largely indebted for their food supply during the war.

(2) That this Chamber is in full sympathy with Sir George Foster's suggestion that the West Indies should join in an endeavour to put on a thoroughly good and representative service, and to co-operate with each other in sustaining it by a reasonable subsidy.

(3) That, in the opinion of this Chamber, such subsidy should be based upon the volume of trade contributed to the steamers by each colony respectively.

AT WESTMINSTER.

British Sugar.

Replying to Mr. Grattan Doyle on March 10th, Colonel Amery said that proposals for the development of the sugar industry in the British Dominions overseas had been received, and were under the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that experiment and research for the improvement of the sugar industry were being carried on with the assistance of his Majesty's Government and of certain of the overseas Governments as well as by private enterprise. The general policy of his Majesty's Government as to preference to the produce of the British Empire in respect of any duties which were or might be imposed had been clearly defined, but he was not prepared to anticipate any statement which the Chancellor of the Exchequer might make at a later date.

Cocoa for Holland.

Mr. Leslie Scott asked the Food Controller on March 10th whether 500 tons of raw cocoa had recently been allocated at the British controlled price to the Dutch firm of Van Houtens for use by them in their factories in Holland upon an arrangement that they should return 80 per cent., or some other proportion of the resultant products, to this country; and whether such arrangement would in effect enable Van Houtens to dump their foreign-made goods in this country at a cheap price in competition with British firms who had at the request of the Government during the war incurred heavy cost for the express purpose of producing here a supply of the same goods.

Mr. McCurdy, in reply, said: Vouchers entitling Messrs. Van Houten, Limited, to purchase 500 tons of raw cocoa were recently issued to them by the Raw Cocoa Distribution Committee of the Ministry of Food. Subject to the agreement of the importers concerned to issue contracts in exchange for the vouchers, Messrs. Van Houten will obtain the raw cocoa in question at the prices ruling under the Raw Cocoa (Prices) Order, 1918. In this event I understand that the War Trade Department will be prepared to grant to Messrs. Van Houten licences to export the 500 tons of raw cocoa for use by them in their factories in Holland conditional on their returning to this country 95 per cent. of the resultant products. As it will be necessary for the firm to pay the appropriate duty on the importation of the resultant products, and in addition the freight both on the raw cocoa from this country to Holland and on the resultant products from Holland to this country, they will not be so favourably placed as British firms who obtain similar raw cocoa at the same prices, and it is in consequence not likely that the competition to which the hon. Member refers will arise. I may add that the Raw Cocoa Distribution Committee is composed of representatives of every section of the cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, elected by the trade.

[A similar explanation was given to a deputation of the West India Committee which waited on the department concerned at the Food Ministry on the same day.—Ed.]

Import Restrictions.

On March 7th Mr. Bridgeman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, said in reply to a question: "The Government have decided that no import restrictions shall be or continue to be imposed on goods coming from any part of the Empire without the assent of the Cabinet, which will not be given unless some unforeseen necessity arises. It is not possible at present to remove all restrictions on imports from foreign countries because of the state of the exchanges, but all raw materials will be freed from import restriction."

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
March 20th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

New York quotations: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c.; Porto Ricos, St. Croixs, Hawaiiis, and Philippines, 7.28c. c.i.f. 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64 c.i.f.

Stocks in Java on February 1st amounted to 650,000 tons, which it is expected will be cleared off before the new crop opens in May.

The West India sugar statistics in London, week ending March 8th, were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	4,143	2,962	6,727	
Deliveries	6,188	9,601	8,535	
Stock	4,147	4,348	6,207	

RUM. The stocks in London on March 8th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	3,155	5,684	9,691	
Demerara	11,460	3,235	8,539	
Total of all kinds	19,338	14,821	31,273	

COCOA. The prohibition against the importation of cocoa butter has been removed, but sales cannot be effected above the maximum price fixed by the Ministry of Food.

Shipments of Trinidad cacao during months of January were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lb.
To all Countries	8,129,361
To same date, 1918	1,802,205
" " " 1917	6,900,700
" " " 1916	5,085,123
" " " 1915	7,406,433
" " " 1914	8,151,685
" " " 1913	3,854,745
" " " 1912	10,757,066
" " " 1911	5,848,610
" " " 1910	9,386,702
" " " 1909	8,451,141
" " " 1908	7,986,902

The stocks in London on March 8th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	18,098	12,600	17,630	
Grenada	13,018	9,523	18,767	
Total of all kinds	146,346	199,916	245,875	

COTTON. In the ten weeks ended March 6th 880 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom.

ARROWROOT. In view of the general lack of confidence in the possibility of maintaining prices as fixed by the Growers' Association, first-hand parcels are quite neglected. A few sales in second-hands at much lower prices have been made.

COPRA. The restrictions as to Government Control are now removed, and importers are free to sell to United Kingdom, subject only to maximum prices of 1917. Prices have advanced in the meantime. We quote £37 to £37 10s. c.i.f. U.K.; £36 10s. c.i.f. Marseilles.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed lower, but no business reported. Nominal quotation, 13s. to 13s. 6d. per lb. Distilled lower, small sales, 4s. 9d. per lb. Lime Juice: Concentrated firmly held. Raw lower. Quota-

tions, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 6d., ordinary to fine; but stocks still more than required. Citrate unchanged.

BALATA. Market quiet, but steady. W.I. sheet quoted 4s. to 4s. 1d. spot. Venezuela block, 3s. 3½d. to 3s. 4d. c.i.f., nominal. Spot done at 3s. 4½d. per lb. landed. Panama block nominal at 2s. 7d. to 2s. 8d. c.i.f. Tobacco block, 2s. 9d. c.i.f.; spot, 2s. 11d.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

"**VARISITY**" MAN, aged 29, married, experienced rubber, hemp, sugar, rice, requires position abroad. Thorough knowledge Hindustani. Practical knowledge surveying, internal combustion engines. Discharged officer. Apply "Kents," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, age 23, requires post, Overseer or otherwise, with good prospects. Willing to go abroad anywhere. Experience of business before war. Served in ranks in France three and a-half years, commission service in England and France; three times wounded. Still fit for active service. Military Cross and 1915 Star. Good leader and commander. Apply "H.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, expecting to be demobilised very shortly, single, 28 years old, requires a position in England. Eleven years' experience in Jamaica, B.W.I., in shipping, fruit-growing and purchasing; also as clerk, and manager of Copra Factory. Apply Captain, c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

PLANTER AND TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST, who has had exceptional experience in Estate management and cultivation of tropical products, is shortly visiting the West Indies and South America, and is willing to inspect and value Estates, or to report on any Agricultural proposition. Highest references. Apply "F. E.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

BUTLER, or as Valet, requires situation; excellent testimonials. Native of Barbados. Apply "R. H.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

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, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

GENTLEMAN, 42, seeks post as Manager of Estate. Over 20 years' experience in Tropical Agriculture, including Tea, Cotton, Sugar, &c., in Ceylon, South America, West Indies, Rhodesia, Nigeria. Good testimonials. Apply "Q.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

EUROPEAN WARRANT OFFICER, B.W.I. Regiment, awaiting discharge, seeks position of trust at home or in colonies. Married. Experienced book-keeper and correspondent, with advertising ideas. Accustomed handle native labour. Excellent testimonials. Apply "W. O.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

TO REFINERS, Manufacturers, Growers, and others.—A responsible permanent position is sought by a demobilised Officer-Cadet, aged 28, married, active and healthy, with capabilities based upon 14 years' experience in Sugar Trade (8 Mining-lane firm, 2 Germany (proficient in language), 4 in Control, Cost and Audit Department, Royal Commission Sugar Supply); capable accountant, and familiar with every detail audit, costing, parity, and statistical work. Highest references. "F. J. B.," c/o Manager, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

LIEUTENANT R.N.V.R., having served two years in the West Indies, desires to return with view of settling there. Managerial post for preference. Has limited capital if suitable opportunity presented. Apply "H. J. H.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED, by a gentleman who has had many years' practical experience in the Cultivation of Sugar-cane and Manufacture, also in Rubber and Coco-nut Cultivation, both in the East and West Indies and East Africa. Appointment. Address "G.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-five, educated Oxford, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies; keen and energetic; first-class references. Army discharge. Apply "C. V. H.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

LIEUTENANT, Scotsman, 28, married, four years on Sugar Plantation, Demerara, including Factory Management, knowledge Coco-nut cultivation, member first British Guiana Contingent, and can claim Repatriation, seeks appointment West Indies, or prepared go elsewhere. Keen, enthusiastic, energetic, and possessed of initiative. Excellent references. Apply "J. M. S.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone 6642 CENTRAL,
3743 AVENUE.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
April 3rd, 1919.

The Jamaica Imperial Association.

THE annual report of the Jamaica Imperial Association, which was presented to the members of that body on February 18th, contains a record of much useful and valuable work. Inaugurated at a meeting of representative men of every class of the community held in Kingston on December 17th, the Association aimed at developing the trade and industries of Jamaica, and the founders laid emphasis upon the paramount necessity of promoting cordial and satisfactory relations between employer and labourer, and of eliminating preventable diseases. The report—a copy of which is now before us—shows that these objects have been kept constantly in mind by the Executive Committee and the Council, whose activities have been most commendable. The question of the sanitation and the health conditions of the island, with special reference to the prevalence of such preventable diseases as ankylostomiasis, malarial fever, syphilis and yaws, was submitted for the consideration of a special committee, which, after first receiving a

definite refusal, induced the Government to vote a sufficient sum of money to meet the expenses asked by the Rockefeller Foundation as a condition precedent to sending a commission to the island. As a result Dr. M. E. CONNER visited the island later in the year to survey the hookworm conditions, and an active campaign for the eradication of this enervating disease has already been commenced. In matters of this kind the Jamaica Imperial Association has a wide field for its activities. It is an admitted and a most regrettable fact that labourers are steadily leaving Jamaica for the neighbouring island of Cuba, and no effort should be spared to induce them to return to work under the British flag. The labourers are mainly attracted, of course, by high wages, but when the adoption of a system of Imperial Preference in the United Kingdom leads to the promised development of the Jamaica sugar industry, it is to be hoped that conditions as to wages, sanitation and housing will undergo such an improvement as to offer real inducements to British labourers to remain in their own island home rather than to seek employment under a foreign flag. In their endeavours to stimulate production, which formed a prominent plank in their programme, the Executive Committee have approached problems regarding such staples as cocoa, sugar and rum in a broad-minded and statesmanlike spirit, and in close co-operation with the West India Committee and kindred bodies, and have succeeded, as their report shows, in benefiting those industries in a variety of ways. In the negotiations for the erection of central sugar factories they have also played a prominent part, and in this connection have successfully combated the pessimism of the local Department of Agriculture, whose belief in the sanctity of the banana must have received a rude shock by the recent demonstration as to its susceptibility to destruction by hurricane. In all the discussions and representations which have been made Mr. ARTHUR W. FARQUHARSON, Chairman of the Association, has proved a tower of strength, and it would be heresy to omit to recognise the valuable assistance which he has received from Mr. HERBERT G. DE LISSER, the Secretary, whose knowledge of Jamaica and its needs is unsurpassed. In bringing this brief appreciation of a new and virile body to a close we may, perhaps, be pardoned for reproducing the generous acknowledgment which the Executive Committee give of the assistance which they have

received from the organisation which we represent: "It must," they state, "be added that a good deal of the success which has attended the Association's efforts is due to the splendid co-operation and untiring energy of the West India Committee of London. Few people in this country realise the value and volume of work which the West India Committee accomplishes every year for Jamaica. Without such an organisation at the very heart of the Empire Jamaica's interests could not possibly be so well served as they are in these days. We owe a debt of gratitude to the West India Committee for the prompt attention which it has always shown to any representations made to it by this Association." We commend this statement to the notice of other organisations in the West Indies with aims similar to those of the Imperial Association, and would point out that the success referred to has been mainly due to the fact that the Jamaica body, both by cable and correspondence, has, throughout the year, kept the West India Committee closely informed as to the needs and requirements of Jamaica. Without such information the West India Committee is powerless to effect the good which it desires to bring about. With it it can do much, as events have shown.

Chemical Control in Sugar Work.

NOW that the West Indian sugar industry is likely to be placed on a more permanently satisfactory footing as the result of tariff preference, it is sincerely to be hoped that the matter of the mutual chemical control of sugar factories will receive renewed attention. The subject has from time to time been brought forward in these columns. Java, Mauritius, Cuba and Louisiana have all more or less recognised the advantage of a system where the results of the factories can be compared, not only with the view of bringing the laggards up to the standard of the more advanced, but also of effecting a general improvement from the unconscious interchange of thought which must inevitably result from the establishment of such a system. It is quite time that something was done in the British West Indies in this connection, and we trust that the planters and proprietors will take the matter up, and take steps to make a beginning at least in the direction of establishing a system whereby results may be mutually compared. It is not essential that the names of the factories or the proprietors should appear. The factories could be distinguished by numbers, the key to which would only be known to the individual or Committee to which the work of collation would be entrusted. It is not sufficient that each colony have its own system, but that the whole of the sugar industry of the West Indies should be brought into the scheme. We should be only too glad to assist in carrying out such system in any way possible, and we may be sure that the West India Committee would be only too glad to place their organisation at the disposal of the planters if they would once agree among themselves to adopt the system of mutual control. While on this subject, we would point out that the data of the control must be beyond doubt as to accuracy. The chemical staff

of the factories should be strengthened with this end in view. No factory working night and day should be without three chemists—a head chemist, whose time would be occupied mainly in the factory, and a night and day chemist for laboratory work. This is essential, and we believe that the expense involved would be amply repaid by the results, not only as regards the accuracy of the figures, but also the recovery of sugar.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,832, and we shall be greatly disappointed if it does not pass the 2,000 mark in the near future. The question of more convenient and commodious premises is now under consideration, and if each member were to introduce at least one eligible candidate for admission it would be possible not only to acquire more suitable "Rooms" but also to bring the CIRCULAR back to its pre-war size of 24 pages. In this connection we would remind readers that, while the price of most newspapers have been increased 100 per cent., and that of some of them 200 per cent., the CIRCULAR is still sent to all members of the West India Committee post free for £1 1s. per annum. In recognition of this we confidently hope that members will help to strengthen the Committee by introducing candidates. At a meeting of the executive held on March 27th the following were admitted:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDS.
Mr. C. Elliott Jennott ... (Trinidad)	Mr. Sydney A. Howard Mr. Edgar Tripp
Mr. William Wallace Smith (Grenada)	Mr. A. H. B. Gall Mr. P. A. F. Macleod
Messrs. Rose & Latham, Ltd. (Canada)	Mr. J. S. E. Brookfield Mr. A. J. Bennett
Mr. Charles Lister Clarke... (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado Mr. Wm. Wilson, O.B.E.
Mr. Julius Robert Falconer (Trinidad)	Mr. G. F. Huggins Mr. A. H. Hamel Smith
Mr. Percy A. Ashmead Bartlett (London)	Mr. A. H. Hamel Smith Miss Mary Moseley
Mr. Leonard H. R. Farquharson (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson Mr. L. de Mercado
Hon. C. B. Vickers (Jamaica)	Mr. Cyril Gurney Mr. H. A. Trotter
The Anglo-Ceylon & General Es. Co., Ltd. (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. A. Trotter
Maj.-Gen. W. W. H. Grey, C.B., C.M.G. (London)	Mr. G. M. Frame Mr. H. A. Trotter
Mr. James Henley Batty ... (London)	Mr. G. M. Frame Mr. H. A. Trotter
Mr. Thomas Bannister Hull (St. Lucia)	Mr. William Gillespie Mr. J. H. Bourne
Mr. Ronald Macdonald (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado Mr. Wm. Wilson, O.B.E.
Mr. John Shakespeare Nash (Jamaica)	Mr. J. de Mercado Mr. Wm. Wilson, O.B.E.

Membership of the West India Committee is confined by the Royal Charter to British subjects. Any member may propose or second candidates, whose names should be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3. There is no entrance fee, and the annual subscription is £1 1s. per annum, which can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN cotton-tree fall, billy-goat jump over him."

STAFF-SERGEANT GEORGE MARTIN, steward of the West Indian Club, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

MR. WILLIAM HALE, of Trinidad, has been promoted to be Acting Captain and Adjutant of a Labour Battalion in France.

DURING the inquiry by the Coal Commission on March 9th, Sir Thomas Watson, of Cardiff, said that American coal had beaten us out of the West Indies, and was seriously threatening our trade in Brazil and the Plate.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE is being paved with Trinidad asphalt by the Linamar and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, which, judging from the report of the general meeting published in the Press on March 27th, is in a very prosperous condition.

THE COURT of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have appointed Mr. H. A. P. Cotton, head of the Passenger Department, to be an assistant manager of the company; and Mr. D. I. Conradi, assistant secretary, to be the secretary to the company, in place of the late Mr. A. H. Bennett.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL AVERY D. ANDREWS, Deputy-Chairman of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, after spending a few days' leave in London, has returned to the American G.H.Q. in France. General Andrews holds a prominent position on General Pershing's Staff, and has been on active service since early in 1917.

MAJOR THE REV. W. J. BENSLEY, second in command of the 1st British West Indies Regiment, has returned to England, and, having been demobilised, will shortly resume his duties as a master at Sherborne School. Mr. Bensley, who was in the Territorials before the war broke out, at once volunteered for active service, and was posted to the Battalion, with which he went through the fighting in Palestine last year.

CAPTAIN G. HENSON LYALL, son of the late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, has been appointed a Member of the British Empire Order (Military Division). Although well over military age, Captain Lyall, after serving in the early years of the war with the Volunteers, relinquished his business as a solicitor and joined the Royal Air Force, on behalf of which branch of the Service he has recently been engaged on important work in Paris.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY announced on March 16th that, in addition to the resumption of its commercial service between this country and Canada, as and from 9 a.m. on that day, the Government had authorised the company to transmit wireless telegrams at the full ordinary rate for Bermuda, British West Indies and British Guiana. Such telegrams may also be filed at the company's offices or at any postal telegraph office in the United Kingdom.

WITH a membership scattered all over the world the Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee would find it no easy task to collect subscriptions but for the co-operation of the members. This co-operation is so loyal that at the close of 1918 the percentage of arrears was less than 2½ per cent. Will not those members who have not yet paid up help to beat this record in

1919? Subscriptions can be paid in to any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada. It's so simple!

THE St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers and Exporters Association continues to prosper, though its propaganda work has necessarily been interrupted by the war. During the year 1918, covered by the latest report, the Association contributed £100 each to the Halifax Relief and British Red Cross Funds. The arrowroot of the members of this co-operative body, who comprise practically all the producers in the island, is graded in London by a committee of brokers with the result that the name of St. Vincent arrowroot is becoming better known every year. The Association also puts up its product under the trade name "No-Wyta." The new market fund of this enterprising co-operative body, of which Mr. J. Elliott Sprott is secretary, now stands at £1,061 9s. 11d., of which good use will be made when a suitable time presents itself.

DR. ROBERTSON DOBIE, M.D., D.Ph., Crichton, one of the leading doctors in Strathearn, believes that the virulence of the recent epidemic of influenza was due to the reduced consumption of sugar. In a letter published in the *Perthshire Constitution* of March 17th he wrote:—"From an intimate knowledge of the blood tissue of the human subject—its constituent parts—I am convinced that the phagocytes, or white blood corpuscles, our natural safeguards against disease and infection, are not only starving, but dying for want of that essential calorie, sugar. It is the one and only element of our food that keeps the blood and circulatory system in good tune for the part it has to play. I hope this subject and expression of opinion will be brought before the House of Commons. Let me suggest in all earnestness—Liberate the thousands of tons of good sugar, encourage the refining industry, do not hold it up for the manufacture of jam and sweetmeats only, but give it to the people at a considerably reduced price—*ad lib.*—and in two months I predict influenza and all its disastrous complications will be a thing of the past."



The following letter was sent in February to all members of the West India Committee, with a calendar for 1919, a picture on which is reproduced above:—

DEAR SIR,—

I beg to send for your acceptance a calendar for 1919, and to enclose also a Candidate's Form in the hope that you will help to increase the membership of the West India Committee.

In the event of your not having already paid your subscription for the current year, I shall be obliged if you will kindly forward it, or pay it into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, at your earliest convenience.

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

WEST INDIAN LABOUR EXCHANGES.

It may be remembered that at a meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies in 1917 a resolution was passed recommending an investigation of the question of increasing and facilitating the exchange of labourers between the different West Indian colonies by such means as the establishment of Labour Exchanges, and the introduction of a system of certificates of health and character.

The primary object of this resolution was to prevent the emigration of able-bodied West Indian labourers to foreign countries as long as work was available for them in the West Indian colonies themselves.

It has not been found possible to collect any reliable statistics as to the number of labourers who annually leave the West Indies, some to return within a year, and some to settle permanently in foreign lands, but we know that there is a considerable number of British West Indians in the countries surrounding the Caribbean—there being, for example, about 12,000 in Costa Rica, a considerable number in Cuba (on one estate there being 1,350 Jamaicans resident), about 6,000 in Honduras, and about 5,000 in Santo Domingo, apart from an annual movement of 2,000 from the Leeward Islands to that island and back. This is in addition to the numbers of West Indians, chiefly Jamaicans, who have gone to Panama, of which one estimate has been given as 30,000, of whom 90 per cent. are regarded as settlers. It would be as well not to take these figures as being more than approximately correct, but nevertheless they are sufficient to show that the British West Indies have in the past allowed themselves to be deprived of able-bodied labourers who would be of great value to certain of the colonies at the present time.

It may be said that these men are tempted by high wages in countries where greater opportunities as to wages are afforded, but it must be remembered that there is every hope that the British West Indies will shortly receive benefit from the fiscal arrangements of the Mother Country, and that in consequence their industries will be placed on a more satisfactory, and let us hope more stable footing.

The time may therefore be ripe to consider how far it is practicable to establish labour bureaux in these colonies, since so far the only colonies which have attempted to grapple with this subject for their own purposes are Trinidad and British Guiana.

In any scheme for the maintenance of labour exchanges, uniformity of system must be established, and it is to be hoped therefore that the Secretary of State for the Colonies may be sufficiently in the scheme to be the co-ordinating authority, otherwise it may be necessary to call a conference of representatives from all the colonies, which would mean certain expense and loss of time, which it is desirable to avoid.

An officer from one of the Government Departments in each colony should, it is suggested, be seconded to act as Migration Officer, and the Labour Bureau would be under his charge. This should be situated in the local post-office, where lists of

approved employers and labourers of that colony should be kept, and where information should be posted publicly of labour requirements from other colonies. The procedure would be that when an employer desired labourers, he would apply to his own Migration Officer, stating the number required, and the nature and duration of the work and the rate of pay offered. By arrangement with the cable companies, this information would be cabled through the colonies and posted publicly in various post-offices. When labourers applied for work at any bureau in answer to such an application, a cable would be sent to the colony where the employer resided stating the number registered, and he would be advised by return that the employer had deposited the necessary amount of passage money. The labourers would then be despatched at a minimum rate of passage, according to an arrangement to be made with the steamship companies plying between the different islands.

The contract would come under the Common Law and the Master and Servant Law of each colony, and anyone endeavouring on the one hand to entice the labourers away would be liable to prosecution, while on the other hand, the employer, if he failed to pay the necessary wages, would also be proceeded against—possibly by the Migration Officer. At the end of the contract the employer would pay the return fares of the labourers.

The employer would also be bound to supply adequate housing accommodation for the labourer as well as facilities for purchasing food at reasonable rates. The name of any employer who failed to carry out his agreement (the labourer's contract for which would be endorsed by him on the arrival of the former) would be struck off the list of approved employers and no further applications would be received from him. Similarly, if a labourer proved unsatisfactory or absconded, his name would be struck off the list of approved labourers in his own colony, and he would not be allowed to accept further employment.

There are obviously certain difficulties which would have to be overcome, such as the arrangement with cable and steamship companies, and the need of prevention of overlapping in engaging labourers in different colonies, but the fact that labourers before leaving British colonies to find work in foreign countries would have before them the rate of wages offered throughout the British West Indies would undoubtedly in many instances cause them to accept work under the British flag.

The above scheme must only be considered as a rough indication on the lines on which inter-colonial migration might be developed. As an attempt towards a solution of the problem it may be at least considered worth a trial, and if it is approached in an unselfish spirit by all concerned, and with the realisation of the extra amount of work done by the labourers among our own islands, and the amount of money passing from one island to another, there is every possibility that it may prove a success.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON left England in the *Antillian* last week for Trinidad, en route to British Guiana, where he expects to stay for a month or six weeks.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

Proposed West Indian College.

The article suggesting the formation of a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies, published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of January 9th, has attracted widespread attention. Both in Trinidad and Jamaica resolutions have been passed advocating the establishment of such an institution, and with singular unanimity the Trinidad Agricultural Society and the Jamaica Imperial Association have suggested that the college might be conducted in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the headquarters of which each body wishes to have established in its own island. The Trinidad resolutions, which were moved by Mr. Moody Stuart, at a meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, in February last, run as follows:—

"That the establishment of an agricultural college in the West Indies would be of immense value—a college where those who have taken Science degrees in universities elsewhere would be able to study tropical agriculture and sugar chemistry, and where courses of training would also be provided for estate proprietors and managers;

"That in view of the fact that the Imperial grant for the maintenance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the British West Indies will lapse in 1921, this Society considers that the opportunity should be taken to reorganise and place that Department on a permanent basis, and that the proposed agricultural college might, with advantage, be combined in some respects with that Department;

"That, in view of the variety of tropical products grown in Trinidad and its conditions of soil and climate, this island affords specially suitable opportunities for the research work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and also for the teaching work of the college;

"That the additional funds required for the maintenance of the college, beyond what would come from Imperial grant for the Imperial Department of Agriculture, be provided either by the colony itself or in combination with other colonies willing to join;

"That, in the event of the approval of the foregoing, steps be taken to invite voluntary subscriptions, within and without the colony, to aid in providing the necessary buildings and fittings, so that these may be on a liberal scale suited to the importance of the work and of the colony;

"That his Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that the Society expresses the earnest hope that his Excellency may see fit to accord them his powerful support."

The Jamaica resolutions, which were moved by Mr. Philip Cork, C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary, twice Acting-Governor of Jamaica, and formerly Administrator of St. Lucia, at a meeting of the Jamaica Imperial Association, on February 18th, were as follows:—

"Whereas there is scope for the extensive development of numerous agricultural industries in Jamaica, and it is of vital importance to the welfare of the island that thorough, systematic and continuous research work should be conducted in connection with the possibilities of the colony, coupled with scientific and practical advice to landowners of how best to develop the resources of the colony in different directions;

"And whereas the usefulness to the Empire of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies

would be greatly increased if its field of action were widened;

"And whereas the area and present and prospective resources of Jamaica are vastly in excess of the combined area and resources of the Windward and Leeward islands, and would therefore afford extended scope for the activities of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in connection with research work bearing on problems connected with tropical agriculture;

"And whereas the irrigated districts of St. Catherine, consisting of over 15,000 acres of land with varied cultivation would form an admirable centre for the establishment of an agricultural college conducted under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture;

"And whereas the former Government buildings at Spanish Town situate in the centre of the district above referred to would be suitable for the purposes of such college;

"Be it resolved that the Jamaica Imperial Association, representing great numbers of landowners and other inhabitants of the island largely interested in the several industries of the colony, in general meeting assembled, hereby records its conviction that every means possible should be adopted to ensure that the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies should be transferred to Jamaica, and that an agricultural college should be established in this colony;

"And this Association accordingly respectfully urges on his Excellency the Governor that he should make strong representations in support of the above-mentioned objects to his lordship the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that the Government of this island should forthwith enter into negotiations with the Imperial authorities to ascertain the terms on which the transfer of the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to Jamaica could be effected and the cost incident thereto;

"Be it further resolved that a copy of the foregoing resolution and of the memorandum read at the meeting be forwarded to his Excellency the Governor, and also to the West India Committee, the British Empire Producers' Organisation, and the Royal Colonial Institute, and that the three last mentioned institutions should be urged to give their support to the proposals embodied in the resolution, and to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to impress on his lordship the Secretary of State for the Colonies the suitability of Jamaica as the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and as the site of an agricultural college."

The resolutions were supported in an able speech by Mr. A. E. Harrison, M.A., Head Master of Munro College, and one of the large landowners of Jamaica.

OBITUARY.

MR. SAMUEL HART, J.P.

We regret to state that Mr. Samuel Hart died at his residence at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on February 13th.

By the death of Mr. Hart the business and political life of Montego Bay has lost a prominent figure. Born in the northside port in 1844, Mr. Hart began his commercial career with the firm of Phillips & Son, which he left to start on his own account at Copse, in Hanover. Later on he proceeded to Falmouth, where he entered the dry goods line in partnership with Mr. Henry Reuben. Returning to the town of his birth, he opened a store on the Parade building, eventually the Arcade, in which his firm is still located. For twenty-six years Mr. Hart was a member and chairman of the Parochial Board of St. James, and the development of Montego Bay was in no small measure due to his patriotic efforts.

TRINIDAD AND CENTRAL FACTORIES.

The March number of the *International Sugar Journal*—which publishes a sympathetic memoir of the late Mr. George Martineau, with an excellent portrait of that great authority on the sugar question—shares the view of the CIRCULAR that the report of the Committee of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago was somewhat pessimistic. In an editorial it says:—"Having regard to the fact that the Committee counsel caution on the wholly erroneous supposition that England may soon be producing all the sugar it requires (a supposition they could not have maintained if they had read with any regularity the *International Sugar Journal* or THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR the last few years); one is forced to the conclusion that the report was drawn up without the Committee having mastered the cardinal facts of the situation. The minority reports by Messrs. Wyatt, Warner, and Carlée were more reasonable in their outlook.

The conclusion to be drawn from these reports seems to be that the existing sugar interests in Trinidad are not sufficiently united with regard to the right line to take, to ensure that private enterprise shall bring about a marked improvement in the methods of producing sugar in that colony, and that a strong lead from the Government with an offer of some financial support is needed to stir them to action. How far the report of the majority would have been modified if the Committee had known in time that preference for Colonial sugar was one of the intentions of the Home Government is hard to say, but this factor should act as some considerable incentive to induce a further consideration of the question. But it is a pity that just at this juncture the Trinidad sugar planters cannot display a bolder and more progressive spirit than this Committee Report has revealed."

ST. VINCENT COTTON.

Vinecolonians are justly proud of producing the finest cotton in the world. Their superfine quality of Sea Island now fetches 45d. to 50d. per lb. This satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to the admirable work of the local Agricultural Department, which jealously watches the interests of the industry and prevents its contamination. Mr. W. N. Sands, Agricultural Superintendent in St. Vincent, gives some interesting statistics regarding the development of the Sea Island cotton industry in that island in his latest report.

In St. Vincent, with the heavy rainfall and tropical climate, the Sea Island cotton plant can be allowed to grow over a period of eleven months—May to March—if necessary, and there is no need, as in certain cotton-growing countries, to restrict its growth or hasten maturity, now that there is a prospect of the cotton stainer being controlled.

Mr. Sands again strongly emphasises the necessity of pulling up and burning the old cotton stalks

at the end of each season. Under local conditions this practice has had the effect of relegating the leaf-blister mite (*Eirophtyes gossypii*) to the position of a very minor pest, and recent experiments indicate that the stalks, if dealt with promptly, can be used as traps for cotton stainers, reducing the number which would under ordinary circumstances seek food elsewhere. Again, it is difficult to bury completely the old woody cotton stalks, and, should this operation be not effectively done, there is always a danger of pests being allowed to survive. The point at issue is the loss of organic matter due to the burning of stalks. In St. Vincent, in most seasons, weeds and bush quickly grow up in the fields after the stalks are destroyed, and assist in replacing the loss before the planting time comes round. Last season, for instance, weeds, chiefly leguminous, had grown up so quickly on some estates that quantities of them had to be carted off the fields before the land could be prepared for planting. The opinion is expressed that it would be very unwise to alter the existing practice, although the loss of a certain amount of vegetable material is to be regretted. Increased attention continues to be devoted to the manuring of cotton.

During the year under review success continued to attend the work of the Government granary. The quantity of corn (maize) purchased amounted when kiln-dried to 131,228 lb., which was supplied by 346 vendors. Under the profit-sharing scheme the price paid on account to vendors for shelled corn was \$1.50 per 100 lb., and \$1.12 for cob corn.

Three varieties were obtained from the Bermuda Department of Agriculture—namely, Hollybrook Early, Wilson's Black, and Tar Heel. Planted in August, they grew fairly well, and ripened seed in sixty-eight to seventy-three days. The seeds were much smaller than the introduced seed, and on being replanted produced very weakly plants which gave almost no return. The results are not sufficiently encouraging to experiment further with this crop.

The following table shows the acreage planted in each of the past thirteen seasons, the total yield of lint, and the yield per acre—

Crop.	Area planted, in acres.	Weight of lint, in lb.	Yield of lint per acre in lb.
1905-6	790	137,400	174
1906-7	1,533	268,275	175
1907-8	3,200	432,000	135
1908-9	3,090	372,000	124
1909-10	2,528	356,139	141
1910-11	3,587	561,526	156
1911-12	5,068	487,116	96
1912-13	4,344	428,032	98
1913-14	3,768	399,187	106
1914-15	4,226	323,326	76
1915-16	2,622	205,111	78
1916-17	2,404	160,163	66
1917-18	3,458	329,115	95

The average yield of lint per acre for thirteen years was thus 116.9 lb.

Mr. MAYSON M. BERTON, formerly secretary to the Anti-Bounty League, and now President of the Grand Falls Company, of Newfoundland, recently underwent a severe operation from which, we are happy to be able to state, he is making splendid recovery.

ST. LUCIA'S NARROW ESCAPE.

The Fate of the "Karlsruhe."

An interesting and hitherto unpublished chapter of St. Lucia's history during the war is published in the *Voice*, of St. Lucia, of February 15th, to hand by a recent mail. Says our contemporary:—

Inhabitants of Castries will recall the incident of the collision between the French cruiser *Descartes* and the steamship *Strathmore*, which took place on November 22nd, 1914, at the port of Castries. A case for damages having been filed against the owners of the *Strathmore* by the Commander of the warship, his Honour the Chief Justice of St. Lucia, in a judgment delivered on May 4th, 1915, found the owners of the steamship liable to pay for the damages incurred. After some difficulty in obtaining the necessary information on behalf of the plaintiff in the form of affidavits, his Honour G. O'D. Walton, Acting Chief Justice, on February 6th instant, delivered judgment assessing damages in which he awarded the plaintiff £20,000 damages with interest at 4 per cent. per annum from November 22nd, 1914, to date of payment, and costs.

This incident and another of the same nature, also occurring in the same warship, form an interesting paragraph in the colony's history, but could not be earlier referred to by us owing to the restrictions that were necessarily imposed on us during the war. The story may be briefly related as follows:—

On August 28th, 1914, when Port Castries lay open to any attack that might be made by enemy warships, the French cruiser *Descartes*, Captain Henri La Frogue, arrived from Martinique and took position at the entrance of the harbour on duty as sentinel, the period during which she kept watch over the colony extending from the above date to November 22nd the same year. The strict vigilance maintained by the French man-of-war finds one of its evidences in the fact that during all that time none of its crew were allowed ashore, and the good ship came in for much public sympathy when, not once, but twice she was run into and damaged by steamers calling at the port. In view of the attendant circumstances and some later reported happening, it certainly appears as though grave significance was attached to the occurrences.

On October 25th, as the *Descartes* lay at her post, the steamship *Telesphora*, of the Laimaga Line, on leaving the harbour in broad daylight, rammed and badly damaged her. This necessitated her proceeding to the Martinique dry docks for repairs, which, being effected, the ill-fated ship returned to her station at the mouth of the Castries Harbour.

On Sunday, November 22nd, there was a commotion in town caused from circulation of the news that the *Descartes* had been run into by the steamship *Strathmore* and was in a sinking condition. The affair indeed took place at 3 a.m., and all the sailing vessels and other craft rushed to her aid; but she managed to reach the wharf near the Reclamation, listing on one side, with a large hole in the other just about the waterline.

These incidents not unnaturally created the impression in the mind of the public that the acts were intentionally performed in order to get the *Descartes* out of the way; and the feeling seemed justified when, three days later, it was rumoured that wreckage bearing the name of the German cruiser *Karlsruhe* (then known to be in the Caribbean) had been washed ashore at Grenada and St. Vincent.

The mysterious disappearance of the *Karlsruhe* is as yet inexplicable, but we cannot help wondering what would have been our fate had she materialised in front of the harbour—say the day after the *Descartes* had been disabled!

STEAMER COMMUNICATIONS.

Jamaica's Aspirations.

The views of the Jamaica Imperial Association regarding the question of steamship communication are expressed in the following resolutions, published with the annual report of that body, which were submitted by them to the Governor for transmission to the Colonial Office:—

1. That all the principal ports of the island should be made free ports of entry.

2. That Kingston Harbour should be improved, and a dock and coaling station established.

3. That sufficient shipping should be made available to allow as soon as possible the resumption of a regular fortnightly service of the Elders and Fyffe's Line for the carriage of fruit and other cargoes between Great Britain and this colony and *vice versa*.

4. That as soon as practicable transportation facilities between this colony and Great Britain should be under the control of the Imperial authorities so as to ensure to all producers (a) fair rates for transportation of passengers and cargo, (b) space for shipment of fruit cargoes such as bananas and oranges.

5. With reference to intercolonial communication it is recognised by the Association that there is practically no cargo offering for carriage between Jamaica and other ports in the West Indies. The Association is not, therefore, prepared to recommend any arrangements for a strictly intercolonial service including Jamaica. It is, however, desirable that some arrangement should be made whereby vessels touching at Jamaica should call at some other West Indian port, so that any intercolonial service may be available to freight and passengers from Jamaica.

AUSTRALIA'S SUGAR RECORDS.

The following record of the Australian production of sugar, and of the Commonwealth's imports and exports, have been published by the Australian Sugar Producers' Association:—

Year.	Production. Tons.	Imports. Tons.	Exports. Tons.
1901	—	98,519	4,738
1902	98,795	93,444	3,336
1903	111,659	91,615	2,365
1904	164,670	38,086	2,944
1905	172,242	24,965	11,158
1906	205,576	42,025	9,233
1907	214,244	6,201	18,260
1908	165,715	19,598	14,741
1909	146,470	99,774	8,051
1910	229,584	34,060	6,585
1911	190,595	33,275	6,552
1912	129,783	98,541	2,256
1913	266,267	74,901	3,419
1914	246,408	17,125	13,091
1915	159,681	22,510	7,181
1916	192,831	125,017	1,071
1917	307,714	63,936	1,347

[The figures regarding production for the years 1901 to 1909 inclusive are for the sugar season commencing April 1st each year, while trade figures refer to calendar years. The beet production in 1917 was 1,948 tons of sugar.]

THE WAR AND AFTER.

"The New Diplomacy."

Nearly five months have elapsed since the Armistice was arranged, and the Peace Conference has as yet definitely settled nothing. The "new diplomacy," which was to create a better and happier world by casting aside all the traditions and principles of the old diplomacy, has failed, and is now dismayed at the consequences of its own arrogance. The trouble began in 1917, when the Russian revolution was welcomed as the beginning of the Millennium instead of the red terror, and up to the Armistice nothing was done to retrieve the blunder and much to perpetuate it. Then the Allies had a chance to show a wise sense of realities by (1) including in the Armistice terms the main outlines of the peace with Germany, and (2) intervening in Russia in order to scotch Bolshevism before it gained further strength. They did neither, but went off in pursuit of a League of Nations, leaving the anarchic conflagration in Russia to spread. The result is exactly what "reactionaries" predicted, or, as one critic puts the terrible fact, "It took four and a-half years of fighting to win victory, and only four and a-half months of talking to destroy its fruits."

Terms with the Enemy.

In the first place Germany has had time to organise her diplomatic resources to escape the worst consequences of her crimes. Her trump card is Bolshevism. At home she uses it so as to give the impression that she herself may be overwhelmed by the tide; abroad she encourages it by every possible means, including a lavish outlay of money. The first to succumb is Hungary, which has pulled down the Karolyi Government and substituted for it Soviet rule. To judge from the accounts of the disorders in Budapest anarchy is likely to take the same course in Hungary as it has in Russia. In that case will Rumania be able to hold out? The Allies looked on while Russia was being broken up into fragments, but the prospect of the pestilence extending indefinitely has made them realise that Bolshevism will not, as they hoped, burn itself out in Russia. In their alarm there is danger that they will arrange peace terms, not on the basis of naval and military victory, but under the menace they have allowed to grow for two years.

The Peace Treaty.

The peril in the East and the growing consciousness in Allied countries that, not only is delay in concluding the Peace Treaty costly to them in the present, and may be more so in the near future, has spurred the Council of Ten in Paris to hasten matters. They are now meeting daily, and have promised that the draft of complete terms will be ready in a week. Whether it will be called a preliminary Peace Treaty or an Armistice Convention they are not sure themselves—a confusion of thought inseparable from their original and mistaken conception of the Armistice. They have acted and talked as if we were at peace, whereas we are still at war. Their fateful decisions are, moreover, being

taken in more absolute secrecy than the Congress of Vienna ever knew. Nor is it certain whether a safe compromise can be reached on the two points of view as embodied in Mr. Wilson and M. Clemenceau. The one thinks the League of Nations is a sufficient safeguard, the other insists that she shall have material securities in a strategical frontier and adequate reparation.

After the failure to deal with the Germans at Spa comes the failure of the Allied Commission to deal with them at Posen. They delayed and quibbled until the position became so intolerable that strong pressure had to be brought to bear on the German Government. But in the meantime the Polish legions have been kicking their heels in France for weeks. Now they are to proceed to Poland forthwith, and to land in Danzig. This is a bitter pill for Germany, which regards this port as her own, and hates the idea of a disciplined force arriving in Poland.

Apparently the affairs of Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia are to be settled by a commission the head of which is General Allenby. He has paid a flying visit to Paris to receive his instructions, and is back again in Cairo.

The Commission on Responsibility for the War advises that a special tribunal should be constituted to deal with cases of "outrageous conduct, without distinction of rank," as regards violations of the principles of humanity and international law in the origin of the war, neutral states in 1914, the laws and customs of war.

The League of Nations.

The Commission which has been so long engaged on drafting the "Covenant" is reported to be at the end of its labours, its terms being awaited with anxiety as well as interest. It is believed that the idea of unanimous decisions has been dropped in favour of majority decisions; otherwise the working of the League could be paralysed by one or a few obstinate members. Then Sir Robert Borden has submitted a memorandum, with the principle of which the Dominions and Colonies in general are said to be in agreement, reserving the right of Canada to hold herself aloof from European differences that do not affect the interests or security of the Empire. Holland and Switzerland will only join if their neutrality is preserved to them, Japan if immigration restrictions are removed, and Italy if she gets Fiume. How these and other amendments are to be incorporated in the "Covenant," or how compromise will shape them, no one knows. That the advocates of including the instrument in the Peace Treaty are working hard is certain, and, unfortunately, in one case, for political reasons.

German Merchant Shipping.

At last the German food ships are being handed over. France is to receive about 600,000 tons of cargo boats, and about 75,000 tons of ocean-going liners. Of the remaining 3,000,000 tons Great Britain is to receive half and the United States half, which does not seem a very equitable arrangement. Italy is to be handed over the Austrian mercantile marine. Germany is to receive 370,000 tons of food

monthly till next harvest, but the concession—which was to make peace easier—only makes it more difficult, as she has been led to believe that she can work on the humanity of the Allies. As a matter of fact there are stocks in Germany sufficient for her needs if she were as equitably rationed as the people of this country. The food is to be paid for by exports to neutral countries, securities, and, last of all, gold.

Reparation.

The Conference Committees in Paris have reduced reparation claims to £8,000,000,000. American experts estimate Germany's wealth at £2,400,000,000—£1,600,000,000 abroad, and more or less available for immediate liquidation of war losses, leaving £800,000,000 to be paid. But while the United States would look to the German balance of trade for this sum, France, with her ruined industries, raises the question of German competition. She wants, and to a certain extent has, British support in this matter, insists on the taxation of German imports and exports for a long period. Then there is a difference of opinion as to the division of damages among the Allies, Great Britain claiming priority on the stupendous amount of her war expenditure, France on the destruction of her fairest provinces. In this connection an influential body of Members of Parliament intend to press for a full statement of the Empire's war costs, and the means by which Germany can be made to pay them, forwarding it to the Conference. This is a practical measure, which might have been taken long ago.

The blockade is not to be raised till the conclusion of peace; otherwise the enemy would start trading operations at an advantage. There is great discontent in British industrial circles at the bureaucratic control of imports and exports, which, while the war continued, leaned, if anything, to Germany, and has never lost its bias. What business men say is that trade is being strangled by stupid regulations and red tape. The truth is there will be no stability in the production and commerce of the country until the Chancellor defines the basic principles of our fiscal policy.

The Balance of Power.

This was considered obsolete by our international prophets, and so they took no measures to preserve it. Consequently, Russia is a vast extension of the Balkans, and Austria is to join Germany, which will thereby acquire population and territory greater than her losses. With a strong central *bloc* what will become of the little states, to which we are giving our patronage? As General Mangin is to be sent to Hungary, perhaps it is being recognised in Paris that a united Russia is necessary to European peace.

Mr. H. H. HUTCHINGS has been appointed Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, and has left Grand Turk for Grand Cayman to take up his new duties.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following doggerel:—

"The Kaiser 'e boast and 'e brag
'Bout what he gwine do on de Tag.
But the Englishman's gun
Make the wutless brute run
With 'e tail side 'e leg like 'e dag."

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS.—Estates Changing Hands.

The *Advocate* reports dry and sultry weather for the fortnight ended February 19th. The canes had suffered a slight set-back. Several factories were at work, and the price of canes was \$9 per ton. A Bill has passed the Legislature which aims at protecting choice and fancy molasses against adulteration. The collisions between the police and roughs have ceased. Sturges plantation, St. Thomas, 150 acres, has been sold to Messrs. J. E. Webster and H. D. C. Johnson for £13,000; Ayshford, St. Thomas, 165 acres, to Messrs. F. and H. Inness for £14,000; Hope, St. George, 140 acres, to Mr. G. G. Gale for £12,500; Rock and Four Hills, St. Peter, 504 acres, to Mr. F. F. C. Gill for £22,000. Balls and Pilgrim Place, Christ Church, are also in the market. Mr. T. E. Fell, C.M.G., had a cordial send-off on his departure to England *en route* for Fiji, to the Colonial Secretaryship of which colony he has been promoted. He was immensely popular in Barbados. Mr. W. H. Lewcock has been appointed travelling representative of the Barbados "Mutual."

DOMINICA.—Quotations for Limes.

Ripe limes are now selling at 5s. per barrel, and green limes at 16s. to 18s. unpacked, states the *Guardian* of March 9th. Here as elsewhere a movement is on foot in the direction of securing representative Government.

GRENADE.—The Markets for Spices.

The *West Indian* advocates the development of the markets for nutmegs, of which Grenada exported 23,052 cwt., valued at £103,117, last year. By reaching markets earlier than other producing countries, remunerative prices could be maintained. In this connection our contemporary mentions that a Canadian has visited the island to establish a buying agency for this product. The campaign for securing representative Government continues, and meetings have been held in St. John's and St. Mark's under the chairmanship of the Hon. D. S. De Freitas.

JAMAICA.—Labourers Leave for Cuba.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The Hon. A. H. Miles has left the island on three months' leave, on the expiration of which he will retire on pension. Mr. R. Nosworthy, Supervisor of Revenue, will act as Collector-General until the office is filled. The Hon. D. A. Covinaldi has retired from public life as member of the Legislative Council for St. James. Mr. J. C. Ford, who for many years has held the post of Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, will probably retire in the near future. Mr. M. Y. Grant, traffic manager of the Nigeria Railway, who has been appointed director of the Jamaica Railway, is expected to arrive in March. The Hon. P. C. Cook, C.M.G., who recently resigned from the Legislative Council, will shortly be leaving for England, where he intends to take up his residence. Lieutenant J. H. Owen, R.N.R., D.S.C., is now acting as Harbour-master, and has been appointed member of the Marine Board.

It has been stated that there are good prospects for the formation of a new fruit company in the near future, and also that Mr. S. S. Smith, who was for many years interested in the Jamaica banana trade, intends to renew his activities. Up to and including January 31st, the collections on import duties amounted to £323,272, as compared with £329,018 for the corresponding period in the last financial year. The export tax has been keeping up well, and for the ten months ended January 31st totalled £36,648. The budget for the whole year estimated £42,000. The rum duties have greatly improved, and show an increase of £20,293 over the figures for last year. There are excellent prospects

for heavy shipments of rum in the month of March, and a large steamer is being sent to lift this cargo by the R.M.S.P. Co.

Expenditure of a sum not exceeding £3,800 has been authorised for the purpose of destroying all hives of bees within a radius of 3 miles of Kingston, with the object of stamping out "Foul Brood" disease, which had unfortunately gained a hold among the bees in this district. The scheme for the establishment of a central sugar factory in Eastern St. Thomas, which was before the Council, has been referred to a select Committee, and expenditure of the sum of £500 authorised for purposes of investigation. Since the withdrawal of restrictions upon emigration there has been a great exodus of Jamaican labourers to Cuba. Communication previously confined to schooners has recently been greatly improved, and two steamers, the *Lucinda* and *Manati*, have been placed on the service. It is further expected that in the near future the steamer *Nemesis*, belonging to Messrs. Lindsay, Swan & Hunter, will run between Kingston, Santiago-de-Cuba and Hayti.

ST. LUCIA.—Representative Government.

The *Voice* publishes a circular letter signed by Mr. E. D. Cadet, convening a meeting for the purpose of inaugurating a "Popular Representation Association" and passing a resolution on West Indian Federation. The efforts of the Committee, with Mr. Arthur T. Drysdale as chairman, collected £1,120 for the Red Cross "Our Day" Fund. Commenting on a rumour that Martinique was to be acquired by the United States and that St. Lucia might also be transferred to the Stars and Stripes, the *Voice* says:—

"St. Lucia does not desire to be under any flag other than the British. We have talked with sensible people who agree with us that there is no better rule than the British. If we find faults in the manner of administration of that rule such faults do not alter the fact that the British Constitution assures to each British citizen a broader freedom and larger liberty than does the constitution of any other country. If there be at any time anything that displeases the people they have the freedom and the liberty to put up the biggest constitutional fight, and to continue fighting till their aim is realised. What stands against West Indians is that they did not in the past know how to act in their own interests—how to fight their own battles. Crown Colony children as they are, they have been schooled to submit tamely to any interpretation of British freedom and liberty. But there is an awakening, and, please God, sons of West India shall come to their own as full-fledged British citizens."

TOBAGO.—Steamer Communication.

Mr. R. S. Reid appeared before the Development Committee in Port of Spain recently, when the future needs of Tobago, more especially in the matter of the coastal steamer service, was under discussion. The proposal evidently is to give Tobago smaller steamers and a more frequent service, with ultimate connection with Balandra Bay on the east coast of Trinidad, when the railway is extended from Sangre Grande to that fine open bay, with prospects of an hotel, sea bathing and all the equipments of a much-needed health resort for Trinidad. Tobago is naturally proud and jealous of the R.M.S. *Belize* (on board of which this letter is written), and would sacrifice frequency of service to the comfort and convenience of a weekly trip round the island by our favourite steamer. It is hoped that by the end of the existing contract the development of the island and its products may enable us to retain the *Belize*, and a supplementary steamer of smaller size may also be employed if necessary. A more frequent mail and passenger service would undoubtedly be a boon; but at present the demand is more insistent from Trinidad than Tobago. Capitalists in Trinidad are now taking a keener in-

terest in our island, and no doubt the time consumed at present in visiting their properties is a disadvantage which they would like to overcome. A 500-ton steamer would not encourage tourist traffic, nor (we hope) would it be able to cope with cargo, when the young coco-nut and cacao trees already planted come into bearing.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"BARBADOS IS WITH YOU!"

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—The Hon. J. W. Fortescue, in his recent lecture given at the Royal Institution, mentioned that the first contribution by a British colony of military aid for an Imperial enterprise was that of 4,000 men made by Barbados to the expedition against Jamaica in Cromwell's time (1653-4).

The following notes of military aid contributed by Barbados on other occasions may be of interest to your readers:—

A.D. 1666.—800 men were sent to reinforce the troops in the English port of St. Kitts, an island and at that time belonging in part to Great Britain and in part to France. The contingent unfortunately arrived too late, the English part of the island having been captured by the French a short time before. The contingents landed in Antigua and Nevis.

A.D. 1666.—Lord Willoughby, Governor of Barbados, set out with a fleet of seventeen sail and nearly 2,000 men and took possession of the French island St. Lucia. He proceeded to the French islands Guadeloupe and Martinique, but a hurricane wrecked all his ships save two, and no further result followed that expedition.

A.D. 1689-90.—The French in St. Kitts attacked the English part of that island, which had again been divided between the two nations by the Peace of Breda (1667). The English in that island applied to Barbados for aid, and Sir T. Thornhill and 700 men were sent to succour them. This force arrived too late to save the English in St. Kitts, but it saved Nevis from capture, and took the little island of St. Bart's. Sir T. Thornhill with the force under his command, also landed on the leeward side of St. Martins and destroyed the principal fortification there, but before the reduction of the island was completed the French Admiral Du Casse arrived. Sir T. Thornhill, however, withdrew his troops to Nevis with a loss of only thirteen men.

These troops subsequently gave material aid to the English troops sent to retake St. Kitts. Sir T. Thornhill and his men landed at a spot known as the little salt ponds, which is at the foot of a hill. This had been left unguarded by the enemy as they thought the hill too steep for troops to march over it. But Sir T. Thornhill and his men, using hands and feet, scaled the hill and charged down its farther side.

A.D. 1692.—A contingent of 1,000 men were supplied by Barbados to aid English forces in attacking Martinique. Sir T. Thornhill with the Barbadian contingent landed near St. Pierre, repulsed an attack by the French troops and maintained his position; but the enterprise was soon after abandoned on account of the ravages of disease among the troops from England.

A.D. 1761.—588 men, with a similar number of "pioneers," were supplied to the expedition under Rear-Admiral Rodney for the conquest of Martinique, an expedition crowned with success.

In addition to the above, "pioneers" chosen from the slaves were supplied to assist English war ships in 1759, and again in 1794 to the English ships under the command of Sir John Jervis; and reinforcements were in 1783 sent to the garrisons in St. Lucia and Antigua.—Yours, &c.,

HENRY A. BOVELL.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Imperial Preference.

An interesting debate took place in the House of Commons on March 25th, on the motion of Major Newman, M.P. :—

“That, in the opinion of this House, the delay on the part of the Government to declare its policy for the protection of key industries, for the prevention of dumping, and for Imperial preference, is prejudicial to the reconstruction of trade and industry, to the production of revenue, and to the employment of labour.”

Mr. Mackinder, M.P., who seconded, said that what the country wanted was production, enterprise and confidence, and in an impassioned speech, which has been described as an oratorical masterpiece, urged that old arguments might be put on one side. Having stood forward and saved the world, we had spent our own substance, and now had to set out as a nation to make our fortunes again, which we could only do by adopting the measures which he had so long advocated.

Sir Donald Maclean, for the Opposition, dilated on the evils of preference, but admitted that a tariff would be preferable to the system of trading by licences for export and import. He claimed that President Wilson had made it clear that preference would be contrary to the policy of the League of Nations.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying for the Government, said that as regards preference the position was quite plain. The policy of the Government would be carried out. His Right Honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was already considering in what way he would give effect to it in the forthcoming Budget. Sir Donald Maclean had unjustifiably dragged in the name of President Wilson. The Republican party in the United States tried to make political capital out of what President Wilson had said about the League of Nations. The first thing he did was to tell them that nothing that he had said or meant implied in any way interference with the United States in its own fiscal policy. That fiscal policy included preference, and a very big preference, given by the United States to some countries outside the Dominions of the United States. The assumption in all the arguments against preference was that the conditions of trade were going to continue precisely as they were, as regarded statistics, as before. Nothing, surely, could be more ridiculous than that. A preference on these goods—on sugar, for instance—within the Empire was bound to have an enormous effect on the production of sugar throughout the whole Empire, and would entirely upset all statistics. With the lessons of the war, it was really ridiculous to say that it made no difference to us whether we got sugar from our own Empire or from abroad, or whether the trade which resulted from it was within our own Empire or abroad. Was there anyone who would maintain that? Let them look at the history of the war.

Realising how doubtful was the result of the war, he did not think it too much to say there was no guarantee that we would have won had we been without the help of our fellow-subjects from the Dominions. In view of that fact, was it not true to contend that, to whatever extent we could increase the productive power and the man power of the Dominions by our trade with them, was a good thing for this country, as well as for the Empire as a whole. (“Hear, hear.”) But the case for preference went much further than that. In the old fights on fiscal policy it used to be said that preference meant simply the imposition of a nominal tariff. Preference really went further and in many other directions. Just think what an addition we could have made to the fighting forces of the Empire if there had been some, not control, but direction to the emigration which took place from this country on so tremendous a scale before the war.

The British Guiana Sugar Industry.

Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke asked on March 11th whether any representations had recently been made to him on the part of the people of Demerara on the improvement of the sugar industry in that colony; whether he was aware that 1,000,000 tons of sugar per annum could be produced in British Guiana, where climate and soil were favourable for the growth of sugar cane, and that the immediate need of the sugar industry was an adequate supply of suitable labour; whether, in view of the stoppage of the emigration of indentured labour from India to British Guiana, an arrangement could be made with the Indian Government for the employment of free labour; and whether, seeing that Chinese coolies desired to work in British Guiana, and that the people of British Guiana were willing to employ them, an arrangement would be made with the Chinese Government for the emigration of the Chinese coolies?

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery: Representations have been received with regard to the improvement and development of the sugar industry in British Guiana, and to the difficult problem connected with the supply of labour in the colony. My hon. friend can rest assured that his Majesty's Government are alive to the possibilities of expansion of the industry, and are prepared to give careful consideration to any practical suggestions put forward with a view to improving the labour situation.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—SAILINGS FROM AVONMOUTH TO JAMAICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA per s.s. *Coronado*, March 21st (Commander W. T. Forrester):—

Miss S. Armitstead	Mrs. H. C. Gould	Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Morgan-Brown
Lt. W. M. L. Astwood	Miss A. L. Graham	Miss Morgan-Brown
Mr. R. C. Bennett	Mr. C. C. Green	Mrs. Murphy
Mr. E. C. Bennett	Mr. F. A. Griffith	Mr. F. C. Newby
Mr. R. G. Bennett	Mrs. F. A. Griffith	Mrs. F. C. Newby
Mrs. W. Bentley	Miss D. Lyon Hall	Lt. Pengelley
Mr. G. M. Blackwood	Mr. N. W. Halsey	Mrs. A. Pethybridge
Mrs. G. M. Blackwood	Mr. W. F. Harrison	Miss J. E. Pigou
Miss M. Blackwood	Mrs. M. Harvey	Miss E. Pimook
Miss L. C. M. Blake	Mr. S. C. Harvey	Mrs. M. Rerie
Capt. E. H. Brocksopp	Mrs. M. L. Holden	Master H. P. Rerie
Lt. Campbell	Miss Ruby Hood	Master R. J. Rerie
Mr. E. M. Carter	Mr. O. E. Howeson	Miss J. M. Robertson
Miss C. A. M. Carter	Mrs. O. E. Howeson	Mr. J. A. Scott
Capt. Cassidy	Miss D. Jenks	Mrs. J. A. Scott
Capt. J. S. Coke	Lt. Kemble	Miss L. Scudamore
Mr. J. R. Stewart Cox	Miss G. M. Kerr	Mrs. F. M. Shaw
Mrs. J. R. Stewart Cox	Mr. T. Kieffer	Miss F. M. Shaw
Mr. G. W. Cranke	Mr. A. E. Lockyer	Mr. G. L. Shaw
Mr. H. G. Davis	Mr. E. N. Mais	Mr. C. M. Shaw
Mrs. H. G. Davis	Capt. M. L. McFarlane	Mr. Alex. Sinclair
Mrs. E. DaCosta	Capt. J. N. McIntosh	Mr. D. Riddell Stavert
Miss M. Edwards	Mrs. J. N. McIntosh	Mr. Colin Taylor
Miss A. L. Elmslie	Major C. Mitchell,	Mr. W. H. Vernon
Mr. W. J. Enever	D.S.O., M.C.	Mr. E. G. S. Walker
Mrs. B. G. Farquharson	Miss E. Montgomery-	Mrs. G. M. Whittard
Miss Glover	Inglis	
Mr. H. C. Gould		

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—SAILINGS FROM LONDON TO THE WEST INDIES per R.M.S.P. *Quillota*, March 22nd:—

2nd Lt. H. A. Arthur	Miss G. de Freitas	Mrs. A. E. Ozzard
Capt. and Mrs. Ashpiter	Mr. Campbell Gordon	2nd Lt. and Mrs. Patman
Lt. F. C. Berkeley	Mrs. J. A. Gordon	Lt. Pearce
Mrs. Berkeley	Miss D. B. Greig	Mrs. H. F. Reid
Mr. Edwin Birks	Miss Heywood	Mrs. Ernest Rowland
Miss Marion Birks	Miss H. Hudson	Mrs. Scott
Sir Hylton and Lady Brisco	Miss A. Judge	Mr. S. S. Scott
Mr. John F. Bushe	Sub-Lt. Layne	2nd Lt. A. H. Hamel Smith
2nd Lt. E. C. Collymore	Lt. A. E. Linton,	Mr. A. P. Smith
Lt. G. F. Cocks,	Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Longmore	Miss F. K. C. Stone
2nd Lt. R. N. Davidson	Lt. and Mrs. Lyon	Major W. H. G. Thorne
Mr. Basil Davis	Mr. G. McPherson	Miss Tingey
Miss V. Delisle	Miss Maillard	Mr. L. R. Wager
Mrs. Dixon	Mr. Albert Mendes	Mr. M. E. Wager
Capt. H. Dow	Mrs. Albert Mendes	Miss Ida J. Wallace
2nd Lt. F. M. Dowlen	Miss A. M. Mendes	Mrs. J. Wallace
Mr. Oriel Duke	Miss Elsie Mendes	Miss L. M. Walton
Lt. M. Valentine Duke	Miss N. M. Mendes	Mr. T. Walton
Capt. and Mrs. Fellowes	Mr. R. C. de Mercado	Capt. H. H. M. Warner
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mrs. Annie Metivier	Mrs. Williams
Mr. D. T. Fraser	Miss M. V. Metivier	Mr. F. R. Wrightson
Lt. & Mrs. M. de Freitas	Miss D. O'Connor	

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
April 3rd, 1919.

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.	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.

Preference in the duty on British sugar is now regarded as a certainty, and what is exercising the minds of the sugar trade is what the amount of the preference will be. We incline to the belief that it will take the form of a reduction in the existing duties, which, for revenue purposes, must remain at a high level for some years to come.

New York quotations: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c. c. and f. to New York; Porto Ricos, St. Croix, Hawaiians, Philippines, 7.28 c.i.f. New York; non-privileged c.i.f. 5.61c.

The long-anticipated Cuban strike broke out early in March. It is too early as yet to say what effect the strikes will have on the year's output. A letter cable-received by Mr. Hinely on March 11th prophesied a gradual improvement in the conditions prevailing, though delay was seriously affecting the crop. Meanwhile labour is uncertain, and agricultural workers are badly needed throughout the island, and will have to be obtained if the estimate of 3,600,000 tons is to be reached.

The West India sugar statistics in London on March 29th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	4,582	4,827	8,016	
Deliveries	7,668	11,924	11,265	"
Stock	3,106	3,890	4,766	"

RUM. The stocks in London on March 29th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	3,379	5,461	9,155	
Demerara	11,331	2,984	8,837	"
Total of all kinds	17,249	11,116	26,927	"

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd.—viz.:—

	s.	d.
Ceylon, Java, and Samoa	100	0
Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam	99	0
Grenada, and other West Indians, Balia, and Cameroons	85	0
British West Africa	65	0

The stocks in London on March 29th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	14,328	13,029	16,503	
Grenada	10,438	14,521	20,703	"
Total of all kinds	136,130	193,021	265,941	"

COTTON. Sea Island 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.

ARROWROOT. No business reported.

COPRA. Market firm. F.M.S. West Indian Copra, April-May shipment, £38 per ton, c.i.f. London; April-May shipment, £39 per ton, c.i.f. Marseilles.

HONEY. Still in quiet demand, but with the removal of export restrictions business should become more active. Quotations: 70s. to 80s. for Jamaica; 70s. to 75s. for Cuban.

SPICES. Pimento still dull. Nominal spot value 4d. Ginger, Jamaica, in very slow demand at nominally unchanged rates.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, slow of sale; sellers at 13s.; distilled, also slow of sale; sellers at 4s. 6d. Lime Juice: Raw unchanged, but quiet; concentrated firm; citrate firm.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

BUTLER, or as Valet, requires situation; excellent testimonials. Native of Barbados. Apply "R. H." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

URGENTLY REQUIRED, Copies of CIRCULARS, Nos. 530, 533. 6d. per copy for copies returned to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15 Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ENGINEER, turning, fitting and drawing-office experience, two years in British Guiana, seeks position as Junior Engineer. Aged 26. Apply "T. E. E." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

YOUNG MAN, discharged from Army, wishes situation as Clerk, Bookkeeper or Assistant to Secretary; good references; 8 years present employers' firm, C.A. Apply "G. W." THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-three, good education, with knowledge of engineering, seeks appointment as Overseer on any kind of plantation in West Indies. Awaiting discharge. Apply "W. P." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED, by a gentleman who has had many years' practical experience in the Cultivation of Sugar-cane and Manufacture, also in Rubber and Coco-nut Cultivation, both in the East and West Indies and East Africa, Appointment. Address "G." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged 20, wishes appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Rubber, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies or British Guiana. Demobilised from Navy. Keen, enthusiastic, energetic, good physique; first-class references.—"A. H. C." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED, by Engineer native of Trinidad, ten years' experience with all classes of Engines and Machinery, 5 years' service at sea, including period of War, as Marine Engineer—position as Assistant Engineer on a Sugar Plantation; first-class references. Apply "M. T." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED, by a young man of good education, who has had many years' practical experience of cocoa cultivation in the West Indies, appointment. Applicant also has a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping; has been demobilised after three years' active service. Health good. Apply "J. M." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

SEN. WIRELESS OPERATOR, R.N.V.R., aged 21, educated at Mercers' School, London, about to be demobilised, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer (with or without wireless work) on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies. Keen and energetic, and in good health.—"C. J. M." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

PLANTER AND TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST, who has had exceptional experience in Estate management and cultivation of tropical products, is shortly visiting the West Indies and South America, and is willing to inspect and value Estates, or to report on any Agricultural proposition. Highest references. Apply "F. E." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, Captain, married, aged 29, requires post. Willing to go abroad anywhere (West Indies preferred). Experience in Agriculture at Home and in Canada before the War; also two years' experience in Organisation with a political association. Joined Forces 1914; Military Cross. Good leader and commander. Excellent references. Apply "F. S." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

TO REFINERS, Manufacturers, Growers, and others.—A responsible permanent position is sought by a demobilised Officer-Cadet, aged 28, married, active and healthy, with capabilities based upon 14 years' experience in Sugar Trade (8 Mincing-lane firm, 2 Germany (proficient in language), 4 in Control, Cost and Audit Department, Royal Commission Sugar Supply); capable accountant, and familiar with every detail audit, costing, parity, and statistical work. Highest references. "F. J. B." c/o Manager, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1919.

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
3743 AVENUE. LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams: CARR, LONDON. April 17th, 1919.

The Customs Conference.

THE Intercolonial Customs and Trade Conference held its first meeting at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on March 10th. The circumstances under which it was convened will be familiar to readers of the CIRCULAR. In 1907 the Imperial Conference passed a resolution urging the desirability of greater uniformity in the tariffs of the Empire, and Mr.—now Sir—Edward CAMERON, then Acting Governor of the Windward Islands, suggested in 1909 that, though the assimilation of West Indian tariff rates might not be a practical proposition, similarity of arrangement and description of dutiable and free commodities did not appear to be impossible. The Colonial Office then invited the Royal Commissioners on Trade between Canada and the West Indies to keep this matter before them, and Mr. R. H. McCARRY, their expert adviser, submitted a supplementary report regarding it in 1910. In it he called attention to existing anomalies in the tariffs, showing, for example, how jam might either be "jam," "fruit," "preserves," or "confectionery," appearing in each case under a different letter in the alphabetical tables, and how bananas were specified in one colony, limes in another, and oranges in

a third, while in a fourth all appeared under the generic term "fruits," or as "goods unenumerated." Meanwhile the West India Committee had been strongly advocating reforms in the arrangement of the colonial Blue-books and Customs tariffs, urging that the many anomalies in both which bewildered shippers might be swept away. As a specific example of the difficulties which faced firms desiring to open up a West Indian connection we instanced the ease of an item in the Customs tariffs selected at random—that of "Milk, Preserved," which was subject to no fewer than ten different rates of duty, varying from ¼d. per pound in Dominica to 20 per cent. *ad valorem* in the Bahamas. Then the Colonial Office took the matter up, and arrangements were far advanced for holding a conference of West Indian Customs officers in the summer of 1914 to consider it when plans were upset by the outbreak of war, which necessitated a postponement. In 1917, however, a committee sat at the Colonial Office to report on the possible improvement of colonial reports and Blue-books which made certain very practical suggestions, including the adoption of greater uniformity of trade, revenue and Customs statistics, and last year the proposals for holding the Customs Conference were revived, with the result that the meetings were held last month. Through the courtesy of the delegates we have received a report of the Governor's address at the inaugural meeting. Incidentally, we may mention that they had hoped to telegraph it, but were prevented from doing so owing to the present high Press rates—an indication that West Indian telegraphic communication still leaves much to be desired. SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR took the opportunity of ventilating his views as to the desirability of forming a West Indian Customs Union—a matter deserving of more than passing consideration. Briefly, he suggests that the Customs receipts of all the colonies belonging to the union might be pooled and divided at the end of the year in fixed proportions based upon their present Customs' revenues. This, he believes, would put the colonies in a much more favourable position to negotiate commercial agreements with other countries than they are at present, when each has to negotiate independently. Provided that the proportions were varied periodically in accordance with the relative progress of the parties to the union—and any other arrangement would keep an undeveloped colony back—there would appear to be a good deal to be said for such a scheme, though we must defer expressing a definite opinion regarding it until the findings of the Cus-

toms Conference are published. SIR JOHN also touched on the question of federation, pointing out that every arrangement made by the several Governments for common action, whether regarding quarantine, mail contracts, Customs, or a court of appeal, constituted a step towards the federation of the West Indies—a truism which cannot be too frequently reiterated.

Tillage in British Guiana.

IN the April number of the *International Sugar Journal* an article appears on the subject of mechanical tillage in British Guiana, with special reference to the labour difficulty in that colony. Its author, Mr. F. I. SCARD, who was intimately connected with the sugar industry of Demerara, while sketching what has been done in that direction in the past, points out the difficulties in the way of the adoption of tillage by machinery owing to the nature of the soil, drainage and system of planting which prevail there, and he suggests that the agricultural machinery-makers should take the matter up. We do not doubt for a moment that if a satisfactory method of mechanical tillage could be introduced into the colony it would be of great advantage; and, though at first sight the difficulties may seem great, we do not regard them as insuperable. We understand that on Pln. Diamond, which possesses a lighter description of soil than that of the usual run of British Guiana estates, something is done in the direction of mechanical tillage; but this in no way proves that the application of the system to the other estates in the colony is practicable. One of the arguments brought against the possibilities of the economic success of such a system is that cane-cutting requires large gangs at times when hands are also wanted for the factory, and for field work which has to be done by hand. But the same condition obtains in other countries, and where the cutting and loading conditions are worse, and where ploughing and other field operations are done by hand. No; the great difficulty lies in the stiff soil and the manner in which the cultivation has to be laid out on account of the drainage conditions. But, as MR. SCARD points out, it is the unexpected that happens, and, although efforts in the direction of mechanical ploughing which have been made during the last eighty years have been fruitless, the application of modern science, especially in connection with motors, may have a good result. It would be extremely useful if some account of the experiments made by the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana in the 'fifties, to which MR. SCARD refers, could be found, and a search of the archives of that body would appear to be well worth while. The later work of MESSRS. EWING & Co., of Vryheid's Lust, in the way of tile drainage and steam ploughing, which went beyond ordinary experiment, including as it did the laying-out of a large portion of the estate on these lines, and the cause of the failure, are well known. Tile drainage is unsuited to a tropical rainfall, and deep ploughing to the ugly subsoil which obtains in British Guiana. The more recent experiments to which the article in our contemporary refers were unsuccessful on account of the difficulty of dealing with the small

drains and to the stiffness of the soil. But, as we have mentioned above, these difficulties may be overcome, and though, if they were, the necessity for the introduction of labour into the colony would in no way be obviated, the successful introduction of mechanical tillage would materially help the situation so far as the sugar estates are concerned. Will not British agricultural implement makers take the matter up? There are at present nearly 80,000 acres in cane cultivation in British Guiana, with prospect of extension to an enormous acreage if it can be dealt with satisfactorily as regards labour. It would thus seem to be certainly worth while for our big implement firms to take the matter up, and it is our belief that in the powerful motors now applicable to field work, coupled with some modification in the method of laying out the fields, will be found the solution of the problem. In this connection we understand that a start on these lines has been made at Pln. Lusignan which gives promise.

British Guiana Colonisation.

THE proposed scheme for the colonisation of British Guiana by the introduction of a system of free immigration from abroad is making good progress. Committees are actively engaged in procuring information as to the more promising countries from which to draw an adequate supply of labour to meet the requirements of the colony, and in this connection China and West Africa are receiving most attention. Useful information has been supplied by MR. CLEMENTI, Colonial Secretary, CAPTAIN J. M. REID, Comptroller of Customs, MR. GRANNUM, Colonial Treasurer, and MR. ROBERT DINZEY, solicitor, each of whom has had personal acquaintance with the peoples and conditions of life in these respective countries through residence therein. The Combined Court has voted the necessary funds to defray the expense of sending a representative delegation to England to interview the Secretary of State for the Colonies and other prominent members of the Government on the subject. We understand that the Governor of British Guiana, SIR WILFRED COLLET, is shortly expected home on furlough, as is also DR. NUNAN, the Attorney-General, who will be engaged for some time in preparing a codification of the laws of the colony. Both these gentlemen, being in full accord with the movement, will constitute an invaluable assistance and support to the efforts of the delegation in London. SIR WILFRED COLLET, since his assumption of the government of British Guiana, has had a strenuous time in meeting the food shortage and other difficulties arising out of the prevailing war conditions; his embargo on rice shipments from the colony to the adjacent West Indian markets did not, however, gain the entire approval of either the mercantile community or the rice-growers, and it is feared that his policy, although well intentioned for meeting the local food requirements of the people, tended to retard the development of the rice industry within the colony itself. We may be sure, however, that it will go ahead again when conditions are again normal, and, provided that the colonisation question can be satisfactorily settled, we can see for British Guiana a prosperous future.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"When dog hab too much owner, him sleep widout supper."

JAMAICA has contributed £6,470 to King George's Fund for Sailors.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON has been nominated to sit on the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute.

THE Royal Bank of Canada, which has already started business in Martinique, will, it is understood, shortly be opening a branch in Guadeloupe also.

CAPTAIN R. P. MAHAFFY, younger brother of the Administrator of Dominica, will shortly be married to Evelyn, the third daughter of the late Hon. Conrad Dillon.

LIEUTENANT J. F. B. KAYE, of the K.S.I.I., second son of Major J. B. R. Kaye, formerly of Barbados, has received an appointment with the Indian Police, and has sailed for India.

The engagement is announced of Miss May Hamel-Smith, daughter of the late Michael and Lucia Hamel-Smith, Port of Spain, Trinidad, to Lieut. Russell House, of the United States.

CAPTAIN AND MRS. MARTIN-SPERRY (who is the daughter of Sir Frederic Hodgson) are to be congratulated upon the birth of a daughter—a happy event which took place in London on April 3rd.

CUMBERBATCH, the Trinidad cricketer, who came over with the West Indian eleven in 1906, has been to London on a brief visit. He worked his way over in a transport, and has returned in the *Quillota*.

WITHOUT subscriptions the West India Committee could no more be kept going, than an engine could without fuel. Will therefore those members of the West India Committee in arrears kindly forward the amount due from them or pay it into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada?

THE marriage took place on April 2nd, at St. Peter's, Cranley-gardens, of the Hon. Norman Lubbock, brother of Lord Avebury and heir-presumptive to the barony, and Miss Edith H. Lubbock. The bride was given away by her brother, Lieutenant Hugh Lubbock. Lord Avebury was best man, and members of the City Police Reserve, with whom the bridegroom has served, formed a guard of honour.

AT the dinner in his honour at Liverpool on February 4th, Mr. D. C. Cameron, C.M.G., was credited with having assisted in the formation of the West India Committee. He now sends to *West Africa* a disclaimer, adding: "The Committee is in the third (I think) century of its existence; I have not completed my first yet." Our contemporary therefore apologises for a "striking instance of intelligent anticipation by the Press."

THE proposal of the Western Telegraph Company, Limited, to lay a cable from Brazil to Barbados, authorisation for which was granted by the President of Brazil in 1917, is engaging renewed consideration. It is understood that the intention is to lay a cable also from New York to Barbados and thus to establish direct communication between Brazil and America. Important principles are, however, involved, and it is obvious

that from an Imperial point of view it would be preferable for the American end of the cable to be at Halifax, a cable between Canada and the British West Indies having been for some time past a long-felt want. It is to be hoped that this point of view will be carefully considered when the question of landing rights at Barbados are discussed.

The Bulletin of the Imperial Institute contains an article on "The Future of the Trade in Cinchona Bark." Many people are familiar with the story of the introduction of cinchona trees from South America into India and Ceylon and the development of a large export trade in cinchona bark from these British territories to Europe—a trade that also benefited London, which, in those days, was the world's cinchona market. Only those in the trade know, however, that India and Ceylon have long ceased to take anything but a very minor part in the production of cinchona bark, of which Java—and therefore Holland—has now a virtual monopoly, whilst Amsterdam has supplanted London as a market. The latter is of importance, because quinine, which can only be got from cinchona bark, is the recognised remedy for malaria, and with its vast expanses of tropical territory the British Empire is probably the largest consumer of quinine in the world. The article supplies a full statement of the position of the trade in cinchona bark and quinine, and clearly demonstrates the predominant position occupied by Holland and Java. The Germans were apparently making efforts to grow their own cinchona bark before the war, and there is appended to this article a report by the institute on bark grown in the conquered German territory in East Africa, as well as a report on bark from St. Helena, which proved to be of good quality, but, of course, is not available in large quantity.

We give below a list of officers and men from the British West Indies awaiting repatriation whose passages (so far as can be ascertained) have been approved:—

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| BAHAMAS. | | |
| Bethel, 2nd Lt. C. P. | Maura, Lee.-Cpl. B. M. | Menendez, 2nd Lt. |
| Cole, 2nd Lt. G. M. | Moore, 2nd Lt. R. K. | S. T. S. |
| BARBADOS. | | |
| Armstrong, Lt. A. R. B. | Corbin, Lt. Corpl. G. S. | Medford, Lt. W. H. L. |
| Bayne, Pte. E. G. | Crawford, 2nd Lt. | Nicholls, Pte. C. K. |
| Browne, F./Cadet | J. E. A. | Phillips, Lt. Br. S. H. |
| A. W. G. | Honychurch, Pte. P. G. | Pile, 2nd Lt. D. |
| Rurgess, Pte. C. I. E. | Johnson, 2nd Lt. R. H. | Reed, Gnr. F. L. |
| Hynoe, 2nd Lt. E. D. | Leach, Pte. C. C. | Skaete, 2nd Lt. C. de C. |
| Carmichael, Gnr. E. B. | McConney, Pte. H. M. | Williams, Pte. H. H. |
| Clarke, Gnr. H. W. | McLeod, Pte. F. L. | Wood, Pte. C. A. |
| Connell, 2nd Lt. J. | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA. | | |
| Dryden, Pte. E. J. | Pike, Lieut. H. | |
| Gilchrist, Lieut. F. | Roberts, Sergt. D. G. | |
| GRENADA. | | |
| Phillips, 2nd Lieut. C. A. O. | | |
| JAMAICA. | | |
| Burke, Pte. G. W. | Tilley, Sergt. F. L. | Watson, 2nd Lt. W. H. |
| TRINIDAD. | | |
| Anderson, Pte. F. J. | Gellizeau, Pte. H. | Maingot, Pte. C. E. |
| Bercard, Lieut. A. J. | Geoffroy, Pte. P. | Nock, 2nd Lt. M. M. |
| Bernard, Pte. L. | Gibbon, Rfn. F. C. | O'Connor, 2nd Lt. E. |
| Braham, Gnr. W. S. | Gooch, Gnr. C. M. | O'Connor, F/Cdt. E. A. |
| Bushe, 2nd Lt. W. | Graut, 2nd Lieut. K. I. | O'Connor, F/Cdt. E. S. |
| Campbell, Cdt. R. B. D. | Grautham, Pte. V. J. | O'Connor, Tpr. R. |
| Campbell, Tpr. J. A. | Greil, Pte. M. T. | Pouchet, Pte. F. |
| Carrabache, Pte. H. | Gurley, 2nd Lieut. A. L. | Quessel, Lieut. R. E. |
| Collins, Tpr. V. N. | Hale, Sergt. R. | Reid, Lieut. K. |
| Cozier, Pte. H. D. | Halliday, Pte. J. H. | Richardson, Pte. C. |
| Crichton, Rfn. J. F. | Hamel-Smith, Pte. L. | Robinson, Pte. G. |
| Cumming, Rfn. P. J. | Hernandez, Spr. J. A. | Rodriguez, Cadet J. |
| Da Costa, Cadet V. O. | Ince, 2nd Lt. P. D. | Rooks, Lieut. E. |
| Doan, Pte. B. A. | Kernahan, Lieut. J. E. | Rooks, 2nd Lt. H. C. |
| De Gannes, Pte. R. | King, Pte. W. T. | Seou, Lt.-C. S. O. |
| De Silva, F/Cadet I. | Knowlex, Rfn. E. | Slung, Pte. H. |
| De Verteuil, 2nd Lt. M. | Lange, Lieut. P. | Smith, F/Cdt. M. A. K. |
| De Verteuil, F/Cadet R. | Lange, Pte. M. | Sorzano, Cadet F. |
| De Verteuil, Gnr. L. | Lassalle, Gnr. A. | Stoue, Pte. P. J. |
| De Verteuil, Gnr. M. | Laurie, Gnr. R. C. | Trestrail, Lieut. L. C. |
| Donawa, Rfn. G. | Llanos, Cpl. A. C. | Vire, Pte. G. |
| Dunn, Pte. T. L. | Macgillivray, 2Lt. A. D. | Wainwright, Spr. J. |
| Eckel, 2nd Lt. H. A. | Maingot, Lieut. R. | Warner, Pte. M. O. |
| Ferreira, Tpr. E. | Maingot, 2nd Lt. L. F. | Wilson, Pte. W. R. |

WEST INDIAN CUSTOMS CONFERENCE.

The Intercolonial Customs and Trade Conference was opened at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on March 10th, under the chairmanship of Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Collector of Customs of Trinidad and Tobago, the other representatives being: Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., Trinidad; Captain J. M. Reid and Hon. G. Russell Garnett, British Guiana; Hon. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., Barbados; Hon. F. W. Griffith, Antigua; Hon. G. Mackie and Hon. G. Williams, St. Lucia; and the Hon. Herbert Ferguson, I.S.O., Grenada, with Mr. A. J. Pavitt, H.M. Trade Commissioner, as special adviser, and Mr. T. B. Jackson as secretary.

It was originally the intention of the conference to telegraph to the West India Committee the Governor's opening speech, but this was not done "on account of the expense under the present Press rates." A copy, for which we are indebted to Mr. Jackson, has, however, been received by mail. After welcoming the representatives, Sir John Chancellor expressed regret that they had not before them a definite statement of the future policy of His Majesty's Government regarding Imperial trade. The late Government had, however, stated that colonial preference formed part of their policy, and so far as could be learnt the omens were favourable for the maintenance of that decision by the new Government. Continuing, His Excellency said: "A definite decision as regards the question of Imperial preference is necessary to give landowners confidence that an assured market for their produce will be available for a number of years, and until such confidence is established it is vain to hope that British capitalists will invest money in our industries on the scale necessary to ensure that increase of production that we recognise to be possible, and that we all hope to see in the future. When the definite policy of His Majesty's Government has been decided upon, it will probably be desirable for us to assemble another conference to discuss the question of the tariffs to be set up under a system of Imperial preference."

Meantime there was much useful work to be done, and he congratulated the conference on having the services of Mr. Pavitt, who could demonstrate the difficulties of British exporters in establishing a trade connection with numerous small islands having different customs, laws, regulations and tariffs, and would reinforce the arguments in favour of the establishment of uniformity in such matters.

Proceeding, his Excellency said: "At a meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies, held here in 1917, I ventured to suggest—

"That the trade of these colonies would be still further benefited if they were to combine to form a Customs Union. I know that there are serious obstacles in the way of establishing such a Customs Union; perhaps the most serious arises from the fact that the colonies derive a large portion of their revenue from their customs receipts, and there is a natural reluctance on the part of the smaller colonies especially to endanger their finan-

cial equilibrium by a general readjustment of import duties. I suggest that this obstacle might be removed if it were arranged that the customs receipts of all the colonies belonging to the union should be pooled and divided between them at the end of each year in fixed proportions based upon their present customs revenues. The establishment of such a Customs Union would put the colonies in a much more favourable position to negotiate commercial agreements with other countries than they are at present, when each has to negotiate independently, and it would have other obvious advantages to trade."

"Although the subject does not appear upon your agenda, I venture to commend it to your earnest attention. I feel that, with goodwill on all sides, the difficulties in the way of making such an arrangement are not insuperable, and the advantages of it would be very great to all concerned.

"The subject of West Indian federation is not before you. It is a subject on which I have not thought it proper for me publicly to express an opinion, and I do not propose to do so now. I would, however, at the risk of being thought indiscreet, hazard an observation. It is this: While many people are talking about federation, you gentlemen sitting round this table have an opportunity of acting. Every arrangement made by the Governments of the several colonies for common action—whether it is as regards quarantine, mail contracts, customs, or a court of appeal—constitutes a step towards the federation of the West Indies. If arrangements for joint action progress at the present rate, I should not be surprised if the West Indian Colonies wake up some morning and find that they are federated."

COCOA IN EASTERN CUBA.

Mr. Alvin Fox, who has been investigating the prospects of cocoa cultivation in eastern Cuba, has arrived at the conclusion that the main requirements for success are that the cocoa must be vigorous, disease resistant, prolific, and producing beans of good quality. In an article on the subject in the *Cuba Review* he advocates the adoption of the following precautions in selecting seeds—

(1) The tree or trees from which the seeds are selected should be surrounded by no other cocoa trees, except those of the same variety, and they should fill the requirements as set forth above. If a tree is surrounded by other trees the flowers should be hand pollinated and covered with cheese-cloth to exclude pollen. (2) Selections should not, as a rule, be made from trees growing under unmaturing conditions—such as in back yards, or close to barns where the abundance of plant food may be the entire cause of vigour and prolificness. (3) Selection should not be made from trees on the strength of one season's crop, but only after it has been proven that the vigour and prolificness are inherent qualities not caused by external influence.

Cocoa is propagated almost entirely from seed, and until a few years ago it was thought that it could be propagated in no other way. The seeds are sometimes taken from the best pods of the most vigorous or prolific trees, but often no such selection is made, and it is difficult to find a plantation in

the Province de Oriente, Cuba, in which all the types, varieties and intermediate strains are not grown side by side. On account of the promiscuous planting it is very difficult to secure seeds to-day of good type. In grafting, a cut is made in one side of the seedling with a sharp knife, removing a thin slice of wood, with the adhering bark, from 3 in. to 5 in. long. A similar cut is made on a branch of the tree of the same size as the seedling, and the two cut surfaces placed together so that the bark of one touches the bark of the other—on one side at least, if they are not exactly the same size. They are then tied together with soft twine or raffia, and also tied to a stake in such a manner that the wind cannot swing them back and forth and thereby prevent them from growing together.

Cocoa is, of course, grown on flat land best, and when the conditions are favourable it has many advantages. There have been, however, many mistakes made in selecting locations on the plains, and it may be well to call attention to the folly of starting on a worn-out 'cane-sugar' land, or on poor, sandy soil, or on hard, clay soil, or on a wind-swept plain where it would be difficult to furnish adequate wind protection. It is true that such lands can be improved and made to produce cocoa or any other crop, but it should certainly not be planted until such improvements have been made according to the conditions of the soil and other requirements necessary to make it a paying proposition.

The following points are of importance to make a success of cocoa-growing: Temperature, rainfall, humidity and wind. Cocoa is at home in a moist, wind-sheltered valley, with a day temperature of 80 deg. and a night temperature of 65 deg. to 75 deg. Trees are often found in the mountains where the temperature is much lower than this, but the lower altitude and higher temperature are well known to be most favourable. The amount of rain needed depends on the distribution, the physical condition of the soil, and on cultural methods. On flat land with friable soil, on which the capillary action is maintained by mulch or cultivation, 2in. per month might be quite sufficient, while on a steep hillside, not cultivated, the trees might suffer from drought with twice or three times that amount. Generally, the rainfall should be from 60in. to 100in. per year. The soil moisture is not depleted so rapidly, and the trees may continue to grow where those not so protected would suffer. Where irrigation is available the cocoa tree may bear good crops even though the air be dry, provided the plantation is adequately protected from the wind.

Some say that shade is not necessary except for the first three to four years, and others say that shade is absolutely necessary—not alone for the young, but also for the older ones. Nevertheless, it is not probable that, under the same conditions, a cocoa tree needs a radically different treatment in other countries from what it does in Cuba. Among the shade trees are the *Brydbrainas*. The *Ghricidia Maculata* is another tree frequently used, and this is also called the *Madre de Cacao*, or the mother of cocoa—a name adopted by the Spanish people in Central and South America. *Pithecolobium Saman*,

the *Saman* or *Guango*, as it is called, is also frequently used by cocoa-growers. For wind protection of commercial crops the Central American rubber tree, '*Castilloa Elastica*,' has been suggested, and it may be used for wind belts wherever it grows fast enough. It will not be satisfactory in all places, however, and it will probably never be satisfactory if planted alone, because it needs wind protection itself the first few years of its growth.

The preparation of the land, including digging holes, is necessary whether seeds are planted or nursery trees. In planting these from bamboo pots the pot soil should be moistened to prevent it from crumbling, and the bamboo should be split open, leaving a cylindrical ball of earth containing the plant. This should be set in a hole previously prepared without breaking it or in any way exposing the roots. The plant should never be set without removing the bamboo, as that does not decay readily even when embedded in the soil. Immediately after the planting, whether seed or nursery trees, the surrounding soil should be covered with a thick layer of grass or weeds raked up on the ground. This will preserve the moisture, and prevent the growth of weeds close to the plant. It is also good practice to place a couple of palm leaves on the south-east side of the plants to protect them from the hot rays of the sun, until the surrounding plants become tall enough to give the necessary protection.

Cocoa is seldom cultivated in some parts of Cuba in the sense in which that term is usually applied. In many plantations the cultivation consists entirely in cutting the weeds with machetes or cutlasses, although the more progressive planters fork the soil occasionally. Such a thing as ploughing and cultivation in a cocoa plantation in this island is practically unknown. This is, of course, natural in view of the methods employed. It would be impossible to plough land full of stumps and roots, and by the time these obstructions have disappeared the soil could be ploughed without doing great injury to the roots of the cocoa trees. In new plantations planted on level land, and with trees planted 20 ft. apart, the conditions are different. The soil may be ploughed and cultivated year after year. In such plantations it is good practice to plant 'legumes,' such as sword beans or cow peas at the beginning of the rainy season. Plough these crops in before the dry season begins, and after that keep the soil pulverised and loose on the top by frequent stirring with a cultivator, such as the well-known '*Culte Paeker*.'

The cultivation of limes in British Guiana is increasing, about 1,480 acres are now occupied by this product. The erection of machinery at Pln. Providence, Berbice, and at Pln. Agatash, Essequibo, for the production of concentrated juice and of citrate of lime has given this promising industry a much desired impetus. A small factory for the preparation of concentrated lime juice has been erected by the Government at Onderneeming, Essequibo, and its operations have been attended with marked success. 155 cwt. of citrate of lime, 13,600 gallons of raw and 3,700 gallons of concentrated lime juice, and 250 gallons of oil of limes were exported.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Further Delay in Paris.

Dissatisfaction is general in Allied countries at the series of delays in producing the Peace Treaty, which is still further postponed till the beginning of May. Mr. Lloyd-George complains of the impatience of critics, who cannot realise what a difficult matter it is "to reconstruct the world." But who asked the Conference to do that? They were sent to Paris to impose peace terms on Germany as the result of Allied victories on land and sea. In trying to perform two vast tasks at once the delegates are in danger of comparative failure in the one which really matters. How anxious opinion in this country is getting may be gathered from the debate in the House of Commons on the indemnity question. Any weakening here on the part of the Government will mean a political crisis, since three members out of every four are pledged to "make Germany pay."

The Four up against Reality.

After nearly five months of delegating the consideration of problem after problem to commissions, committees and sub-committees, until the dispersion of authority became not only ridiculous, but dangerous, the ten were reduced to four. In secrecy unparalleled in the negotiation of a peace treaty these are now forced to arrive at conclusions on the big issues they have so long evaded. But the definiteness and decision of their utterances when they speak singly in public seem to lose both when they meet together in secret. Take, for instance, the Sarre coalfields, which are necessary to the revival and maintenance of French industry. Instead of placing them under the control of France, a compromise is to be reached by which they are to be hers economically, but administratively they are to remain German. In avoiding the precedent of Alsace-Lorraine, to which the Sarre basin affords no parallel, political or historical, the Four are creating a precedent even more disturbing than the one which obscures their vision so badly. But it is possible that good may come out of the ineptitude of the past few months. An honest attempt was made to put into practice international ideals. Human nature has defeated them, and compromise has resulted, thereby weakening the Peace Treaty in essentials. But just because that is so the bonds between the four Allies—Britain, France, the United States and Italy—are being drawn tighter. If France, in an attempt to conciliate Germany while punishing her, is not given the strategic frontier which a stable peace demands, the other Allies must always be prepared to hurry to her support. In short, the League of Nations is receding, and the Quadruple Alliance—emerging.

The Danzig Compromise.

Between their fear of Bolshevism and their consideration for Germany, the Four have given fresh cause for anxiety in their feeble decision as to the passage home of General Haller's Polish troops. According to one of the conditions of the Armistice

they were to be landed at Danzig, and, in spite of the enemy's passive resistance, his compliance was insisted upon for weeks. From this position the Allies have, however, departed. Marshal Foch was sent to Spa not to impose terms upon the Germans, but, for the first time, to negotiate with them. Consequently, while the Allies claim their right to use Danzig, the Polish troops are to arrive in Poland by any other route. In short, the beaten get the reality in this solution, the victors get the appearance. Every concession to Germany hastens the time when she will be able to menace the peace of the world again, for, in spite of internal disorder, she is drawing Austria into the German Confederation and bluffing the Allies into leaving her with her pre-war territories practically intact.

The Peril in North Russia.

Again the public is asking if the Allies have any policy in Russia. They have tried every possible method but the bold one of a straight fight with Bolshevism. While Allied forces have been sent to hold the Red Terror from spreading on the north, south and east, overtures have been made to Lenin and his savage colleagues, the latest having just come to light. But why, it may be asked, should the Peace Conference think it worth while to receive reports from two American correspondents, who have been sent to Russia on a lightning visit for the purpose? By way of a change Russians might be consulted. In the meantime the Archangel and Murmansk forces are in peril. Until May, on account of the ice, the first cannot be strengthened, and the sleigh track between Archangel and Murmansk is impassable, although British resource has established a transport service with native ponies. The Bolsheviks, in overwhelming numbers, are making desperate and sustained attacks, hoping to make an impression before May, being assisted by the melting of the snow in the upper reaches of the Dvina. So far the enemy has been beaten off with terrible losses, but that does not deter him from renewing the offensive. Then, to add to the complications of the military position, the Finnish contingent, with the Americans at Murmansk, have revolted. They are not Bolsheviks, but socialists who have fallen under the influence of "Red" propaganda from sheer home sickness. Apparently, however, the danger from this source has been overcome, and it is hoped that both at Archangel and Murmansk the Allied forces will be able to hold out till the arrival of reinforcements.

The Americans are sending a technical corps, numbering about 400, on United States warships. The British are calling for volunteers, of whom the advance guard has already started. It shows how little foresight has been employed in carrying out a Russian policy when the two ice-breakers were allowed to start with troops for Australasia. They have been recalled, but it would have been better to have kept them where they would have been available in case of emergency. The British, as mandatory of the Powers in North Russia, have performed marvels of organisation, and their resourcefulness has been equal to every call made upon it. The American Government had agreed to

furnish food, but "the magnitude of the effort they were making prevented them from supplying it in time. Therefore, "to avoid disaster the British Government carried out the task." Comment is needless.

The Situation in Eastern Europe.

Instead of sending General Maugin to Hungary the Allies have dispatched General Smuts, which makes people afraid that there is more indecision in the Council of Four. His business is to find out the particular brand of Bolshevism which upset Count Karolyi's Government, as though that mattered. If the terror spreads to Austria, as it may, what will become of "the ring fence" Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lloyd-George have tried to raise round Russian Bolshevism? Already Bulgaria, which adopts anything if she thinks she can make anything out of it, is threatening to adopt the creed. It must be remembered that in continuation of our leniency to this treacherous little State, we neither disarmed her nor insisted on complete demobilisation. To prevent any surprise on her part, it is to be hoped that the Bulgarian detachments in the Dobrudja and Turkish Thrace will be disbanded immediately, and their guns removed to the Strumitza. But while the Allies are thinking about action Bulgaria and Turkey may go "Red," in which case Poland, Jugo-Slavia and Czecho-Slovakia, as well as the Balkans, will be in a serious position.

In the south of Russia General Denikin has had a series of successes on his right wing in a sweeping movement towards the Caspian, which is commanded by a British fleet. Transcaucasia is freed of Bolsheviki, and Admiral Kotechak—not yet recognised by the Allies—has inflicted severe defeats on the "Red" armies in the Perm region. His advanced patrols may soon be in touch with the British on the Archangel front, and he has announced his intention of advancing on Moscow. No doubt he would, if he sent more arms, equipment and supplies. Odessa is holding out, and that is all.

* * * *

The blockade of German Austria has been raised. The artificial maintenance of the American exchange has been discontinued, and the export of gold coin and bullion been prohibited. How these measures will affect London as the chief money market of the world only time can tell. As for American shipping competition, that promises to be serious, but not so serious as Mr. Hurley, the U.S. Shipping Controller, makes out. He says that his country has 16,782,000 tons, or about half the world's tonnage. But the American ton only represents weight, whereas the British ton represents also cargo space. So that by our standard Mr. Hurley's figures fall to 10,000,000 tons, which is one-third, not of the world's tonnage, but of the tonnage possessed by thirteen maritime nations in January last. Nevertheless, U.S. shipping expansion is a factor with which Great Britain will have to reckon, not only in carrying trade, but in the development of sea-power generally. But she has still a trump card in her hand in the Empire. She did not play it against Germany, but events will force her to play it now.

REPATRIATION.

The first transport with returning men of the British West Indies Regiment was expected to leave France on April 12th for Jamaica and the Bahamas, and she was to be followed by others as soon as possible. The question of the repatriation of officers and men who came over independently continues to engage the constant attention of the West Indian Contingent Committee. The following letter was published in the *Times* of April 3rd:—

SIR,—May I also express appreciation of your article on the above subject? The experience of men who came over independently from the West Indies and joined Imperial units has been even worse than that described by Mr. J. H. Farmer in his letter published in your issue of to-day. Many of these men, who include Government clerks, estates managers, and overseers, whose services are urgently needed in the West Indies, have been kept waiting nearly four months for passages to their homes.

Prior to November 11th this Committee used to repatriate such men—sometimes at 24 hours' notice—when they were discharged from the Army, and to recover from the War Office the amount which that Department would have paid for the passages. When demobilisation commenced, however, the Army Council declined to sanction the continuance of this arrangement—which worked admirably in every respect—with the result that, as far as can be ascertained, not a single N.C.O. or man who came over independently has been repatriated by the War Office to the West Indies since Armistice Day. The War Office at first determined that these gallant fellows, who had come over 4,000 miles to serve their King and country, must be repatriated third-class; but, as there is no such accommodation on the West Indian route, this decision for some months effectually prevented any men being sent home. Now they have yielded to the extent of agreeing to the men going by "intermediate class," whatever that may be, and hope dawns once more. Meanwhile steamers have been leaving for the West Indies at fairly frequent intervals with civilian passengers to the exclusion of soldiers, many of whom have not seen their relatives or homes for over four years. Some steamers, too, have started with empty berths!

I can fully confirm what Mr. Farmer says about the Winchester Repatriation Records, which appear to be in a state of absolute chaos. Letters and telegrams addressed to them remain unanswered, and the unfortunate victims of their mismanagement have, in several cases brought to our notice, been asked to fill up their papers several times over. Men are not the only sufferers. The claims of dependents are also ignored. An application made by the wife of an officer, stranded with her infants, for a passage to Jamaica, which was put forward in November last, and has been renewed at intervals since then, has been practically ignored. A few weeks ago hopes were raised high by the dispatch of a West Indian to Liverpool, where, in accordance with instructions, he embarked on a vessel which was to take him to Trinidad; but they were dashed to the ground when he discovered that she was actually going to India and not to the West Indies at all. The man returned to London, where he still waits. It is small wonder that in the face of these delays the men should be getting exasperated, and that their relatives, friends, and employers in the West Indies should be losing patience.—Yours obediently,

ALGERNON ASPINALL, Hon. Secretary,
The West Indian Contingent Committee,
15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

April 1.

OUR SUGAR SUPPLIES.

Lord Bledisloe, who has just retired from the position of Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, speaking at a dinner of the National Sugar Confectionery and Chocolate Convention on April 3rd, said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had assured him that the interests of the confectionery industry would be sympathetically borne in mind in any fiscal changes which might be found desirable.

The control of sugar had become easier every day, and so far as the ordinary domestic consumer was concerned was about to be relaxed to such an extent that he hoped it would hardly be felt at all. But it would not be in the interests of that industry, or of the general public, that sugar control should be relaxed altogether at the present time. ("Hear, hear.") There was a world-shortage of sugar, and there was no present prospect of a fall in the world price, or, indeed, of an increased supply for some time to come. The temporary shortage of white sugar was likely to continue for some time.

The Commission was buying as much refined sugar from overseas as it felt it safely could without forcing up the price unduly. Thanks largely to Sir Robert Lyle in purchasing sugar on behalf of the Commission, they had been able to face the present conditions, under which throughout the world sugar speculation was rife, with a feeling of confidence that even in the case of white sugar they were more happily placed than almost any country in the world.

He would not be so rash as to say that there would be even sufficient white sugar for the requirements of jam-making, but he did not think that private fruit growers need feel doleful. Without the intricate machinery set up last year they should be able to obtain as large supplies as they had last year, and there might be something available for those who did not grow fruit themselves but were in the habit of preserving fruit purchased from others. In those countries where sugar was normally largely produced, especially Germany, there was no doubt that a considerable area, which would normally be occupied with the beet sugar crop, would during the next few years be occupied with the production of breadstuffs. The f.o.b. price of Java sugar had more than trebled during the last eight or nine months, and unless we were careful in years to come so great was the increased production of cane-sugar in neutral countries that there would be a great temptation for countries like Cuba and Java to create something like a corner. He had drawn the attention of the Government to this because it most vitally affected many industries in this country. He assured the confectionery industry that, with a view to encouraging export trade, the embargo which at present was necessary would be removed as soon as possible—perhaps towards the end of May or certainly by about the middle of June. (Cheers.) He was confident that, although sugar was being included in the list of those commodities, such as coal, dyes, and electrical apparatus, which Germany was going to be allowed to export only to Allied countries in part payment of the large indemnity which she would have to pay, there was no prospect of her exporting any sugar during the next few months, or possibly before the end of the present or even the latter part of next year. When Germany could export sugar it would undoubtedly be absorbed into the general consumption throughout the world, and would to that extent ease the sugar position. He could not say how long the Sugar Control was likely to last. It was certain to last until the late autumn, probably to the end of the year, or even longer.

His remarks having been taken by a correspondent to mean that German sugar would be imported into

England, Lord Bledisloe, in a letter published in the *Morning Post* of April 4th, wrote:—

"Not an ounce of sugar is being exported from Germany, or is likely to be exported for at least another twelve months. There is therefore no ground whatever for your correspondent's anticipation that there will be widespread disappointment and dismay throughout the British Empire owing to the alleged present consumption of German sugar in England. The Sugar Commission has been glad enough to take from our Overseas Dominions all the sugar of sufficiently good quality that they can spare for the Mother Country, and for the transport of which tonnage is available. I may add that no one will be more surprised than members of the Sugar Commission to learn from your published communication that their policy has aroused acute discontent in Mauritius." The negotiations of the Sugar Commission in relation to Mauritius sugar, as in the case of all other Empire-produced sugars, have been throughout of a perfectly friendly character. It is a pity that such statements are made at a time when it is of the utmost importance that the ties which bind our Colonies to the Mother Country should be drawn as close as possible."

LIME-JUICE FOR THE NAVY.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Admiralty on the subject of the use of lime-juice in the Navy:—

The West India Committee,

March 3rd, 1919.

SIR, We have been informed that the Government has ceased to purchase lime-juice for the use of the Royal Navy in consequence of the publication of a memorandum issued by the Lister Institute on the subject of the respective merits of lime and lemons in the treatment of scurvy.

My Committee hope that their information may prove incorrect, in view of the marked success which has attended the use of lime-juice by the Royal Navy for so many years.

In this connection I beg to transmit a copy of a leading article which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of January 9th last, from which you will note that the investigations by the Lister Institute are not yet complete, but are to be continued under more equitable conditions than were possible while hostilities were existing. In view of the statement made in this article, I am to express the hope that the Government will continue to purchase lime-juice from British Colonies in preference to lemon-juice from foreign countries.

I have the honour, &c.,

The Secretary,
The Admiralty

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Admiralty, S.W. 1.

March 28th, 1919.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, and enclosure, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state that they recognise that the anti-scorbutic properties of lemons and limes are still the subject of experiment, and any final decision as to the use of either article will depend on the results of further investigation.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary,

The West India Committee.

J. W. S. ANDERSON.

DRIED OR "FIG" BANANAS.

The West India Committee have received from the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies a copy of a letter which he has received from the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies regarding the dried or "fig" banana industry. Sir Francis Watts wrote:—

Imperial Department of Agriculture,
Barbados.

February 3rd, 1919.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 51,447 of November 13th, 1918, and its enclosures regarding the preparation of dried bananas in the Cameroons. I have also seen the article dealing with the same matter which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR for December 12th, 1918, p. 364.

2. As Mr. W. Fawcett has informed the West India Committee, there is no reason to suppose that the methods adopted in the Cameroons differ in any essential particular from that which has been in vogue in Jamaica for a number of years. Many years ago I saw dried bananas, or banana figs as they are called, being prepared under careful scientific supervision and with the utmost care at Montpelier in Jamaica, and it appeared to me that the foundation of an excellent business was being laid. I believe, however, that the success financially was not as great as was expected.

3. These dried bananas are still prepared in Jamaica on a moderate scale, and during my last visit to that colony I paid a special visit to one factory where the industry is successfully carried on and was shown the methods adopted. They are substantially as described by Messrs. Evans and Laycock in the correspondence under consideration.

4. I have always felt that the excellence of this commodity should result in its being largely used in Europe and America, and I cannot help thinking that a large trade might be built up if active measures are taken to introduce these dried bananas to the notice of the public. Something in the way of concerted advertising will be necessary. Hitherto the work has been carried on by individuals who, doubtless, hesitate to embark on an advertising campaign of which they may reap only a small portion of the benefit.

5. Furthermore, I am not sure that the bananas have been uniformly prepared and packed in such a way that they will uniformly keep good. There is also something in their appearance which is against them, but this might be remedied. It will be noticed in the article in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR Sir Harry Johnston remarks:—"When he first gave the ugly-looking, brown, leathery strips to me I received them with inward disdain," &c. I believe it is this unpleasant appearance which has militated to a large extent against their extensive use.

6. I am endeavouring to get some experiments made by means of the drier recently erected at St. Lucia in order to see if a more pleasing product can be obtained; it may take some little time to get the work carried through; but when something has been done I will report the results.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS WATTS, Commissioner
of Agriculture for the West
Indies.

It may be mentioned that "fig bananas" have been retailed for many years past by the West Indian Produce Association, of 14, Creech Lane, E.C.3. During the war they were unobtainable for a short time, but supplies are now again available.

RECIPES FOR BANANA BREAD.

Some further particulars are now available regarding banana bread, to which reference was made in the CIRCULAR last year. It is claimed that this special bread, which the United Fruit Company is making at the present time in its tropical divisions, represents a saving of approximately 30 per cent. in the use of wheat-flour.

The Company's object in using this bread in its tropical divisions is to save wheat-flour. The advantage to the consumer, aside from the matter of patriotism, lies, says the *Cuba Review*, in the fact that the quantity of bread for the same money will be somewhat increased. The question of quality is left to the judgment of the consumer, but thorough tests have demonstrated it is every bit as palatable and equal in every respect to the usual white bread, excepting possibly in the matter of appearance.

The following is the recipe recommended by the Medical Department of the Company for making this so-called "Banana Bread":—

Keep the banana immersed in water while peeling, to prevent discoloration.

Use silver knife on bananas, for the same reason as above.

Boil bananas in salt water until thoroughly cooked.

After cooking, mash thoroughly and stir into dough slowly while kneading.

Green bananas should be used—preferably full ones just about to turn.

Proportion one pound of mashed bananas as above to three pounds of flour dough, viz.—mashed bananas, 25 per cent. of bread; flour dough, 75 per cent. of bread.

The United Fruit Company has also been experimenting in some of its tropical divisions with a mixture of 50 per cent. wheat-flour and 50 per cent. yucca-flour, which makes an extremely acceptable substitute for all-wheat flour. The recipe for this is as follows:—

Peel the yucca, grate it, add enough water to make a paste, afterwards mashing it in order to get rid of some of the starch (about 20 per cent.). Let this mixture dry a little and then pass through the mill. This should give a fine yucca-flour, which is then ready to mix with wheat-flour. A 50 per cent. mixture gives an excellent bread. If at least 20 per cent. of the starch is not got rid of the bread will shrink.

Britain's Wonderful Air Service.

That Britain easily leads in the air as well as on sea was proved in the war. The Under-Secretary for Air, in a statement of absorbing interest, gave some particulars to the House, and so marvellous were they that members listened spellbound. For instance, by means of directional wireless, aeroplanes can be successfully directed from the ground. A seaplane now being built is to carry 13,000 lb. at 100 miles an hour, and an aeroplane, 141 ft. in span, is to carry just under 20,000 lb. Then there is a flying boat which will bring the upper waters of the great African rivers within easy reach of the coast. The House was also told that "air roads" with sound and light signal stations, beacon stations, and aerial buoys are being planned. Much of the speech was as full of romance and marvels as a book by Jules Verne.

BABY SAVING IN ST. KITTS.

Major J. A. Burdon, the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, in his address to the Legislative Council of that Presidency on February 20th, referred to the establishment of the Maternity Ward at the Cunningham Hospital, which is now complete, and to the conversion of the master's and matron's quarters into a Nurses' Hostel.

The inception of both Nurses' Hostel and Maternity Ward stood, he said, to the credit of Mr. Semper, the former zealous Chairman of the Cunningham Hospital Board, whose service would, he hoped, be permanently recorded so that future generations might know to whom their gratitude was due.

"The value of the Maternity Ward does not end with the safe bringing into the world of the children to be born there. It has a far more extended object—the training of midwives. At present the lives of mother and child depend on the ministrations of women, nearly all uncertificated, and mostly ignorant and dirty. The law forbids their employment; but until there are certificated midwives to replace them the law is a dead letter. Is it any wonder that our infantile mortality is so terribly high? The first step towards the reduction of this will be the training of midwives at the Cunningham Hospital, and their firm establishment in the conduct of their profession. I look forward in the future to the establishment of some baby-saving organisation, but none such is possible until the trained midwives, through whom it must work, come into existence."

Another improvement recently effected in St. Kitts is the formation of a new village at La Guerite, which Major Burdon rightly regards as a very useful step towards improvement in the housing conditions of the lower classes. "The houses erected there are under the control of their landlord, the Government, through the Public Health Department. The result has been most satisfactory. Riding through it constantly as I do, I can certify to an air of content, orderliness and self-respect (not to mention sanitation) which was noticeably absent in the village from which these same tenants came. The old hovels of Kitts Stoddarts have in a somewhat miraculous manner evolved into the respectable cottages of La Guerite. Credit is due to the Public Works Department for the laying out of the ground and the starting of the village, and to the Public Health Department for its subsequent care."

HAY-MAKING IN INDIA.

The planters in India are making hay while the sun shines. Says the *Louisiana Planter*:—

The position of the cane-sugar industry in India at the present time should be highly gratifying to the producer. With ordinary plantation whites at £28 per ton, no competitors, and a demand greater than the supply, the owners of sugar factories are in a position to reap a rich harvest.

Java, owing to lack of shipping facilities, at present is not able to unload her vast store of sugar in the Indian market, and apparently will continue in the same state for some indefinite period.

Pre-war price of cane-sugar in India was about £15;

the cost of production was in the neighbourhood of £18. Java, producing at £8 per ton, and competing in the Indian market at a figure only slightly higher than the actual cost of the production manufactured by the Indian factories, caused the finances of the latter to fluctuate considerably. Companies were formed, but either just held their head above water or else existed mainly through the by-products.

The remedy of the fault has been in the hands of the sugar-producing companies all the time. To be a dividend-paying concern, the cane cultivation must be under the control of and administered from the factory. If the cultivation of the land is left in the hands of the native farmer, various crops may be grown, according to the price of market, and the factory has either a short crop or is over-burdened with canes. Owing to the slight tillage of the land and the poor cultivation the cane receives, the average crop grown by the native rarely exceeds twelve tons per acre.

The tillage is accomplished by means of the primitive wooden plough, which turns up the surface of the soil to the extent of four inches. Drainage is poor, chemical manuring considered non-essential, and irrigation conducted by means of wells sunk in the field, and the water baled out into the drainage channels. Owing to the poor cultivation, the mill-owners have to pay a prohibitive price for the cane, the farmer realising from one acre twelve tons, where there should be thirty-five.

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS.—Lower Freight Rates Wanted.

A letter, signed by fifty merchants of Nassau, protesting against the high freight rates to and from that place has been sent to Mr. H. E. Aspinall, the local agent for the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company, for transmission to his principals in New York City, and they have replied by cable that the matter will be taken up at once with the United States Shipping Board.

BARBADOS. More Estates Change Hands.

Our contemporary the *Barbados Advocate*, under date March 5th, reports that the weather continued dry and the winds were somewhat slight for the wind-mills. Reaping operations were in full swing, and the returns were fair. The syrup market had opened at 42 cents per gallon, but the demand was uncertain, buyers appearing to be watching developments in the fear that if they placed orders the factories might flood the market with syrup instead of leaving it to small mills with Aspinall pans. There had been sporadic strikes amongst various classes of workmen, but no disorder.

A tragedy occurred in Carlisle Bay on Tuesday, March 4th, when a seaman named Robert Neale shot and killed Captain Elmo Black, master of the American schooner *Jeremiah Smith*, and wounded the mate, Mr. Gray, with another bullet.

Rock and Four Hills plantation, St. Peter, 504 acres, had been sold to Mr. F. F. C. Gill for £22,100. Buckden, St. Joseph, to Hon. R. Haynes for £10,000. An offer of £15,200 for Moncrieffe, St. John, was refused. Spa plantation was offered for sale; Balls and Pilgrim Place, for which it was said £100,000 was the upset price, was also unsold.

The death was reported of Mr. Joseph Puckerin, manager of Harrow plantation.

The health of the island was good.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The Search for Oil.

The Governor, Sir William Collet, K.C.M.G., is leaving the colony for six months' furlough in England, and expects to return about October. An expedition to the area in the north-west district (granted by the Colonial Office to the Venezuela Oil Concessions and

Bolivar Estates, Limited), headed by Mr. G. B. Reynolds, on an oil-exploring mission is reported to have been unsuccessful. A member of the party informed a reporter of the *Daily Argosy* that they had not found the slightest traces of oil or enough pitch "to fill a tooth-hole." Mr. Reynolds is still optimistic, and his next trip will be to the Corentyne river. The colonisation and population question of the colony takes a prominent place in the Press, and much interest is being shown in this important problem. The statistics for the last three years show an excess of deaths over births, and in view of the influenza epidemic the estimated decrease in population for 1918 is very high. Colonisation proposals are to be submitted to the Colonial Office; but it is suggested that an active campaign be carried out to combat the high mortality caused through filaria, malaria and similar diseases, which have been augmented by the defects in the present system of sanitation, which leaves much to be desired. A meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce was held on February 21st, and among the letters considered was one from the Aerial League, London, applying for full particulars as to suitable routes should aerial transport be established in the colony at a later date, and at the suggestion of Mr. Gray the letter was passed on to the Government.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—Chicle Tax.

The Committee of Food Control have decided to cancel, as from March 15th, all maximum or minimum food prices fixed by them, but they retain the power to exercise control in the future should it be necessary. At a meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday, March 17th, the duty on chicle was raised to three cents per pound, and this increase is expected to produce \$2,000. Mr. J. P. Auld, the Director of Public Works, is going to British Guiana to direct the sea defence work there, and Mr. Arthur Wolffsohn, son of the Hon. S. Wolffsohn, has been appointed assistant engineer of that colony.

DOMINICA.—Mr. Mahaffy's Leave.

Dr. the Hon. H. Alford Nicholls has undertaken the revision of "Notes on Dominica" and "Hints to Intending Settlers." The weather in the fortnight ended March 6th was very dry, and there was difficulty in supplying the demand for fresh lines in the New York market. The Administrator was to leave on March 8th with his elder son for England on a short visit in H.M.S. *Bileen* as guests of the Admiral.

JAMAICA.—Labourers in Cuba.

Much interest is being taken in the new Income-tax Bill, which has been the cause of many heated discussions in the Legislative Council. It was expected that the Estimates would be considered about March 20th. As a protest at the inaction of the Government in not attending to the reconstruction of the Falmouth Waterworks, the Trelawny Parochial Board have resigned *en bloc*. The spasmodic and insufficient water supply has caused much inconvenience and anxiety to the inhabitants of Falmouth, who unanimously support the action of the Board. The reports about the bad treatment of Jamaican labourers in Cuba have been contradicted by the British Consul in that island, who has made a searching investigation as to the treatment of the men.

ST. VINCENT.—Mr. J. E. Sprott.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, March 1st.—The picking of Sea Island cotton is now coming to a close, and it looks as if the crop will exceed the output of any one of the previous six seasons. Arrowroot reaping is being retarded by dry weather and the unwillingness of labourers in some districts to work at it—they appear to favour work with sugar-cane and cotton.

Mr. J. E. Sprott, editor and proprietor of the *Sentry*, and for some years Chairman of the Kingstown Board and Secretary of the Arrowroot Growers' Association,

has been appointed provisionally a member of the Legislative Council in place of Mr. Con. J. Simmons, whose term of appointment had expired. Mr. Simmons had been a member of the local Executive and Legislative Councils for the past eighteen years. The Administrator has appointed a Commission to inquire into the present system of popular education in the colony and to make recommendations for its betterment. A beneficial war measure has been reported on by the Agricultural Superintendent; this concerned the preservation from insect attack of dry vegetable food products. It is shown that from May, 1917, to February 15th, 1919, the following quantities of foodstuffs were stored and treated for different periods at the Government granary:—26,817 lb. of pease, 31,910 lb. of rice, 218,948 lb. of corn, 17,971 lb. of cacao. Besides conserving and preserving these valuable supplies of food and rendering them available at opportune times serious monetary losses were prevented.

TRINIDAD.—Prospects of an Oil Boom.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, March 6th.—The first session for 1919 of the Legislative Council was opened on February 21st with the usual ceremony. The Governor's message was short and to the point. The estimated surplus for the current year was £26,000, but, owing to gradual removal of restrictions on trade, there was good reason to hope this surplus would be greater than estimated. His Excellency apprehended it would be the wish of the Council to contribute to the cost of the Canadian Steamer Service in the event of the contract being renewed. He paid a graceful tribute to the devoted service rendered by the late Colonial Secretary, Mr. Knaggs, and of the loss sustained by the colony through his retirement on account of ill-health. The Committee appointed to consider the questions of the improvement and extension of the colony and the development of its resources was making good progress, and it was hoped would be able to lay a preliminary report before the session closes. The message concluded with a short reference to the important and useful measures on the Legislative programme.

A certain amount of irritation has been occasioned by a combination of the oil companies here, resulting in a considerable rise in the local price of gasoline, and the question was raised in Council by Dr. Lawrence as to the legality of such a "ring" formed with a view of "exploiting the public in the interest of the oil companies." The reply was that contracts entered into with that object, although unenforceable, are not illegal in any criminal sense. The Government, however, showed their sympathy with the public by withdrawing from the use by the companies of a public warehouse in town which had greatly facilitated their operations. The latter may be quite within their rights, but it might be prudent for them to remember the generous terms under which they have acquired from the colony the valuable concessions they enjoy, and also that the day may come when they may seek further privileges when the support of a friendly rather than an antagonised community would be useful. Owners of motor vehicles, whether for pleasure or business, it might be remembered, are not among the least influential people of a place, and their feeling is at present very strong on the point.

All appearances point to the advent of another Trinidad oil boom. Practically all of the big people are in it. Their representatives are scouring the country for the remaining promising properties, and prices are being paid that would have been undreamt of a few years ago. These, however, seem justified by the results of the working of the more important enterprises to date and by the present value of their stock. Coming to solid facts, it is good to record that from January 1st to date over eleven million gallons of oil have been shipped, against 4,600,000 for the corresponding period last year.

Intending visitors to the old country are experiencing

much difficulty in securing passage, all berths by the regular lines having already been booked for some time in advance. It was hoped that the Royal Mail Company would have spared one of their larger boats to relieve the congestion, and should they do so just for old acquaintance sake it would be a most popular step for them to take. Meanwhile it is rumoured that the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique will be replacing one of their big liners on the Colon route, in which case many from here will take advantage of the opportunity thus offered *via* France.

The Messrs. Tennants have disposed of their valuable sugar plantation in South Naparima, La Fortunée, and adjoining properties to Messrs. Mackenzie & Co. for a sum said to be £100,000. Everyone will regret to see a firm like the Tennants, which has been intimately connected with the sugar industry, about to sever their connection with it. They have already leased their other large estate in North Naparima to the proprietors of the Usine St. Madeleine; but it is sincerely to be hoped that the cessation of their interest in sugar cultivation will not prove the precursor of the removal of their other activities. The colony cannot afford to lose from its commercial or agricultural list names of the universal standing of Tennant Sons & Co.

Thanks to the active intervention of a section of the Press, carnival has been revived again, and for two days this week business has been practically suspended whilst all and sundry have been "playing masque." It must be confessed that the efforts of a number of popular gentlemen to reintroduce this annual "festival," or "orgy" as it was of more recent years, have proved generally successful. There was nothing to be ashamed of and much that was attractive in the display, and the people enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content.

Death of a Well-known Cricketer.

March 13th.—The Intercolonial Customs Conference is holding daily sittings in the Council Chambers. The proceedings are private other than a short official communication to the Press daily, but I understand that excellent progress is being made. The session was opened by the Governor, who welcomed the delegates and delivered one of the short, practical addresses for which his Excellency is so well known.

As the Governor remarked on the occasion, the subject of West Indian Federation was not before the conference, but "if arrangements for joint action progress at the present rate, it would not be surprising if the West Indian colonies wake up one morning and find that they are federated."

I am sorry to record the death of another of our good cricketers and good fellows, G. C. Learmond. Quite as a boy he was the hero of the Barbados side that made over 500 runs in the first West Indian match played against Lucas's team in 1895, and he was keen on the old game and one of its leading exponents to the end. He resided in and played alternately for Barbados, Demerara and Trinidad.

Mr. H. Fuller, attorney of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, has been appointed to a seat on the Legislative Council rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. J. D. Hobson.

The D.O.R.A. case has ended in the acquittal of the accused. No other verdict could have been arrived at—indeed, after hearing the evidence one is rather surprised that the Crown should have thought proper to prosecute on such apparently flimsy grounds.

The strike fever has reached us. Stevedores who have worked regularly for years for the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company suddenly knocked off the other day when required to load the steamer which now—after considerable delay—bears this letter. Employers and employed still hold out, the former claiming that they already pay the most generous wages here. Another of their steamers will be here early next week with a large cargo from New York, by which time it is hoped

a settlement will have been arrived at. Meanwhile, men on the railway, contractors' labourers, are also out for more money, and yesterday the men in the steamers' warehouse gave notice that they would require an advance of about 50 per cent., or they would knock off. How it will all end remains to be seen.

TURKS ISLAND.—Conch Industry Revived.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Report for January, delayed.—The weather during the month, generally speaking, has been seasonable, the evenings and early mornings being cool and pleasant. Business has been rather quiet, and very little has been shipped with the exception of a number of cargoes of fishery salt shipped from Grand Turk. The conch shell industry is reviving again, the freight rates to Italy having been lowered, to which country consignments are sent by New York buyers. The amount of "upland" cotton shipped last year by the peasant growers in the Caicos Islands was twelve bales of 300 lb. each. The brokers reported it to be of good quality and strength, and sold it at 2s. 3d. per lb.

The Government, during the past season, have assisted the small salt proprietors with loans amounting to £203, and 100,000 bushels of salt have been deposited as security.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Replying to Sir Edgar Jones, on March 31st, Mr. Roberts gave the following particulars regarding the importation of sugar from Java into the United Kingdom:—

	Quantity.		
	Refined.	Unrefined.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1913	—	99	99
1914	113,833	291,383	405,216
1915	105,117	293,596	398,713
1916	94,615	281,676	376,291
1917	71,841	270,702	342,543
1918	518	185,111	185,629
1919 (Jan. and Feb.) ...	3,526	6,907	10,433

STEAMER SAILINGS.

OUTWARD			
To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
B'los & T'dad.	Liverpool	<i>Nubian</i>	April 26.
West Indies	London	<i>Sargasso</i>	April 30.
Jamaica	Avonmouth	<i>Coronado</i>	April 30.
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Cordova</i>	May 1.
West Indies	Amsterdam	<i>Stuyvesant</i>	May 6.
B'los & T'dad.	Liverpool	<i>Nortonian</i>	May 10.
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Discoverer</i>	May 24.

The above dates are only approximate.

Efforts of Cuban planters to import Porto Rican labourers for work in Cuban cane fields have, says the *Cuba Review*, failed. The Cuban planters offered \$2.00 per day with no extra pay for overtime work. The Porto Rican employment service replied demanding time and a-half pay for overtime, free transportation to Cuba and return, free housing, and no discrimination as regards colour. Cuban planters characterise these terms as prohibitive. Of two hundred Chinese labourers who were taken to Cuba under the new law of immigration a short time ago to work at the Central Santa Lucia in Oriente, there remain eighty in the Immigration Camp at Tricornia who refuse to work and who will be deported.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**BENDALS (ANTIGUA) SUGAR FACTORY, LTD.**

The profit for the year ended October 31st last, after allowing for depreciation the sum of £772 in terms of the contract made with planters, and subject to income-tax and excess profits duty, amounted to £5,822 15s. 10d. After deducting £1,400 for payment of dividend on the preference shares, there remains a balance of £4,422 15s. 10d.

The directors now recommend the payment of a dividend of 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, free of income-tax, and that the balance, amounting to £3,422 15s. 10d., together with the balance on hand from 1916-17—viz., £2,863 16s. 6d.—making a total of £6,286 12s. 4d., be carried forward. The capital of the company comprises 20,000 £1 preference shares and 20,000 ordinary shares of 2s. 6d. each.

The report, which is signed by Mr. H. D'Esteer Spooner, chairman, states that the past season was one of very short cane crops, due, in large measure, to an irregular and short rainfall. The total weight of cane purchased by the factory was, approximately, 15,146 tons, as against 19,087 tons in 1917 and 28,844 tons in 1916, and this notwithstanding that the cane-supplying area has been extended meanwhile. There were manufactured 1,543.8 tons of sugar at the factory—equal to 1 ton of sugar from 9.98 tons cane. The sale price of both sugar and molasses ruled at a high level, and enabled the factory to make good profits. The prevailing war conditions rendered it impossible to proceed with the adoption of day and night work at the factory, as indicated in last year's report, and in view of the very short cane crops it is doubtful whether anything approaching a regular supply of cane to the mill could have been maintained.

The very high costs of manufacture per ton of sugar in the past season have been caused by war conditions, involving higher prices for materials and supplies of every kind, by increased labour charges, and by the fact that the permanent charges at the factory were distributed over a largely reduced output of sugar. In addition, practically the whole crop was made into yellow and white sugars for the London market and local sale, entailing a very heavy cost for the requisite chemicals. Furthermore, the condition of the railway line has necessitated considerable expenditure, and in this connection further expenditure will require to be made in the near future in order to put the line in a proper working state. A charge appears in the accounts for the first time against cultivation. The meaning of this is that the factory company is now leasing from the owners of Belvidere Estates some land adjacent to, and has commenced to raise cane thereon for supply to, the factory. It is confidently expected that in future seasons a fair profit will be shown on this venture. The additional amount payable to the original cane contractors is £4,422 15s. 9d.—equivalent to a supplementary payment of 7s. 2.78154d. per ton of canes.

The present season is not justifying early expectations, and latest estimates place the total of cane to be purchased at about 17,000 tons. A forward contract has been made for the sale of the greater part of the year's crop as refining crystals to Halifax at 6.10 cents per pound c.i.f.

BIRTH.

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.

MARTIN-SPERRY.—On April 3rd, at 28, Bramham Gardens, S.W., Irene, wife of Captain Cecil Martin-Sperry—of a daughter.

CORRESPONDENCE.**"IS IT FAIR?"**

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Throughout the British Empire there is no colony more loyal and more ready and eager to answer the call of the Mother Country than are the West Indian colonies. In spite of a heavy heart caused by dissatisfaction when the world was thrown into conflagration, the West Indian colonies (not waiting for the call) offered her all to the Empire—viz., her products, her silver, and, best and dearest, her sons. Many of these have been with the Colours since the last three years, and have contributed wholeheartedly in bringing the world's greatest struggle to a decisive issue, and to protect not only their meagre heritage, but to defend Britain's colonies—Britain's name.

In spite of the effort put forward by coloured men, it can be noticed from time to time in different journals and dailies the prominence given to the words "darkey," "nigger" and "coon," as referred to members of the black race, or things connected with them. The former may be partially tolerated; but to apply the latter terms—whether with studied insult or in ignorance of their meaning and what they imply—is obnoxious. In a recent article published in one of the leading papers under the caption "Cut Out the Jazz," we note a minister writing that: "[This dance is of nigger origin, and not decent for Christians." He confesses, however, his knowledge—or, rather, ignorance of the art. While one might accept this statement in accordance with personal views, it must be borne in mind that there are the two prominent features—the "origination" and the "adoption."

Is it considered fair for the term "cockney" to be used as referring to every Englishman, with a knowledge of its meaning and what it implies? Compare the coloured man who, having left kith and kin and safe home across the sea, fought side by side with the "whites" in Britain's cause, and trace the dictionary meaning of the word "nigger," and determine whether it justifies the term which England has learned to adopt. It should never be forgotten that we are part and parcel of the "Great Empire of which every Britisher is proud"—and justly proud.

We are not soliciting pity or compassion, but, in the interest of fair play as part of the nation, part of the Empire, give us negroes, black men, or coloured men, and cut out the "nigger," "coon" and "darkey."

LLOYD BYER.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—SAILINGS FROM GLASGOW TO KINGSTON, JAMAICA, per s.s. *Camilo*, April 3rd:—

Mr. H. D. Ackerley	Dr. and Mrs	Mr. A. C. McLean
Colonel John Barlow	Hargreaves	Mr. K. C. Marchallock
Mr. Victor Belman	Miss E. J. Isaacs	Mr. A. Pawsey
Mr. A. R. Boor	Mrs. H. Johnston	Mr. J. P. Powell
Mr. James Byrom	Capt. and Mrs. O. H.	Mr. F. Hatchliffe
Mr. A. W. Clarke	Keeling	Mr. and Mrs. Wyndham
Capt. L. S. Coke	Mr. W. Kilpatrick	Rickford
Miss M. E. Cowper	Miss E. L. Latreille	Miss T. E. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy	Mr. A. W. Lockyer	Mr. W. Tomlinson
Daly	Miss J. A. Macnee	Col. I. Unsworth (S.A.)
Mrs. A. A. Dunlop	Mrs. M. Macnee	Mr. E. Bradley Watson
Mr. H. A. Forward	Mr. and Mrs. G. R.	Miss Yrigoyen
Mrs. K. J. Gellatly	McGahan	

We are authorised to contradict the statement that Mr. A. P. Sherlock, who has just arrived in England, has left British Guiana for good. Mr. Sherlock—an interview with whom will be published in next CIRCULAR—intends to reside in the colony for the greater part of each year, and will retain his connection with Messrs. Booker Bros. and Co.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6842 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

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

April 17th, 1919.

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.	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.

Lord Bledisloe has resigned the chairmanship of the Sugar Commission, which office he has held since August, 1917, when he succeeded Lord Devonport. The vacancy has not yet been filled, but Sir Henry Primrose is acting as Chairman. Mr. C. S. Rewcastle, who has acted as Secretary to the Commission since August, 1914, has also resigned, and Mr. F. W. Chambers, formerly manager of the Sugar Distribution Branch of the Ministry of Food, has been appointed to take his place. New York quotations remain unchanged.

As from April 7th the conditions under which privately imported sugars are sold have been modified. Such sugars are no longer "distributed" but can be sold by the importers to any of their habitual buyers, who may not, however, purchase more than their ration, their vouchers being cancelled in proportion to their purchases. It is feared that this may lead to a reduction in the price of such sugars if the buyers still prefer white sugar. On the other hand, it marks a distinct step towards decontrol, and the West India Committee has good reason to believe that before long the sugar-using trades will be permitted to purchase privately imported sugars over and above their rations, and possibly at free prices.

The Cuban general strike, which showed signs of becoming a serious menace to the island, ended on March 13th, the strikers agreeing to abide by the decision of President Menocal, and work has already been resumed.

Mr. Himely, in his weekly review dated March 17th, gives the following statistics which indicate the serious effects of the strike upon the sugar output:—

	Week ending March 15th.	Week ending March 1st (conditions normal). Six ports.
Receipts	25,365 tons	91,483 tons
Exports	19,712 "	40,604 "

The West India sugar statistics in London on April 5th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	6,105	5,273	8,016	
Deliveries	7,895	12,730	11,265	
Stock	4,402	3,530	4,766	

RUM. Heavy arrivals have taken place recently, the *Spheroid* and the *Sargasso* having just reached London. The market generally is firm, especially for rums of 1½ years and upwards of age. The stocks in London on April 5th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	3,319	5,461	9,030	
Demerara	11,032	2,984	8,234	
Total of all kinds	16,883	11,116	26,354	

COCOA. The West India Committee continues to press for the decontrol of cocoa. Meanwhile, in view of ample supplies of West African cocoa available, this variety is no longer being distributed by the Distribution Committee, importers selling to whom they like. For West India cocoa, on the other hand, the Distribution Committee continues to find purchasers, allotting it as before. It is generally believed that cocoa will be freed from control in the near future.

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 stocks in London on April 5th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	14,108	13,880	17,683	
Grenada	9,795	14,422	20,141	
Total of all kinds	132,102	189,131	262,646	

COTTON has been in improved demand. No business reported in Sea Island. During the first three months of the year 2,690 bales of British West Indian were imported.

OIL. Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, report: "Oil produced during March, 12,860 tons." Exports of petroleum from Trinidad January 1st to February 28th, 1919: Crude, 10,629,113 gallons; kerosene, 1,267,584 gallons; gasolene, 377,663 gallons; lubricating oil, 8 gallons.

HONEY. Quiet at auction. Jamaica, 60s. to 90s.; Haitian, 60s. to 70s. A few cases of Cuban sold at 60s., which was cheap. Export restrictions have been removed, and the demand should increase.

SPICES. Pimento is firmer; business done at 4½d. to 4½d., and the latter is to-day's value. Nutmegs and Mace: Business passing at steady rates.

GOPRA. The market has been strong during the past week. We quote f.m.s. West India, £41 to £42, c.i.f. delivered weights.

ARROWROOT. Prices have been reduced all round by the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers Association, and now range from 6d. to 7½d. This has not caused any appreciable improvement in the demand, which continues very slow.

BALATA. The market is quiet. W.I. sheet firm at 4s. to 4s. 2d. spot. Venezuela block easier, spot 3s. 5d.; c.i.f. 3s. 3½d. nominal. Panama block lower; F.a quality, 2s. 8d. spot, 2s. 6d. c.i.f. Tumaco block, 2s. 10d. spot, 2s. 8d. c.i.f., nominal.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, very quiet, sellers 13s.; distilled, neglected, sellers 4s. 9d. Lime Juice: Concentrated, firm; raw, slow of sale, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. Citrate firm. Orange Oil: Bitter, sweet, no demand; sellers 7s.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/8 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

WANTED, by a young man of good education, who has had many years' practical experience of cocoa cultivation in the West Indies, appointment. Applicant also has a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping; has been demobilised after three years' active service. Health good. Apply "J. M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

SEN. WIRELESS OPERATOR, R.N.V.R., aged 21, educated at Mercers' School, London, about to be demobilised, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer (with or without wireless work) on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies. Keen and energetic, and in good health.—"C. J. M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, Captain, married, aged 29, requires post. Willing to go abroad anywhere (West Indies preferred). Experience in Agriculture at Home and in Canada before the War; also two years' experience in Organisation with a political association. Joined Forces 1914. Military Cross. Good leader and commander. Excellent references. Apply "F. S.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

TO PLANTERS.—Leaving end of April for repatriation to Jamaica. Twelve years' experience with canes, cocoa, pen-keeping, &c. Managed sugar factory. Open for overseer's or manager's position. War not affected health, which was always good. Apply "A. C.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, Lieutenant, demobilised from Army, aged 22, willing to go abroad anywhere as Overseer on Sugar, Tea or Rubber Estate. Good references. Good commercial knowledge, clerical and practical. Now at liberty. Apply "C. V.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

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Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
May 1st, 1919.

The West Indies for Settlers.

IF any demobilised man or other potential emigrant to the field of tropical agriculture happened to attend the lecture on "Agriculture in the Tropics for Ex-soldiers," which PROF. P. CARMODY delivered before the Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute on April 15th, we fear that his hopes and aspirations must have been seriously damped by what he heard from the lecturer and SIR RIDER HAGGARD who followed. We would be the first to admit that much harm has been done by enthusiasts who, emulating the prowess of CAPTAIN JOHN POYNREZ in 1683, have exaggerated the advantages of the tropics—as several planters who were induced to embark on agriculture in unsuitable and inaccessible districts in Dominica know to their cost—but we claim that there was little justification for the despondent views of these two speakers, which were calculated to make the heart of even the stoutest capitalist quail. Stress was laid by the lecturer on the very worst features of tropical agriculture—such as soil washes, droughts, the hot, dry winds, hurricanes, soil-baking, &c., and, as if this were not enough, the

possibility of the occurrence of frost! Then, as though to give the *coup de grâce* to the prospective settler, SIR RIDER HAGGARD dwelt on the hardships of married life in the tropics, which made one doubt if he had ever even paid them a passing visit. If we were not mercifully possessed of a sanguine temperament we should be decidedly cast down by such despondent views, but nothing will destroy our conviction that, for young and active men with capital of £2,000 or £3,000 and upwards, many parts of the tropics, and especially the British West Indies, offer excellent opportunities, and, with regard to the nonsense which SIR RIDER HAGGARD spoke about the hardships of married life, we are satisfied that conditions for housewives in the West Indies are far more comfortable, especially as to servants, than they are in this country. SIR DANIEL MORRIS, who was in the chair, SIR WILLIAM ALLARDYCE and MR. R. RUTHERFORD endeavoured to correct the bad impression caused by the two speeches of which we complain, and the latter dealt with the steps taken by the West India Committee to encourage settlement in the West Indies. These will be familiar to readers of the CIRCULAR. It will be recalled that at the close of 1917, anticipating the probable desire of many men after demobilisation to settle overseas, the West India Committee addressed a circular letter to the various agricultural and commercial bodies in the West Indies asking for information as to the openings which their respective colonies were likely to be in a position to afford to such men, and it must be said that the replies were most disappointing. Not one of the bodies took the matter seriously in hand, and the local Governments appeared to be quite apathetic, with the result that demobilisation found the Committee ill equipped to deal with the steady flow of inquiries from men who would like to settle in our Western Archipelago. It was generally admitted that in such colonies as Jamaica, Trinidad, Dominica and St. Lucia good openings existed, and that settlers with capital would be welcomed; but no definite steps were taken to advertise such openings or to provide for the reception of ex-soldiers with capital; nor was any desire shown to give employment to discharged soldiers, the wages offered being in most cases altogether unreasonable—one island, for example, asking for overseers at a wage of £60 per annum, all found! The inquirers comprise two classes—men with capital who wish to acquire or establish estates, and men without

capital who seek employment. For the former the scanty amount of literature supplied by the local Governments is already—except in the case of Trinidad—exhausted; for the latter the wages offered in the West Indies are quite inadequate, except as overseers on certain of the larger sugar estates, which have combined to offer a living wage and other inducements, with the result that positions offered have been eagerly snapped up. As our "Wants" column published in recent CIRCULARS shows, there is no difficulty about finding the men, and it is now up to the West Indies, if they really desire "new blood," to find employment for them.

Agriculture in Dominica.

AFTER reading the report of Mr. JOSEPH JONES on the Agricultural Department of Dominica, which has just been published, one cannot help arriving at the conclusion that agriculture in that island is not in such a satisfactory state as could be wished. The island still relies almost entirely upon the cultivation of limes and the export of lime products for its prosperity, and no one would deny that dependence upon a single industry is a real danger. Attempts to develop minor industries have not met with much support, and Mr. JONES points out that, though experiments in growing onions, which were conducted at the Agricultural School from 1900 to 1905, with Teneriffe seeds and with sets imported from Bermuda showed good results both in the field and on the American market, they failed with one notable exception to attract the attention of the planters and small growers. The exception to which we refer is MR. E. J. SEIGNORET, a gentleman enjoying the advantage of an agricultural education, who, by raising a crop of 15,000lb. on Spring Hill Estate last season, has demonstrated that onions can be satisfactorily grown on certain parts of the Leeward coast. His example will, it is hoped, be followed. The existing minor industries—such as oranges, coffee, coco-nuts and hardwood—still make a wretched showing, their total export value being £3,536, as compared with £204,899 for lime products. The value of the exports of cocoa is not given, but it is shown that from the former output of 12,000 cwts. a year, the quantity shipped fell to 3,160 cwts. in 1917, and as cocoa trees lost through the effects of hurricanes are not being replaced, MR. JONES does not expect a return to the former output. "Little attention," he says, "is now given to this cultivation, and no new plantings of any extent are being made. Ultimately cocoa-growing in Dominica is likely to fall to the level of a minor industry." The lime crop during the year reviewed by MR. JONES in his valuable report, calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4.55 cub. ft., amounted to 396,000—a record output for the island—and it is shown that the figure would have been still greater but for the hurricanes of 1915 and 1916, to the difficulty of obtaining supplies of concentrated manures. The area under limes in Dominica, estimated at 6,000 acres, is sufficient to produce an annual crop of 600,000 barrels of fruit, calculated on the low return of 100 barrels per acre. Unless, however, says MR. JONES, there is a general improvement in handling the situation, it is doubtful

if that output will ever be reached from that area. "It is unfortunate that, while young areas come into bearing each year, much of the older cultivation is allowed to fall into a poor condition. The greater returns, which all connected with the industry desire, can only be obtained by greater efforts on the part of the growers. Some of the old plantations are now in a bad way, partly owing to age, but aggravated by several causes within the control of the planter. The attempt to renovate them by planting seedlings beneath the old diseased trees may not prove successful, as the young trees under such conditions are themselves apt to become diseased at an early age. It would be better to move to new lands, but when circumstances make it necessary to attempt to renovate old estates, heroic measures will probably have to be adopted to ensure success—such as taking blocks of from 10 to 15 acres in extent in hand, removing all the diseased trees, initiating a thorough system of drainage, and then planting the land in canes or other nurse plants for a year or more before the lime seedlings are placed out." MR. JONES' reference to canes makes one wonder whether it will not be profitable under the new conditions, which we hope will shortly prevail to revive the sugar industry in Dominica. It would not seem unreasonable to argue that, even if it meant putting some of the coast lands out of lime cultivation, it might be worth while to do so. Fifty years ago Dominica used to export 70,000 cwts. of sugar, 100,000 gallons of molasses, and 40,000 gallons of rum annually: now she actually has to import those commodities—her imports for 1916-17 including 3,400 cwts. of sugar and 5,330 gallons of rum—for her own needs, which does not seem economically sound in an island where the sugar cane grows luxuriantly.

In considering the future of aviation in the West Indies the possibilities of the airship must not be overlooked where bases can be established outside the hurricane zone. In a lecture at the Camera Club recently, Lieut.-Colonel W. Lockwood Marsh, R.A.F., said that he did not believe there was an aeroplane in existence that could fly across the Atlantic, whereas there were two airships already complete that could fly from Great Britain to America and back without landing.

From the point of view of safety, comfort, and durability there was no comparison between the two types. In an airship it was possible for the passengers to move about. It was not necessary for the airship to fly at a great height or at a great speed, whereas in flying in an aeroplane one had to maintain a great speed to keep in the air, and it was generally necessary to fly high, and so have a very imperfect view of the country. In a passenger airship there could be heat for comfort and cooking, a lounge, dining saloons, and sleeping berths, and a lift to take one to a roof garden on the top of the vessel.

The flying age limit of an aeroplane was 800 hours, while there were airships still in commission that had been flying 2½ years at 2½ hours per day. A passenger airship of small dimensions, capable of flying for 24 hours at 45 miles per hour, would cost from £6,000 to £7,000. In the long run aeroplanes would be found far more expensive, and airships were undoubtedly the best means of introducing flying to the general public.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"QUATTIE buy trouble, hundred pound can't pay for it."

* * *

THE Jamaica Government has decided to issue its own paper money to the amount of \$750,000.

* * *

HIS HONOUR SIR ANTHONY M. COLL, Chief Justice of Jamaica, has left the colony for England on six months' leave.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Captain Ian McDonald, M.C., D.F.C., and Miss Irene Duke, daughter of the late Dr. M. P. Duke, of Antigua.

* * *

THE HON. J. HAMPTON KING, Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana, has left the colony to act temporarily as Administrator to Dominica.

* * *

ON March 15th a 12-ft. swordfish was offered on the market at Port of Spain, where it met with ready sale. It was caught off Waterloo Estate, and weighed 500lb.

* * *

SIR WILLIAM GOODE, who did such splendid work for the relief of Belgium and at the Ministry of Food during the war, is now one of the members of the Supreme Economic Council in Paris.

* * *

"MONKEY ERIC," a well-known comedian of Port of Spain, will soon be making an appearance before London audiences. It is reported that a well-known theatrical manager has offered a contract to Eric.

* * *

DR. F. C. CLARKE, Canadian Army Medical Corps, son of Sir F. J. Clarke, K.C.M.G., has been awarded the Military Cross for valour and devotion to duty during the hard fighting at Amiens in August last.

* * *

MR. J. B. CASSELS, M.B.E., Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the British Guiana Branch of the British Red Cross Society, announces the closing of the fund in the colony, at the handsome total of \$87,877.

* * *

MR. J. J. FRANCO, solicitor, of Belize, British Honduras, having taken into partnership Mr. F. R. Ellis, his firm will in future be known as Messrs. Franco & Ellis, successors to Messrs. Woods, Slack & Franco.

* * *

MR. A. H. ("JACK") MOLE, second son of Mr. R. R. Mole, late of Trinidad, who during the war held a commission in the King's Royal Rifles, has left for Rangoon to take up an appointment with the firm of Steel Bros. & Co., Limited.

* * *

H.M.S. CUMBERLAND arrived in Trinidad on Sunday, March 16th—her first visit for over five years—and sailed for Barbados on the 19th. Her commander, Captain Gordon Campbell, V.C., D.S.O., commander of the first Mystery Ship, was the guest of the Governor.

* * *

SIR WILLIAM ALLARDYCE, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Bahamas, who has arrived in England on six months' leave, has announced his intention of pressing for an improved and British steamer service for the colony. He regards communication with England as a matter of great importance.

* * *

TIME is getting on, and it is now four months since subscriptions to the West India Committee became renew-

able. Those members who have not already done so are therefore requested to remit the amount due or to pay it into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada *without further delay*.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Mr. H. C. F. ("Bertie") Cox, younger son of Sir Charles T. Cox, K.C.M.G., to Dorothy, only child of Mr. Justice and Mrs. Berkeley. Mr. Cox has recently been discharged from the Army, after having served two years in France as a lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

* * *

THE KING has granted permission to Mr. Alexander Duckham and Sir William Mitchell Thomson, Bt., K.B.E., to wear the insignia of Officer and Chevalier respectively of the Legion of Honour conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered in the Allied cause. Both recipients of this honour are members of the Executive of the West India Committee.

* * *

MR. CLAUDE W. DUNCAN, son of Captain Alex. Duncan, former Harbour Master of the Port of Georgetown, B.G., Commissioner of Police in Malta and previously Deputy Inspector-General of Police in Mauritius, has been appointed Inspector-General of Police and Director of Prisons in Southern Nigeria. He is at present spending a short leave of absence in Scotland.

* * *

THE REV. CANON C. G. CLARK-HUNT, Rector of St. John's, was married on February 24th to Elizabeth Mehitabel, eldest daughter of the late R. F. Parkinson and Mrs. Parkinson, The Cedars, St. Michaels. The service was performed by the Rev. B. C. Howell, M.A., assisted by the Rev. P. C. Branch, B.A., and the honeymoon was spent at Boxhills House, The Crane.

* * *

AT a meeting of the Trinidad Horticultural Club held at his residence in the Botanic Gardens at Port of Spain on March 10th, Mr. T. I. Potter presiding, Mr. W. G. Freeman delivered a lecture on "A Century of Horticulture in Trinidad," in the course of which he showed how much of the flora of the island was exotic. Many beautiful paintings of the local flora, by Mrs. Freeman, were shown to the enthusiastic company present.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT in the British West Indies Regiment in Egypt, writing on March 21st, said that the battalions there were expecting to proceed to Taranto almost immediately. In the meantime, games and sports were being indulged in strenuously, and an inter-battalion competition had resulted in the 2nd Battalion scoring 31 points, the 1st 20 points, and the 5th 9 points. The gifts sent by the West Indian Contingent Committee had been greatly appreciated by the men.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT in Dominica writes:—"When one considers the great advantages which the West Indies in general derive by the influence of the West India Committee in London, it is surprising that the number of members in the West Indies is so few in comparison with the total population." It may be mentioned that the annual membership fee to the West India Committee is only a guinea, and at present there is no entrance fee, members receiving this publication regularly, post free.

* * *

THE War-workers' Lunch Room, which was started in June, 1917, over Whitfields & Co., in Broad-street, Barbados, by a band of patriotic ladies headed by Mrs. Golde White, has proved a great success. By its means \$2,340.40 was raised for local and overseas war charities, including the British Red Cross Fund, St. Dunstan's

Hostel, the Barbados Motor Ambulance Fund, and the West Indian Contingent Fund. Miss Daisy Yearwood has proved a most efficient Hon. Secretary to the "Room," which has been deservedly popular.

* * *

MR. PERCIVAL M. DAVSON, who for the second time has won the Lawn Tennis Covered Court Championship, is a nephew of the late Sir Henry Davson, Chairman of the West India Committee. Mr. Davson, after beating Patterson, defeated the champion, Mr. J. G. Ritchie by 3—love. During the war Mr. Davson served under the Admiralty and in the Royal Air Force, after winning a commission from the ranks. His brother, Mr. Cyril Davson, is shortly leaving for Trinidad to take up an appointment with the United British Oilfields.

* * *

A PROMISING *rapprochement* has been reached on the subject of cane farming in British Guiana through a recent joint representative meeting of the Sugar Planters' Association and the Farmers Conference, at which more cordial relationship between the planters and the cane farmers was encouraged. The establishment of a board of arbitration was approved for the settlement of all points of dispute likely to arise in regard to questions of price of sugar cane, labour, cost of manufacture, delivery at factory, &c. In this connection much credit is due to Mr. H. E. Murray for his efforts to smooth over difficulties between all parties.

* * *

Mrs. PEREZ, who has proved herself probably the most energetic and successful "war-worker" in the West Indies, recently arrived in England from Trinidad. The practical results of her efforts should be well known to readers of the CIRCULAR. Through the revues which she organised so capably various war charities have benefited to the extent of many thousands of dollars, to which will shortly be added the proceeds of her West Indian Sailors' Fund appeal—likely to amount to some thousands of pounds. Mrs. Perez has now proceeded to Scotland for a well-deserved holiday and the rest which she needs after four strenuous years of good work.

* * *

THE mineral water trade has petitioned the Chancellor of the Exchequer to grant them a drawback in the duty on sugar used by them. They point out that "the basic ingredient in all sweetened table waters is sugar, upon which a tax of 25s. 8d. per cwt. is levied. Flavouring is obtained from fruit essences or essential oils which are rendered soluble by treatment with spirit, taxed at 30s. 5d. per gallon. The manufacturer thus pays to the State no less than 46.10 per cent. of the total cost of ingredients, or, in other words, 2.30d. per gallon on the sweetened table waters produced." Upon the sale of such sweetened beverages an additional duty of 4d. per gallon is imposed.

* * *

MR. J. STANLEY RAE, the newly appointed Attorney-General of St. Vincent, sailed for that Colony on April 23rd *via* Halifax. Mr. Rae, who was recently called to the Bar at Middle Temple, formerly practised in the Bahamas, where on various occasions he acted as Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate and Attorney-General. For five years he has held the appointment of District Commissioner at Belize, British Honduras, where he also undertook the duties of Registrar-General in conjunction with his own, to enable that officer to accompany the British Honduras Contingent overseas. On joining the Territorial Force he was attached to the Staff as Military Censor, having previously been appointed Press Censor for the Colony. As Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Belgian Relief Fund he was instrumental in collecting the largest amount contributed to that fund by any colony in the West Indies.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Peace Treaty Within Sight.

The German delegates are expected in Paris on May 1st. The date should have been April 28th, but, with their usual lack of psychological subtlety the enemy tried to bluff the Allies into negotiation by an insolent message intimating that he intended to send *messengers* for the Peace Treaty. The idea was that they would convey it to Weimar for discussion. The Allies, however, insisted upon the despatch of delegates to Versailles with plenary powers, when the German Government climbed down. The delegation, at the head of which will be Count Brockdorff Rantzau, is to be met at Spa and conveyed to Paris, guarded everywhere on French soil from outside communication, and their reception deprived of all ceremony. The day after their arrival will be devoted to the examination of their credentials, and the ratification of their powers. On the second day the Peace Treaty, or a summary of it, will be read to them. One of the delegates will then take back a copy of it to Weimar, which will probably take some days. It is therefore expected that the Treaty will be signed between the 15th and the 20th of May. The place will be the Hall of Mirrors, where the Franco-German Peace of 1871 was signed. During this time the exact terms are sure to leak out; for, up to the present very little has been certain—even Mr. Lloyd-George, in his recent speech at Westminster, told the House nothing that it did not know before.

"The Solomon Peace."

The irreverent are so describing the Peace Treaty on account of its compromises; but, whereas the judgment of the Jewish King succeeded, few expect the final decisions of the Four to have any permanence. Take, for instance, Danzig, which, instead of being given to Poland as her natural outlet, is to be declared a free port. How will the resulting struggle between the Poles and the Germans end one wonders. Then there is the question of the Sarre coalfields, which extend north-east of Metz, and are as necessary, economically, to France as the iron area of the Briey basin. All of them, State-owned, possessed by German capitalists, or by French and German capitalists combined, are, indeed, to be handed over to our Ally, but with the stipulation that in fifteen years the conditions are to be revised. Here again there will be a bitter struggle, the issue of which no one can foresee. As for the fate of Fiume, it is still undecided, and threatening to break up the Peace Conference.

A Scrap of Paper.

Italy, apart from historical, strategical, racial, and political claims, not to speak of the sacrifices she made in the war, founds her case on the Pact of London. This instrument embodies the conditions she made on making common cause with the Allies in a dark hour of their fortunes, and the possession of Fiume, in Croatia, is one of them. Britain and France naturally desire to redeem their pledges, but

Mr. Wilson says that it is more important that one of his fourteen points should be recognised; not that the self-determination of Jugo-Slavia, which has not yet been definitely received into the ranks of the nations, depends upon the possession of Fiume. It would be convenient, but Spalato could quite well be made her outlet to the Adriatic. True Mr. Wilson was not a party to the Pact of London, but when the United States entered the war late in the day she surely acquiesced in the diplomatic commitments of Allies who bore the brunt of the war. He says that circumstances have altered—an argument which Germany used in the rape of Belgium. It is understood that Mr. Lloyd-George has tried to effect a compromise by which Italy should have one part of Fiume, Jugo-Slavia the other—a solution which would lead to endless friction. As neither will give way the Peace Conference, which was reduced to Ten and then to Four, is dangerously divided, with the Treaty in sight.

The Rhine Barrier.

Here again Mr. Wilson, enamoured of his panacea for achieving the security of nations, is opposed to giving France the strategical frontier which should be hers as the first line of civilisation against German barbarism. That would be the Rhine. But it is very plain from the speeches of French Ministers that she is not to have it. Unfortunately, by refusing to accept this simple solution the Four were up against the necessity of finding another—a matter of great difficulty. Marshal Foch, in the name of France, was so insistent in adequate guarantees for her safety that, at one stage, he threatened to resign. As he has not done so it may be taken for granted that an agreement of which he approved has been reached. What it is has not yet transpired; but, indirectly, the impression is given that it is one which leads to an end which has been slowly worked out as the Conference got into closer touch with realities. That end is an alliance between Britain, France and Italy, with the United States in the background, should the worst happen. Consequently these Powers are to maintain Armies of Occupation on the Rhine until Germany fulfils the more immediate terms of the Peace Treaty, at any rate.

Alliance or League.

A summary of the Covenant of the League of Nations has been published which, with one exception, is more interesting for what it omits than for what it includes. That exception is the reservation of the Monroe Doctrine from the scope of the Covenant, which makes the attitude of Mr. Wilson on purely European questions somewhat inconsistent. Moreover, although open diplomacy was the burden of one of his Fourteen Points, he has been one of the Four who have not only dispensed with trained diplomatists and experts in their decisions, but ignored public opinion. Why, then, has he appealed to the Italian people on the question of Fiume? The truth is these political idealists have not only flouted most of these own theories, but tied themselves up in so many inconsistencies that their League of Nations is receding into the distance, and a strong alliance emerging of the Powers who stood

for civilisation during the war. It will be needed since, as M. Clemenceau is reported to have said, that "terrible" as was the diplomatic struggle he has waged, it will be nothing to those that will have to be waged by his successors. And when to Sarre, Fiume, Danzig, and a score of other questions, is added others, which have been settled by feeble and unworkable compromises, the League of Nations—whatever it may be in the remote future—will be of little service during the decades to come. For, while Mr. Wilson seems to think that France should regard Germany as helpless, and that Italy should see no danger now that the Austrian-Hungarian Empire is dissolved, both in Paris and Rome statesmen are less sanguine. They fear a union of Germany with German-Austria, in which case a new and formidable Central Empire might be formed capable of exerting enormous political and economic pressure on all sides.

The Russian Problem.

This remains unsolved, and, so far, the Four have had no policy but that of the "sanitary cordon." They decline to intervene in Russia, although there are Allied Forces in small packets at various points all round what was once the Empire of the Tsar in Europe. In the north every day that passes places General Ironside's troops in a better position, enabling them to raid the enemy with success. In the Crimea, however, the Bolsheviks, having retaken Odessa, are gaining ground, and advancing on Sebastopol, which is weakly defended from the land side. Its fall has been reported several times, but has not yet been confirmed. In the meantime the French and Greeks have fallen back on the Dnieper. The one bright feature in the situation is the continued success of Admiral Koltchak on the Eastern Front. Not only has he beaten the Bolshevik armies sent against him, but captured many important towns, his present objective being Kazan, a great centre for the south-eastern provinces of the Empire away to Turkestan. Not less embarrassing to the Lenin Government is the fact that the Cossacks and Siberian Forces command vast supplies of food. Not that efforts have not been made to convey it to Moscow and Petrograd, but transport is slow and inadequate, while the interests of the inhabitants are opposed to any movement of food to the area controlled by the Bolsheviks. Allied statesmen assure us that arms and military material of all kinds are being sent to our Russian friends, but, apparently, not in sufficient quantities. Moreover it is known that guns and rifles captured from the Turks arrived at the headquarters of one Russian General without the proper ammunition. As for the Bolshevik offensive in Rumania and Hungary, it is losing force—not because of any measures taken by the Four, but because of local resistance. The Rumanians are not only dealing effectively with their own Bolsheviks, but aiding the Hungarians in their efforts to clear out the plague spot in Budapest.

The result of General Smuts' recent mission to Hungary is not known. He was to stay a fortnight and stayed only two days. But why was General Franchet d'Esperey, head of the French Mission in Hungary, not informed of General Smuts' visit?

SEEDLING CANES IN TRINIDAD.

The Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago recently discussed the raising of sugar canes from seed in Trinidad, which has been discontinued for many years, except on one or two private estates. A proposal that the work should be taken up again was recently considered by the Sugar Committee of the Board of Agriculture on the suggestion of the Governor of the island. Mr. W. G. Freeman, the chairman of the meeting, presented to the Committee a brief summary of the methods employed in raising seedling canes in British Guiana, Barbados, Java, &c. After a general discussion the Committee decided that it is desirable that seedling canes should be raised in Trinidad, and it was stated that the canes there used had been obtained almost exclusively from Barbados and British Guiana. It was further stated that the sugar industry of the colony had greatly benefited by the work of the Department of Agriculture of Barbados and British Guiana in raising seedling sugar canes. As these canes, however, are markedly affected by soil and climate conditions, it is probable that, by raising seedlings locally, the result will be the production of sugar canes more suitable to the local conditions. Owing to the fact that seedling canes tend to deteriorate in yield after a more or less prolonged period, it is necessary continually to develop new varieties.

Commenting on this our contemporary *The Louisiana Planter*, of March 22nd, says:—

"The seedling sugar canes D74, or Demerara 74, and D95, another Demerara seedling, were produced in British Guiana by Professor J. B. Harrison. The one, D74, is a light-coloured, greenish cane, very upright in its growth and of a larger diameter at the base of the cane than in the upper part of the cane, a cane comparatively brittle and yet well rooted, and by its mode of growth and structure almost storm-proof, has improved in Louisiana and is a general favourite. On the other hand, this cane has shown deterioration in other colonies in the British West Indies, and because of this, doubtless, our sugar planter confrères in the West Indies are anxious to make and maintain a series of experiments with a view of securing permanently good qualities. That this can be done is manifest in the fact that D74 is still very popular in Louisiana, and, so far as we know, has shown no signs of deterioration. Professor Harrison informed us some years back that D74 and D95, the one a light-coloured cane and the other a deep purple cane, were sports from the same parent-cane, and we should think that fact would make it probable that seedling canes would be unreliable, but that the opportunity lay there of securing better varieties and that a continuous selection would secure such.

"The common Irish potato is an example in the temperate zone of the value of experimenting in producing seedlings. This is not very often done, and we have heard of some agriculturists who were not aware that the Irish potatoes could be produced from seed. And yet nearly all of the Irish potatoes of the present day are seedlings of greater or less excellence than were the Irish potatoes of the United States three or four decades ago. Whether they have been observed with any care to determine any cycle of a decline in quality we are not advised, but there are scarcely any of the familiar types of thirty or forty years ago that are now obtainable. The old Neshannock and Mercer potatoes, named after counties in western Pennsylvania; the

Baltimore Blues and Long Reds, have almost faded out of the farmers' memories, and newer varieties are occupying the market and presumably because they are better than the old ones, or that the old ones have degenerated. Any plant that has been planted for years from cuttings, such as sugar cane or potatoes, and we believe that the banana comes in the same class, to be dependable, must be planted from cuttings, as the plantings from the actual seed of the plant yield crops of uncertain value and have to be constantly experimented with, and the poorer ones thrown away and the better ones continuously tried.

"Perhaps the most startling example that we have of the advance in value by selection is the sugar beet, which in Europe now averages four or five times the sugar content that it had a hundred years ago. And yet it is a plant in which cuttings are not used, but the care taken in the selection of the mother beets has developed splendid results in that plant. The Trinidad people—and there are some very conspicuous and enterprising people among them—are anxious to solve these problems for themselves, and we believe that they are on the right track in now renewing their efforts in the direction of seedling canes.

"We have some sugar seedlings produced in Louisiana and have done some experiments with them, and from a laboratory point of view they are a wonderful success, but have not yet been sufficiently tried out—at least under our own observation—to demonstrate their special value for Louisiana cultivation. These seedlings analyse a very high sugar content, better than D74, and we shall hope that continuing efforts will be made to develop the Louisiana seedling, as our climate needs a hardy sugar cane and an upright growth, one able to resist storms, in which direction the D74 ordinarily succeeds well, and the cane should be of sufficiently high sugar content to preserve it in some degree from easy fermentation. It is a recognised fact that the sweeter the sugar canes are the less liable they are to injury by storm or freeze."

OUR IMPORTS OF SACCHARINE.

Two facts, says the *Mineral Water Trade Journal*, will suffice to reveal the influences which have co-operated to produce the present saccharine situation. The first is that during the first three months of this year we received at the British ports 519,290 oz. of saccharine (and this, of course, largely from the United States) as compared with 350,009 oz. in the same three months of 1918, and 118,958 oz. in the same three months of 1917. The second fact is that in the anxiety of the American saccharine firms to secure the British market—to render the competition of the new British saccharine industry impossible—they have so reduced prices that the larger quantity imported in the three months of this year is actually officially valued by the Board of Trade at considerably less than a half the sum attached as value to the infinitely lesser quantity imported in the first quarter of 1918. The 519,290 oz. of the present March quarter is valued at £63,169. The 350,009 oz. of the March quarter of 1918 was valued at £150,411! This means that while the March importation of 1918 had an official value of 8s. 7d. per oz. attached to it, the importation of the present March quarter had an official value of but 2s. 5d. per oz. attached to it. In the importation and value of the same March quarter of 1917 we have an evidence of how the value was aggravated in the twelve months immediately succeeding those three months. In that quarter we imported only 118,958 oz., and to this quantity an official value of 3s. 5d. per oz. was attached.

Of course, the interesting question arises as to how far this importation is being maintained? Well, in the month of March we received into these islands no less

than 165,627 oz. as compared with 113,105 oz. in March of 1918 and 24,330 oz. in March of 1917. Of course, in February the importation was only 81,196 oz., the larger quantity in the three months arriving in January, when apparently the anxiety of the Transatlantic saccharine firms to overwhelm the British market with their product had its most tense expression. What are the values attached to the current importation?

The official value attached to the importation of February of this year was 2s. 2d. per oz. The value of the quantity imported in March of this year was less than one-twelfth of the value attached to the March importation of 1918. The value of the 1919 importation (165,627 oz.) was less than 9d. per oz. The value of the 1918 importation (113,105 oz.) was just over 9s. per oz. The official value of the importation of March, 1917 (24,330 oz.) was £4,455, or nearly 3s. 8d. per oz.—a fact which again serves to illustrate low values, and, of course, prices, aggrandised in the succeeding twelve months.

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH GUIANA.

Interview with Mr. A. P. Sherlock.

Mr. A. P. Sherlock, member of the Executive Council of British Guiana, in an interview with a representative of the CIRCULAR shortly after his return to England, said that the crying need of the colony was labour. "In fact," he added, "the shortage of agricultural labourers and the absence of security with regard to the local industries—which, I hope, will be remedied by the forthcoming Budget—are all that stand in the way of the colony's progress."

Asked for his views regarding the colonisation movement, he said that he had never during his nineteen years' residence in Guiana seen any question taken up with greater unanimity and enthusiasm. For once all classes of the community were working loyally together, and much was expected from the coming deputation to England. This gratifying unanimity was attributable to some extent to the fact that a larger proportion of the population had acquired a financial interest in sugar—the staple industry of the coastal area—which was not regarded as a "wrecking" proposition, but as one which, given fair treatment, was capable of considerable development. In this connection he might mention that one of the local sugar companies had already ordered a modern 11-roller milling plant. Generally speaking British Guiana was more prosperous than it had been for the last quarter of a century, but until the population question was solved no further development of the coast lands—much less of the interior—could be expected.

To a question as to whether he now regarded the sea-defence problem as solved, Mr. Sherlock replied in the affirmative. "A Harbour Board," he added, "has at last been appointed, and the revenue derived from shipping will in future be applied to the improvement of the port—a much-needed reform." Sanitation and public health matters were receiving more attention, but he regretted that the artesian wells were not proving the success anticipated, many having been choked up.

Asked what progress was being made with the industries of the interior, Mr. Sherlock said that the winning of bauxite was going ahead, the Demerara Bauxite Company having recommenced operations, and when he left the colony prospectors were actively at work in the north-west district, though they had not, up to the date of his departure, succeeded in striking oil.

In conclusion, Mr. Sherlock said that, provided

labour could be introduced and a secure market found for its products, a prosperous future for British Guiana was assured. He thought the development of the interior was largely dependent upon the prosperity or otherwise of the existing industries.

BRAZILIAN COCO-NUT INDUSTRY.

The coco-nut zone of Brazil, which fringes the coast from Parahyba on the north to Bahia on the south, is, says Mr. A. J. Brooks, in a report to the United States Consul at Pernambuco, dotted with coco-nut groves, varying in size from a few hundred trees to 40,000. The total number of bearing trees approximates to 1,250,000. The annual yield per tree is forty, or a total annual production of 50,000,000 nuts. The average size of the nuts compares well with the products of other tropical countries, 5,000 nuts being required per ton of copra.

The price paid on the plantation for nuts varies with their size and their distance from the cities. The largest nuts command £7 per 1,000, while the smaller ones are sold for £5 per 1,000. The average selling price on the city market is £8 10s. per 1,000.

No attempt beyond the experimental stage has been made to produce copra. The reason for this is the result of local conditions—namely, the limited number of available coco-nuts and the natives' fondness for the nut as a table delicacy. With copra selling in New York at £32 a ton, and freight averaging £2 a ton, the plantation owner makes 3d. more profit on every coco-nut he sells on the local market than if he had turned that coco-nut into copra. This statement does not mean that copra cannot be produced in Brazil at a profit. On the contrary, there is excellent opportunity, in Mr. Brooks's opinion, for capital to operate a coco-nut grove and sell copra at a good margin of profit if a working organisation were effected, if the other products of the tree were utilised, and if the available space were cultivated with catch crops.

The possibilities of the coco-nut industry in Brazil are tremendous. The annual yield per tree at present is forty nuts, as already mentioned, despite the fact that many of the trees are robbed of their fruit before the meat begins to form, to be sold upon the local market for their milk. This practice has appreciably lowered the vitality of the trees. Seed selection has been almost entirely neglected, and fertilisation is a science never practised.

Improper spacing is another existing evil which contributes to the retarding forces so prevalent in the Brazilian coco-nut groves. This is strikingly depicted in the case of two adjoining groves of the same age—one planted with 75 trees to the acre, and the other with 130 trees. The annual yield of the former is four times that of the latter. Disease and pests are almost unknown, and labour is cheap. The possibilities of disposing of the by-products are excellent. The fibre would find a waiting market in the form of cord or rope; the husk would sell readily for fuel; the milk is always sought by the native for his familiar breakfast food, the "cus-cocos"; and the palm leaves are eagerly bought by the natives for building purposes.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF CANE SUGAR.

(By a Correspondent.)

In recent years the importance of sugar from a dietetic point of view has become universally recognised by the medical profession, and the old prejudice against what was once termed its excessive use is now practically a thing of the past. The question is, What is the part that sugar plays in the animal system?

When cane sugar is ingested it becomes inverted—that is to say, changed into a sugar of the chemical composition of glucose—in its passage through the alimentary canal. What becomes of it then is obscure, but it has been proved beyond doubt that it does not, in health, pass into the blood, but leads to the storing up of a body in the liver of the composition of starch. Glucose, in small quantities, is found in the blood, but as its amount is the same in venous as in arterial blood, and as it is always present in urine in small quantities (a fact not generally recognised), its presence there has no physiological significance. It is probably a waste product.

It is evident therefore that the seat of the transformation of sugar into its ultimate product is somewhere in the abdominal regions. Modern research seems to show that the pancreas plays an important part in this connection.

There is not the slightest doubt but that cane sugar serves a valuable purpose as a stimulant. Shackleton's South Pole experiences clearly demonstrate this. After heavy sledge work under conditions of extreme rigour, lump sugar taken made "the blood course through the veins." The sugar could not have passed the ordeal of the liver and reached the blood, so its effect must have been due to the rapid production of a product which *did* get into the circulation and produce the effect noticed.

In the above case the body had become exhausted of its vitality by heavy labour under trying conditions, conducted with a minimum of food, permitting no storage of reserve. The highly diffusive sugar became converted in a digestive system devoid of food. The necessary body was formed, passed quickly into the circulation, reached the exhausted tissues or nerve centres, and produced the sensations noticed.

The writer, after a ten days' fast, during which nothing but water and a few grapes were consumed, noticed the sensations as described by Shackleton when a glass of malted milk—that is to say, when maltose, a quickly assimilated sugar—was taken. In this case the tissues had become devitalised by starvation, but the resulting effect of a stimulating sugar was the same.

It is extremely probable that the body formed is one which renews the nerve centres, and thus acts as a stimulant. In this sugar plays quite a different part to alcohol, which stimulates the circulation and thus temporarily supplies the nerve centres with more food; but there is every reason to believe that sugar leads to the actual feeding of the nerves by the supply of new material.

A difficult point on the subject has always been that the world at one time got on very well without sugar, and that there are at the present time nations

who consume very little—as, for instance, Spain, with a consumption of only 13 lb. per caput per annum. But these nations are not remarkable for energy, nor were our forefathers in the old days. The necessary body products can be formed just as well from starch foods—such as bread—only it is a slower process. Nowadays we go faster than of yore. There is more nerve-strain, more bustle, than in the old days, and the inevitable result is a demand for a supply of nerve food which is quickly available. The nations with the most energy will be found to be the biggest sugar consumers, and it is the firm belief of the writer that the sugar consumption of the United Kingdom, when the sugar is available, will go up by leaps and bounds as the result of the fresh energy produced by the war.

(To be concluded.)

COCOA CULTIVATION.

Need for Increased Efficiency.

In a series of editorials regarding the future development of West Indian industries, the *Agricultural News* of March 22nd, dealing with cocoa, reminds us that cocoa-growing is sure to prove attractive to several of the newly developing tropical countries which are likely to come into prominence as the outcome of readjustment after the war. Already the phenomenal growth of production on the Gold Coast causes western growers to look anxiously to the future, and their only source of comfort lies in the inefficiency of their competitors. This inefficiency may diminish; the competition may become increasingly acute. Safety for West Indian producers seems to lie in increasing efficiency. As matters now stand, it may be conceded that the cocoa-growers of Grenada are highly efficient in respect to the quantity of cocoa which they can produce per acre—efficient, that is, in comparison with some other cocoa-producing countries. But even here there are weak spots which it is recognised require remedy, and even here there are features of the industry which have received comparatively little consideration.

It is a striking feature of this industry that the producers of the raw material are singularly ignorant of the requirements of the users of that material. This is probably more the fault of the users than of the growers, for a secrecy has been observed in regard to the manipulation of cocoa and chocolate which tends to retard the desired exchange of information between manufacturer and grower. Doubtless much better results could be obtained in the preparation of raw cocoa if the needs of the manufacturers were more accurately known. As matters now stand, the preparation is largely a matter of tradition based on rule of thumb. There is room for much investigation and research here, and work in this direction would undoubtedly be to the interest of the West Indian producer as well as that of the British user. Research work will assuredly soon be carried out to the benefit of those concerned with the industry. It remains to be seen whether the work will be done under British auspices, and whether the resultant benefits will accrue to British citizens.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.**Demobilisation Began.**

The demobilisation of the British West Indies Regiment has now begun in earnest, the first home-ward-bound transport—H.M. Ambulance Ship *Grantully Castle*—having left for the West Indies on April 14th. She carries one invalid officer (Lieut. W. L. Phillips, of Jamaica) and 585 non-commissioned officers and men to the following destinations:—

Bahamas	16	Dominica	12	St. Lucia	18
Barbados	44	Grenada	8	St. Vincent	13
British Guiana	23	Jamaica	365	Trinidad	62
British Honduras	10	St. Kitts	3	Panama	9
Bermuda	2				

The *Grantully Castle* was followed two days later by the s.s. *Helena* with the following eleven officers and 1,317 N.C.O.'s and men on board: Colonel A. E. Barchard, Captains A. T. Allen, F. D. Macphail, W. Wood, R. F. Galloway, J. H. Mackay, D. R. Ballard and A. C. Kirton, Lieutenants K. D. Andrews, A. H. Speyer and A. S. Hedman.

She goes first to Kingston, Jamaica, and then to Nassau, Bahamas, whence the few men for British Honduras will be transported to Belize. The officers and men are bound for the following destinations:—

Bahamas	61	British Honduras & Jamaica	1,264
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The West India Contingent Committee supplied each vessel with cigarettes and games for use on the voyage, those sent to the *Grantully Castle*, for example, including 50,000 cigarettes, ring boards, draughts, chess, playing-cards, &c.

A further list of officers and men from the British West Indies awaiting repatriation, whose passages (as far as can be ascertained) have been approved, is given below:—

BARBADOS.		
Atwell, Pte. E. A.	Clark, Lieut. W. B.	Patterson, Pte. L. A.
Atwell, Pte. G. A.	Honeychurch, Pte. C. R.	Reid, Bdr. F. L.
Atwell, Pte. S.	Hutchinson, M.M.	Williams, Pte. P. E.
Branch, Pte. L. H.	Lee, Cpl. G. R.	
DOMINICA.		
Major E. F. and Mrs. Becher		
JAMAICA.		
Brock, Pte. C.	Cassidy, 2 Lieut. F. J.	Mossman, B.
	Smith, Pte. J. L.	
ST. KITTs.		
	Ryan, 2nd Lieut. P. F.	
ST. LUCIA.		
	McPhail, Pte. J. H.	
ST. VINCENT.		
	Bleneave, Cpl. Norman.	
TRINIDAD.		
Agostini, Pte. B.	Hamel-Smith, Sergt. S.	Johnstone, 2nd Lt. R.
Agostini, Tpr. S.	Harris, 2 Lieut. T. M.	Littlepage, H. A.
Brabant, Pte. F.	Harris, Pte. F. C.	Marques, Tpr. N.
Constant, Tpr. L.	Hatt, Tpr. E. L.	Pogson, D.F.C., Lt. D. P.
De Souza, L.C. G.	Hendy, L.Br. C. O. F.	Sellier, Tpr. F.
Fernandez, Pte. C. J. B.	Herrera, Pte. R.	Spencer, Tpr. H.

Of the 108 officers and men whose names were given in last CIRCULAR, the undermentioned have been repatriated:—

BAHAMAS.		
Bethel, 2nd Lieut. C. P.	Cole, 2nd Lieut. G. M.	Moore, 2nd Lt. R. K.
BARBADOS.		
Phillips, L.Br. S. H.	Yearwood, Lieut. D. A.	
TOBAGO.		
	Parris, Pte. Harcourt.	
TRINIDAD.		
Bernard, Lieut. Andrew	Maingot, Pte. C. E.	

THE "TRIANGLE OF TRADE."

Speaking at Manchester on April 11, Lord Milner said that some of the Crown Colonies were already important producers of foodstuffs and raw materials which were of primary importance to the industries of mankind—rubber, tin, oils, fats, cotton, and other vegetable and mineral products of great value. But their output of most of these things was still in its infancy. The room for expansion was simply enormous. This was what he might call the triangle of trade. If we were not able wholly to pay our creditors by goods supplied to them by ourselves, we might yet be able to pay them by goods supplied from countries which were debtors to us because we had invested money in their development. Now, as it so happened, all the great industrial nations of the world, including America, our principal creditor, had a constant and increasing demand for those classes of foodstuffs and raw materials which tropical and sub-tropical countries—such as our Crown Colonies and Protectorates mostly were—could supply. Our creditors might not so much need our manufactured goods, but they did need, and would need ever more and more, the rubber and oil, nuts and tin, cocoa and tropical fruits which East and West Africa and Malaya and the West Indies could furnish. And, on the other hand, these tropical possessions of ours did need our manufactured goods—not only for consumption, but above all for their own development as producers. They needed more than anything the means of transport and communication—roads, railways, posts, telegraphs, and so forth—and the material for all these we were eminently in a position to supply.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

Since the last list of donations was published (see CIRCULAR, March 20th) the following additional contributions have been received, but more are still required to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to carry on with the good work:—

	£	s.	d.
1st Batt. B.W.I. Regt., per Lt.-Col. C. Wood-Hill, D.S.O.	103	7	6
War-workers' Lunch Room, Barbados, per Mrs. Sealy	25	0	0
Robert S. Reid, Esq.	5	0	0
Staff and labourers, Government Farm, Trinidad	4	0	0
A. D. Gill Esq.	3	0	0
Hon. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E.	2	0	0
J. Sydney Dash, Esq.	1	0	0
Henry Devaux, Esq.	10	0	0
Sundry receipts	1	6	0

Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Tremar Menendez, M.C., Royal Air Force, only son of the Hon. F. M. Menendez, M.L.C., of Nassau, Bahamas, and Miss Dorothy Smartt, youngest daughter of the late Dr. William Francis Smartt, of the British Guiana Medical Service, and Mrs. Smartt, of 1, Kensington Park-mansions, Elgin-crescent, W.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

ANTIGUA.—Sir Edward Merewether.

Mr. A. P. COWLEY, February 22nd.—Weather conditions are very dry, and young canes are suffering from want of moisture. At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society it was decided to communicate with the other societies and Chambers of Commerce in the West Indies, and endeavour to arrange for an exchange of minutes so that the various bodies might keep in closer touch one with another regarding matters of mutual interest. A resolution was also passed expressing the thanks of Antigua to the West India Contingent Committee for the great care they have and are taking of Antiguans serving with the Colours. The obituary includes Mr. Martin Camacho, Dr. M. P. Duke, and Miss Gretta Freeland.

March 19th.—Sir Edward Merewether has at last arrived in Antigua to take up the reins of government, the Hon. T. A. V. Best, who has been acting as Governor, reverting to Colonial Secretary. Mr. Moody-Stuart has arrived on a visit, and is making proposals for the extension of Gunthorpe's Factory. He warmly supported a resolution passed at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on March 14th in favour of the establishment of an Agricultural College in the West Indies. We are expecting the boys of Antigua back shortly, and steps are being taken to ensure them a proper welcome. The weather continues very dry, with strong N.W. winds prevailing.

THE BAHAMAS.—An Unpatriotic Merchant.

A Mr. L. G. Brice, who some years ago was a staunch supporter of the movement towards federation with Canada, has now earned unenviable notoriety by advocating the annexation of the Bahamas by the United States. For this he receives a well-deserved trouncing from the *Nassau Guardian*. It appears that he endeavoured to give notice of a resolution in support of his anti-English views for the consideration of the local Chamber of Commerce, which would have nothing to do with it. Says our contemporary (March 15th): "We can assure Mr. Brice that the citizens of this Colony have no desire whatever to transfer their allegiance from the Union Jack to any other flag that waves. Under the wise, the just and beneficent sway of the glorious British Empire most of us were born, and within that same Empire most of us will be content to die. And if Mr. Brice thinks otherwise, and believes that he can influence our political destinies, there await him such a disappointment and such a disillusioning as but rarely befall any man. Certainly, the Chamber of Commerce gave him clearly to understand yesterday afternoon, and with him the meagre handful of political malcontents who were of his way of thinking, that it does not propose to waste time on any such nonsense, for, by a large majority, the members composing which stood with right hands uplifted and eyes flashing, it indignantly adopted a motion calling upon the would-be arbiter of our political fortunes to withdraw the notice he had given of his resolution."

BARBADOS.—Visit of American Warships.

Mr. J. H. WILKINSON, under date March 25th, wrote: The weather, I am sorry to report, continues very dry, and the month of March for this year has, up to the present, proved the driest experienced for very many years. Light winds have also prevailed, retarding the reaping on those estates still depending on windmills. In spite of the dry weather, the young cane crop is holding its own, although, of course, it is not as satisfactory as the crop at this time last year.

The sale of estates still continues. Lower Estate has

recently been sold to Mr. T. N. McConney for the sum of £62,000, Lamberts Estate to the Spring Hall Company, Limited, for £35,000, and Orange Hill to Mr. H. A. Pile for £22,000.

We have just had the pleasure of a visit from an American Squadron consisting of four battleships and two destroyers. Needless to say a hearty welcome was accorded to our Allies, and I am sure they have left this Island with pleasant recollections. H.M.S. *Cumberland* is also in the Bay at present, and it is rumoured that H.M.S. *Corwall* will also shortly pay us a visit.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The Labour Question.

The weather for the first week in March showed a change, nice rains having fallen, but much more is wanted generally.

The Governor has received a cablegram from the Secretary of State to the effect that there is very little hope of the resumption of East Indian immigration, and suggests that the colony should seek its labour supply in the West Indies. The Council have written to the Colonial Secretary requesting that the various Governments in the West Indies should be communicated with to ascertain if they would permit the recruiting of labourers for work in British Guiana. A form of contract has been arranged, showing fixed rates for different kinds of work, which will enable a man to earn at least \$1 per day. At a meeting of the Finance Sub-committee, Mr. T. Greenwood, who was in the chair, gave an interesting address. The obituary includes Mr. H. A. Cameron and Mr. G. B. Withers, both of whom have rendered valuable services to the colony. A deputation from the Chamber of Commerce waited upon the Governor and made an application for the removal of the embargo on rice exports, but this was refused.

JAMAICA.—Shipping Mishaps.

The Anglican Synod has met and appointed the Rev. Canon Bentley, who will proceed to England for consecration, Assistant Bishop. The steamship *Joseph J. Cuneo*, bound from Port Antonio to Philadelphia, was recently caught in a strong gale and sank with her cargo of bananas, which was valued at \$50,000, but there was no loss of life. The Pickford and Black steamer *Amanda*, sailing from here to Halifax, has also met with an accident which compelled her to put in at New York, and her cargo of fruit suffered severely. The Governor is leaving the island shortly and will proceed to England, where he will confer with the Government relative to obtaining a loan of £1,000,000 to defray the cost of carrying out several enterprises in the colony. The estimates show a deficit of about £100,000. Messrs. Swift & Company, the large American packing firm, have opened a local branch in Kingston, and the Texas Oil Company are about to follow their example. The English and Canadian Insurance Companies trading in the island have protested to the Government about their being brought in under the new Income-tax Bill. A public meeting was held at St. Ann's Bay on April 1st to welcome back their Custos, Colonel Moulton Barrett, C.B., C.M.G., who has just returned after serving with the Colours. The number of petty crimes committed is increasing, and this matter is engaging the personal attention of the newly-appointed Inspector-General of Police. Labourers in large numbers are still leaving for Cuba, and the matter is becoming serious.

ST. KITTS.—Poor-house Wanted.

Mr. E. J. SHELDFORD, March 11th.—The weather is seasonable for the time of year. Reaping is in full swing, and work is proceeding smoothly on the Factory Estates. There is some shortage of workers on Muscovado properties, and the lack of agricultural hoes adds to cultivation difficulties. The estimates for 1919-20 show the estimated revenue to be £61,770 and expenditure at £59,475—surplus, £2,295. The increase by 50 per cent on the Land and House Tax ceases on March 31st. A

poor-house is badly wanted in the Presidency as a panacea for the present system of outdoor relief, which is most unsatisfactory. The matter is to be brought before the Secretary of State, and we hope that they will assist with the plan.

ST. VINCENT.—Proposed Colony Memorial.

MR. W. N. SANDS, March 19th.—A few days ago we received a visit from H.M.S. *Cumberland*, training ship for cadets, with Captain Gordon Campbell, V.C., D.S.O., in command. The officers and cadets appeared to appreciate their stay here very much, and regretted that it was so brief.

Last Wednesday a meeting was called by the Administrator to consider the erection of a shrine with a Roll of Honour in the Market Square. A committee was appointed to prepare plans and estimates for this, and a larger committee to consider the question of a Colony Memorial. The Administrator stated that so far he had received the names of four officers and forty men born in the Colony who had laid down their lives on Active Service.

The arrowroot situation has not yet improved, and I now hear of competition from Brazil in the English market. The Sea Island cotton crop is rapidly coming to a finish, and planters are anxious to get an idea of the prices that will be paid for different grades during the coming season. The output has increased threefold since the Government assumed control of it, and minimum prices are fixed.

The weather is dry and seasonable, and suits the sugar planters, who are now busily engaged in the manufacture of syrup, chiefly, for export.

SANTO DOMINGO.—Labour Difficulties.

A correspondent, writing under date March 16th, reported that the sugar crop was large, and good progress was being made in the grinding. At the beginning of the year several of the centrals were handicapped through lack of labour, as the usual influx of Haitians had not taken place, but the situation had improved through workers arriving from the country districts, and a considerable number of Dominicans coming over from Porto Rico. Through the activities of an immigration agent from Cuba, a large number of labourers had been induced to leave for that island. Numerous robberies had taken place at the stores in the outlying districts, and several estates had suffered through the cane fields being set on fire, which resulted in marines being stationed in the country districts.

CANE PRICES IN TRINIDAD.

Cane farmers who are on the list of permanent suppliers have been guaranteed the following terms for the season now current by the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company of Trinidad:—

4½ per cent. on the average net proceeds of the grey crystal sugar, after deducting the cost of transport of cane to the Usino, bags, transport of sugar to the steamer, export taxes and all other charges. Thus:—

If the price of sugar* as above is:	Price of cane will be:
20s. per cwt.	18s. 0d. per ton
19s. "	17s. 1d. "
18s. "	16s. 2d. "
17s. "	15s. 3½d. "
16s. "	14s. 5d. "
15s. "	13s. 6d. "
14s. "	12s. 7d. "
13s. "	11s. 8½d. "
12s. "	10s. 9½d. "
11s. "	9s. 10½d. "
10s. "	9s. 0d. "

* The net proceeds after deducting the charges specified.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Lieutenant Hugh Egerton Woodhouse, who died of sickness on March 1st, was the second son of Mr. Coventry Woodhouse, of the well-known firm of Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse, with whom much sympathy will be felt. Born on March 16, 1891, Egerton Woodhouse was educated at Malvern, and entered the sale-room of his father's firm in 1913. At the outbreak of war he immediately responded to the country's call, and joined the Honourable Artillery Company as a private. He went overseas in the following month, and on March 24, 1915, obtained a commission in the Bedfordshire Regiment, with which he went to Gallipoli, where he was wounded at Suvla Bay on September 4th. After recovering from his wounds he received an appointment at the War Office. He received his second star on July 1, 1917, and was mentioned in despatches in the following month. On February 15th this year he entered the Empire Hospital in order to undergo a slight operation, from which he was making good recovery when he contracted influenza and pneumonia, to which he succumbed on St. David's Day. As in his regiment, Egerton Woodhouse was very popular in the City during his short career in Miuncing-lane.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DRIED BANANAS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I was interested in the letter from Sir Francis Watts, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, on the subject of the drying of bananas, published in your last issue.

Some years ago, when I was more directly associated with the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, Mr. J. Rodway, assistant secretary, acting under instructions from the directors, prepared some boxes of the dried fruit of the small variety of banana, known as "figs," as an experiment, which was highly successful, the resulting dried figs being both tasty and of good appearance. The process adopted by Mr. Rodway was, after skinning, drying the bananas whole in hot sand, by which the excess moisture of the fruit was evaporated.

Some time later—in the year 1902—Prof. A. F. Spawn, from the United States, endeavoured to establish in Georgetown a company for the manufacture of banana food products, amongst which were dried bananas, evaporated on movable trays in a vertical revolving oven, or drier, which in flavour were quite equal to those prepared by Mr. Rodway's process, though, perhaps, not so satisfactory in appearance. Quantities of these dried bananas were shipped to the States, where, I understood, they found a ready market; but, unfortunately, Prof. Spawn failed in floating his company, and so the business was abandoned.

The following extract is taken from a newspaper cutting of about the same time referring to dried bananas:—"Taken whole, dipped in lye and dried in the sun, the banana becomes a mouldy, shrivelled-looking morsel; but thus prepared it will keep indefinitely, and is instantly ready for use by peeling and baking or boiling, whereupon it expands to twice or three times its original size and forms palatable food. This is a practice of the mountain natives of Nicaragua, and it forms a large part of their diet."

As the ordinary banana contains from 60 to 70 per cent. of water, it will be seen that a considerable saving in weight and bulk, and consequently in freight, would be effected by shipping the dried fruit from abroad to the home markets.—Yours, &c.,

L. M. II.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
April 30th, 1919.

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.	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. As we anticipated in last CIRCULAR a further step in the direction of de-control has now been taken. The Royal Commission on Sugar Supply announced on April 15th that the Food Controller was about to issue a general licence, under which sugar imported privately either from British Possessions or non-enemy countries might be sold for manufacturing purposes without the production of a voucher, and might be used by manufacturers in excess of the maximum quantity authorised under the Sugar Restriction Order. "The prices at which privately imported sugar may be sold to manufacturers are not limited to those at which the Commission may from time to time be selling sugar of the same class, but will be determined by negotiation between the seller and the buyer." As was expected, there has been a very firm market for spot sugars, and manufacturers have paid a considerable premium on the previous maximum prices. With the removal of the restrictions on the use of sugar by confectioners, &c., consumption must be increasing rapidly, for the sweet and pastrycook shops appear now to be as well stocked with sugar goods as they were before the war. It is understood that the coupon system will be abolished after May, but the operations of the Sugar Commission are unlikely to be brought to a close before September at the earliest.

Speculation is rife as to what the Budget will bring forth; but it is regarded as certain that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will unfold a scheme of Imperial Preference, which we expect will in most cases take the form of a reduction of duty in favour of colonial produce already dutiable.

New York prices: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c., c. and f. New York, as against 4.985c. last year; 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64c. as against 4.749c. No fresh strikes are reported from Cuba, where production to March 24th amounted to 2,000,000 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on April 19th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	6,617	5,617	10,192	
Deliveries	8,122	14,431	13,904	"
Stock	4,687	2,173	5,203	"

RUM. Firm and dearer for 1917 and 1918, which have found buyers on landed terms at a considerable advance. Rums of 1919 distillation are in much less request than older dates.

The stocks in London on April 19th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	3,203	5,384	9,175	
Demerara	11,371	3,468	8,216	"
Total of all kinds	19,012	14,215	29,632	"

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 Cocoa Advisory Committee recently decided to recommend to the Minister of Food that all raw cocoa imported after a date to be fixed—probably in May—

should be free from all restrictions as to price, grading, or distribution. The effect of this proposal will be to free raw cocoa imported after a date in May from all restrictions except as to export, which will, for the present, be permitted as now for 50 per cent of the imports. All cocoa landed before such date as may be fixed will be subject to the present restrictions as to price, &c.

The stocks in London on April 19th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	14,098	14,926	18,892	
Grenada	8,624	24,124	23,032	"
Total of all kinds	121,817	192,759	264,544	"

COTTON has been in fair request, and quotations have advanced.

ARROWROOT. Very little demand; quotations unchanged.

COPRA. Sun-dried, £45 10s.; kiln-dried, £45.

HONEY is still quiet at unchanged rates. Cuban, 60s. to 75s.; Jamaican, 70s. to 85s., according to colour. Heavy arrivals of Australian have taken place, and these are selling at very moderate figures.

SPICES. Pimento rather firmer. Spot value 5d. per lb. Ginger very quiet for Jamaica; hardly any sales reported. Nutmegs and Mace in quiet demand at unchanged rates.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Advertisements from discharged soldiers or sailors will be accepted, at the discretion of the Manager, free of charge.

DEMobilISED OFFICER (28), wishing to get temporary employment on a sugar estate, would like particulars of any opening. Jamaica preferred. Reply, Kirkwood, 3, Belford-place, Edinburgh.

ENGINEER, turning, fitting and drawing-office experience, two years in British Guiana, seeks position as Junior Engineer. Aged 26. Apply "T. E. E." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

YOUNG MAN, discharged from Army, wishes situation as Clerk, Bookkeeper or Assistant to Secretary; good references; 8 years present employers' firm, C.A. Apply "G. W.," THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged twenty-three, good education, with knowledge of engineering, seeks appointment as Overseer on any kind of plantation in West Indies. Awaiting discharge. Apply "W. P.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

ADVERTISER, aged 20, wishes appointment as Assistant Overseer on Sugar, Rubber, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies or British Guiana. Demobilised from Navy. Keen, enthusiastic, energetic, good physique; first-class references.—"A. H. C.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, age 23, married, requires post as Overseer. Five years' service; served in East (mounted regiment). Six years on Ostrich Farm, S. Africa. Coffee or Sugar. Active and healthy. First-class reference. Has limited capital if suitable opportunity offered. Apply "J. M. V.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

WANTED, by a young man of good education, who has had many years' practical experience of cocoa cultivation in the West Indies, appointment. Applicant also has a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping; has been demobilised after three years' active service. Health good. Apply "J. M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

SEN. WIRELESS OPERATOR, R.N.V.R., aged 21, educated at Mercers' School, London, about to be demobilised, seeks appointment as Assistant Overseer (with or without wireless work) on Sugar, Cocoa or Coffee Plantation in West Indies. Keen and energetic, and in good health.—"C. J. M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

SERGEANT, white, at present in the B.W.I. Regiment, awaiting discharge, requires position as Clerical Assistant; fair experience in several branches of Commerce in the British West Indies. Willing to accept any position in any part of the West Indies at any salary not less than £100 per year. Apply "E. M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

OFFICER, Captain, married, aged 29, requires post. Willing to go abroad anywhere (West Indies preferred). Experience in Agriculture at Home and in Canada before the War; also two years' experience in Organisation with a political association. Joined Forces 1914; Military Cross. Good leader and commander. Excellent references. Apply "F. S.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

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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, the 29th day of May, at 3.30 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, 1918, and the Balance-sheet.
- (2) To elect 11 members of 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: S. Cameron, Esq., Sir Edward R. Davson, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, Humphry Crum Ewing, Esq., W. Fawcett, Esq., B.Sc., G. Macgregor Frame, Esq., G. Moody Stuart, Esq., C. Sandbach Parker, Esq., C.B.E., H. F. Pevité, Esq., J. E. Tinne, Esq., Sir William Trollope, Bart.
- (3) Sir William Trollope, Bart., to move that Lieut.-Col. G. A. O. Lane be elected a member of the Executive Committee.
- (4) The Chairman to move a resolution on the subject of Imperial Preference.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

May 15th, 1919.

The West India Committee,
Incorporated by Royal Charter,
15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

[The Report and Accounts will be published in next issue of the CIRCULAR, which will be published two days earlier than usual.]

Imperial Preference.

WITH singular lack of discrimination the Chancellor of the Exchequer selected the day succeeding that on which we went to press for introducing his Budget, and we were not able, therefore, to refer to his important statement on the subject of Imperial Preference in our last issue. It was a particularly pleasing coincidence—or was it something more?—that it should have been left to Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN to announce the definite adoption of the policy with which the name of his distinguished father will always be so closely identified. In unfolding his proposals Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, after dealing with the finances of the country, began by stating that he had only to give effect to the declarations of the Imperial War Cabinet and the Imperial War Conference of two years ago that, as soon as possible, preference on duties now or hereafter existing should be introduced for goods of Imperial origin; and—precisely as we foreshadowed—he added that this would be done by reducing the duties on consumable commodities coming from the British Empire (the actual reduction being one-sixth of the duty), the only exception being alcohol, for which preference will be secured by a surtax of 2s. 6d. per gallon on foreign spirit. Incidentally, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN mentioned that before arriving at a decision he had consulted representatives of the various trades concerned to whom he tendered his thanks, and it need therefore no longer be a secret that the West India Committee were called into consultation and were represented at several important conferences convened by a Departmental Committee appointed to this end at the Custom House. It will be noted from the Chancellor's speech, extracts from which are published in another column, that all the consumable commodities affected are produced in the British West Indies—even including tea, which is exported on a small scale from the late Mr. Cox's Ramble Estate in Jamaica. Sugar is, however, the product which will probably derive the greatest benefit from preference, as it is the one of which British sources of supply are most limited, and the West Indian producer will now be in the satisfactory position of having two markets in which his product will enjoy favoured treatment—namely, those of Canada and the United Kingdom. In the Dominion his sugar (basis 96°, for example) has a preference of 1s. 7d. per cwt., whilst in the United Kingdom it will, after September 1st, enjoy the

still greater preference of 3s. 8⁷/₁₆d. per cwt. Canada will therefore presumably have to increase her preference if she desires to attract British West Indian sugar. The preference on rum will be particularly welcome, as it will remove the menace of the competition of cheap Cuban spirit, which threatened to swamp our markets, in view, especially, of America going "bone-dry." As to cocoa and coffee, it is reasonably certain that the substantial preference of 7s. per cwt. will encourage the shipment of larger quantities of British West Indian varieties to the United Kingdom, and, incidentally, it should also help the entrepôt trade. Finally, the preference on tobacco may be expected to stimulate the demand for Jamaica cigars and cigarettes, while it may possibly also lead to some revival of the tobacco industry, which in the old days flourished throughout the West Indies, where it was the first form of cultivation introduced by the British colonisers. For many years past the West India Committee has persistently advocated the adoption of Imperial Preference, and, as the letter from MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, the receipt of which MR. RUTHERFORD recalled at the last meeting of the Executive records, it was one of the first bodies to support that great statesman's proposals. More recently—in 1917—it addressed a questionnaire to the Governments of all actual or potential sugar-producing countries which elicited much valuable information, and clearly demonstrated that it would be possible to produce within the Empire in a comparatively short space of time more than enough sugar for the Empire's requirements. The adoption of Imperial Preference is therefore particularly gratifying to us; but we must not omit to record our indebtedness to the driving force of the London and Imperial Chambers of Commerce, the Jamaica Imperial Association, and to British Empire Producers' Organisation. Apart altogether from the financial aspect of Imperial Preference, it would be impossible to attach too much importance to its sentimental value. With a substantial preference in the duties for the staples of the British West Indies in the markets of the Mother Country there will be no further justification for the charges of neglect and indifference which have in the past—often with only too much reason—been levied by West Indians against Great Britain in respect of her treatment of our oldest group of colonies.

Artesian Wells in British Guiana.

A FEW years ago we devoted several articles to the subject of artesian wells in British Guiana, giving a history of the earlier borings and the development of later schemes of artesian water supply conducted at the instance of SIR WALTER EGERTON, the then Governor of the colony. Dealing with a proposal to provide such a supply for the city of Georgetown, we took occasion to suggest the advisability of the constancy of supply being assured before the considerable expense involved in the scheme were embarked upon; and, judging from subsequent experiences of artesian well borings in several villages, and on sugar estates along the coastal districts, as carried out in later years, our warning seems to have been justified to a large

extent. We now learn, however, from a joint report by PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON, Director of Science and Agriculture, and MR. E. C. BUCK, Director of Public Works, recently submitted to the Combined Court of British Guiana, that these partial failures of artesian wells are not so much due to initial faults in the underground sources of supply as to the blocking up of the pipe-bores by the accumulations of fine sands and silt from the lower geological strata forming the aquifers governing the supply. Several of these wells have been cleared by blowing-out processes, with the result of temporarily restoring the outflow of water; but the trouble is liable to recur until means are devised for permanently dealing with the difficulty. We understand that MR. BUCK, who has been devoting special attention to the subject, has recently discovered a method for absolutely preventing this silting up of the wells, a practical trial of which is about to be applied to one of the village wells on the east coast of Demerara. Once the difficulty is got over, the adoption of borings of much larger diameter than heretofore will come within the field of practical possibilities, and will thus lessen the risk of the bore-pipes choking. To MR. BUCK is also due the credit of introducing into British Guiana the rotary system of drilling, which has so much facilitated the sinking of the later wells, and has effected a saving in both time and cost in the operation. Two such experienced experts as PROFESSOR HARRISON and MR. BUCK—the one from his geological knowledge and the other from his professional qualifications and practical experience of well-boring in other countries—may well be relied on to bring the problem of artesian water supply in British Guiana to a satisfactory solution. The joint report of these gentlemen, as referred to, is a most interesting document, explaining the many and various difficulties experienced in the several well-borings in Guiana, and fully justifies their remark that "there is no work that requires more careful thought and the display of actual practical knowledge than that of successful well-drilling." This we can well believe, and therefore we consider that it may be advisable, in the meantime, to suspend judgment as to the future success of artesian well borings in British Guiana as a reliable source of water supply of excellent quality for the city of Georgetown, and the colony generally, the importance of which must be self evident from a public health point of view.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held on April 31st MR. RUTHERFORD, presiding, recalled the receipt by the Committee of the following letter from MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., in 1903:—

Highbury, Birmingham, Sept. 29, 1903.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., conveying to me the resolution of the West India Committee of the kind terms of which I am sensible.

I am glad to hear that the Committee proposes to convene a general meeting for the consideration of the proposals which I shall shortly submit for the reform of our fiscal system.—I am, Sir, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.,
The West India Committee.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"HAB money, hab friend."

Mr. W. A. S. VICKERS, who recently sold his sugar estates at Sav-la-Mar, Jamaica, to Mr. James Charley, has arrived in London.

It will save much time, trouble, expense, and annoyance if those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so, will immediately forward their subscriptions for the current year, or pay them into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada.

Mr. EDWARD BAYNES, of the Home Civil Service, Ministry of Shipping, has been appointed to represent the Ministry of Shipping on the West Indian Shipping Committee of the Colonial Office. Mr. Baynes served formerly in the Colonial Service in the Leeward Islands, and was transferred to the Home Civil Service in 1912.

Mr. REID, the Canadian Minister of Railways, in a recent interview, stated that fifty steamships were under construction for the Canadian Government, and would be operated in connection with the Canadian National Railways. A line of steamers would be placed on the Pacific for the Orient trade, and on the Atlantic for business with the West Indies and South America.

OIL may supplant coal as fuel for many sugar mills in Cuba, according to the *Wall-street Journal*, which states that ten of the seventeen estates of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation are now equipped to burn oil and that other plantations are looking into its possibilities. Bagasse, the dried cane from which juice is extracted, will still be used to supplement oil or coal, as its use decreases the necessary amount of other fuel.

The West Indian Contingent Committee did its best to secure the participation of the British West Indies Regiment in the march of Dominion troops through London on May 3rd, but owing, perhaps, to demobilisation being so far advanced and to the battalions being so far away this could not be arranged. Wrote the *Times*: "Nor can to-day complete the pageants that must celebrate the deeds of Empire troops during the war. India must not be forgotten, and bare justice will call for some proper representation of the detachments sent by other British communities oversea—the West Indies are only one example."

DEMobilISATION.

Demobilisation continues according to plan. It may be mentioned that as far as the British West Indies Regiment is concerned the men are placed in the three main shipping groups according to the locality in the West Indies from which they came—namely:—

- Group A. (1) Trinidad and British Guiana.
(2) Barbados.
(3) St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, and St. Kitts.
- Group B. (1) Jamaica, Bahamas, and Turks Island.
(2) British Honduras.
- Group C. Panama and Bocas del Toro.

The *Grantully Castle*, after calling at Barbados, reached Jamaica on May 3rd, where the invalids which she carried received a sympathetic and enthusiastic welcome from all classes of the community. By now the *Helena* should have also reached Kingston. The *Bermudian* sailed for the same port direct from Taranto and was followed by the *Trent* from Havre on May 12th. Mean-

while the *Ajax*, with men under Group A, sailed from France on May 10th, and the *Ortega*, with 1,700, also with Group A men, is due to sail on May 25th. When these ships have all reached their destination nearly 8,000 men of the B.W.I. Regiment will have been repatriated, and it should not be long before the demobilisation of the regiment is complete. Most of the men already repatriated had been stationed in Italy, but the battalions in Egypt are being gradually transferred to Taranto.

The representations regarding the delay in the repatriation of the men who came over independently is now having good effect. About fifty men will be leaving in the *Carmania* for Halifax, N.S., en route to Barbados and Trinidad on Saturday next. The repatriation authorities have promised that they will avail themselves of every opportunity for sending the remainder of the men home.

A NEW "CENTRAL" FOR JAMAICA.

Mr. Cecil Lindo Interviewed.

Mr. Cecil B. Lindo, senior partner in Lindo Brothers & Co. a firm with wide interests in Jamaica—recently paid a short visit to London after spending a year in New York, where his entire attention has been taken up with purchasing and forwarding material to Kingston for a great central sugar factory which is to be erected in the colony.

To a representative of the CIRCULAR Mr. Lindo described the difficulties arising out of the war which had beset his path—all of which, however, he had now overcome. Asked for particulars regarding the factory, Mr. Lindo said, "The new central will be erected at 'Bernard Lodge,' on the St. Catherine plains, about eleven miles from Kingston. Its capacity will be 1,200 tons of cane per day, and the anticipated production will be 20,000 tons of sugar per annum. The mills are expected to 'go about' for the first time on next New Year's Day, and to this end 200,000 tons of cane were already under cultivation on an area of 6,000 acres in the neighbourhood."

Asked who were supplying the machinery and factory buildings, Mr. Lindo said: "We were compelled to purchase these in America, since owing to the war it was not possible to obtain delivery from British sources. The mills are being provided by the Fulton Ironworks, and the rest of the machinery from various American firms. Our stills, on the other hand, which comprise four of a capacity of 1,200 gallons each, have been purchased in Canada. The entire plant will be assembled and erected under the superintendence of Mr. Reginald Aitken, a Jamaican engineer of recognised ability."

The new factory will be the first to be connected with the Jamaica Railway, and in this connection Mr. Lindo spoke with some bitterness regarding the attitude adopted by the local Government. "Owing," he said, "to the backward state of the line, to which attention has been called by the CIRCULAR, I have been compelled to supply eighty full-capacity 30-ton cars. On these the Government is making me pay duty, which is most unfair and shortsighted of them. Thirty of the cars will be put to private use on the company's properties, but the remainder will be controlled and managed by the railway company, who have consented to make a 10 per cent. reduction in freight charges on all freight carried to the factory."

It will be recalled that Messrs. Lindo Bros. & Co. acquired the business and properties of the late Colonel the Hon. C. J. Ward, and Mr. Lindo mentioned his firm was now paying no less than 42 per cent. of the internal revenue of the island—a fact which speaks volumes for its importance.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Mr. Chamberlain's Proposals.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain introduced the Budget on April 30th, and, as anticipated, announced the establishment of Imperial Preference. After pointing out that he was not propounding the general trade policy of the country, but had only to give effect to the declaration of the Imperial War Cabinet and the Imperial War Conference of two years ago, that, as soon as possible, preference on duties now or hereafter existing should be introduced for goods of Imperial origin, he said:—

"The range of our present Customs duties is not wide, though it covers more articles than people are apt to suppose. Only three Colonial or British oversea products fall into the categories subject to duty at the present time in any large quantity—namely, tea, cocoa, and rum; but there are many other dutiable articles which appear in our Customs returns from His Majesty's possessions overseas. I need name only such articles as coffee, sugar, tobacco, and wine. Though the beginning may be small, the measure of what I am inviting the Committee to do is not the amount of British Imperial trade which secures preference at this moment, but the opportunities for the development of that trade, which I invite the Committee to open out. There is room for vast extension. There never was a time when it was more important to the Empire as a whole, or to us in particular, that development should take place. From the small beginnings of to-day I hope that many Members of this House will live to see a really wide structure of inter-Imperial trade develop.

"In deciding on the form which preference is to take I have had four main considerations before me. In the first place the preference should be substantial in amount; in the next place the rates should, as far as possible, be few and simple; thirdly, where there is an existing Excise Duty corresponding to the Customs Duty which is affected, the Excise Duty must be proportionately altered. We cannot give preference at the expense of the home producer. Lastly, in carrying out this policy I have to remember the interests of our Allies, and, as far as practicable, to avoid increasing duties on their products for the purpose of giving preference.

PREFERENCE OF ONE-SIXTH OF DUTIES.

"The next class comprises taxes on consumable commodities apart from alcohol. These are in essence Revenue duties pure and simple. On these, in many cases, the duties are themselves very high in relation to the value of the articles, and a preference of one-third would be both more than I could afford and more than I think is necessary or justifiable. Before coming to any definite decision I thought I ought to take consultation with the interests affected. I accordingly appointed a small Departmental Committee of representatives of the Colonial Office, the India Office, the Board of Trade, and the Board of Customs and Excise, and asked them to get into touch with representatives in this country of the producers, the importers and the manufacturers of the articles affected, and to ascertain their views as to the probable effect of preference on the trade and industry of the United Kingdom and the British Possessions, and on the rate of duty. After considering the views of the interests affected as gathered by that Committee, I have come to the conclusion that for preference on this class of article I should be justified in recommending to the Committee a rate of one-sixth of the duty. I do not, of course, mean to imply that this rate was, in fact, recommended by the trade interests who were consulted. No such absolute uniformity was to be expected. The differences between different trades are considerable. In

some cases their recommendations approximated closely to my figures; in some they varied to a smaller or larger degree; but on consideration of the facts I have come to the conclusion that one-sixth would be an effective preference on these articles, and I hope that it will be satisfactory to those concerned. I take the opportunity of thanking the representatives of the trades for the assistance which they have given on this occasion, and, indeed, they so willingly do whenever they are appealed to. I ought to say at this stage that I propose that in the two classes of goods with which I have already dealt—namely, the duties on manufactured articles and the duties on consumable commodities other than alcohol—the preference should be given by way of reduction of the existing duties on Colonial produce, and not by way of surcharge on foreign produce.

"The most important of the articles concerned is tea. The estimated revenue from tea in the coming year is, without the change in duty, £16,000,000. The duty is 1s.; preference will therefore be 2d. Even in normal circumstances before the war, when the importation of tea was unrestricted, nearly 90 per cent. of the tea was already Empire grown. The results, therefore, of the grant by way of preference will be practically equivalent to the reduction of the duty on tea, and I anticipate that that relief, as it always has done, will lead to a largely increased consumption. In the circumstances the loss for a full year involved in that preference may be put at £2,300,000, but probably will not be more in the current year, which is not a complete year, than £1,800,000.

COCOA, COFFEE, AND SUGAR.

"The next article is cocoa. The estimated revenue from cocoa is £2,400,000. About 50 per cent. of our imports now come from Empire sources. Preference at the rate of one-sixth would be worth 7s. per cwt., meaning a loss of revenue of about £200,000.

"The revenue from coffee is small—£650,000—and a small proportion—only about 20 per cent. of our imports at present—come from Empire sources. The amount which could be grown in the Empire is capable, I think, of almost limitless expansion. The preference of one-sixth duty which I am proposing, which is worth 7s. per cwt., would mean, on the present proportion, an immediate loss of about £20,000 in revenue. Chicory will, of course, follow coffee, as it always does, and the Excise Duty will be proportionately reduced. The hon. Member for York, I remember, used to make my life a burden upon the difficulties of the home chicory grower.

"Now I come to sugar. The estimated Customs revenue from sugar is £39,000,000. Only a very small proportion of the imports—7 per cent.—comes from Empire sources, and the preference would be worth about 4s. per cwt., which would mean a loss of revenue of about £500,000. The Excise Duty on beet sugar produced in this country will be similarly reduced. It already stands at 2s. 4d. per cwt. less than the Customs Duty.

"Dried fruits are only a small matter. I need not trouble the Committee with the figures, but the preference will be given on them also. Coming now to tobacco, the estimated revenue on the present basis is £47,000,000. Only 2 per cent. of the imports came from Empire sources, but a very considerable expansion is possible if tobacco growing were developed and improved. A preference of one-sixth, or about 1s. 4d. per lb., on unmanufactured tobacco, a rate which governs the other duties, is a substantial amount which will, I hope, stimulate increased production in India and the Colonies concerned. The Excise Duty on tobacco grown in the United Kingdom will again be correspondingly reduced. In the case of both tobacco and sugar it is proposed that the preference on the manufactured articles should be based on the amount of the British-grown product in the imports.

"Then I come to motor spirits. The estimated Customs revenue is about £2,200,000. Only some 18 per

cent. comes from Empire sources. A preference of one-sixth, or 1d. per gallon, may mean a loss of revenue of about £60,000. I have decided for other reasons, as I have already explained, to recommend the abolition of the Excise Duty."

THE DUTIES ON RUM.

After referring to Colonial wines, Mr. Chamberlain continued:—

"Lastly, I come to spirits. This again needs special treatment. It constitutes my most difficult problem. The State derives a very large revenue from the Excise Duty on spirits manufactured in this country, and it is essential that preference shall not be given in a form which would appreciably reduce the yield. For that reason it is necessary that the spirits should be taken in a class apart, as an exception to the general rule which I have followed in giving preference by reducing the yield on imported products. To give a preference by reduction would involve a corresponding reduction in Excise Duty, and a loss of revenue which I am unable to face. For the purpose of the duties spirits are divided into five classes, four subject to Customs Duty—namely, rum, brandy, Geneva, and other sorts—and the fifth home-made spirits, including whisky, subject to the Excise Duty. Over 80 per cent. of the rum comes from Empire sources. The imports from the Empire of other spirits are at present small, and, I think, likely to continue so, at any rate for a long time to come, though they are capable of development. As regards the amount of the preference, I have come to the conclusion that anything like a rate of one-sixth, with such high duties as are charged, would be too high. It would amount to 5s. a gallon on the rate of duty in force in the year which has come to an end, and a larger amount if this duty is increased. I propose, therefore, to fix the rate of preference at 2s. 6d. per gallon—not by a reduction in the duty on Colonial spirits, but by an increase in the duty on foreign spirits. That will give me a slight additional yield of revenue. The effect of the preference proposals as a whole on revenue will be a reduction of about £2,500,000 in the current year, and something over £3,000,000 in the full year, and without allowing for any large increase in the imports of Colonial products. The great bulk will be in respect of the tea.

THE DATE OF PREFERENCE.

"Now as to the date on which preference will take effect. The general date which I propose is 1st September, so as to allow time for administrative machinery to be set up; but tea requires special treatment, as the great bulk of the supply comes from the Empire. To postpone the introduction of the new rate too long might lead to the withholding of stock, and the consumer going short. After consulting the distributing trade, I propose that the reduced duty should come into force on 2nd June. If these results are small, it must be remembered that the immediate bulk of Colonial products affected is small; but the results, both on the revenue and, as I hope, on the trade, will proceed increasingly as the years go on."

Two pairs of brothers were recipients of decorations from the King at Buckingham Palace on May 7th, and by a coincidence both were connected indirectly with the West Indies. They were Lieutenant-Colonel Viscount Lascelles, Grenadier Guards (D.S.O. and Bar), and Major Edward Lascelles, Rifle Brigade (D.S.O. and M.C.), sons of the late Earl of Harewood, President of the West India Committee; and Captain Mark Moody-Stuart (M.C.), and Second-Lieutenant Alexander Moody-Stuart (M.C.), both late R.F.A., sons of Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, a member of the Executive of the same body who returned from the West Indies just in time for the Investiture.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to increase, although not even yet so rapidly as could be desired. The total membership is now 1,859, of whom 95 have been elected during the current year. At a meeting of the executive, held on the 1st inst., the following were elected:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDS.
Mr. Mark C. Steedman (London)	Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall Mr. G. Macgregor Frame
Mr. P. G. M. Mitchell (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. H. A. P. Cotton (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. D. I. Conradi (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Capt. C. E. Down, O.B.E., R.N.R. (London)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
The McClearn Co. Ltd. (Canada)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. H. F. Previté
Mr. Salvador de Caires (British Guiana)	Mr. A. P. G. Austin Mr. A. K. F. Duncan
Mr. A. L. McColl (Country)	Mr. H. F. Previté Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall
Capt. W. M. Richards (St. Vincent)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford
Capt. F. Justin Miller (Country)	Mr. W. Gillospie Sir Wm. Trollope, Bart.
Mr. Ernest Woodhouse (London)	Mr. William Gillospie Mr. R. Rutherford
Mrs. H. McEwan (Grenada)	Mr. W. C. de Gale Mr. H. A. Trotter
Victoria Mutual Building Society (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado Mr. Altamont da Costa, M.B.E.
Balata, Ltd. (London)	Mr. F. C. Archer Mr. W. A. Wolseley
Lt.-Col. H. J. F. Yates (Barbados)	Mr. H. B. G. Austin Mr. F. W. G. Austin
Mr. Thomas Laycock (W. Africa)	Mr. Frank Evans Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. Henry Mason (W. Africa)	Mr. Frank Evans Mr. O. E. Whitehead
Mr. H. S. Cameron (Country)	Mr. Frank Evans Mr. O. E. Whitehead
Mr. P. W. Sangster (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson Mr. L. de Mercado
Lt. T. M. Harries, D.F.C. (Trinidad)	Mr. H. A. Trotter Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. J. E. Corbin	Mr. E. Powis Gladwin Mr. W. A. Wolseley
Capt. A. Keith Jones, R.N. (Jamaica)	Lt.-Col. A. Marescaux Mr. A. W. Farquharson
Mr. Michael T. M. Ormsby, M.I.C.E. (London)	Mr. Ormsby, M.I.C.E., &c. Rev. J. L. Ransom, M.A.
Mr. B. C. Forder (Country)	Mr. H. F. Previté Mr. H. A. Trotter
Lieut. Donald E. Chase (Barbados)	Mr. H. F. Previté Sir Wm. Trollope, Bart.
Messrs. D. Haes & Co. (London)	Mr. E. A. de Pass Mr. William Gillospie
Stokes Castings, Ltd. (Country)	Mr. Norman Malcolmson Mr. H. A. Trotter

Membership of the West India Committee is confined by the Royal Charter to British subjects. Any member may propose or second candidates, whose names should be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3. There is no entrance fee, and the annual subscription is £1 1s. per annum, which can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada.

THE NEW SCALE OF DUTIES.

The CIRCULAR has compiled the following table to show the new scale of duties, which takes effect as from September 1st next—except in the case of the tea duty, which comes into force on June 1st:—

SUGAR—		General		British		Preferential	
Not over	Pol.	Tariff.		Preference.		Tariff.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
76°	...	12	4	2	0'66	10	3'34
77°	...	12	8'7	2	1'45	10	7'25
78°	...	13	1'6	2	2'26	10	11'34
79°	...	13	6'6	2	3'10	11	3'50
80°	...	13	11'5	2	3'91	11	7'59
81°	...	14	4'4	2	4'73	11	11'67
82°	...	14	9'4	2	5'56	12	3'84
83°	...	15	2'3	2	6'38	12	7'92
84°	...	15	7'8	2	7'30	13	0'50
85°	...	16	1'4	2	8'23	13	5'17
86°	...	16	6'9	2	9'15	13	9'75
87°	...	17	0'5	2	10'08	14	2'42
88°	...	17	6'6	2	11'10	14	7'50
89°	...	18	0'8	3	0'13	15	0'67
90°	...	18	8'2	3	1'36	15	6'84
91°	...	19	3'6	3	2'60	16	1'00
92°	...	19	11'0	3	3'83	16	7'17
93°	...	20	6'4	3	5'06	17	1'34
94°	...	21	1'7	3	6'28	17	7'42
95°	...	21	9'1	3	7'51	18	1'59
96°	...	22	4'5	3	8'75	18	7'75
97°	...	22	11'9	3	9'99	19	1'91
98°	...	23	7'3	3	11'21	19	8'09
Over.							
98°	...	25	8	4	3'33	21	4'67
MOLASSES—							
70% or more sweetening	...	16	3	2	8'5	13	6'5
50% - 70% "	...	11	8	1	11'33	9	8'67
Up to 50% "	...	5	8'5		11'41	4	9'09
For distillation or stock food	...	Free				Free	
RUM	...	52	10	2	6	50	4
COCOA—							
Cwt.	...	42	0	7	0	35	0
Husks, Shells, cwt.	...	6	0	1	0	5	0
Cocoa butter, lb....	...	4'5	...	0'75	...	3'75	...
COFFEE—							
Cwt.	...	42	0	7	0	35	0
Roasted and ground, lb.	...	6	...	1	...	5	...
TEA—							
lb.	...	1	0	2	...	10	...
TOBACCO—							
Cigars, lb....	...	15	7	2	7'16	12	11'84
Cigarettes, lb.	...	12	7	2	1'16	10	5'84
Unmanufactured	...	8	2	1	4'33	6	9'67
	...	9	1	1	6'16	7	6'84

We give below a table showing the quantities and values of the imports into the United Kingdom from British and foreign sources in the pre-war year of those commodities on which a preference is now to be given:—

	From British Sources.		From Foreign Sources.	
	cwts.	£	cwts.	£
Refined	5,800	3,651	18,445,097	12,317,435
Unrefined	1,434,589	327,282	19,499,704	9,788,253
MOLASSES, &c				
70% or more sweetening matter	48,340	9,999	5,724	3,611
50%-70% ditto	64,068	18,773	864,961	218,787
Up to 50% ditto	52	10	75,666	16,188
RUM—				
Rum	Proof galls.	£	Proof galls.	£
Imitation Rum	3,831,325	314,791	868,276	39,712
	926	101	8,936	1,333

	From British Sources.		From Foreign Sources.	
	lb.	£	lb.	£
COCOA—				
Raw	41,537,172	1,161,575	30,822,424	1,119,993
Preparations	501	2,105	243,223	1,837,253
COFFEE—				
Raw	90,599	362,438	755,872	2,558,417
Kidn dried, roasted or ground	2,110	112	47,934	2,116
TEA—				
Tea	314,762,706	12,032,726	50,280,758	1,750,179
Tea for the manufacture of caffeine	1,446,219	9,810	52,591	521
TOBACCO—				
Cigars	145,381	41,523	1,513,928	1,096,474
Cigarettes	20,953	6,929	293,438	111,054

THE FUTURE OF SUGAR.

The question of the future of the world's sugar production is one which must necessarily concern the minds of those connected with the British sugar industry now that peace is at hand, and a preference in the market of the United Kingdom is assured.

Before the war the great bugbear of British producers was Continental beet—notably that of Germany and Austria, with Russian sugar looming as a dangerous potential competitor. Italy also threatened to be an exporting country, and, in fact, had already commenced to send sugar to Great Britain. Cuba was increasing her output to a threatening extent, and was naturally influencing the price obtainable for West Indian sugar in the Canadian market by reason of its lowering effect on New York prices during the crop season.

The American beet industry was also being actively developed, thus intensifying the Cuban effect, while from Hawaii and Porto Rico the output was also tending in the same direction. The increasing output of Java was also operating prejudicially as to the price of the world's sugar in general, and Mauritius sugar in particular on the Indian market.

The situation has completely changed owing to the war so far as Continental sugar is concerned, and it is now possible to form some idea of the future situation, especially as preferential treatment is to be accorded to British sugar in the Customs tariff of Great Britain as from September 1st next. The Brussels Convention is practically extinct, and can be disregarded in this connection. Russia may be looked upon as a dead letter as regards sugar production for many years to come; in fact, for some time after the restoration of ordered government in that country it is more likely to import than to export. Germany and Austria will also take some time to place their internal supply on a proper footing, and when they do export it is unlikely that they will be in a position to dump sugar as they were doing before the war; and in this connection it must be remembered that legislation against dumping was promised in the King's Speech. Meanwhile Cuba goes on extending her production in spite of labour trouble, though doubts are expressed as to whether 4,000,000 tons will ever be reached in that island, and as the United States are gradually increasing and making good their own supply, there

will be more and more available for export. Cuban sugar is bound to be sent to the United Kingdom in large quantities to make good to the refiners the loss of the Continental beet until a British supply can be obtained. Java sugar will also operate in the same direction.

At present the British Empire sources of supply consist of about 300,000 tons exported from the West Indies and British Guiana, 250,000 tons from Mauritius—the natural destination of which is India—100,000 tons from Fiji, with nearly 300,000 tons produced in Australia and 150,000 tons in South Africa. There will be no production in Australia and Natal for export, and the same may be said of South Africa. But British preference—and it may be presumed that this will also become a factor in the Indian tariff—will raise the Mauritius output to probably 300,000 tons, which will go to India. Fiji will never be much of a factor in the sugar world, owing to its limited local possibilities.

Great Britain, therefore, will have to look to the West Indies and British Guiana for British sugar as things are now. Canada, however, would be deprived of a great part of her supply if this takes place, and unless, therefore, Canada brings the value of her preference up to what the United Kingdom will give, she will have to fall back on foreign sugar or increase her output of beet.

The United Kingdom will require, when consumption resumes its normal figure—which it is sure to do when the supply is available—2,000,000 tons, of which the refiners will require at least 800,000 tons. Canada wants 250,000 tons; 2,250,000 tons then are required.

To supply this there are the West Indian, Fiji, and British Guiana exports of a present possible of 350,000 to 400,000 tons.

The effect of the preferential treatment of sugar in the Customs tariff of Great Britain will be gradually to meet this requirement. In the meantime not more than two-thirds of this sugar is wanted, and the amount will be made up, as at present, with Cuban, Java, Brazilian, and Peruvian sugar.

But as the British sugar industry develops, the output from the West Indies and British Guiana will probably be raised to 400,000 to 500,000 tons, while the West Coast Colonies are sure to develop a sugar industry in view of their climatic and industrial possibilities. British Guiana has also enormous areas suitable for the purpose, though at present they are inaccessible and without population.

It is, however, a far cry from 400,000 tons to 2,000,000 tons, and while this is being acquired development in sugar exports will be going on in other countries. Peru, with its fertile soil and command of the agricultural position which irrigation gives, is increasing largely her output, while Brazil may be looked upon as a further increasing factor in export.

It may be expected also that India will increase her interim production, and that the 800,000 tons—the pre-war import—will be made good. But it will take some time for Mauritius sugar to be liberated for the United Kingdom supply.

There will probably be a shortage of sugar in the world for some years. When, however, the United

Kingdom makes good its own supply, Cuban sugar will be thrown upon the world in very large quantities, and as the only market of any magnitude is that of the United Kingdom, in the future it promises to be an awkward competitor to the British producers even with the preference.

The great factor in determining the price of the world's sugar will be, in the future, the Cuban crop, which will take the place of German beet in this respect, and it will be interesting to see the effect of Cuban sugar on the development of the British Empire industry. With the United States filling up its wants from its own domestic and territorial production, the Cuban crop will be more and more thrown upon the world. The only big market will then be that of the United Kingdom, and British producers, even with the preference, will have to face a serious competition in proportion to the increase in production.

Will the Cuban sugar industry, with its powerful interests and economy in production due to the scale of manufacture, give way—and this would mean a big reduction in crop—or will the development of a British Empire industry be prevented or hampered by it? It is Cuba that the British producer will have to reckon with in the future.

BRITISH COCOA INDUSTRY.

Probable Effects of Preference.

BY GEO. C. VASMER.

Now that, after many years of discussion, Imperial preference is an accomplished fact, the writer ventures, without entering into any political arguments, to give his views on the possible effect of the adoption of this policy on the West Indian cocoa trade.

Our manufacturers are fortunate in that they have ample supplies of cheap cocoa from our West African colonies, but, in spite of all endeavours to improve the fermentation and general preparation of this grade it lacks strength and flavour, and manufacturers find that they require an admixture of stronger cocoas to make satisfactory blends. For general purposes they have been in the habit of using fine plantation St. Thomé, Bahia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, British West Indian, and Guayaquil cocoas. Of these Guayaquil Arriba is the only growth for which there is no substitute; its flavour is unique, and it forms the basis of the best drinking cocoas. The other growths are interchangeable, and as long as sufficient fine plantation cocoa from the West Indies is obtainable, our manufacturers can get along without the others.

I believe that one reason why manufacturers have hitherto been partial to St. Thomé and Bahia is because they can buy these growths in large lots; but the present practice in Trinidad of bulking the products of various estates together has overcome this. Nevertheless, the writer often looks back with regret to the time when each individual estate shipped its cocoa home. Where are the Soconusco, San Antonio, Santa Rosa Sheult, Sin Verguena Sheult, Agua Santa, and Hermitage H.C., only to mention a few of the fine old marks that we used to receive? I believe that even to-day we have a few manufacturers who would appreciate these fine cocoas with their distinctive aroma; but I am digressing.

Most of us who are interested in the West Indian colonies viewed with concern the yearly increasing quantity diverted from this to other markets; but my feeling

is that this preference of 7s. per cwt. will encourage the shipment of larger quantities of British West Indian cocoa to this market for the home trade, and, incidentally, it may help us in what we call our entrepôt trade. If the Government could see their way to double the preferential rate it should still further help; in fact, when the question was first mooted, I had hoped that the Government would not disturb the present duty of 4d. per lb., but increase that of foreign cocoas to 6d. per lb. I presume, however, the Government are following a certain line of policy in reducing the rate. As far as fancy cocoas are concerned—such as Ft. Cabello, Java, and Maracaibo—the extra tariff will not prevent them coming here, as such are only used for fancy chocolates, and can easily stand a higher rate of duty.

Of course, from a sentimental point of view, apart from other considerations, I think that, after all the colonies have done for their Mother Country, nobody will disagree with any measures which will tend to unite the common ties more closely.

THE DE-CONTROL OF COCOA.

The West India Committee have received the following letters from the Ministry of Food on the subject of cocoa:—

Sir,—I am directed by the Food Controller to state that he has decided to suspend the operation of the Raw Cocoa (Prices) Order, 1918, as from May 5th, 1919. The effect of the suspension will be that raw cocoa, on and after that date, may be bought and sold free from the necessity of grading and the other restrictions imposed by the Order. It has also been decided that no further distribution of any variety of raw cocoa shall be made by this Ministry. In these circumstances all persons concerned are free to deal in raw cocoa for home consumption without any restriction as to price or as to the person to whom the raw cocoa may be sold. I am to add that for the time being the export of raw cocoa will be restricted in accordance with the scheme previously announced, and that the Cocoa Powder (No. 2) Order, 1918, will remain in force as heretofore.

I am, Sir, &c.,
HORACE WOODHOUSE.

Sir,—With reference to this Ministry's letters dated February 7th and March 14th, 1919, on the subject of the export of raw cocoa, I am directed by the Food Controller to call your attention to the letter of April 30th, 1919 (37142/4), notifying the suspension of the Raw Cocoa (Prices) Order, 1918, and to state that it will be sufficient now if importers who desire to obtain this Ministry's certificate "freeing" 50 per cent of their imports of raw cocoa for export make application to the Ministry of Food, Cocoa Section, Room 731, Palace Chambers, Bridge-street, Westminster, S.W. 1, giving the following particulars—

- (a) The quantity of raw cocoa comprised in the consignment in respect of which the application is made;
- (b) The quantity it is desired shall be "free" for export.

A certificate will then be issued to the importers specifying the number of bags out of the consignment which, so far as this Ministry may be concerned, shall be "free" for export; but applications for export licences should be made as heretofore.

It will no longer be necessary to give the undertakings asked for in this Ministry's letter of the 7th February, 1919, nor to comply with the conditions in that letter on the sale of any raw cocoa covered by this Ministry's certificate.

I am, Sir, &c.,
HORACE WOODHOUSE.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF CANE SUGAR.

(Continued from p. 110, and concluded.)

In the last CIRCULAR the question of cane sugar as a stimulant was discussed. There is another and a broader use of this article of diet, and that is its function as a *food*. It was pointed out that in all the carbo-hydrate group—that is to say, all the sugars which have the composition roughly given as a combination of carbon and water—the members undergo a transformation during digestion which leads to a storing up of a carbo-hydrate body, resembling starch in composition, in the liver.

In considering the physiological position of sugar as a food, an important place must be given to the fact that it is a normal condition of children to have a craving for sweets—not carbo-hydrates generally, but good, honest sugar. This is not a demand for a stimulant, but a cry for food by the growing muscles. This all points to the formation of a muscle-feeding body, as well as of the nerve food to which reference was made in the last article.

An important bearing on this is the fact that the proteids—the flesh of the body—when heated with caustic alkalis, yield a carbo-hydrate exactly resembling in chemical composition and reactions the "amyloid substance" of the liver resulting from the ingestion of carbo-hydrates. If a carbo-hydrate results from the breaking down of a body, it may reasonably be concluded that it is concerned in its building up. The flesh consumed is broken down during digestion, the nitrogenous body formed going to form the new flesh. In extreme cases, where flesh only is consumed—such as in the animal kingdom—the carbo-hydrate is probably utilised again for the formation of new tissue. In vegetable foods the nitrogenous bodies and carbo-hydrates exist together, and flesh is then formed. The storage in the liver, however, of carbo-hydrates may have another purpose—the formation of fat—an important item in nerve nutrition.

The subject is fraught with great difficulties, but, as regards the physiological position of cane sugar, it may be taken as certain that, on account of its ready availability, as a stimulant it acts at once by the formation of a body which either feeds the exhausted muscles directly, or indirectly through the feeding of the nerves supplying them, enabling them to draw off the waste products which cause their fatigue, and to renew their energy power. With the young it would appear to act by direct feeding of the muscles due to the formation of the body suggested.

The great difficulty in dealing with the subject is that the world did without cane sugar up to comparatively recent times, and that with animals there is no sugar consumption. But it has been pointed out above that other carbo-hydrates, directly and indirectly obtained, can be utilised by Nature, although in a slower and more cumbrous manner—such as the post-meal sleep of animals, and of man up to recent years. Indeed, in this respect the physiological position of cane sugar in the present day may be compared to that of the starches and carbo-hydrates of pre-sugar days, as the flying

machine of to-day in relation to pack-horse or stage-coach of the past. The physiological wear and tear of to-day demands a quick means of arriving at muscular nutrition, and through the muscles of energy generally. Cane sugar gives it, and it may be assured that in proportion to the want there will be the craving—not the craving that exists for a drug or alcohol to produce a temporary condition of nerve rest, but a sound craving as the result of a physiological want.

We are lighter eaters of flesh than our forebears, and consume more sugar, and certainly expend more energy. This speaks for itself. If flesh-eating animals took sugar they would not require so much flesh. Let us, then, thank God for sugar!

F. I. SCARD.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

At Versailles.

Just as Britain was worthy of herself when the German fleet surrendered, so was France in presenting the Allied Peace Terms to the German delegation appointed to receive them. There was no vindictiveness, neither was there a crowd to gloat over a conquered enemy's humiliation. But ceremonial was stripped bare, and courtesy was never more than frigidly correct. In the splendid and historic setting of Versailles the Republic, indeed, well maintained the fine traditions it inherited from the Monarchy. The culminating scene took place in the famous Trianon Palace, in the room where the Franco-Prussian Treaty of 1871 was signed—a memory present with everyone who took part in the ceremony, and was so arranged that the German delegation faced the Allied statesmen like prisoners in the dock about to receive sentence. This was fittingly symbolical of the attitude of the civilised world towards Germany. M. Clemenceau, who handed Count Brockdorff-Rantzau the text of the preliminaries of Peace was the central figure, with the American President on his right and the British Prime Minister on his left. How little the German heart has changed was revealed by the discourtesy of Count Brockdorff-Rantzau in remaining seated when M. Clemenceau stood, and in making a defiant speech accusing the Allies of being as much responsible for the war as Germany.

The Peace Terms.

These, except as regards the indemnity, are more satisfactory than the public had been led to suppose by newspaper correspondents in Paris. The Peace is just without vindictiveness, and stern without savagery; therefore it is not weak, neither is it Prussian. But, as a compromise between two main interests and two main points of view—one endeavouring to maintain Germany as a great Power, the other to reduce her in territory, power and resources as to secure the peace of the world and the safety of her neighbours—many of the terms are vague, and will depend upon their interpretation in practice. There is to be no repayment by Germany of the costs of the war. The full bill is to be presented, but payment is to be spread over fifty years of an actual 5,000,000,000 sterling. Apparently

the capacity to pay more is to be determined in the light of after events. The first £1,000,000,000 is to be paid within two years in gold, foods and ships. Probably France and Belgium will get the bulk of this sum. A Reparation Commission is to determine not only the procedure in connection with the payments, but to formulate the schedule of individual claims. With the efficient working of this body is bound up the hope of the devastated territories that Germany will be made to render substantial help in the task of restoration. As it is not expected that England will receive more than £1,500,000 of the indemnity, no relief from taxation in the near future can be anticipated. On the other hand, the customs and tariff restrictions imposed upon Germany for five years will prevent her from starting normal trade conditions at an advantage.

Preference.

In the meantime the United Kingdom has at last come into line with the Dominions, and initiated Imperial Preference, the only sound material basis for unity. The elder Chamberlain broke his health in a heroic attempt to bring the great result about nearly twenty years ago. If he had succeeded perhaps there would have been no war. He failed, but to his son has been given the supreme satisfaction of leading the people into the Promised Land. He has met with no serious opposition, the only practical argument put forward being that China might retaliate because Indian and Ceylon teas are favoured in the British market. But if Germany, in the height of her power, tried unsuccessfully to penalise Canada when she gave the Mother Country preference, no other nation is likely to invite a similar loss of prestige and profit by retaliation which would be equally futile. The world requires no second lesson in the fact that the economic relations between Great Britain and the Dominions and other overseas territories are matters purely of domestic concern. Only by working together on a common principle in trade can the Empire hope to recover from the effect of the sacrifices it has made in the war, or to bear the ensuing financial burden. That England recognises it in her fiscal policy is a guarantee that for the future her children are no longer to be treated as strangers in British markets.

It is in the fitness of things that the West Indies, which suffered the longest and the most from Cobdenism, should benefit to the greatest extent by the first instalment of Imperial Preference. Not only will their chief industry be set on its feet again, but two other important industries—coffee and cocoa—will receive fresh impetus.

Shipping.

One of the stipulations in the Peace Treaty demands Germany's recognition of the "ton for ton" principle; but as she is only required to hand over a certain number of steam trawlers and to build 200,000 tons of shipping annually for the Allies during the next five years, she is escaping lightly, since the British Empire alone has lost 9,000,000 tons since August, 1914, and the world as a whole 14,000,000 tons. As to how the German tonnage interned in Allied harbours is to be divided there is as yet no certainty; but it is believed in the United

States that the 600,000 tons in American ports are to be allotted to the Republic, which would mean that she gained 200,000 tons more than she lost. Can it be that Great Britain acquiesces in this in return for the withdrawal of the Federal veto on the repurchase by Britain of the ships sold to the International Mercantile Marine in 1902? If so, the transaction is distinctly unpleasant.

NATURE NOTES.

The demand for drugs has increased considerably during the war. The production of some varieties—opium, for instance—has almost or altogether ceased in many countries in consequence of the cultivators having been engaged in fighting. Prices have gone up by leaps and bounds, and it is now worth while to grow the plants from which they are prepared, even in countries where labour is dear.

Turkish opium was the chief source of opium for medical purposes, but investigation at the Imperial Institute proved that the opium of India, contrary to the common opinion, could be used in its place, and that it was equally suitable for making morphia. As a result, Indian opium and morphia manufactured from it are employed where Turkish and Persian were formerly used. The opium poppy is grown in India under Government supervision, but cultivation has perforce been given up in Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Bulgaria, and it will probably be difficult for some time to start work again. The legitimate use of opium and its derivatives by medical men for the relief of pain should not be restricted, and cultivation in British possessions should be encouraged.

Opium is essentially a small man's culture, and requires organisation on the part of merchants who advance money on the crop and buy the produce. If taken up seriously in any tropical colony of the British Empire, the local Government would no doubt employ officials to regulate the size of the area cultivated, and impose such other restrictions as might be necessary.

The white-flowered poppy is preferred in India, but in Asia Minor the variety with a purplish flower is usually grown. In Macedonia, when under Turkish rule, great encouragement was given to cultivators by the remittance of taxation during the first year and by issuing printed instructions for the cultivation of the plant and the preparation of the opium. The white-flowered poppy is recommended. When a Turkish Government takes the trouble to instruct a peasantry, it is surely a sign that the culture brings in a very handsome revenue, and, in fact, they state for the information of growers that the yield is ten times more valuable than cereals.

India exported in 1916-17 1,723,000 gallons of castor-oil and a large quantity of seed. This seed imported into Great Britain produced 3,500 to 4,000 tons per month, practically all of which was used by the Government for motor lubrication. It is estimated that many acres in the West Indies have been planted with Indian seed, and quite a large acreage in the United States, where Government contracts were made during the war with growers to take the seed at \$3 to \$3.50 per bushel. There will apparently be a great demand in the future for this lubricating oil for motors and aeroplanes. There are very many natural varieties of plant, differing in size of the seeds, oil content and yield. If the industry is to be a permanent one, new varieties must be obtained from these by breeding—a subject which is well discussed in the *Journal of*

Heredity for May-June, 1918. New varieties evolved must possess the highest possible oil content, smallest amount of objectionable "acid," adaptability to waste and sandy lands, close and compact fruiting spikes with thin-walled, spineless, "non-popping" seed capsules, productiveness, earliness and long bearing season. These characters exist among innumerable forms, and must be combined into one or more commercial varieties.

The avocado pear has become of such importance in California from a grower's point of view that a Californian Avocado Association has been formed for that thorough co-operation in advancing the interests of growers which is so characteristic of farmers in the United States. There are several varieties of the avocado, and many of the varieties that grow at high altitudes in Guatemala, where the West Indian variety will not live, are of desirable kinds. The Californian Avocado Association sent out an expert to Guatemala, who was able to obtain bud-wood of all the best varieties. The avocado may be obtained during eight months of the year in Guatemala, and is a very common food, replacing meat in the dietary of the natives, and together with *torillas* (cakes made from maize) furnishes a sustaining food for hard workers.

The result of crosses between the tangerine and the grapefruit are called in Florida *tangelos*. The fruits resemble round oranges more than either parent. Plantings on a commercial scale are being made at several places in Florida.

Our British colonies, especially under pressure of scarcity due to war conditions, are seeking to help themselves, as well as the world generally, by experiments in the production of articles that are much sought after. For instance, the African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), which produces several articles of commerce such as palm oil and palm kernels, is being experimentally planted in many colonies where conditions are suitable. According to the Report on Agriculture for Seychelles Islands for 1916, the Curator of the Botanic Station states that the results obtained there warrant its being cultivated to a large extent. It is very precocious in bearing fruit—plants set out in 1915 produced small bunches in two years, the usual time being five years. A bunch weighing 48 lb. was obtained from a tree growing in rocky ground. The number of fruits on the bunch was as much as 2,392, and each fruit was fully developed and perfectly ripe. A bunch of this size yields as much oil as twenty-five coco-nuts.

In West Africa it has been estimated that about eighty palms can be planted on 1 acre of ground. An idea can be formed of the yield which might be expected from an acre by assuming that one palm would yield on an average 65 to 90 lb. of fruit, this amount giving about 6½ lb. of oil and the same weight of kernels. Taking the current quotations of £43 to £44 per ton for palm oil, and £26 per ton for palm kernels, the value of the yield per acre in London would be over £15. As a wild product in West Africa, it is one of the most important exports; indeed, palm oil and palm kernels have been described as the backbone of West African commerce, and may perhaps become more important than cocoa, rubber and cotton. In the case of other staples derived, as the products of the oil palm are, from the forest, the establishment of plantations, according to the *Kew Bulletin*, with this more satisfactory economic conditions has involved the collapse and disappearance of the cruder industry. The recommendation has been made that in view of the diseases to which the coco-nut palm is subject, the oil palm should be planted side by side with the coco-nut, as it is quite as productive, and grows under similar conditions of soil and climate.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

DEMERARA RAILWAY COMPANY.

The directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on the ordinary stock for the half-year ended December 31st last.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

A close working arrangement has been entered into between the above bank and the London County, Westminster and Parr's Limited, under which the Royal Bank will represent the London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank in the West Indies, Canada, and Central America.

THE ACADIA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

The net profit for the year 1918 was \$314,567; the debit balance of the profit-and-loss account is now reduced to \$221,584. The directors are still negotiating for compensation from the Government for the destruction of the Richmond refinery in the Halifax explosion of December, 1917, and the result is expected to be satisfactory.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

The accounts for the half-year ended December 31st last show a net profit of £47,653 14s. 8d. (as against £35,288 18s. 11d. for the same period of the previous year), making, with the balance of £30,488 18s. 3d. brought forward (£34,082 11s. at same date in 1917), a total of £78,142 12s. 11d. (£69,371 9s. 11d. same date 1917). Out of this the directors recommend the transfer of £25,000 to the Reserve Fund (now standing at £325,000), and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent, less income-tax for the half-year ended December 31st last, absorbing £27,463, and leaving £25,679 12s. 11d. to be carried forward. The directors, in their report, state that premises have been completed at Winnebuh, Insuam and Koforiduah (Gold Coast Colony), and the staff are now on their way to open these branches. Presiding at the half-yearly meeting of the bank on April 30th, Mr. Charles Frederick Wood, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the optimistic views which he expressed a year ago concerning the progress of the bank had, as shown by the present balance sheet, been justified. The paid-up capital had increased by £150,000, being £3 per share paid upon the "B" shares, and since the date of the balance-sheet (April 17th) additional payments of £2 per share had been made, and the final payment of £1 per share is due on May 19th. Notes in circulation and deposits had increased, while bills payable and acceptances on account of customers were rather low. Advances to customers showed a very substantial growth, and the total assets were £8,315,000, as against £7,462,000 on December 31st, 1917—an increase of £853,000. As a result of active and successful business he was able to report an increase of £40,000 in gross profits—namely, from £111,000 to £151,000, or 36 per cent. This was not attributable to any special district or any particular kind of business, but to an all-round and well-spread improvement. The home branches—London, Liverpool and Manchester—were doing very well, and had more than justified their establishment. The West Indian business had again yielded satisfactory returns. West Africa continued to make progress, and some of the branches there were already showing good profits. On the other hand, expenses had necessarily continued to increase, the figures for the half-year being £103,000, as compared with £76,000 for the corresponding period a year ago—an increase of £27,000, or 35 per cent.

At the moment general conditions in the West Indies were satisfactory. British merchants and British banks in the West Indies were faced with an increasingly active competition with American interests. In consequence of

the demand in the United States for West Indian produce—notably bananas—the Americans had long had substantial trade interests there, but it was now quite evident that they were doing their utmost in various ways to capture as large a proportion as possible of the general trade, and he had reason to think that one New York bank was contemplating establishing itself in different parts of the West Indies. So long as American or other competition was conducted on terms of equality there was no complaint to be made. If we cannot hold our trade under these conditions we deserve to lose it. But we trust that if New York banks open branches or agencies within the British Empire they will be subjected to conditions similar to those under which agencies of British banks had to work in the State of New York. (Hear, hear.) There they were permitted to do business only after they had secured a licence from the New York State Banking Department, and their accounts were subject to inspection by that department. They were prohibited from accepting deposits from any corporation, firm or individual in the State of New York, this prohibition applying even in respect of deposits which might be made by British firms with offices in New York. They were subject to a tax of 5 per cent. on the gross amount earned on funds loaned, used or employed in the State. No deduction of any kind was permitted in arriving at the amount on which this tax had to be paid. In addition to this special State tax, the Federal Income-tax had to be paid. If Imperial Preference becomes a reality, there can hardly fail to be a preference on sugar grown within the British Empire, and as sugar is one of the products on which the West Indies chiefly depend, any real preference must be of great advantage to West Indian producers. In conclusion the chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The deputy chairman (Mr. Cyril Gurney) seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The proposed dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the half-year was approved, and after the transaction of the usual formal business, the proceedings terminated.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—SAILINGS FROM AVONMOUTH TO JAMAICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA per s.s. *Coronado*, May 1st, 1919:—

Mr. T. J. H. Adams	Miss Edna Genge.	Capt. H. G. Berrie
Mr. G. R. B. Baxter	Mr. W. W. F. Gouda	Mr. J. W. Reynolds
Mrs. Clara Blake	Commander H. S. M.	Mr. F. H. Reynolds
Miss Olive Blake	Harrison-Wallace	Mr. F. H. Robertson
Mr. H. Boardman	Mr. H. G. Heron	Miss C. C. Roper
Mr. J. V. Begle	Mr. W. H. Hesketh	Mr. Kenneth Sandland
Mr. S. Briggs	Mr. C. W. Jack	Mr. C. Sprey-Smith
Mrs. E. Burke	Mrs. C. W. Jack	Mr. Robert Stott
Dr. C. M. Cass	Mr. Thos. Jaramillo	Mrs. E. H. Taylor
Mr. Carlos Gutierrez F.	Mr. W. Lithgow	Miss E. J. Taylor
Cavada	Mr. L. S. Lothian	Mrs. I. C. M. Thomson
Mr. Carlos Gutierrez	Mr. E. H. Lyon-Hall	Mr. Archer Turner
Mrs. Eliza Clements	Mr. E. Cooper Marshall	Col. L. Worthington.
Dr. G. J. Eady	Mrs. E. Cooper Marshall	Wilmer
Mr. H. Edwards	Miss F. M. Marshall	Lt.-Commander W. R.
Mr. H. Falkner	Mr. T. E. Moore	M. Wynne

STEAMER SAILINGS.

OUTWARD			
To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Granada</i>	May 21.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Manzanares</i>	May 22.
West Indies	London	<i>Saba</i>	May 23.
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Author</i>	May 24.
West Indies	London	<i>Quillota</i>	May 28.
Jamaica	Glasgow	<i>Bayano</i>	May 29.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Statesman</i>	May 30.
Jamaica	Glasgow	<i>Nicoya</i>	June 5

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6842 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
May 15th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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. Privately imported sugars continue to command a considerable premium over the above prices, manufacturers having availed themselves of the opportunity to increase their stocks. As a consequence the grocery trade is being starved in respect of muscovados, but the situation could be remedied by giving the grocers the same privileges as manufacturers, and allowing this class of sugar to be sold as a speciality at free prices.

For the four months ended April 30th, Board of Trade returns show:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Imports cwt.	7,271,317	8,894,782	9,280,239
Consumption	6,848,079	6,069,772	9,057,361

The imports in 1919 include 2,194,260 cwt. refined and 7,085,979 cwt. raw. Of the refined 1,281,753 cwt. came from America, 640,891 cwt. from Java, and 254,601 cwt. from Mauritius, and of the raw, 3,198,581 cwt. from Cuba, 1,717,367 cwt. from Mauritius, 1,434,623 cwt. from Java, and 315,570 cwt. from the British West Indies. It will be noted how quickly the consumption is responding to the relaxation of control.

Saccharin imports also expand, 652,215 oz. having been imported in 1919 against 547,211 oz. for the same period last year. Consumption has, however, fallen in a sensational manner from 501,521 oz. in the first four months of 1918 to 133,650 oz. this year—a drop which tells its own story!

The West India sugar statistics in London on May 3rd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	7,301	6,505	14,200	
Deliveries	8,841	15,037	16,193	
Stock	4,652	2,455	6,022	

RUM. Apart from the heavy increase in the spirit duties, the preferential arrangement for British rum is regarded with great favour by importers, who appreciate that it should effectively keep out Cuban spirit, which was likely to prove a serious menace to British producers.

The stocks in London on May 3rd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	3,122	5,288	9,176	
Demerara	12,051	4,170	8,480	
Total of all kinds	19,555	14,913	30,226	

COCOA. The recommendations of the Cocoa Advisory Committee referred to in last CIRCULAR have been adopted by the Ministry of Food, as will be noted from the letters published elsewhere in our pages, and, except as regards re-export, cocoa is now decontrolled. Prices have in consequence advanced sharply to the world's parity.

The CIRCULAR takes the opportunity of recording its thanks to the Ministry, and especially to Mr. Woodhouse, the Chairman of the Cocoa Committee, for the consideration which it has always shown West Indian interests. The probable effect of the Budget on British West Indian cocoa is dealt with elsewhere.

Imports into the United Kingdom during the four months ended April 30th last amounted to 1,002,525 cwt., as against 182,220 cwt. for the corresponding period last year. They included 797,896 cwt. from British West Africa, and 63,242 cwt. from the British West Indies; 443,316 cwt. were entered for home consumption.

The shipments of cocoa from Trinidad during March, 1919, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight.
To all countries	1,765,685 lb.
Shipped previously	12,052,998 ..
Total from January 1st	13,818,683 ..
To same date, 1918	16,863,202 ..
" " 1917	31,512,350 ..
" " 1916	20,062,564 ..
" " 1915	24,324,943 ..
" " 1914	29,743,676 ..
" " 1913	29,018,604 ..
" " 1912	24,410,396 ..
" " 1911	17,364,848 ..
" " 1910	21,370,585 ..
" " 1909	21,472,378 ..
" " 1908	19,969,706 ..

The stocks in London on May 3rd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	14,067	14,699	21,941	
Grenada	7,706	25,706	19,007	
Total of all kinds	115,770	185,518	258,424	

COFFEE. Certain parties interested in this commodity are showing an unreasonable fear that Imperial Preference will wreck our entrepôt trade, though why it should do so one cannot imagine. There will be no surtax on foreign coffee, which can come here as before.

Imports of all kinds during the first four months of 1919 amounted to 407,698 cwt., against 44,945 cwt. only for the same period last year.

BANANAS. Our banana imports are still below normal. From January 1st to April 30th, 760,831 bunches were imported, but the retail price is still as high as 3d.-4d.

A further list of officers and men from the British West Indies awaiting repatriation, whose passages (as far as can be ascertained) have been approved, is given below:—

BAHAMAS.

Curry, Lieut. O. H.

BARBADOS.

Armstrong, Pte. F.	Collins, Pte. R. A.	Laurie, Pte. H. C.
Braham, Pte. F.	Edwards, Pte. J.	Reid, Pte. F. E.
	Williams, Pte. P. E.	

BRITISH GUIANA.

Davis, 2 Lt. L. S.

JAMAICA.

Cowper, Dvr. P. C. Mossman, Cpl. G.

ST. LUCIA.

De Brettes, Gur. C. Lestrade, Pte. G.

TRINIDAD.

Balfour, Tpr. C. M.M.	Govia, Gur. E. L.	Marsden, Pte. F.
Burnett, Pte. C.	Green, Cpl. A.	Pantie, Pte. A. H.
Bushe, 2 Lt. Grattan.	Hendy, L.Br. C. O.	Sheppard, Pte. V. A.
Dash, Pte. Cecil.	Jack, Pte. H.	Simmons, Gur. G.
Dunsire, Gur. D. D.	Johnston, Cpl. R.	Syder, Pte. J.
Ferrell, Pte. G. H. L.	Joseph, Pte. A.	Wilcox, Pte. W. R.
Ferreira, Pte. A.	Kellmann, Pte. H. G.	Williams, L.-Cpl. C. C.
Gonzales, Pte. A.	Link, C.Q.M.S. R. J.	Yhap, Pte. H.

Since the last CIRCULAR was published the under-mentioned have been repatriated:—

BARBADOS.

Medford, 2 Lt. W. H., M.C.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Gilchrist, Lt. F.

TRINIDAD.

Macgillivray, 2 Lt. A. D. Wainwright, Syr. J. H.

The West India Committee Circular

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Our Two Committees.

IN the present issue we publish the latest reports of the West India Committee and the West Indian Contingent Committee. Both bodies have, as is now well known, their headquarters in the same offices, and to gauge the extent of the work undertaken by the staff at 15, Seething-lane it is incumbent on the reader to consider the two reports together. On the one hand, the West India Committee, which has been faced by many new and difficult problems since the outbreak of war, and will be faced by many more during the reconstruction period after Peace is signed, has been endeavouring faithfully to carry out its objects, which are to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies; on the other, the Contingent Committee has aimed at providing for the comfort and welfare of all the gallant men who came over with contingents or independently to serve their King and Empire, without respect to race, creed or colour. As to what measure of success has attended the efforts of these joint bodies it must be left to the reader to decide. The work of the Contingent Committee is rapidly drawing to a close now that demobilisation is so far advanced; that of the West India Committee, for which body permanency was secured by the grant to it of the Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1904, will continue, and we hope that it will receive a yet fuller measure of support from the residents in the British West Indies in the future than it has done even in the past. With the grant of Imperial Preference a new vista of prosperity is opened before our West Indian colonies; but it must not be forgotten that under the British Constitution one Government cannot bind its suc-

cessors, and that it is therefore a lamentable fact that it will be open to any future Government to undo the good work which has been done, and again to close the door in the face of our colonies. Having captured the enemy's trenches, we must consolidate our position. The country now supports the policy of Imperial Preference, and it will be one of the tasks of the Committee and similar bodies to see that it never slips back again into the sloughs of what the late Mr. GEORGE MARTINEAU was wont so aptly to call "sham free trade." In this it will require all the support that it can get. The colonies on their part may be counted upon to make inter-Imperial trade so great and flourishing that any attempt to weaken it will be regarded as unthinkable. As far as the West Indies are concerned, most of the colonies already offer a reduction in their duties on certain goods from the Mother Country, and we are glad to learn that Jamaica already proposes to come into line and to set up a preferential tariff in favour of the United Kingdom. It is our earnest hope that much of the trade which is now carried on between that island and the United States may once more pass under the British flag.

Labour in Santo Domingo.

AT the instance of the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, Mr. K. S. LOCKHART, Revenue Officer of the Presidency, visited Santo Domingo towards the close of last year with a view to investigating the labour conditions prevailing in that island to which labourers have recently been emigrating from the Leeward Islands in increasing numbers. His report is a very illuminating document. It shows very clearly what strong inducements, not only in the form of wages, but also in that of housing, are offered to residents in British West Indian colonies to settle in the neighbouring foreign islands. We gather that a Government emigration agent from Santo Domingo, which, it will be recalled, is now under the protection of the United States, has been in the habit of recruiting labourers in the Leeward Islands for four large sugar estates—namely, those of Consuelo, Santa Fé, Porvenir, and Angelina—which form a combine for importing labour for reaping their crops and the working of their factories. The labourers are recruited for the group generally, and are given the option on arriving at San Pedro de Macoris of

choosing the estate on which they prefer to serve. As soon as the new arrival is definitely assigned to the estate he begins to draw pay, which, for field work, pans out at from \$1.10, which is the minimum, to \$1.50, and even more, per day, according to the weight of canes which he is willing to cut or is capable of cutting. Unskilled factory-hands earn \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day cleaning boilers and machinery, employment for such men being provided at the ice factory or workshop when crop is over. On the Ingenio Santa Fé the contract system prevails, the labourer having the opportunity of clearing \$2.00 or more per day if he is so disposed. The estates also pay a bonus of 15 per cent. on the labourers' earnings, which is placed to his credit at the end of each crop, so that he unconsciously saves a fair amount. Housing conditions in Santo Domingo would appear to be far better than those to which the labouring classes in the Leeward Islands are accustomed. Commodious wooden barracks, about 70 ft. to 80 ft. long, raised 15 ft. from the ground on reinforced-concrete pillars, with concrete or wood flooring, each divided into about six or seven rooms, comprise accommodation for the bachelors, while each family man has his own two-roomed and well-ventilated hut built by the roadside, with a vegetable garden at the back. MR. LOCKHART describes the cottages on the Ingenio Porvenir as being specially well laid out, and presenting a very pretty appearance—similar to that of the model Haynes-Smith cottages in Basseterre, St. Kitts. Timekeepers, weighers, &c., are even better provided for, having for their accommodation cottages with charming verandahs nearer to the estates' works. The health of the labourers is attended to by a resident doctor, who has a well-equipped surgery within easy reach of the factories, and serious cases of sickness are dealt with by the Sisters of Charity in the National Hospital at San Pedro de Macoris, where the estates subsidise special cots. But this is not the only provision for the comfort and welfare of the labourers. Indeed, so much is done for them that, says MR. LOCKHART, "there seems to be very little consideration of rigid economy with regard to the appropriation of money for the welfare of the employees of the estates." On Consuelo Estate, for example, a school is established with three or four teachers for the benefit of the labourers' children, and a moving-picture show, run by the estate, provides the men and their families with recreation and education for a very small outlay, helping him "to preserve the *mens sana* in a body rendered thoroughly sound by the plentiful supply of good food which he is able to procure on the spot." There are also mutual benefit and improvement associations conducted by the labourers under the auspices of the Administrator, the rules of which, when properly observed, tend not only to the improvement in the standard of the morality of the labourers, but also the advantages of sick allowances and burial expenses. For purposes of administration ten large districts or "colonies" have been established, and on each there is a small settlement of labourers, among whom public order is maintained by a foreman or judge selected by the estate,

and appointed by the Government, with three or four men under his command. There can be no doubt, says MR. LOCKHART, that the labourer is very much at home on these estates. He is supplied with very nutritious food at a comparatively low cost, groceries and foodstuffs being sold, in some instances, on a sort of co-operative basis below Government prices, and the grocery store on Consuelo Estate being decidedly better stocked than most similar establishments in St. Kitts, with very few exceptions. From what MR. LOCKHART says it is clear that there is no ground for the deluded ideas so often entertained in the Leeward Islands as to the disorderly, riotous and chaotic state of affairs in Santo Domingo. It is equally clear that the only way of stopping the emigration of labourers from the British West Indian islands is by offering sufficient inducements for them to remain under the British flag.

MR. WILLIAM MIDDLETON CAMPBELL.

We regret to state that Mr. William Middleton Campbell, of Colgrain, Dumbartonshire, N.B., died at his residence at Fen Place, Turner's Hill, Sussex, on May 18th, after a few days' illness.

Mr. Campbell was senior partner of Curtis, Campbell and Company, a firm owning several important sugar estates in British Guiana. For many years and until his death he was a director of the Bank of England, of which he was Deputy-Governor from 1905 to 1907, and Governor from 1907 to 1909, a period marked by a serious financial crisis in the United States, which involved the export of many millions of gold to America. To quote the *Morning Post*: "Excellent judgment was shown in the whole matter by Mr. Campbell as Governor of the Bank of England, and while, during the autumn of the year, the Bank Rate had to be raised to 7 per cent., that high rate was only in existence for a few weeks, and by the spring of the following year it was back to 3 per cent. The manner in which the crisis was handled by the Bank of England commanded approval on both sides of the Atlantic, and unquestionably enhanced our own prestige as the leading financial centre." In 1909 Mr. Campbell succeeded the late Sir Henry Davson as Chairman of the West India Committee, of which he had formerly been a member of the Executive, and for eight years he took a close and active interest in the work of that body, rarely missing a meeting. He took an active part in the negotiations with the Colonial Office and Post Office which led to the restoration of the West Indian mail service in 1911, and during his term of office the reciprocal trade agreement with Canada was brought into effect. After his retirement in 1917, Mr. Campbell, who was also a director of the Commercial Union Assurance Company and until recently a director of the Merchants Trust, continued his activities in the City of London, where he will be much missed by a wide circle of friends.

THE CIRCULAR learns that the British West Indies Regiment, since its formation in 1915, has sustained 1,876 casualties. These include: Killed or died of wounds, 178; wounded, 697; and died of sickness, 1,001. Honours and awards won by the regiment number 77, including Distinguished Service Order 3, Military Cross 9, Military Cross and Bar 1, Distinguished Conduct Medal 8, Military Medal 37, Military Medal with Bar 1, Meritorious Service Medal 13, Royal Humane Society's Medal 4, and Medaille d'Honneur 1.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Annual Report of the Executive.

We give below the Report of the Executive of the West India Committee, which will be laid before the Annual General Meeting this afternoon.

The Executive beg to present to members of the West India Committee their Annual Report, the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1918, and the Balance-sheet.

Membership.

During the year 222 new members were elected—a figure approximating the full membership of the West India Committee of twenty years ago—and at the close of the year the total membership stood at 1,788. The members elected during 1918 reside in the following countries:—

Barbados	52	Canada	3
Jamaica	47	Grenada	3
Trinidad	36	St. Vincent	3
Great Britain	36	Guatemala	2
British Honduras	9	Cuba	1
West Africa	7	Dominica	1
Peru	6	Montserrat	1
Bahamas	4	Mauritius	1
Tobago	4	St. Lucia	1
British Guiana	4	France	1

Obituary.

The Committee record with regret the death of Mr. George R. Alston, for many years one of their colleagues, and of the undermentioned members of the West India Committee:—

His Excellency Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G.	Mr. John A. Gordon.
Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.	Mr. S. Hart.
Mr. C. Keith Bancroft.	Mr. R. S. Haughton.
Mr. A. H. Bennett.	Mr. J. P. Heywood.
Dr. W. C. Black.	Hon. S. D. Malone.
Mr. J. H. Boyce.	Mr. F. Kent.
2/Lieut. B. L. Brandon.	Mr. H. B. Leggatt.
Lady Briggs.	Mr. A. Marsden.
Mr. M. J. Camacho.	Hon. E. E. Meggs.
Mr. W. Conacher.	Mr. G. Perch.
Mr. R. G. Duncan.	Mr. A. V. Port.
Lieut. Alex. Fraser.	Mr. L. Rostant.
Mr. J. Gillespie.	Mr. G. A. Sealy.
Mr. S. B. Goodall.	Very Rev. Dean E. Sloman.
	Mr. Alfred S. Williams.

Annual Meeting.

The Report and Accounts for the preceding year were adopted at the Annual Meeting, which was held on May 30th. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive, pursuant to Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, Mr. Robert Rutherford was elected chairman, Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter deputy chairman, and Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. W. Gillespie, and Mr. R. Rutherford, hon. treasurers for the ensuing year.

Financial Position.

Owing entirely to circumstances arising out of the war—notably the increase of wages and cost of production of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR—the Income and Expenditure Account, for the third year in succession, shows a debit balance, the deficit for the year being £307 12s., and the surplus of

assets over liabilities has been consequently reduced to £2,459 11s. 1d. The Hon. Treasurers would be reluctant to suggest an increase of the subscription, but would point out that £1 1s., or \$5.00, is the minimum rate, and would express the hope that many members will voluntarily increase their payments, and thus help to restore the financial equilibrium.

The Contingent Committee.

The Committee continued to place their staff and offices at the disposal of the West Indian Contingent Committee. The extent of the work undertaken by that body is shown by the half-yearly reports and accounts, which were published in the CIRCULAR.

Imperial Preference.

The Committee adhered to the view that the Brussels Convention of 1902, the Additional Act, and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations and Agreements were annulled by the state of war which supervened in 1914. They continued, however, to urge that the Government, if it still felt morally bound by the pledge which it gave to the Signatories to the Convention in 1913 not to give a preference to sugar produced within the British Empire on importation into the United Kingdom without giving six months' notice, should take the necessary steps to resume liberty of action in this connection. They further urged that early steps might be taken towards the establishment of a differential Customs tariff in the United Kingdom in favour of the British Colonies. In July the Secretary of State for the Colonies made the gratifying announcement that His Majesty's Government had approved of the principle of Imperial Preference, and in the following month the Government gave to the Signatories of the Brussels Convention the requisite six months' notice of their intention to resume complete liberty of action in respect of their policy with regard to sugar.

Trade Restrictions.

The disturbance of trade resulting from the war reached its climax during the year, and the Committee were in constant touch with the Colonial Office and the Board of Trade with the view to securing the relaxation of import restrictions where this could be effected without prejudice to the object which the Government had in view—namely, that of economising tonnage. In this they were successful. The Board of Trade consented to grant a general authority to the Governors of the West Indian colonies in cases where a colony was the last port of call of a steamer proceeding to the United Kingdom to allow the shipment in her of cocoa and coffee over and above the quota already provided for. Towards the close of the year additional shipments of cocoa were also sanctioned. For their action in this connection the Committee received the thanks of the agricultural and commercial bodies in the colonies concerned.

Immigration.

During the year immigration into the British West Indies remained at a standstill, and the Committee lost no opportunity of representing to the Government the imperative need of developing a colonisation

scheme for British Guiana, it appearing that the existing population of the colony—amounting to 3·3 souls per square mile—was altogether insufficient to deal adequately even with the existing industries on the coast lands.

Cable Communication.

The Committee continued to emphasise the need of improved and cheaper means of telegraphic communication in and between the various British West Indian colonies, and addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies urging that this might be secured by the extension of the Halifax-Bermuda cables to Barbados or St. Lucia, and the further development of wireless.

Port of London Dues.

The Committee protested against an increase in the port rates by the Port of London Authority, which it appeared had been made with the sanction of the Board of Trade, to cover the cost of an additional war bonus to employees, and received an assurance from the Authority that they would in future notify them if it should become necessary again to vary the rates.

Sulphate of Ammonia.

The Committee was again instrumental in obtaining permission from the Food Production Department for the export of sulphate of ammonia to the British West Indian colonies. Licences were issued for the export of 3,500 tons to British Guiana, and 1,750 tons to the West Indian islands, these quantities being based on pre-war requirements. Among the estates in British Guiana and among the various West Indian islands, the sulphate of ammonia was distributed on the basis of the acreage under canes for which it was required. Later in the year a further allotment of 1,000 tons to British Guiana and 500 tons to the West Indian islands was made. Without this fertiliser the prospects of the West Indian sugar crop would have been very seriously prejudiced.

The Governor of Barbados.

On July 18th Colonel C. R. M. O'Brien, C.M.G., Governor-elect of Barbados, attended a meeting of the Executive and Barbados Proprietors, who took the opportunity of welcoming His Excellency, and of placing before him their views regarding various matters affecting the welfare of the Colony to which he was proceeding.

Department of Overseas Trade.

During the year a Department of Overseas Trade was established with a view to co-ordinating the work of the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade in respect of commercial affairs. Mr. A. J. Pavitt, who was appointed H.M. Trade Commissioner to represent this department in the British West Indies, attended a meeting at the West India Committee Rooms on May 20th and explained the objects of his mission, which the Committee believe cannot fail to be productive of much good.

Jamaica Steamer Service.

The s.s. *Tortuguero* having been torpedoed on her voyage to Jamaica on June 26th, the Committee

immediately represented to the Colonial Office and Ministry of Shipping the necessity of a steamer being released to take her place, and the s.s. *Barranca* was accordingly allocated to the United Kingdom-Jamaica service.

R. RUTHERFORD, *Chairman*.

H. A. FROTTER, *Deputy-Chairman*.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

May 22nd, 1919.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"GREEN bush can't bwile pot."

* * *

THE Chaparra factory in Cuba established a record on April 10th by grinding 7,019 tons of cane and making 188,500 lb. of sugar in twenty-four hours.

* * *

DR. KENRICK S. WISE has been appointed Surgeon-General of Trinidad in succession to Dr. H. L. Clare. He has been acting in this capacity—in British Guiana—since 1914.

* * *

THE Legislature of Jamaica has passed a resolution asking that a Royal Commission may be appointed to inquire into the financial, industrial and social conditions of the island.

* * *

A MISSION has arrived in Santo Domingo from the United States to carry out a geological survey of the island with the view to affording data as to the natural resources of the Dominican Republic.

* * *

GENERAL licence for the importation of the under-mentioned West Indian commodities has been extended till September 1st: Bananas, cassia lignea, raw cocoa, coffee, canned, bottled or preserved fruit, pimento, rum, sugar cane, and tobacco.

* * *

IT may not be generally known that the Island of Grenada once changed hands for "some knives and hatchets, and a large quantity of glass beads besides two bottles of brandy." This was the price paid for it to the Caribs by Du Parquet, Governor of Martinique, in 1650.

* * *

IN an interesting article on the standardisation of molasses, the *Louisiana Planter* refers to the now ridiculed Dutch standard. Says our contemporary: "The advent of sulphur into the sugar industry in the late 'fifties of the last century as a decolorising agent rendered the Dutch standard no longer a true test of merit. This became very conspicuous in the 'seventies when, under our American tariff, white sugars were practically excluded from our imports by virtue of the high duties, and very brown sugars came in at 1½ cents per lb., and when John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, took the matter up in earnest and endeavoured to give a definition to the colour by the polariscopic test, he found that out in British Guiana prizes were offered for the best black or dark sugar for the American market, and such sugars as would polarise far above 90 per cent. and yet came in at the lowest or nearly the lowest rates of duty. These data show the difficulty in any such colour classification as was suggested, even so far as sugars were concerned, and an increasing difficulty when we come to the matter of syrups, the residual product of either the sugar factory or of the sugar refinery."

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

Half-yearly Report.

We give below the report of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee which was adopted at a meeting held at the Colonial Office on May 21st.

The Committee, in submitting to the subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund its half-yearly report, the audited accounts for the six months ended December 31st, 1918, and the balance-sheet, desires at the outset to record with deep regret the death of one of its members—Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., which occurred on February 26th last.

The report and accounts for the preceding half-year were adopted at a meeting held at Scotland House on December 18th, Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D., presiding in the absence of the Chairman, who had met with a slight accident.

The half-year was marked by the cessation of hostilities, and, after the signing of the armistice on November 11th, the work of the Committee entered upon a new phase. The question of demobilisation and repatriation came to the forefront, and by correspondence and personal interview the staff was kept more than usually busy answering the many inquiries which they received regarding these problems.

It being realised that the activities of the Committee would necessarily have to be continued for many months to come, and that the expenses would be extremely heavy during the period of demobilisation, a further appeal for funds was issued. This brought in to the close of the year the sum of £1,433 9s. 4d. It is noteworthy that, while organisations established in London for providing for the welfare of the troops from the Dominions and Bermuda have received financial support from the Governments concerned, the West Indian Contingent Committee has been maintained solely by the voluntary subscriptions of individuals and firms. The Committee desires to express its thanks to the subscribers for their generous support.

During the half-year under review, the battalions of the British West Indies Regiment which were serving the guns on the Western Front—a hazardous task for which they had volunteered in Egypt—were constantly under fire, sustaining many casualties and earning the appreciation and thanks of the Commander-in-Chief. In Palestine the 1st and 2nd Battalions greatly distinguished themselves in the operations in the Jordan Valley and in the advance to Amman, which led to the surrender of the Turkish Army, participating in a brilliant bayonet charge which won for them the admiration of the European and Dominion troops and the commendation of the General Officer commanding.

Immediately prior to the cessation of hostilities the various battalions of the regiment were stationed in the undermentioned countries:—

1st Battalion	Lt.-Col. C. Wood Hill, D.S.O.	Egypt.
2nd "	Lt.-Col. J. Poe.	"
3rd "	Col. A. E. Burchard.	France.
4th "	Lt.-Col. G. V. Hart.	"
5th "	Lt.-Col. A. W. M. Wilson.	Egypt.
6th "	Lt.-Col. E. C. Ogle.	France.
7th "	Lt.-Col. C. D. Arnold.	"
8th "	Major Maxwell J. Smith.	Italy.
9th "	Lt.-Col. B. E. Negus.	France.
10th "	Lt.-Col. C. W. Long.	Italy.
11th "	Lt.-Col. C. M. Ogilvie.	"
Honduras Contingents,	Capt. Jeffery.	Mesopotamia.

The exclusion of non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment from the arrangements for the increase of pay granted to other units of the Imperial Army under Army Order 1 of 1918 gave rise to considerable dissatisfaction, and the fear that the grant of gratuities might also not be extended to the Regiment led the Committee to address a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies urging that

representations might be made to the Army Council on the subject. This letter was signed by seven late Governors, and by others intimately acquainted with the West Indian affairs. As the result the Army Council, after the close of the year, decided that warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment should be granted the full privileges under the Order with effect as from September 29th, 1917, and also war gratuity at the rates and under the conditions laid down in Army Order 17 of 1919. The Committee ventures to think that if it had only succeeded in securing this concession it would have fully justified its existence.

Representations having been made that the personnel of the Regimental Record Office of the British West Indies Regiment in London found it difficult to subsist on the pay granted to it, the Committee for some months gave the men an extra weekly allowance.

It appearing that the privilege of wearing the B.V.L.A. (British Volunteer from Latin America) badge issued by the War Office to those who came from Central and South America to enlist was not being extended to men from Panama in the British West Indies Regiment on the ground that they had enlisted in Jamaica and not in the United Kingdom, the Committee made representations on the subject to the Army Council, who consented to officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers from non-British Central and South America in the British West Indies Regiment receiving this distinctive badge.

The proposal that parties of non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment might visit England, to which reference was made in last report, was adopted. In November and December two such parties arrived in London, and were lodged in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, where they were the guests of the King. During their stay in this country the men were entertained by the Committee, which provided them with tickets for theatres, &c., and arranged for visits to Windsor Castle, where they were graciously received by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The leave parties provided a guard of honour to H.H. Princess Marie Louise on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Ladies' Committee on December 4th, and, at the request of the Committee, they were allowed to participate in the Lord Mayor's Show on November 9th, when their soldierly bearing was, as in 1915, the subject of much appreciative comment. The Committee also provided board and lodging for all non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment visiting London from time to time who applied for it. Thanks are due to Captain D. Hiam, of the Church Army, who acted as guide to the leave parties.

Following the precedent of the last two years, the Committee at Christmas presented a small souvenir in the form of a pocket wallet bearing the regimental badge to every officer, non-commissioned officer and man of the British West Indies Regiment. It also sent a pocket diary with a suitable inscription to every officer, N.C.O. and man who came independently from the West Indies to enlist whose address was known.

The Committee continued to repatriate men discharged from the Army on account of sickness or wounds, drawing from the War Office the amount which that department would otherwise have paid for the passages. This arrangement, which worked admirably in every respect and effected much saving of time and expense, was, however, terminated by the Army Council when demobilisation began. At the close of the year it became apparent that as far as officers and men from the West Indies were concerned the repatriation arrangements were far from satisfactory, and at the date of this report comparatively few of the men who came over independently have been repatriated, though many have been waiting several months for passages.

The record of the Trinidad Merchants' and Planters'

Contingent, and the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, which are under the care of the Committee at the date of this report, was as follows:—

	T'dal.	B'dos.		T'dal.	B'dos.
Officers	71	24	Killed in action ...	8	10
Cadets	14	—	Lost at sea	—	1
N.C.O.'s	11	5	Died of wounds ...	2	1
Privates	164	50	Died of sickness ...	5	2
Too late for enlistment or rejected	12	1	Wounded and gassed	39	22
			Prisoners of war ...	4	3
			Honours	11	5
Total	272	90			

At the request of the Army Council the Committee provided several men granted furlough with passages to the West Indies. It has with regret to record that two of these men—Sergeant A. H. Robinson and Corporal D. M. Speid—lost their lives when the s.s. *Tortugero* was torpedoed on her voyage to Jamaica on June 26th.

Consignments of West Indian commodities, chiefly guava jelly and hot sauce, were received from Mrs. Graham Yearwood (Barbados), Mrs. Clarence Bourne (Jamaica), the Ladies' West India Committee (Trinidad), and Mrs. Brodie (Grenada), and were forwarded to various hospitals and battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, by which they were much appreciated.

To show the great variety and number of articles purchased and distributed or forwarded in accordance with the wishes of the donors, the following list is given:—

Artificial eyes	Clothing	Hats
" legs	Diaries	Holdalls
Badges	Electric torches	Lantern slides
Boxing gloves	Eye glasses	Municipal instruments
Books	Fountain pens	Razors
Boots and shoes	Games	Soap
Cigarette lighters	Gloves	Writing pads
Cigarettes	Handkerchiefs	Wallets

The ladies' work parties were continued with success at the residence of Lady Davson, and many useful comforts were made at them and also by individual effort.

During the half-year a branch was established at Liverpool, with Mrs. Evelyn Parker as Chairman and Mr. W. Speed as Hon. Secretary, which is doing valuable work in visiting and providing for the comfort of West Indians in hospital in that city, and the circle of honorary correspondents was extended by the appointment of Mrs. Hazell to represent the Committee in St. Vincent.

In conclusion the Committee again desires to thank the West India Committee for placing the offices at 15, Seething-lane at its disposal. It also records its appreciation of the services of the members of the staff, and especially Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E., whose personal attention to officers and men when in hospital has been beyond praise, and Mr. G. P. Osmond, who has rendered valuable help, not only in keeping the accounts, but also in connection with the despatch of gifts and with repatriation.

EVERARD IM THURN, Chairman.
FREDERIC HODGSON, Deputy-Chairman.
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Hon. Secretary.

April 25th, 1919.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held in the Conference Room at the Colonial Office at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21st. Sir Everard Im Thurn presided, and those present included Sir George Le Hunte, Sir Sydney Oliver, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Sir Francis Fleming, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. T. H. Allen, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman, moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that it was probable that this would be their penultimate meeting, as demobilisation was now proceeding satisfactorily, about 8,000 men of

the British West Indies Regiment having already been repatriated. The demobilisation of those who came over independently had not progressed so well, but the arrangements were now working more smoothly, and within a few weeks the Repatriation Camp would be cleared of West Indians. In this connection he referred to the good work of Miss Moseley, who at the request of the Hon. Secretary had recently been acting in a liaison capacity at Winchester. He also spoke highly of the assistance afforded by Mr. Osmond, as mentioned in the report. He would not attempt to deal with all that the Committee had done, but he must mention the success which had attended their efforts to secure fair treatment for the British West Indies Regiment in the matter of pay and gratuities. For some reason or other the West Indians had been denied the increase of pay under Army Order 1 of 1918. The Committee made strong representations on the subject, which were supported by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the result that the decision was reconsidered and the men were granted the full increase of pay and gratuities. If the Regiment had not been treated fairly in this matter there would have been grave discontent in the West Indies.

Sir Frederic Hodgson, seconding the motion, said that the report showed how very necessary the establishment of the Committee had been. Not only had it been able to look after the comfort of the men, but also to take up large questions of policy and carry them through.

Mr. H. F. Previt , Hon. Treasurer, having touched briefly on the published accounts, said that, thanks to the generosity of their friends, the position of the Contingent Fund was still satisfactory. Incidentally he mentioned that the Committee had been doing quite a banking business, having received in trust for men serving or who had lately served upwards of £900.

Supporting the motion, Sir Francis Fleming referred to the pleasure which it had given him to sign the letter on the subject of pay mentioned by the Chairman. He was glad indeed that the British West Indies Regiment had been fairly treated. Continuing, he said that his nephew, General Bulfin, writing from Egypt and Palestine, had on several occasions expressed to him his great satisfaction at the manner in which the Regiment had performed its work.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts having been put to the meeting and carried, the proceedings terminated.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on May 15th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Mr. Randolph L. Nicol ...	Mr. E. C. Skinner.
(New York)	Mr. G. MacGregor Frame.
Mr. George A. Robertson ...	Mr. H. Hayward.
(St. Vincent)	Mr. Lewis Punnett.
Mrs. Mary Aldric Perez ...	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E.
(Trinidad)	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Henry Sinclair Mason	Mr. G. Elliot Sealy.
(Barbados)	Dr. N. L. Boxill.
Mrs. Agnes Senhouse Sealy	Mr. G. Elliot Sealy.
(Country)	Dr. N. L. Boxill.
Mr. John Wilson	Mr. John W. Stephens.
(Trinidad)	Mr. G. MacGregor Frame.
Mr. Wm. James Canty	Mr. A. R. Bell.
(Cameroons)	Mr. W. K. A. J. C. Hunter.
Mr. C. B. Wesleygammon	Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
(Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. John Grigor Cameron...	Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
(Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. Luis Adolfo Gomez	Mr. W. E. Mandeville.
(Gold Coast)	Mr. E. Bernard Bonyun.

NATURE NOTES.

The camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) is a native of Eastern Asia from Cochin China to Shanghai, and in the islands from Hainan to South Japan, but chiefly in Formosa. Its limits are from 10 deg. to 34 deg. N., but it is cultivated in Japan to 36 deg. N. In the southern parts of its range it occurs chiefly in the hills. It has been cultivated with success in India, Ceylon, Australia, the West Indies, Florida, and California. In Jamaica a small effort has been made to plant it on a commercial scale with excellent results. A plantation of camphor trees was made many years ago by Colonel E. D. Malcolm, C.B., on his estate Knockalva. While the camphor trees were still quite young, solid camphor of very exceptional purity was obtained from them by his son, Mr. Maurice Malcolm. A letter from an expert in testimony of the very excellent quality of the Jamaican product is published in the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for last March.

* * *

The *Agricultural News* points out that there is a marked decrease in the productiveness of the camphor forests in Formosa, and that little has been done in the way of new plantations to replace the wild trees that have been cut down. Besides the natural shortage the Japanese are gradually ceasing to export the crude material, preferring to refine it themselves. It is suggested that there might be a hopeful outlook commercially for planters in some tropical countries in the acclimatisation of the camphor tree. Camphor is used medicinally, but chiefly of late years in the manufacture of celluloid and smokeless powder. Camphor oil is employed in the manufacture of soaps, &c.

* * *

"It is a sound doctrine of political economy that the ideal condition of a given industry is that the country where the raw materials are provided should in the main, and in the absence of antagonistic influences, be also the country in which the finished article is manufactured from the locally produced raw material. From an imperialistic point of view, if this prejudices English oil mills, we have the comfort of knowing that it enlarges imperial interests." These wise words are by Mr. J. C. Umney, a manufacturer of essential oils in Great Britain. They are quoted in *Agricultural Bulletin of the Federated Malay States*, and are taken as the text for an article on the advisability of manufacturing coconut oil where the coconut grows instead of exporting copra.

* * *

There are two main objections to the common practice of exporting either the coconuts themselves or the copra prepared from them. The first objection is that the coconuts and copra are both of a bulky nature, while the charges for freight are likely to be high for some time to come. The second objection is that a large quantity of valuable fertilising or feeding material is being sent out of the country in the export of nuts or copra. These facts are being realised in coconut-growing countries, and schemes are afloat for erecting oil mills in India, Philippines and elsewhere, for the manufacture of oil from the coconut, and also from castor-oil seeds, ground nuts, &c. The by-product from the manufacture of the oil—namely, coconut cake—is of great value for fertilising purposes, but it is of still greater value if fed to cattle and the manure used on the land. Coconut oil has been made in the West Indies for very many years, not only by estate owners, but also by the peasants. The industry has, however, only affected a very small proportion of the nuts grown, and there is room for many co-operative, up-to-date oil mills throughout the islands.

WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS.

Mr. E. H. S. Flood, Canadian Trade Commissioner in the West Indies, has furnished his Government with the following figures giving the sugar exports from the British West Indies for 1918 with the estimated output for the current year:—

	Exports, 1918.	Estimate, 1919.
Barbados ..	60,821	75,000
St. Kitts ..	9,102	10,000
St. Vincent ..	250	250
Trinidad ...	34,109	50,000
Antigua ...	11,816	13,106
Jamaica ...	34,188	38,000
British Guiana ...	100,000	100,000
St. Lucia ...	3,139	4,867
Total tons ...	253,425	291,223

SUGAR AND MOLASSES SHIPPED DURING 1918.

Countries—	Sugar.			
	Dark Crystals.	Yellow Crystals.	White Crystals.	Muscovado.
Great Britain...	2,397	—	—	8,465
British West Indies ...	496	30	121	567
Bermuda ...	386	20	11	383
Canada ...	17,076	—	—	1,076
French West Indies...	3	—	—	—
Dutch West Indies ...	1	—	—	—
Italy ...	60	—	—	—
Newfoundland ...	402	180	158	602
United States ...	—	—	—	—
Virgin Islands, U.S.A.	657	10	—	97
Total tons ...	21,478	240	290	11,190

Countries—	Molasses.		
	Fancy.	Choice.	Vacuum Pan.
Great Britain ...	911,657	356,190	284,417
Bermuda ...	4,447	2,163	—
British West Indies ...	2,122	—	1,944
Canada ...	5,658,097	67,894	55
Newfoundland ...	496,691	857,921	—
United States ...	2,040,600	—	211
British Guiana ...	—	—	100
Total gallons ...	9,113,614	1,283,268	286,727

Dealing with the molasses situation, Mr. Flood writes:—"As is well known to the trade in Canada, Barbados has been shipping three grades of molasses: Choice, fancy and extra-fancy. Last year one of the estates manufactured for the first time a superior molasses by a process similar to that by which vacuum pan had been formerly made, but was in fact of higher grade. In 1912 an Act was passed in the Legislature of Barbados 'to prohibit the admixture of vacuum pan molasses with fancy or muscovado,' considered at the time to be in the interests of the molasses industry. With the advent of this better quality of vacuum pan it was found necessary to repeal the Act of 1912 and pass another safeguarding the industry in the same manner from injurious mixing, but providing that it shall be lawful for any person 'to sell or export under the brand of grocery molasses any vacuum pan molasses having an apparent quotient of purity of not less than 55 per cent. unmixed with any other molasses or other substance except clarifying agents.'

"The manufacturers of this molasses claim that it is purer and better than choice, being obtained from high-grade grocery sugars, whites and straws, by a process similar to that followed in obtaining choice molasses from muscovado. A clarifying process then follows which eliminates a good deal of extraneous matter, the resultant being a pure, clean food of good colour and

taste, and an additional claim is made for it that it is not subject to souring to the same extent as choice. The Government chemist publishes the following analysis of the above molasses from a sample submitted by one of the shippers:

Water	...	...	...	...	24.47
Sucrose	...	...	...	...	49.86
Glucose	...	...	...	...	14.81
Ash	...	...	...	...	1.68
Organic matter	...	...	...	...	9.18
					100.00
Beaume	...	...	...	...	42.5
Specific gravity	...	...	...	...	1.407
Polarisation	...	...	...	...	46.4
Apparent quotient of purity	...	...	...	...	59.0

The Act defines the various qualities of Barbados molasses as follows:—

(a) "Fancy" or "extra-fancy" molasses shall mean cane juice evaporated to the consistency of syrup by a process in which the final evaporation of the cane juice is effected in an open vessel.

(b) "Choice molasses" shall mean molasses separated from sugar made by a process in which the final evaporation of the cane juice is effected in an open vessel.

(c) "Vacuum pan molasses" shall mean molasses separated from sugars made by a process in which the final evaporation of the cane juice is effected in a vacuum pan.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The Peace Treaty.

It is unlikely that the Peace Treaty will be signed on the stipulated date. As was expected, the Germans have taken full advantage of the Allies' concession permitting written communications on the terms—when they are not undignified complaints that, having called the tune, they must pay the piper. They take up the contradictory attitude that the present German Government is not responsible for the actions of the imperial régime, and that the German people believed they were waging a war of defence, though, as M. Clemenceau has no difficulty in showing, both contentions are opposed to official German declarations last November. Counter-proposals of a financial and economic nature are to be made, and are being discussed at Weimar with Herr Dernburg as intermediary between the Paris delegation and the German Government. They are to be in Allied hands on the date when the Treaty should be signed. The revolting cynicism of the German people is revealed in their alternations of wild fury, especially against England, and their self-pity at the Peace Terms—moderate by comparison with those they would have imposed upon the Entente Powers had Germany won. But whether she signs or not matters little, since only force will make her honour her pledges. To meet possible contingencies Allied military precautions are being taken on the Rhine, and General Pershing, who was to have been the central figure in a march through London of American troops, is remaining in France.

Austria Next.

The Austrian delegation has arrived in Paris, and met with a warmer reception than that accorded to the Germans. It is undistinguished. Nevertheless,

as the Austrians are a polite people, the head of it, Dr. Renner, is not likely to be guilty of such *gaucherie* as that which disgusted the Allied statesmen in Count Brockdorff-Rantzau. The terms of peace are not yet decided, but they are sure to include the limitation of Austria's Army as to numbers, dismantlement of her arsenals, and the transfer of her warships and shipping to the Allies. The only difficulty encountered hinges on the Zollverein proposal, which is alarming Italy and the Jugo-Slavs. The idea is to form a Customs Union, the members of which shall include the states which were once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire—what is left of it—Poland, and Rumania. With the precedent of the German Confederation, whose modern nucleus was the Zollverein, the Allies are inclined to look askance at the scheme. Moreover, it may be but the Mittel-Europa conception in another form, and be secretly supported by Germany. On the other hand, Austria, whose capacity for rejuvenation is miraculous, may see in the scheme opportunity for supplanting Germany as the leading Power in Central Europe, and so scoring off Prussia, which, by means of the German Zollverein, ousted Austria from the hegemony of the Germanic states. It is expected that the Austrian Peace Treaty will be signed early in June.

The Partition of Turkey.

Turkey is paying a terrible price for her incapacity to govern. But before the world is much older it may wish her back again for qualities in her rule which will be conspicuous by their absence in her heirs. Some glimmering of the truth of this may have induced the Four to change their mind on the future of Constantinople, which was to have been constituted a free port, with Britain, France and the United States as mandatories. On strong representations from India, whose large Mohammedan population is deeply concerned at the rapidly narrowing territorial limits of the Caliphate, Constantinople is to remain the capital of the Sultan's dominions—all that are left of them. This will be expedient as well as just, for not only will interminable friction be avoided, but Constantinople and the territory within Turkey's European frontier being predominantly Turkish should remain under the Crescent under the principle of self-determination. In Asia Minor, Northern Anatolia is alone to remain Turkish, with France as suzerain, than which a better selection could not have been made. To her, too, falls Syria, including the port of Adana. As for Alexandria, the plan will probably be to make it the Mediterranean port of Armenia and of the new Arabian State which was represented at the Conference by the Emir Feisul. In that case a special arrangement towards that end could easily be made with France. The boundaries of Armenia have not yet been fixed, but it is still believed that the United States will be named as the mandatory State, though the assent of the American Senate to such a proposal is doubtful. Greece gets Smyrna and the surrounding territory. Naturally Palestine and Mesopotamia fall to England. She has not only well-earned them, but they are strategically necessary to the safety of India.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DOMINICA'S "IMPERIAL" ROAD.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR,
Riversdale, Dominica.

SIR,—In your issue of 26th December a summary is published of the conclusions arrived at by the Commission appointed to report on the condition of the roads in this island. As some prominence is given to the fact that I am a dissentient member as regards certain recommendations, I think it well to state more explicitly why I dissociate myself from the views of my colleagues in respect of their attitude towards the completion of the improvements on the Imperial road.

Although the report has been carefully edited with a view to supporting the comfortable theory that no promise was ever given to the new settlers of a road fitted for continuous wheeled traffic (see p. 72), no one acquainted with the inner history of the venture will be misled.

In spite of all that has been said and written on the subject of the "promise," there is no getting away from the fundamental fact that I have before me a typed document attached to a letter from Sir H. Hesketh Bell, dated 2nd October, 1900, which purports to be the answers to a series of questions asked by intending planters. Question No. 14 reads: "Are there good roads, and are any fit for cycling? Very large works are being undertaken on the roads, and bridle-paths are being turned into cart-roads. There is a good road round the island, with branch tracks leading up the valleys. The sum of £15,000 is now being expended in making a central trunk road, which is intended to open up the very fertile lands that lie behind the seaboard.

"The island is rather too mountainous for easy cycling, but, owing to the improvement in the roads now being carried on, several bicycles have recently been imported."

Now, if this does not mean that £15,000 was to be expended on the Imperial road alone, and that any thoroughfare of this importance was not being turned into a cart-road, then I fail to understand the English language.

This was the understanding on which I purchased some hundreds of acres on the Imperial road, confirmed and amplified by numerous subsequent conversations. This promise of early facilities of transport induced a number of other young men to take up land, trusting that their properties would be placed as regards shipping on something like an equality with those on the coast.

As the published accounts show, little more than half the sum mentioned above was actually spent on the Imperial road proper. The original grant of the Colonial Office was expended long before the road was completed, and those victims who were persuaded to purchase land on the official representations of the Government were left to get out of their difficulties as best they could. The first thing they learned was that the completion of the road was dependent on the goodwill of the local Government, which forthwith disclaimed any responsibility for the scheme, and refused to vote the necessary funds to bring it to maturity. Remonstrance by the planters to the local Government was met by reference to the Colonial Office and *vice versa*, and nothing was done to ameliorate their position. As a consequence of the difficulties of communication, the position of the new planters became most jeopardous. The cost of living and transport of estate stores and produce was prohibitive, and everybody found his budget affected to the point of bankruptcy.

Added to this the cultivation of cocoa and Castilleja rubber, which was strongly recommended by the local pundits, proved anything but a success, and only those who had further financial resources and a second string

to their bow in the shape of lime cultivation were able to keep their heads above water. Some who had married and attempted to rear a family on the strength of the rosy prospects officially circulated found the conditions of living too precarious for health and safety, and were compelled to abandon the enterprise in an active sense.

However, there was one thing left out of the reckoning. Some of the settlers had friends at home who had very different ideas of what is meant by "fair play." Financial aid of a private nature was forthcoming, and it was made possible to substitute lime cultivation for cocoa, with the result that a large area is now bringing forth abundant crops with only most primitive means of getting them to the coast.

As is well known to the Colonial Office, representations have frequently been made, calling attention to the utterly inadequate means of transport from the interior, but, until the advent of Major Burdon, no attempt was made to grapple with the problem.

For the first time on record a man was found with an enlightened view and grip of the whole situation, capable of drawing up a comprehensive road scheme, and with sufficient breadth of horizon not to fall into the common error of trying to please everybody. The island does not want money so much as men—capable men.

As regards the Imperial road, it will only justify its existence when motors can run at any time and at any season from Roseau to the Laurient River, and packages of lime-juice and other products can be conveyed to the coast without breaking bulk *en route*.

Pack animals are not adapted to the climate and heavy rainfall, as they gall in spite of every precaution, and, while a certain amount of carting is done from the remote portion of the road, it is not economically possible to use draught animals on a large scale, while it remains in its present condition. The really pathetic thing is that for long stretches the Imperial road is by no means bad, and could scarcely be improved.

As a whole its usefulness is largely impaired by the bad stretches—namely, hair-pin turns at a steep gradient, whereby the traction and the load are often going in opposite directions respectively, lack of metal, and absence of culverts to carry off storm water.

What is by far the most important defect is its extreme narrowness; consequently overturning is a common incident of the journey down, with results to the commodity carried which can easily be imagined. Why do we not take a leaf out of the book of the wise men of the East? When they have made up their minds to open up a new district they construct a first-class road at the start, knowing full well that the traffic and prosperity will be created by its existence. In the West Indies we find it more convenient to promise the road until the planters have laid out all their money in the island, and then forget all about it.

By the issue of this report the Dilly-Dallys of Dominica will rank with the tailors of Tooley-street and the wise men of Gotham, and will go down to posterity as the sages who improved a carting road into a bridle-path.

I am, &c., G. W. PENRICE.

Egyptian cotton has hitherto held a place of its own in the cotton markets of the world, the *Agricultural News* points out. Because of its peculiar value for certain spinning purposes, a very large quantity of Egyptian cotton has been annually imported into the United States no less than 339,854 bales of 500 lb. each in the year 1915-16. In recent years, however, after many experiments in plant selection and methods of cultivation, it has been found that by the application of scientific principles a grade of cotton quite equal to Egyptian—or, indeed, superior except with respect to the very finest Egyptian—can be produced in Arizona and California.

DEMobilISATION.

The s.s. *Canopic* left Taranto on May 22nd with about 1,500 men of the British West Indies Regiment for Barbados and Trinidad, and she will be followed by the s.s. *Ortega*, which is scheduled to sail to-day from Havre for the same ports with 1,724 men of the same regiment besides a number of those who came over independently. The *Voronej* is expected to sail from Havre for Jamaica early in June.

The following officers sailed for Jamaica in the *Trent* on May 15th:—

- Lieut.-Col. G. V. Hart. Major A. J. Gamblen.
- Captains V. C. Aitkin, R. C. de Pass, A. F. Donald, H. MacLachlan, H. E. Reid, A. M. Sherlock, and C. D. Thompson.
- Lieutenants W. R. Bayley, J. E. B. Braham, E. H. Draper, H. R. Facey, F. H. Farquharson, A. V. Fisher, A. de S. Jacobs, H. Kohler, R. M. Murray, and H. K. Sams-Elson.
- 2nd-Lieut. R. B. Parkinson and Surgeon-Captain F. A. Norton.

The officers who sailed in the *Ajax* on May 10th were:—

- Lieut.-Col. M. H. Smith.
- Captains E. Evans, R. Holan, S. Kirton, C. Massey, R. MacMinn, J. McLelland, W. Morton, and J. Niblock.
- Lieutenants Darwent, H. W. Ince, B. Skeete, and C. Smith.
- 2nd-Lieutenants H. Bannister, L. Chase, D. Clarke, E. Eldridge, A. McDonald, T. Morris, and L. Yearwood, and Surgeon-Captain C. G. Deane.

A further list of officers and men from the British West Indies awaiting repatriation, whose passages (as far as can be ascertained) have been approved, is given below:—

BARBADOS.

Cheeseman, B. G. King, W. S. Leslie, H. H.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Darrell, A. J.

TRINIDAD.

Balfour, C. H. O'Connor, Brian Scheult, Robert
Lassalle, A. Scheult, Andie

The undermentioned have recently been repatriated:—

BARBADOS.

Per *Crown of Granada*, May 21.
Pile, Lieut. Douglas and Mrs.

Per *Carmania* and *Chaleur* via Halifax, N.S., May 23rd.

Armstrong, F.	Clark, H. W.	Leach, C. C.
Atwell, E.	Edwards, J.	Reid, F. L.
Atwell, S.	Honeychurch, C. R.	Williams, H.
Braham, F.	Honeychurch, P. G.	Williams, P. E.
Branch, L. H.	Hutchinson, L. E.	Wood, C.

JAMAICA.

Clodd, Lt. A. E., per *Coronado*, May 1st.
Cowper, P. C., via Halifax, N.S., May 23.
Mossman, G.

ST. LUCIA.

Per *Carmania* and *Chaleur* via Halifax, N.S., May 23rd.
De Brettes, C. Iestrade, G. Levy, V.

TOBAGO.

Reid, Lieut. Kenneth.

TRINIDAD.

Per *Crown of Granada*, May 24.
Eckel, 2nd Lieut. H. A.

Per *Carmania* and *Chaleur* via Halifax, N.S., May 23rd.

Agostini, B.	De Verteuil, G.	Lawrie, R. C.
Anderson, F.	Dunsire, D. D.	Link, R. J.
Bernard, L.	Ferreira, E. L.	Littlepage, A.
Braham, W. F.	Gonzalez, A.	O'Connor, R.
Campbell, J. A.	Gruntham, V.	Pouchette, F.
Carabache, H.	Halliday, J.	Robinson, G.
Collins, V. N.	Hamel Smith, E. S.	Simmons, G.
Cozier, H. D.	Harris, F. C.	Siung, H.
Cumming, P. J.	Hatt, E. L.	Stenc, P. J.
Degannes, E.	Hernandez, J. A.	Vire, G.
De Sousa, G.	Johnstone, R.	Wilcox, W. R.

MAJOR GEORGE BATSON, who for twelve months has been second in command in the South Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army, has been appointed by General Booth to proceed to the West Indies as General Secretary of the territory.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
May 29th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

Cubes, Lumps, &c.	s. d.
W.I. Crystallised	64 9
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups	57 9
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing	55 6
	50 0

Prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

Privately imported sugars continue to pass into manufacturers' hands, and command a premium over official maximum prices. West India crystallised has sold at 62s. 6d. to 65s., Muscovado at 56s. to 60s., and good syrups at 58s., duty paid.

New York quotations: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5-88c. c. and f. to New York; Porto Ricos, St. Croix, Hawaiians, Philippines, 7-28 c.i.f. New York; non-privileged c.i.f. 5.64c.

Himely reports that Cuba is producing 170,000,000 gallons of molasses this crop, which is being paid for at the rate of 2c. to 1c. per gallon at the mill, as against 4½c. to 5c. last year. The sugar crop is progressing satisfactorily.

The West India sugar statistics in London on May 17th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Imports	11,698	6,735	19,435	Tons.
Deliveries	10,270	15,777	19,382	"
Stock	7,620	1,945	8,068	"

RUM. In spite of the increase in the duty, the market remains firm. Jamaica has advanced about 1s. on the month, and a good business has been done on that basis.

The stocks in London on May 17th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Jamaica	3,613	5,260	8,856	Puns
Demerara	12,332	3,608	8,838	"
Total of all kinds	20,428	14,235	31,405	"

COCOA. The market remains very firm. At auction on the 20th there was good competition for 11,633 bags, most of which sold at advanced rates. Trinidad fetched 119s. 6d. to 121s., Grenada at 118s. to 120s. 6d., St. Lucia 101s. 6d. to 119s., Jamaica 121s. 6d., Accra 80s. to 88s., and Guayaquil 60s. to 110s.

The stocks in London on May 17th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Trinidad	16,015	13,341	27,733	Bags.
Grenada	7,743	25,187	22,891	"
Total of all kinds	111,142	177,980	273,163	"

COFFEE has been a good market. Good ordinary Jamaica 120s., Blue Mountain 130s. to 147s.

GINGER meets with little demand, but small sales have been made at 80s. to 92s. 6d. for fair wormy and 100s. to 117s. for fair to bold bright. London stock, 8,639 pkgs. against 2,765 in 1918.

HONEY.—Values rose about 5s. at the auctions. Jamaica, 75s. to 90s. for dark liquid, 90s. for pale set. Australian honey has been selling very cheaply.

NUTMEGS. Prices rather lower. Good, 61's 1s. 6d.; 67's 1s. 2d.; 96's 1s.; 126's 10d.

MACE. Little change. Fine palish 1s. 9d.; reddish 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.

PIMENTO rather firmer; 5½d. asked.

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The Colonisation for British Guiana.

THE colonisation movement in British Guiana, of which mention was made in the CIRCULAR of April 17th, has now taken more definite form, and the general report of the Colonisation Committee embodying the findings of several sub-committees on various details of the proposals under consideration has been presented to and accepted by the Governor and Combined Court. Further, a deputation of influential and representative gentlemen connected with the colony has been nominated to proceed to London to lay before the Imperial Government the claims of the colony to development and colonisation, its *personnel* comprising the Hons. E. G. WOOLFORD (Mayor of Georgetown), A. B. BROWN, R. E. BRASSINGTON, P. N. BROWNE, K.C., FRANCIS DIAS, and A. P. SUERLOCK; Dr. W. H. WHARTON, Mr. J. A. LUCKHOOD, Mr. PARBHU SAWH, Mr. ABDOL RAYMAN, the Rev. ERIC ROBERTSON, Mr. J. McFARLANE CORRY, Mr. D. J. EWING CHOW, and Dr. J. J. NUNAN, K.C., the Attorney-General of the colony. The prime need of the colony is population, as will be readily understood when it is stated that with an area of 90,000 square miles—or, roughly speaking, that of Great Britain—it has only 300,000 inhabitants, or little over three persons to the square mile, as compared with the redundant population of some 2,000 per square mile in the neighbouring island of Barbados. Seeing that white labour is generally unsuited for open-air work in the climate prevailing in British Guiana, the recruiting for colonisation purposes must necessarily be confined to tropical countries such as

the West Indian Islands, the East Indies, Java, China, the Pacific Islands and Africa, where the native population is in excess of local requirements. The need, then, for emigration of families on a large scale will be emphasised on the platform and in the Press by the deputation which, it will be noted, will be of a thoroughly representative character, embracing all sections of the resident community, the scheme having received the cordial approval of the general body of the colonists with but very few exceptions. The West India Committee, in response to invitation, will no doubt be prepared to afford such assistance to the delegation as may be possible and acceptable after their arrival in London.

In connection with this subject, an interesting report by Mr. GEORGE D. BAYLEY, Commissioner of Lands and Mines, has recently been issued as a sessional paper to the Combined Court of British Guiana, giving a historical review of immigration from Barbados and other West Indian islands during the sixty years extending from 1839 to 1899, which may generally be stated to have been, from various causes, both inadequate and unsatisfactory, so that it seems necessary to seek relief farther afield, especially in view of the large number of persons it is desired to attract to the "Magnificent Province," as British Guiana has been aptly termed, although as yet its great natural resources have been left practically undeveloped, through want of the necessary capital and population. In regard to the opening up to the interior of the colony, it will be remembered that a few years ago, shortly before the outbreak of war, proposals for the construction of a hinterland railway engaged public attention in the colony, under the lead of the former Governor, Sir WALTER ECERTON, following on a flying survey and report made by Mr. M. G. BLAND, a railway expert specially engaged for the purpose. Unfortunately the war stopped all further consideration of the scheme for the time being; but in the meantime a cattle track has been cut across the interior, leading from the cattle ranches on the Rupununi savannahs to a shipping station on the Berbice River, where it would be possible to load live cattle for exportation. This work was successfully carried out by Mr. H. P. C. MELVILLE at the expense of the Colonial Government; and Mr. C. CLEMENTI, Colonial Secretary, and now Acting-Governor of the colony during the absence on leave of Sir WILFRED COLLET, has recently traversed the trail from end to end, a distance of 322 miles, crossing the upper reaches of the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers. Mr. CLEMENTI, we are glad to learn, has expressed himself as favourably impressed with the possibilities of the trail as a cattle drive, which will afford facilities for grazing

the cattle by the way as they travel along the track, according to the practice followed for years past in the adjacent states of Venezuela. MR. CLEMENTI is of opinion that this cattle trail might eventually be converted into a capital motor road, there being no serious engineering difficulties in the way; but be this as it may, it appears to us that this road scheme can but be considered merely as a makeshift arrangement until such time as the construction of the hinterland railway becomes possible. Georgetown, geographically, is the proper shipping port for the trade of the interior of Guiana, whether it be cattle from the Rupununi savannahs, or mineral, forestry and agricultural products from the interior of the colony; and the development of its vast resources only awaits the construction of the hinterland railway, the improvement of the Port of Georgetown on the lines already indicated in a series of articles which appeared in the CIRCULAR some time ago, and the establishment there of an ample cold-storage meat depot, all of which call for capital, labour and population.

Beet Sugar in the United Kingdom.

THE considerable protection, amounting to £4 per ton, provided for sugar made within the Empire as against that from foreign sources brings forward again the subject of the production of sugar from beet in the United Kingdom. As regards the conditions necessary, from a locality point of view, for the satisfactory cultivation of sugar-beet for manufacturing purposes, it may be said that any part of the country suitable for wheat is also suitable for the sugar-beet, provided that the soil has sufficient depth and is not so rich as to produce a rank crop with sugar poverty, which would not be acceptable for manufacturing purposes, or so poor as to yield a low weight per acre, and thus be unprofitable to the farmer. Average wheat land and climatic conditions are, in fact, the right thing for the sugar-beet. This may readily be recognised when it is borne in mind that sugar-beet is grown in Germany, the home *par excellence* of beet-sugar production, on the Norfolk four-years system of rotation, in which wheat and oats are prominent factors. This being the case, the localities in the United Kingdom suitable for sugar-beet cultivation may be mapped out, and will be found to consist of parts of East Anglia and a very great part of the Midlands. The humidity of the West of England, apart from other considerations, renders those counties unsuitable for beet cultivation, and there are probably no conditions in Scotland, Ireland or Wales where a suitable beet for manufacturing purposes could be produced certainly at a working cost. It may be admitted that a sufficient acreage suitable for beet growing could be found to contribute very largely to the sugar supply of the country; but climatic and soil suitability are not in themselves the only side of the subject. The questions of water supply and labour conditions are also important. The manufacture of the sugar-beet into sugar requires much water, and a considerable amount of labour in connection with the factory of a more or less skilled character. These, however, are not of themselves important, and the point on which the subject really turns is the *economic worth* of growing the beet, and it may

be summed up in the reply to the question, "Is the £4 per ton protection—equivalent to £7 10s. per acre—sufficient to justify the farmer in doing so?" As stated above, it may be taken as an axiom that where a good crop of wheat is grown a satisfactory sugar-beet crop may be obtained. At present, with this wheat the farmer grows, probably, oats and roots in conjunction with a green manure crop. The question centres, therefore, in that of the substitution of the sugar-beet for his ordinary root crop. Why does the farmer grow mangolds or swedes instead of some root crop, if such is necessary, which would be consumable by the general public? The reply is, because it is essential for stock, which, in providing manure, is of vital importance to the welfare of his cultivation, and the satisfactory production of milk and dairy produce. The fact that the amount of protection given to beet sugar produced in the United Kingdom is much larger than it was before the war has little to do with it. The price of labour and of materials has risen enormously, and although the price of sugar follows, the £4 per ton does not represent what it would appear to do. Further, the value of dairy produce and cattle—that is, of mangolds and swedes—has also risen. The backbone of agriculture in England is dairy produce, and, incidentally, cattle raising. Large—in fact, enormous—quantities of butter and condensed milk are imported into the United Kingdom. The 10 to 12 tons of sugar-beet an acre would never compensate the average farmer for the loss of his 30 to 40 tons of mangolds. What has been said above does not, however, operate against the production of a certain amount of home-grown sugar; 1,000 tons of beet sugar require a cultivation, including reserve, of about 2,500 acres, and it can easily be imagined that the conditions may be found in which it is profitable to the farmer to grow beet for sugar manufacture. A factory of an economic size turning out, say, 10,000 tons of sugar in a crop, would require 25,000 acres in its immediate vicinity. It is possible—indeed, probable—that the requirements may be satisfied in several localities, and that in time a contribution of, say, 200,000 tons will be added to the sugar supply of the United Kingdom from home land. This is widely different from 2,000,000 tons!

STEAMER SAILINGS.

OUTWARD			
To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Coronado</i>	June 12
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Oxonian</i>	June 13
West Indies	Cardiff	<i>Savan</i>	June 20
B'dos. & T'dad.	Liverpool	<i>Antillian</i>	June 21
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Cadiz</i>	June 24
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Logician</i>	June 27

THERE is said to be a boom in the manufacture and sale of private distilling apparatus in New York, as a result of the "bone-dry" decision. "Whisky" and "rum," says the *Times* New York correspondent, are now being widely made from tomato-juice, molasses, yeast, and water, fermented in barrels from six to nine days, and then distilled. One of the formulæ requires 3 gallons of molasses, 1 gallon of yeast, 38 gallons of tomato-juice, and 50 gallons of water, the combination being intended to provide a large supply.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"DAM easy fo' full belly tell empty belly kip heart."

* * *

THE Bishop of British Honduras, Dr. E. A. Dunn, has just arrived in England for a stay of several months, and is making his headquarters at Quebec House, Ben-hilton, Sutton, Surrey.

* * *

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, will be the guest of the West Indian Club at a dinner this evening over which Sir H. Hesketh Bell, who succeeded him in Mauritius, will preside.

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THE sugar trading account of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply from August, 1914, to March 31st, 1918, shows an expenditure of £152,745,927, and a net profit of £6,668,993, or about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the turnover.

* * *

THE Rev. Roscow Shelden, Curate of All Saints', Margaret-street, has been appointed Bishop of the Bahamas in succession to Dr. W. B. Hornby. It will be recalled that the Rev. G. H. Bown, who had been appointed to the Diocese, died before consecration.

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VASMARNET COCOA LIMITED is the title of a company registered on May 17th with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares (95,000 ordinary and 5,000 deferred) to take over the business of S. Barnett & Company, of the Gold Coast, and to carry on the business of planters of and dealers in cocoa, tea, coffee, and other tropical produce. The first directors are Mr. G. C. Vasmer and Mr. S. Barnett.

* * *

ENGLISH Masonic lodges in the West Indies have been invited to send delegates to the Masonic peace celebration to be held in London towards the end of this month. It may be recalled that the islands have several very old lodges, as their numbers on the register show. Barbados, for example, has one, numbered 196, and Jamaica three, numbered 207, 239, and 354, whilst our South American colony is not far behind with Lodges Nos. 247 and 385.

* * *

PROF. MAXWELL LEFROY, formerly of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, is credited with having saved the British Government £14,000,000 by devising means of purifying the last four Australian wheat crops, which could not be shipped owing to lack of tonnage, and became weevily. He invented a machine which, heated to 140 deg. Fahr., kills the weevil eggs as the wheat is passed through it. Prof. Lefroy also did splendid work in Mesopotamia, where he was given a free hand in the direction of sanitation.

* * *

DR. LOUIS SAMBON, who, it will be recalled, visited the West Indies in 1913 with the object of studying pellagra, will deliver a lecture before the Royal Society of Medicine entitled "The Sanitation of Tropical Lands: Suggestions Based upon West Indian Experiences," at 8.30 p.m. on Thursday next, June 19th. The society has kindly invited the members of the West India Committee to attend, and it is hoped that many will avail themselves of hearing the views of Dr. Sambon on matters so vitally affecting their interests. Applications for tickets should be addressed to the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

* * *

THE Jubilee Dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute, which was held at the Connaught Rooms—our largest

banqueting hall—on May 23rd, was a brilliant function. The Duke of Connaught, President of the Institute, was in the chair, and the speeches, for a report of which readers are referred to the daily newspapers, were many, and of a high grade of excellence. The speakers included, besides the Royal chairman, the Maharajah of Bikaner, Sir Charles Lucas, Lord Bryce, Mr. W. F. Massey, General Sir Arthur Currie, Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, and Sir Hugh Clifford, who greatly delighted those members of the company connected with parts of the Empire other than the Dominions by speaking up for the Crown Colonies and dependencies, of which too little is said as a rule at such gatherings.

* * *

IN the course of the evening Sir Harry Wilson, the general secretary, announced that over £11,000 had been received towards the fund which is being raised for providing a new building for the Institute, which, as at present arranged, is to be erected in a few years on the present and a greatly extended site in Northumberland-avenue, which, if the war memorial bridge scheme is adopted, will be one of the finest positions in London. Among the distinguished company present were noticed Sir John Chancellor, Sir Walter Egerton, Sir H. Hesketh Bell, Sir William and Lady Allardyce, Sir Owen Phillips, Sir J. Roper Parkington, Sir George Le Hunte, Mr. Hyslop Bell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Amery, Major J. R. Boose, and Mr. E. A. Wallace, formerly of the Homeward Mail.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Presiding at the Annual Meeting on May 29th, Mr. R. Rutherford referred at the outset to the death of his predecessor, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, who had filled the office of Chairman for nine years, during which it had been his (the speaker's) privilege to act as his deputy. He felt sure that it would be the general wish that the Committee's respect for the memory of their late Chairman, and appreciation of his services, should be recorded.

Proceeding, Mr. Rutherford said that they now met in circumstances very different from those which prevailed a year ago. The dark days had passed, and they were now entering upon the period of reconstruction. Business conditions had undergone a change, and, whilst in many ways they would be more difficult, there seemed every reason to expect that the prosperity which the West Indies generally had enjoyed since the outbreak of war was likely to continue for some years to come. After referring to the good work done by the staff, not only for the Committee, but also for the Contingent Committee, Mr. Rutherford proceeded to deal with the various matters referred to in the Annual Report, and, in conclusion, moved the adoption of the report and accounts. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Gurney and carried unanimously, Mr. Trotter moved the re-election to the Executive Committee of the following members, who retire by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation: S. Cameron, Esq., Sir Edward Davson, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, Humphry Crum Ewing, Esq., W. Fawcett, Esq., B.Sc., G. Macgregor Frame, Esq., G. Moody-Stuart, Esq., C. Sandbach Parker, Esq., C.B.E., H. F. Previté, Esq., J. E. Tinne, Esq., and Sir William Trollope, Bart.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. E. A. de Pass and carried unanimously, Lieut.-Colonel G. A. O. Lane, Coldstream Guards, a Barbados Estates proprietor, was elected a member of the Executive.

GOLD COAST CACAO.

The fall in the local price of cacao in the Gold Coast in 1917, and the fact that in many districts remote from purchasing centres it was unsaleable, came as a revelation to the native producer. He, says the *Colonial Journal*, having become accustomed to receive excessive returns for the outlay involved in cacao production, and having no previous experience of a depressed market, took a most pessimistic view of the situation.

In Ashanti particularly this pessimism resulted in greater neglect than ever, extending in some cases to the abandonment of farms, and generally speaking the same may be stated to have been the case in the colony, except where transport facilities to buying centres were readily available. The agricultural department has on all opportune occasions advised the harvesting of pods in order to minimise the menace of disease, but this was only operative when the returns were immediate, the farmers as a class being unable to appreciate the future position of the industry.

The report of the Department states that the reason given by farmers in excuse for their neglect of farms was their inability to pay for labour. Two conclusions are apparent, first that the native as a result of his acquisition of wealth has become too indolent to work on his own farm, and second that farms have been increased in the past to an extent which is economically unsound. The dangers arising from over extension have constantly been pointed out to cacao growers, but times being prosperous and no restrictions in force the warning had no effect.

The absence of regulations for a people whose agriculture is primitive and who know nothing of permanent crops has resulted in the planting of cacao farms in unsuitable districts and far too extensively; it is hoped that the temporary adversity occasioned by the fall of the market will more or less remedy what the lack of regulations has permitted, that the area under cacao will be reduced to a rational basis, the danger of over-production minimised and possibly that the people will be brought to realise the necessity of personal application to work.

That the foregoing remedy entails the abandonment of a number of farms is acknowledged, and provision for such a contingency was suggested when an ordinance was drafted for the prevention and better control of cacao diseases, by the destruction of abandoned cacao trees with the view of neutralising their power to disseminate disease. It is as foci of diseases and pests rather than as abandoned effort that the reversion of cacao farms to bush is viewed by the Department with apprehension.

The quality of the prepared produce underwent improvement during the year, at the beginning of which much of the cacao offered for sale was not only poor but mixed with cacao which had deteriorated by storage. The improvement in quality was due to many factors, chief of which is probably the fact that it has been found from experience that improperly prepared cocoa will not keep well in this country, and for this reason buyers refused to purchase inferior samples.

The defective quality of Gold Coast cacao has caused apprehension for a considerable time, and the gravity of the matter was made clear by the action of the United States Government last year in prohibiting importations altogether, for it is fairly certain that the inferior quality of some shipments had a good deal to do with this decision. The Director of Agriculture, writing in October, stated that the new crop then ripe would exceed 100,000 tons, but that there were practically no buyers operating and the local outlook was never worse. The armistice radically changed the outlook, and buying has been exceedingly keen; but in

the interests of the future it remains desirable to consider what is wrong in the production and handling of the produce. Mr. Tudhope thinks that the native shippers have been chiefly responsible for the exports of inferior material, as few of them have suitable storage, and they do not take the same care as European firms are wont to do in selection, drying and sorting. There has been a large increase of native shippers, owing partly to very low prices, which enable men to engage in the business with little capital, and partly to the struggle for shipping space in which an applicant with little or, indeed, no stock stood a chance of getting an allotment. The price of cacao was in many cases as low as 1s. a load, and thousands of tons of the 1916-17 and 1917-18 crops could not be disposed of at all and had to be destroyed. It is not surprising, therefore, that some districts fell into a deplorable condition. The farmers, however, Mr. Tudhope remarks, have accomplished an enormous amount of work in the establishment of their farms, and while they have made mistakes commendable progress has been made, at least during the past ten years, and under efficient guidance and sympathetic control still more satisfactory progress is yet attainable. While they are a conservative people, slow to convince, they appreciate suggestions and corrections when the results become apparent. There has been outstanding unanimity among them to the effect that they are cheated by the native buyers, and that they have never had much encouragement offered to prepare the best quality of cacao, and many of them would like to see native buyers abolished altogether. They complain that not only do they exact extra weight on each load, but that they invariably pay a lower price than that authorised by their employer as they form a ring among themselves. Many favour a uniform measure, fixed buying centres, and the licensing of buyers; but some are rather dubious about the latter unless they can be properly controlled, as they are afraid the licence would be used as a lever to further their own unscrupulous ends with the illiterate farmers. They are very much in favour of cacao being brought and priced according to quality; and many have even suggested that it should be an offence for anyone to buy other than the best cacao.

MR. JOHN HOWARD SMITH.

We regret to state that Mr. John Howard Smith died in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on May 18th.

Mr. John Howard Smith was taken ill about a year ago, having suffered from sunstroke whilst visiting the islands. He went to New York for treatment, and after spending five months in a sanatorium at Connecticut he proceeded to Miami, in Florida. As, however, his health showed no improvement, he returned to Trinidad in April. For a time he seemed better, but, after recovering from a set-back in the first days of May, he had a second relapse and died on May 18th. Born in Scotland on October 30th, 1859, he was the third son of the late Mr. John Smith, of Garnet Bank, Glasgow, and his wife, Barbara, who was well-known in Trinidad for many years. After his education at Glasgow Academy during the Rectorship of the late Dr. Hugh Morrison, he went out to Trinidad in 1876 in the employment of Messrs. Wilson, Sons, & Co., with whom he remained until 1886, when, in partnership with his younger brother Robert, he established the firm of Smith Brothers & Co., whose store was, and is still, known as "the Bonanza." From small beginnings this undertaking became one of the largest in Trinidad, with branches in San Fernando, Princes' Town, Sangre Grande, and Arima. Mr. John Smith was for many years Vice-president of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and he was several times offered a seat in the Legislative Council, which, however, he always declined to accept.

CACAO PRODUCTION. What the Manufacturer Wants.

By A. W. KNAPP, B.Sc.

The various points raised in the quotation from the *Agricultural News* in the CIRCULAR of May 1st as to the need for increased efficiency in cacao cultivation are very interesting, and open a wide field for controversy. Attention is called to the fact that the producers of the raw material are singularly ignorant of the requirements of the users of that material, and it is contended that this is more the fault of the cocoa and chocolate manufacturers than of the growers of cacao.

The writer in the *News* adds that doubtless much better results could be obtained in the production of the raw cacao if the needs of the manufacturers were more accurately known. It is only fair to the manufacturers to state that they have always been willing to give their opinion on any new cacao coming into the market—I refer here to the reports which the Imperial Institute publishes in their *Bulletin* from time to time on cacao from countries which are starting cultivation and on experimental lots of cacao. The study of these reports would reveal to the ardent planter the particular properties in cacao which the manufacturer specially seeks for, and it would show that, while the manufacturers agree in a general way as to their requirements, they disagree in some of the smaller details.

The organisers of the Congress of Tropical Agriculture (held in London in 1914) also felt that it would be an advantage if the needs of the manufacturers were accurately known, and at their request Mr. N. P. Booth and the writer gave a paper on "The Qualities in Cacao desired by Manufacturers." In this paper, which is published in the *Transactions*, will be found a discussion on unripe and over-ripe cacao, germinated beans, unfermented cacao, flat beans, grubby beans, &c., together with some remarks on the effect of washing, drying, cleaning, claying, dancing and polishing from the manufacturers' point of view. In a general way the planter already knows what the manufacturer wants—namely, sound, well-cured cacao. The manufacturer would be coming outside his true province if he attempted to tell the planter how to prepare the raw cacao, but he may perhaps be permitted to say that, in his opinion, if the planter only allows ripe pods to be gathered, ferments for a reasonable period, cures with care, and keeps the beans dry, the cacao will have the appearance and properties which the manufacturers desire. "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," and you cannot, by any method of fermentation or curing, convert Calabacillo or Forastero cacao into Criollo cacao. A planter can only do the best he can with the cacao on his plantation. Probably the simplest and most effective means of educating the planter as to the needs of the manufacturer is for the manufacturer to pay a higher price for the better-cured cacao from any particular district. One can but think that as long as the difference in price of ordinary and estates cacao from the same district

remains so small, any attempts on the part of the manufacturer to explain exactly what he wants will not be very productive. Unfortunately, prices are beyond the control of any individual manufacturer, and will continue to be governed by the New York and European markets. It may be pointed out, however, that if the greater number of planters in any producing area ferment and cure the bean in a conscientious manner, their efforts tend to raise the price of the whole of the cacao from that area. It would probably be a considerable help to the planters in various parts of the world if their Agricultural Department, or Agricultural Society, would purchase specimens from a London broker of all the kinds of beans submitted at any particular auction, and exhibit them together with the prices they obtained. There are planters who have seen little or nothing of the cacao produced in other countries, and a comparison of the beans and the prices could not but give them some enlightenment on this subject.

The comparison of the prices paid for various growths will show that the botanical variety is, if not the principal, one of the most important factors influencing these prices. The prices fixed in 1918—though influenced by disturbing factors—give one some idea as to the effect of botanic variety on prices. With Trinidad at 90s. per cwt., and an equally well-prepared Ceylon at 100s. per cwt., we see the difference in price due to Criollo and Forastero. On the other hand, although Arriba and Machala (Guayaquil) cacao is a finer bean than that of Trinidad, it is carelessly prepared, and hence only obtains the same price as Trinidad. Grenada cacao is almost perfectly prepared, but it is a mixture of Forastero and Calabacillo, and the beans are the smallest of all well-known cacaos, and have a high percentage of shell, and hence we find its price fixed at 85s. per cwt.

No improvements in fermentation or curing are likely to make Grenada cacao fetch the same price as Ceylon, and it is quite unnecessary to tell the Grenada planter that his beans should contain no unfermented, germinated, unripe, over-ripe or grubby beans, because the estates cacao from Grenada is almost entirely free from these defectives. Indeed, the standard of preparation on Trinidad and Grenada estates is as high as anywhere in the world, and the cacao generally contains as much as 94 per cent of perfectly prepared beans.

The manufacturer has occasionally to refuse cacao because he finds that it has a foreign odour, due, presumably, to imperfect fermentation. Such foreign odours are rarely found in West Indian cacao, but the practice of allowing the "sweatings" to soak into the ground in the vicinity of the sweat-boxes, and decompose only a few yards from the beans, must occasionally lower the quality of the cacao produced.

On the whole the present-day feeling of manufacturers is against the washing of cacao, nor is claying or dancing recommended. As is well known, washing the fermented bean makes the skin thin and brittle, and hence detrimentally affects the keeping qualities. Clay, in my opinion, is camouflage. Certain estates in Trinidad do not clay, and their cacao keeps perfectly. Claying results in a more uniform

appearance, and clayed cacao tends to obtain a higher price, which means that the buyer has been deceived to the extent of any increase in price that he pays. Apropos of the deceptive appearance produced by clay, I may say that two lots of "black" diseased Trinidad cacao were once sent to a reliable firm of London brokers. They were sent in their natural condition, and also with their dirty shells hidden by a thin coat of clay. The English broker never sees "black" cacao in bulk. He is only made aware of its existence when the merchants in the tropics mix a little of this clayed, diseased cacao with the good cacao. The effect of mere claying was to enhance the value in the broker's eyes to the extent of 13s. per cwt. in one case and 18s. per cwt. in the other. However, the manufacturer would soon find such cacao gave an inferior product, and become suspicious of cacao with that mark, and it is doubtful if the broker would be deceived in this way a second time. "Dancing" is interesting to watch, and adds a little gloss to the beans which some may like, but in my opinion it adds nothing to the intrinsic value of the cacao.

Looking at the subject broadly, it would appear that the direction in which the West Indian planters can increase their efficiency is by the continued study of agricultural methods. For example, if Trinidad planters adopted manuring, &c., as in Grenada, they would doubtless increase their output. There are many directions in which practice lags behind knowledge. Thus, the Department of Agriculture in Trinidad has shown the amazing difference in the individual yield of trees, and if this knowledge can be applied, obviously the output can be greatly increased.

With the most expensive varieties of cacao, taste, fashion and processes influence the manufacturer in his purchases, but under any conditions he always requires a large supply of good, sound cacao. I gather that there is very little room for further planting in Grenada, but if planting were done there it would be an interesting question to decide whether it were better to plant the present hardy variety, with its small, inferior bean, or the high-class Criollo, which is the more delicate tree. It is hard to understand why, in progressive islands like those of the West Indies, grafting has never been tried on a large scale. I have always understood that Hart discovered in 1898 that grafting was a success, and I remember that the two unshaded trees in the St. Clair Experimental Station, Port of Spain (which, I believe, were grafted by Mr. Jackson in 1908), looked hardy and fruitful when I saw them some years ago. It would be of value at the present time if the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR would publish a symposium from leading agriculturists on the improvement of the strain of British colonial growths in general, and of West Indian cacao in particular.

It is probable that the keen competition in cacao production which the writer in the *Agricultural News* fears in the near future will be greatly moderated by the continuous rapid increase in cacao consumption; but there can be no disadvantage to the West Indian planter in his attending closely to the general efficiency of his methods of production.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Peace Delays.

The date fixed by the Allies for receiving German signatures to the Peace Treaty is past, and that necessary formality is still in the future. Evidently, the enemy will continue to present counter-proposals to the Conference as long as he is allowed to do so. Probably nothing but a turn in the screw of the blockade or a military move will force him to acknowledge that the game is up. Already Mr. Lloyd George has plainly hinted that if there is much more procrastination the Peace Treaty will be dictated in Berlin. The idea seems to be that the Ebert Government is trying to make the position of the present German Delegation impossible in order that another may be sent, which would sign the Treaty, and so save the face of the Government with the German people.

Germany and the Peace Treaty.

To Count Brockdorff-Rantzau's Note, which was written to prove that the Allied terms would be "the death sentence of many millions of German men, women and children," a masterly reply was made, the gist of which was that the guilty must suffer. Point by point his reasoning was controverted, and, in telling phrases, it was pointed out to him that any hardships imposed on Germany by the Peace Treaty will be small compared with those inflicted on the Allied peoples during the war, and bear no comparison with the share she should take of the enormous calamity which she was mainly instrumental in bringing upon the world. As for the German counter-proposals, they refer to territorial, financial, economic, and every other question on which it is possible to make out a case for mitigation. The Peace, according to the apostles of naked force, is not one of right, lacks a legal basis, as it does not rest on the "fourteen points," which foreshadowed a peace by negotiation, assumes that Germany alone was responsible for the war, whereas the blame should be laid on the entire European system, and imposes financial slavery upon Germany. The most impudent counter-proposals she makes are (1) that she should be mandatory for her colonies, (2) that no territorial changes should be made without the sanction of the population, and (3) that the compensation by Germany of £1,000,000,000, instead of being paid at once, should be paid in 1926. With regard to the first, no modification is possible, because the enemy's rule of natives is so inhuman. With regard to the second, none is possible on account of military considerations. With regard to the third, none is possible because, to postpone the payment of the first £1,000,000,000 reparation demanded by the Allies for eight years would enable Germany to start as a trading nation with an enormous advantage over the Allies, the United States excepted. The truth is the Germans are growing arrogant as they see the Powers over-anxious to frame its financial proposals with a view, not to the enemy's deserts, but his capacity to pay. He has not been asked for an indemnity, and the money he will pay in reparation will not go very far towards repairing the enormous damage he has done.

The Austrian Peace Terms.

The Peace Conference has vetoed the Zollverein scheme, by which it was proposed to make Austria the head of a new confederation. In present circumstances it could have no chance of success, and any future it might have has been blighted by a clause in the Peace Treaty by which Austria, in making an economic agreement with any particular State, must give equal advantages to the Allies. As for the military, financial, and reparation clauses, which should appear in the Treaty, they are reserved for settlement later.

In the Draft instrument handed to the Austrian delegates on June 2nd Austria recognises the complete independence of Czechoslovakia, the independence of the territories formerly included in the Russian Empire, and the annulment of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. All Austro-Hungarian warships are to be surrendered, while neither naval nor military air forces are to be permitted. One of the most interesting clauses in the Treaty secures the resumption of the pre-war powers of the Danube Commission, which was initiated by the Vienna Congress, and has since done such useful work in promoting navigation; but its constitution will not be more, but less international than it was, seeing that Austria-Hungary will no longer be represented on it. Only Great Britain, France, Italy and Rumanian Austria is to have free railway access to the Adriatic.

Dr. Renner, the head of the Austrian Delegation, has given a lesson in diplomacy and manners to the arrogant German, who has given such a bad impression to the Peace Conference. In an admirable speech, while putting the case for his country in as good a light as possible, he appealed for her to the League of Nations as if she were on the same plane as the new States. Adroit Dr. Renner!

The Russian Situation.

The Allies, in relation to Russia, are like President Wilson when there was trouble in Mexico some years ago. He was too humane to acknowledge a president elected by the Mexican people, because his methods did not appeal to Washington. Similarly the Allies, who found no difficulty in practically recognising the unspeakable Lenin, have made themselves a laughing-stock by their hesitation in recognising the patriotic Koltchak, who is on the way to save Russia. Even their recognition is conditional on the ratification of his leadership by a constituent assembly. Naturally, Russians are angry at this gratuitous interference with their right to settle their own form of government, particularly as no such condition was imposed on the destroyer of the Russian constituent assembly when he was invited to Prinkipo. In the meantime Admiral Koltchak is advancing in the east, the Allied forces in the north, and Petrograd is threatened from the sea, and by Russians, Letts and Esthonians on land. Bolshevism is on its defence.

Subscriptions to the West India Committee have come in this year better than ever before; but this does not relieve the members still in arrears from their responsibilities. No one can excuse himself on the score of trouble. All that he need do is to hand his cash or \$5 note over the counter of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada. It's so simple!

THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The Honours' List published on the King's birthday contained several names well known in the West Indies, among the recipients of honours being the following:—

K.C.M.G.—Ian Z. Malcolm, M.P., son of Colonel Malcolm, of Portlalloch, C.B., a Jamaica Estates proprietor.

C.M.G.—Captain Alan G. Holtham, R.N., of the Admiralty, who before the war commanded H.M.S. *Acotus* in West Indian waters, and is a member of the West Indian Shipping Committee.

C.B.E.—Denis Slyne, Receiver-General and Chairman of the Committee for Winding-up Alien Enemy Estates, Trinidad.

O.B.E.—Lady Allardyce, for services in connection with war charities in the Bahama Islands.

Lady Haddon Smith, for services in connection with Red Cross and other war charities, Windward Islands.

Sydney T. Harrison, C.M.G., Comptroller of Customs, Barbados, for services as reporting officer.

William Gemmill Kay, unofficial member of the Legislative Council, Trinidad, for services to the Priority Authority and other war work.

James Challenor Lynch, member of the Legislative Council, and member of the Recruiting Committee, Barbados.

Hon. Hugh McLelland, unofficial member of the Legislative Council, Trinidad, and Mayor of San Fernando.

Arthur W. Mahaffy, Administrator of Dominica.

Mrs. Elizabeth Miller Phillips, for services as Hon. Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the Red Cross Fund.

Frederick Emelius Scott, Mayor of Port of Spain, Trinidad, for services in connection with recruiting and other war work.

The Hon. Mrs. Trefusis, for work in connection with war charities and recruiting in Jamaica.

M.B.E.—Mrs. Blanche Bancroft, for work in Barbados. Robert William Bryant, Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, for general war work. Albert Henry Cipriani, Member of the Liquidating Committee for Winding-up Alien Enemy Businesses in Trinidad. Mrs. Marie Clementi, for services in connection with Queen Mary's Needlework Guild in British Guiana. Mrs. Ada Conyers, for services in connection with Queen Mary's Needlework Guild in British Guiana. Alexander P. Cowley, Chairman of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua, for services in connection with war charities. Mrs. Dora de Freitas, for Red Cross and other war work, Windward Islands. Alfred E. French, for services in connection with Red Cross work and recruiting, Jamaica. Ernest A. Hinkson, for war work in Barbados in connection with the police force. Mrs. Dorothy Hobson, for services in connection with the Red Cross and other war funds, Trinidad. Hubert Johnson, for services as Chief Passport Examiner, Barbados. Sydney C. McCutchin, for services in connection with recruiting, Jamaica. James Colin Macintyre, member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Dominica, for services in connection with recruiting and war charities. Miss Annie Mackie, for Red Cross and other charitable work, Windward Islands. Horace Myers, of Kingston, Jamaica, for services to contingents from the Bahama Islands. Mrs. Mary Percival, for services in connection with war charities in Antigua. Mrs. Mary Perez, for services in connection with war funds and charities, Trinidad. Mrs. Emily Phillips, for war work in Barbados. Mrs. Anna Portage, for services as nurse-matron of the Victoria Hospital, St. Lucia. Mrs. Josephine Westmorland, for services in connection with Red Cross work and recruiting, Jamaica.

THREE YEARS WITH THE B.W.I.R.

By Major the Rev. W. J. Bensly, D.S.O.

I am glad to have the opportunity of writing a few words about my impressions of three years in the British West Indies Regiment. I have never been to the West Indies (though I hope I may some day go there), and have no recollection of meeting a single West Indian until the particularly depressing New Year's Day of 1916, when I found a considerable number of them floundering in the rain and mud of Seaford. So I hope anyone who takes the trouble to read this article will understand that my views are derived solely from my experiences during a limited time with the thousand or more men and officers of the 1st Battalion. In those early days at Seaford one very soon realised the keenness of the men to learn, the very high standard of intellect and education among the N.C.O.'s, the splendid loyalty of all to the Empire, and their impatient desire to show it as soon as possible by active work in the field.

Then, after three weeks came the voyage to Egypt—a pretty rough voyage which shook the stuffing out of a good many of us. We had some months of really hard training, first at Mex and later on the Canal. The summer of 1916 was the hottest most of us have ever experienced, and mere walking on the loose sand was enough to take the heart out of even the most enthusiastic lover of hot weather; but the men worked well and cheerfully, and we all looked forward to an early chance of getting into action. I do not propose to follow the history of our progress through the desert, and into Palestine. All I wish to do is to set down my own impressions. Anyone who reads this will know already how disappointed we all were that, for various reasons, the authorities did not realise for a very long time what splendid fighting qualities the West Indians possessed. We who lived with them and worked with them knew it quite well. There is no doubt whatever in my mind that first-class fighting material was for nearly two years practically wasted simply because no one in sufficient authority in high quarters knew anything about us. If only we had been given the chance of showing early in the war the spirit and the skill which were shown by the garrisons in the Jordan Valley defences, and afterwards by Major Harragin and his merry men at the Fords of Jordan, there is little doubt that we should have been given all the work we wanted, and little doubt too that we should have done it really well. As it is I think that our men can go back to their homes satisfied that they have not only done what they were asked to do well, but have earned for their nation a reputation which will not be forgotten. The West Indians of this war have been the pioneers. Pioneer work is notoriously difficult, but also notoriously honourable. In Australia and New Zealand, as well as in the Mother Country, distinguished Generals (and rank and file also) will speak well of West Indian soldiers, and the whole of the West Indies will have reason to be grateful to the men whom they sent across the ocean.

I have said little I find in the way of criticism, and I don't propose to say more than a few words. Long spells of comparative idleness, or of work which does not appear to be essential, are sure to have a demoralising effect on any community, and I do not think that this inevitable effect was more noticeable among West Indians than among other troops. But I wish to say this: If all their work had been on a par with their work in the Jordan Valley, they would be very good soldiers indeed. A little more grit, a little more determination, a little more patience, and the West Indies will send soldiers second to none in the Empire.

I am going to say nothing of the impressions I received from individuals, except in one case. No one could possibly say anything worth saying about the 1st Battalion

if he omitted to mention their commanding officer, for the battalion as a whole, and every man and officer individually, owe him more than they can ever hope to repay. Not only was it through his tremendous exertions that we were finally given a chance of showing what we could do, but it was his tireless energy, his splendid powers of discipline, his first-class military efficiency, his tact and ready wit and sense of humour that kept us all together, and made of us a real unit, and kept our tails up in troublous times, and made us proud of him and of ourselves, and led us to success at last. No battalion ever owed more to its commanding officer than the 1st Battalion owe to Lieut.-Colonel Wood Hill, and every man and officer knows it. It is not the business of a subordinate officer to praise his superior in public, so I will say no more; but, whatever other successes lie before him—and I hope and trust they will be many—he can always have the proud recollection that he has earned the undying gratitude of his men.

That is all I have to say, and I very much hope that by the time any of my former comrades read these words, they will be well on their way home. But if they are not, and if more fighting should by any chance lie before them, I can boldly foretell success. Acknowledged, as they are now, to be good fighting men, with a first-class C.O., and officers and N.C.O.'s well above the average, they are a unit which any general may be proud to have under his command. In peace or war they have my gratitude and best wishes.

WEST INDIAN MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The West Indian Contingent Committee had proposed holding a service in memory of those from the West Indies who have given their lives for their King and country, but in view of the great number of these ceremonies which had recently been held, it was felt that it would be better to join instead in the Service for Soldiers from Overseas who fought in the War, which was being arranged by the Overseas Club and Patriotic League.

A special service of thanksgiving and remembrance was accordingly held, under the joint auspices of the Overseas Club and Patriotic League and the West Indian Contingent Committee, at St. Clement Dane's, in the Strand, at 11 a.m., on Empire Day, May 24th. This historic church, where Dr. Johnson used to worship, was beautifully decorated with red, white and blue flowers, and the service, which was fully choral, was taken by the rector, the Rev. W. Pennington-Bickford, and Bishop Frodsham, Canon of Gloucester, formerly of North Queensland, who delivered an inspiring address. The Lesson was read by the Rev. F. W. T. Elliott, formerly Archdeacon of Berbice, British Guiana, and the hymns included "O God, our help," Mr. A. C. Ainger's "God of our fathers," and "God of dead and living," composed by the rector and written by his wife.

At the commencement of the service the band of the Australian Imperial Force played Chopin's "Funeral March," and at the close the buglers rendered the "Last Post" and "Réveillé." The Bishop's address is published below in full.

THE TRUST OF EMPIRE.

There is an element of deep solemnity in a thanksgiving service in special honour of the men who have come from overseas to fight for the Empire. There is no part of the whole earth from which they have not

come. There is, perhaps, not one solitary race in the wide world that has not been represented. No pressure was exercised by a dominant power except the pressure of an appeal for help in a common danger. And in responding to the appeal the men from overseas have shown to an astonished world how highly they esteem the British Empire.

Honour to whom honour is due. Yet in honouring the men from overseas it is necessary to preserve proper proportion. To speak as though they had borne the sole burden of the war, or even that they had done more than the rest to preserve the treasures of Empire, would be repugnant to the men themselves. Those who have walked in the fiery furnace do not talk lightly of their own prowess; neither do they desire to minimise the prowess of others. The main burden of the war has fallen upon the men of these islands, and particularly upon the English regiments who, with magnificent humility, have fought everywhere, and everywhere given the praise to others. This the men from overseas will be the first to acknowledge, while the American troops, by joining in the Empire celebrations, are showing the same generous spirit of comradeship.

It is necessary also to preserve proportion between the overseas troops themselves. None can fail to honour the tempestuous bravery of the Canadians, the New Zealanders, the South Africans, and the Australians. The official story of the Australian landing at Gallipoli alone reads like a British Iliad. "Like lightning they leapt ashore, and each man, as he did so, went straight as his bayonet against the enemy." The doings of all the Dominion troops in France and elsewhere have covered them with glory. They defy any attempt at enumeration; but who can assess adequately the bravery of the Indian troops? To them the conditions of modern warfare were doubly horrific, because they were hitherto unknown, while the sacrifices they made on the Ypres salient alone stagger the imagination. Who also can tell adequately of the doings of the British West Indies Regiment, the merriest and most loyal of all King George's men, who served the heavy guns in France—a hazardous task—with absolute fearlessness under fire; or of the native African regiments, or of the various labour contingents? When we honour the great Dominions we must not forget the share that belongs to others—to the newest protectorate and to the tiniest Crown colony.

There are also some from overseas to whom no State lays claim. These masterless men heard the call of the Empire on the South American pampas, on the coral strands of the Pacific Islands, in the jungles of Africa, in all the five continents, and on all the seven seas. Having heard the voice of duty, they were not disobedient to it. These did not clamour for exemption nor for safe appointments. Commissioners and planters, sailors and stockmen, rich and poor alike, they were content to enlist as men, to fight as men, to suffer like men, and, when occasion demanded it, to die like men. When honour is given, let no man forget the solitary heroes of Empire. Yet truly the spontaneous unity of loyalty, in its innumerable diversities, makes the heart throb with pride and thankfulness.

And what must be said of the men from overseas who will never return to their own lands? Their bodies are strewn everywhere. They sleep beneath the coverlet of brown earth, or they are rocked in the heaving bosom of the sea:—

This be their epitaph: "Traveller, south or west,
Go, say at home we heard the trumpet call
And answered. . . .
Our end was happy if our country thrives.
Much was demanded. Lo! our store was small;
That which we had we gave—it was our lives."

Oh, sweet and seemingly so to die, indeed,
In the high flush of youth and strength and pride.
These are our martyrs, and their blood the seed
Of nobler futures. 'Twas for us they died;
Keep we their memory green.

But see to it, citizens and friends, that when we honour the dead we forget not the trust they left behind.

The men from overseas have laid us under another debt of gratitude. They have provided a complete refutation of the German slander that the British Empire is the result of force and fraud. Those who know the temper of the Dominions know also that the men who fought with such impetuous valour and vivacity could never have been forced to fight against their will, nor would they have died for a cause they did not believe to be just and right. They fought for the Empire, regarding it as the symbol of freedom and fair play. And if England were sunk into the sea to-morrow the world would still be richer because the English have sent their sons all over the world inspired with the English spirit of liberty and fair play, which is only another name for justice.

Similarly, the men from overseas who do not belong to our race have testified that the British Empire is not the result of selfish greed and grab. Can any sane man imagine, even when the future was trembling in the balance, that the native races of India desired the destruction of the Empire? The main apprehension of the princes and peoples in those dark days was lest they should be given no adequate share in the Empire's defence. The native peoples all over the world were spurred by the same spirit. No men shivering under cruel, selfish despotism would have borne themselves like the West Indian contingent have done in France, or like the Gold Coast Regiment in Africa. I speak as a man who has seen for himself what the Empire has done for the native races, and would God I could show the working men of this country facts as they are, and not as they are distorted through the yellow haze of prejudice and ignorance! Would God I could make all my fellow-countrymen understand what a fountain of justice and a tower of strength the British Empire is to the smaller nations and less-developed races! The world is a better place because the British have constructed a Commonwealth of Nations. The present troubles of Empire prove this fact. Egyptian and Indian nationalism, misguided and disintegrating as the movement in its present form may be, is the child of liberty and justice. The troubles to-day are the growing pains of Empire. The discontent of the few throw into brighter relief the contentment of the whole. What are a few thousand noisy students compared with the many millions who know they are happier and more prosperous because they are citizens of no mean Empire?

Deep in the hearts of the many races of these islands—races welded together upon the anvil of time—is the conviction that God has called the British people for a purpose of His own. Not only to ourselves, but to every nation upon the face of the earth, God has given an appropriate treasure to be used in the market-place of the world's good. The trust He has given the British is the work overseas. The Englishman's outspoken sense, "his inner, silent feeling of what is true, what does agree with fact, what is doable and not doable," and, above all, his deep and unalterable idea of duty, have built up a commonwealth without parallel. And

There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will.

Rough-hewing there has been—enough and to spare. We need not minimise our imperial mistakes and failures. On the contrary, the realisation that we have fallen short should nerve us to higher aims and to purer actions, to stronger resolutions to hold and to fulfil the task the good God has laid upon us, to greater persistence in showing that we hold the British Empire, not as a possession, but as a trust—that we are planting a tree whose fruit is for the healing of the nations.

Spare not, brothers, forasmuch as we know that our

labour has not been in vain. Let us lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes, for we shall break forth on the right hand and on the left.

Among the congregation were: Colonel Sir Hamar Greenwood, M.P., and Mr. Greenwood, Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., General Sir John Monash, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lady Monash, Brigadier-General Manley Sims, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., Miss Hamilton, Miss Moseley, M.B.E., the Misses Wilkinson, Miss Carrington, the Misses Garraway, the Countess of Harrowby, Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., the Hon. Mrs. Henry Edwardes, Mrs. McEwan, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Lady Davson, Mr. C. Harley Moseley, C.M.G., Rev. J. L. Ramsen, C.F., Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, and Mr. Bernard Bonyon, who kindly made the arrangements on behalf of the Contingent Committee. Copies of the Order of the Service can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, post free on application.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1918, show a profit of £276,040 17s. 5d., and, after making provision for depreciation and taxation, and transferring £150,000 to the Reserve Fund, and £10,000 to the Superannuation Fund, the court recommend the payment of the usual dividend on the preference stock, and one of 5 per cent, less income-tax, on the ordinary stock, making 7 per cent for the year, and leaving a balance of £48,540 to be carried forward. During the year those of the company's vessels not engaged on Admiralty war service were, with unimportant exceptions, under requisition by the Ministry of Shipping, and were consequently diverted to a large extent from their customary trades. The Liner Requisition Scheme has since been terminated, and a number of vessels are in course of being re-delivered, enabling some progress to be made in re-establishing the company's pre-war cargo services. The great majority of the large passenger vessels are still, however, in the hands of the Government. Two new vessels—the *Segura* and *Severn*—have recently been delivered. The contract entered into with the Canadian Government for the service between Canada and the West Indies has been extended for a year. The company's fleet consists of forty-five ships, with a tonnage of 262,043 tons, and steam tugs and launches 4,601 tons, making a total tonnage of 266,644 tons. The fleets of the other companies closely affiliated with the R.M.S.P. Company represent 1,120,060 tons, which together make up a total of 1,386,704 tons, exclusive of steamers building. The annual report contains the names of 197 of the company's employees who gave their lives in the service of their King and Country, and also a long list of distinctions awarded.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited.

At a general meeting on May 30th an increase of the capital to £1,500,000 by the creation of 650,000 new shares of £1 each was authorised. The Chairman, moving the resolution to that end, said that the production from Forest Reserve field from July to December last was 75,850 tons, as compared with 70,130 tons in the corresponding period of the previous year. The company had from time to time encountered on Forest Reserve a heavy flow of oil, with great gas pressure, at a depth of between 1,500 ft. and 1,700 ft., and on every occasion they tapped this horizon the well had, sooner or later, been lost. They had long been endeavouring to find a means of tapping this known large body of oil without the disadvantages which had so far attended it, and various proposals had been considered by the board. Well 61 was brought in on May 6th. It produced

17,000 barrels in about 60 hours, and then sanded up, but was brought in again on May 10th, and had continued producing to the present time. Although they could not say that with well 61 they had solved the problem, he believed that they had at least taken a step in the right direction, and he hoped it would lead to further results. They had, in addition to the fields they were now operating, very large areas, and they thought their proper course was to develop one or more of these with as little delay as possible. The opening up of a new field, of course, required the expenditure of a large amount of capital, and important sums would also have to be expended upon increased storage facilities and upon extensions to the refinery plant. It was proposed to liquidate a debt of £100,000 to the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, and also to release a proportion of the current year's profits for distribution to shareholders.

Trinidad Building and Loan Association.

The directors, in their report for 1918, state that during the year the Association again made good progress, the net profits being \$57,292.26, as against \$46,084.47 in 1917—an increase of \$11,208—and the total amount at credit of Profit and Loss Account was \$60,789.21. The directors recommend a dividend of 5½ per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 4½ per cent. paid on June 30th, a total of 10 per cent. for the year, absorbing \$60,086.49.

The Demerara Railway Company.

Presiding at the meeting of this company on May 2nd, Mr. E. A. Robertson, the Chairman, stated that a Railway Committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the affairs of the line had made a report, from which it appeared that the Committee recommended either of three alternative courses to be adopted by the Government: (1) That the Government should take over the control of the railway for a limited period, and during this period to guarantee payment to the company of a certain sum per annum by way of revenue; or (2) that a complete purchase should be made by the Government, and that payment of the price be satisfied by the issue of Government Annuity Stock; or (3) that the company should manage the railway on behalf of the Government for a limited period. Later information led the directors to believe that a resolution was about to be placed before the "Combined Court" of the Government to authorise the Governor of the colony to enter into negotiations with the company for the purchase of the railway on the lines recommended by the Committee, and that his Excellency intended visiting this country in the near future, when he would then take the opportunity of opening negotiations with the company.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st last show the amount to credit and revenue £120,151 10s. 2d., and expenses £91,463 1s. 8d., leaving a balance of £28,688 8s. 6d., to which is added £3,324 8s. 4d. from interest on investments, and £5,268 8s. 5d. brought forward from December 31st, 1917, making a total of £37,281 5s. 3d. Interim dividends were paid on November 27th, 1918, amounting to £13,977 12s. 6d., and there remains an available balance of £23,303 12s. 9d. Of this the directors have placed to general reserve account the sum of £5,000, and they propose to pay the following final dividends for the year 1918:—On first preference shares at 6s. per share, on second preference shares at 6s. 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 £3,222. The traffic receipts for the year show an increase over those for 1917; but this has been more than counter-balanced owing to the increased cost of labour and materials.

HOMeward MAILS.

ANTIGUA.—Presentation to Hon. T. Best.

Mr. A. P. COWLEY, April 4th.—The Hon. T. A. V. Best left here by the *Caraquet*, and has proceeded to England on a well-earned rest. He has acted as Governor during the whole period of the war. The Agricultural and Commercial Society entertained him at an "At Home," which was largely attended, and presented him with an address. The whole community has been grieved by the death of Mrs. Geo. Sutherland, from blood-poisoning. She was quite a young woman and one of the most popular in the island. The weather is very dry, with hot and high winds prevailing. Factories are in full swing, and so far canes are coming up to their estimate.

May 2nd.—I regret to have to report the death of Mr. E. Camacho, brother of Mr. John Camacho. He never seemed himself after his brother Martin's death. The General Legislative Council opened its session on April 23rd. His Excellency pointed out that the needs of the Presidency were greater than its resources.

JAMAICA.—A Record Rum Shipment.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, LIMITED.—The regular Session of the Legislative Council opened early in March. His Excellency, in his address, pointed out that the present financial year would terminate with a deficit of £49,629, and that the preliminary estimates for the year 1919-20 disclosed a further deficit of over £140,000 up to the end of March, 1920. His Excellency proposes to raise a loan providing an income-tax is passed as security. The whole question of the income-tax is being submitted to widespread criticism, and it is probable that some time will elapse before the Bill providing for this tax will finally pass the Council.

S.S. *Oriana*, of the P.S.N. Company, has called at Kingston on her way from New York to South American ports via the Panama Canal, thus inaugurating what it is hoped will develop into a new steamship service for Jamaica. The local steamship situation is improving rapidly with the release by the American Government of the United Fruit Company's larger vessels. The s.s. *Sargasso* sailed on March 23rd for London with 6,000 puncheons of rum, reputed to be the largest single shipment of rum ever made from Jamaica. There is considerable dissatisfaction over the high freight rate still in force, and it is pointed out that the rates for shipping coconuts and other island products are about twice as high from Jamaica as from any other port. It is proposed that the Jamaica Government shall issue its own paper money, and the first issue will probably amount to £150,000, in denominations of 5s. and 10s. notes.

ST. KITTS.—Heavy Rains Cause Damage.

Mr. E. J. SHELFORD, May 2nd.—After several weeks of seasonably fine and dry weather, a considerable portion of the island during the last fortnight has been subjected to a most unusually heavy rainfall—particularly the Christ Church, St. John's and St. Paul's parishes. Many properties have suffered much damage to cane cultivation and roads. In some instances new watercourses have been opened up through cane lands and roads hopelessly damaged. Many of the ravines ran very heavily on several occasions, the main public road has been badly cut up, and all vehicular traffic held up for several days. It will be some time before a motor car will be able to travel round the island. The Public Works Department has its work cut out for some months before anyone will be able to travel again with any degree of comfort. The Easter holiday was a wet one, and during the whole of last week—in fact, until yesterday—the atmosphere was most oppressive, with a low barometer, the mountains being covered

with clouds, particularly in this locality, from which the rain poured at intervals. Most of the damage was done on the night of the 24th ult., when we had a terrific downpour. Several estate rain-gauges overflowed. The estates which I believe have suffered most severely are Mansion, Molyneux, Belle Vue, Stonecastle, Hope, Estridge, Profit, Brighton, and those properties contiguous with them. All ordinary work in this district is at a standstill, all labour being fully employed on the roads, both public and private, and clearing out the young cane and cotton cultivation. The cost to the community will be very considerable. The Central Factory authorities, recognising the hopeless muddle that we were in out here, have closed down the factory for a few days, and the staff and employees are rendering substantial assistance with road repairs. About half the crop has been reaped.

Much regret has been felt in the colony at the death of Mr. Harold Keith Shannon, of Antigua, manager of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Limited, who was killed by a fall from the Wash Ghaut railway bridge while attempting to cross on a buffer-car.

The community is disappointed that H.M.S. *Cornwall* has been prevented from visiting the colony.

ST. VINCENT.—Land Tax Increased.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, March 29th.—The Legislative Council met on the 25th to consider the local Budget for nine months of 1919, the financial year being again changed to coincide with the calendar year. The Administrator's address was listened to with much interest. He stated that the governing factor in the life of the colony to-day was the abnormally high cost of living, the average increase in the cost of clothing material since 1914 being 138 per cent, and imported foodstuffs 145 per cent. These conditions, he remarked, bore with much severity on the labouring population and persons with fixed incomes. He proposed to remove all the additional import duties levied since 1913, except those on wines, spirits, and tobacco, in order to afford some measure of relief. He pointed out that in the present state of the colony's finances the loss of revenue thus sustained had to be made good, and, after careful consideration of ways and means, he had come to the conclusion that a general increase in the tax on land offered the best solution of the problem, and the estimates therefore provided for 100 per cent. increase in St. Vincent and certain islands of the Grenadines. The present rates of 3d. to 1s. per acre he considered so low as to be almost nominal. He stated that, with certain exceptions, the expenditure under the various heads had been kept down to the lowest possible figure, and that no extraordinary public works would be undertaken; the exceptions referred to were on account of those services in which progress was essential—namely, public health, education, and public safety. The total estimated revenue for the nine months of 1919 was £28,173, and the expenditure £30,596. As the revenue of 1918-19 was expected to exceed the expenditure by £6,682, the estimated surplus on December 31st, 1919, was £4,259.

The local Arrowroot Growers and Exporters' Association has recently decided to lower the minimum prices of arrowroot, that for medium grade in the United Kingdom being now fixed at 7d. per lb. The weather continues dry, but seasonable.

April.—Mr. T. B. Macaulay, the well-known President of the Canada-West India League, addressed a meeting of the Agricultural Commercial Society on the 3rd inst. on the subject of closer trade relations between the West Indies and Canada. A larger measure of preference in the matter of import duties or free trade was, he thought, desirable in order to bring Canada and these islands closer together commercially and for mutual benefit. It is of interest to add that, as a result of the debate in the Legislative Council on the 1919 Esti-

mates, it was decided to recommend the abolition of tonnage dues. If this is done Kingstown will practically be a free port, a small sum only being payable as port dues. The estimated annual loss of revenue was £500. It was hoped that cargo steamers outward bound would now be induced to call here occasionally. At the present time English and American goods are all landed at Barbados and transhipped to small sailing vessels when such are available. Long delays frequently occur between the arrival of the cargo at Barbados and its receipt here. Mails from home are still few and far between; the latest CIRCULAR we have is dated February 20th.

TOBAGO.—The Development Commission.

Mr. ROBERT S. REID.—The natives are cleaning up their provision grounds to prepare for planting after the first rains. The dearthness of imported foods is no doubt a stimulus to growing ground provisions, but steadier work for themselves as well as for the estates would be a great all-round benefit to Tobago. The inadequate steamer service is causing anxiety to shippers, and as trade is expanding all the time it is clearly impossible to work the coastal service satisfactorily with one steamer. Moderate supplies of cacao are going forward, and a few good pickings are expected in April and May. The crop will certainly fall short of 1918 on account of unfavourable weather conditions. The few Muscovado sugar estates are at work, and their produce would sell well if steamers would carry it, which seems doubtful again this year. The scarcity of freight room and passenger accommodation this side is serious, but we must have patience. Copra is almost a drug in the market, and the price is less than half that offered for peeled nuts. Local health conditions appear to be improving; we are thankful to be free from "flu," and a satisfactory feature is the practical disbandment of the Yaws Hospital near Scarborough. The Medical Department is to be congratulated on clearing out this scourge, and the sanitary activities now in progress should help to keep the island free from yaws and improve the general health of the people. The report of the Development Commission has caused some disappointment here, for, while Trinidad is liberally provided for, only the main roads in Tobago are to be improved, the North Coast road not being even mentioned, though settlers from Grenada have been buying land and cultivating it in the neighbourhood in the hope that good driving roads would be constructed.

TRINIDAD.—American Competition.

Mr. EDGAR TRIPP, April 3rd.—Owing to the regretted resignation by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon of the Presidency of the Chamber of Commerce—a position which he had filled for a very long period with great impartiality and ability—the election of a successor took place at the general meeting of the body held on March 31st, when Mr. George F. Huggins was appointed to the vacancy. Mr. Huggins has been for some time a very useful member of the Committee. He occupies a prominent place in the mercantile community as senior partner in the extensive business bearing his name, and is, besides, qualified in other ways for the appointment, which is a popular one. The Hon. Alexander Fraser was elected Vice-president, *vice* Mr. John H. Smith, who also retired on account of ill-health after many years good and appreciated service. Members were gratified to learn from Mr. Adam Smith that he would continue to perform the duties of Honorary Secretary for which the Chamber has now been for so many years under obligation to him. H.M.S. *Cornwall* is here with a large number of cadets who are having a good time, and, incidentally, giving their numerous hosts and hostesses a better, for they are more than welcome. The usual entertainments, both on board and ashore, are proceeding merrily.

Sugar-crop operations have gone forward so far without a hitch. The weather is still very dry, but some welcome showers have relieved the situation appreciably. In the

absence of a remunerative market in America large stocks of cocoa are accumulating waiting opportunity of shipment to Europe, which it is expected will be forthcoming shortly to a helpful extent in any case. The Customs Conference has concluded its useful labours, but the report will not be made public until it has been submitted to all the Governments interested.

Mr. EDGAR TRIPP, April 12th.—Notwithstanding that two outward mails, making urgent calls on members, were closing, there was a good attendance of the Chamber of Commerce this morning to meet Mr. T. B. Macaulay from Canada and Sir Edward Davson. The original object of the meeting was to hear an address by the former on closer commercial relations with Canada. Mr. Macaulay, who has been touring the British West Indies in furtherance of this object, dealt with it very fully and impressively in a speech lasting about one hour and a quarter, and was very well received. Sir Edward Davson followed in a short but excellent review on the subject the consideration of which, in his opinion, would be largely influenced by the action of the Imperial Government on the whole question of Preference within the Empire. In the circumstances further discussion was for the moment impracticable; but the meeting was one of much interest, and cannot fail to lead to a better general understanding of the important issues involved. During the past day or two further rain has fallen in grateful abundance throughout the colony, doing incalculable good.

May 2nd.—The news that Imperial Preference was embodied in the Budget was received with profound satisfaction, and a cablegram of congratulations from the West India Committee upon this auspicious decision has been much appreciated.

Our friends of the United States are making a big bid for the trade which of late has been diverted to Canada, who now have the whole of the supply of flour. The last move is to start a branch of the National City Bank of New York, representatives of which institution are already here. It is said that legislation will be introduced whereby any American bank trading here will have to comply with conditions similar to those imposed by the United States.

TURKS ISLANDS.—Conch Shell Industry.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, LIMITED.—The health of the Dependency is good, and the epidemic of influenza appears to have been stamped out. The conch shell industry is moving slowly, and small quantities are being shipped, also some sponge. There is a small lot of sisal awaiting shipment. Cotton is still coming in to be ginned, and up to the present there are about 3,000 lb. over and above the amount received last year now in hand, and from indications there are considerable quantities yet to be received from the different settlements of Caicos group. Business has been very quiet. A large quantity of salt still remains on hand, and although it is reported to have been sold for future shipment, it is being removed very slowly.

Members of the Sulphate of Ammonia "combine" have circularised their customers as follows:—

"In view of the representations on the part of British planters, and owing to the proximity of the West Indies to America, it has been decided to reduce the price for sulphate of ammonia for shipment June-November, as buyers may select, to £21 10s. per ton, in double bags, 4 lb. tare, f.o.b., net cash. Any contracts made would be subject to the following clause:

"Should the price of British S/Ammonia be reduced for shipment to West Indies during June-November, 1919, buyers to have the benefit of such reduction, even if the goods have been shipped; buyers to accept the amount of such reduction as fixed by the S/Ammonia Export Traders."

Planters in Mauritius, owing presumably to their misfortune in not being near America, are still being asked to pay full rates, and are not unnaturally protesting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A "MARE'S NEST" ?

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I see in a recent issue reference made to the report of a Committee of Trinidad planters in which the possibility of the Mother Country turning out the whole of the sugar she wants is gravely put forward.

Presuming that the consumption in this country goes back to the old figure of 2,000,000 tons, which is bound to take place, and supposing that the existing refineries are supplied with home-grown raw beet, which is extremely improbable, as modern beet factories would make white sugar themselves, 1,250,000 acres would be required for the beet itself. This would mean, on a four years' rotation, 5,000,000 acres.

The total area in cultivation in the United Kingdom before the war was 50,000,000 acres. Apart from any other consideration, there is certainly not one-tenth of this suitable as regards soil and climate for beet growing. Then again, there are local conditions and the existing industries to be considered. Dairy farming and the raising of stock is a highly important branch of agriculture here, and in view of heavy Continental imports in the form of condensed milk and butter and cheese requires extension. It also requires root crops, mangolds, &c., and there is no place here for beet. The price for beet, indeed, would have to be high to induce the farmer to grow beet in the grazing countries.

The Midland Counties and the northern part of East Anglia will probably show a beet-sugar industry in the future, but its probable extent need not alarm colonial sugar producers. There is room for both industries.—Yours, &c.,

FREDERIC J. SCARD.

DOMINICA'S ROADS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I am sorry to see the position you have taken up in regard to the Report of the Road Commission.

I supported Major Burdon's scheme warmly in a speech in the Legislative Council here, and, as you will remember, I advocated it strongly at the meeting in the Committee's Room in London in 1914; but many things have happened since then. *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. The new road construction that was desirable in those days is no longer possible just now. In 1914 Dominica was prosperous, and the public finances were in a flourishing condition, as Major Burdon pointed out. In par. 13 of his Report he says: "I have therefore full confidence in forecasting a rapidly rising revenue, such as would give a far higher surplus than the £4,000 average for the last six years, if expenditure remained at its present figure."

But the forecast proved erroneous on account of war conditions. The present state of the island's affairs is given in some detail in par. 45 of the Report of the Road Commission, and, in the circumstances, the Commissioners recommended that "all costly road construction should be postponed until prosperity is restored after the war is won, and until the roads necessary for the prosecution of the agricultural industries are put into thoroughly good order, and adequate provision is made for their proper maintenance." It will be observed that the Commission do not advocate the entire abandonment of any scheme for "the construction of new roads," as you put it—they simply advise the "postponement" of any such scheme for good and sufficient reasons; and in par. 46 of the Report they give expression to the hope that in time there will be constructed a highway from the capital town to Lasoye, which is an important part of the Burdon scheme.

In order that prosperity may again come to Dominica planting enterprises must be fostered and not handi-

capped. In the Report there is abundant evidence that the present wretched state of many of the highways militates seriously against the prosperity of the only industry of the country—that is, agriculture.

Your statement that the surplus of £28,000 has been frittered away is not correct. Of this sum £8,362 has been devoted to the furtherance of Major Burdon's scheme, and the Report of Mr. Bell, the Director of Public Works in Trinidad, a copy of which I forward herewith, shows that the money has been spent to advantage. In par. 14 of the Report of the Commission it is shown that the disappearance of the balance of the surplus is due mainly to conditions brought about by the war, which occasioned very serious shrinkage of revenue, whilst expenditure was increased by military measures that had to be taken for the defence of the island, and a portion of the money had necessarily to be spent to repair the serious damage to roads, bridges and buildings occasioned by the hurricane of 1916.

You complain that the Commission makes no suggestions for the construction of new roads, and for the raising of money by loan or otherwise for such work. Evidently you have overlooked the fact that such subjects were not included in the terms of reference to the Commissioners, which were confined to the discontent existing owing to the present system of road maintenance, and the work done by the Public Works Department in maintaining the roads of the island. Naturally, the Commission did the work it was appointed specially to do, and to criticise it adversely because it did not take up work beyond its province can scarcely be described as wise or just.

I may inform you, as a matter of fact, that the raising by loan of money to be devoted to the construction of new roads was suggested by the Administrator, but disallowed by the Colonial Office authorities.—Yours, &c.,

H. ALFORD NICHOLLS.

Dominica, W.I.

Mr. G. E. A. GRINDLE, C.M.G., Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, will be the recipient of many congratulations on his appointment to be a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, which was gazetted as the CIRCULAR went to press. Prior to his promotion Mr. Grindle, who is a member of the Committee of the West Indian Club, was Principal Clerk of the West India Department at the Colonial Office.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. W. Abbott.	Mr. A. T. Hammond.
Sir W. L. Allardyce,	Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson.
K.C.M.G.	Mr. Llewelyn Jones.
Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. H. Kirby.
Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G.	Mr. J. Kirkness.
O.B.E.	Mr. C. V. Lindo.
Mr. Bernard Bonyun.	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch.
Dr. N. L. Boxill.	O.B.E.
Mr. G. F. Branch.	Hon. A. W. Mahaffy, O.B.E.
Mr. G. S. Browne.	Mr. C. Martin-Sperry.
Mr. R. Bryson.	Mr. T. M. Marshall.
Sir J. Chancellor,	Mr. W. McMillan.
K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
Sir W. Collett, K.C.M.G.	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E.
Mr. W. W. Craib.	Mrs. Rapsey.
Mr. Robt. Craig.	Mr. Sangster.
Hon. S. Cuthbert.	Rev. W. R. Symons.
Hon. D. S. de Freitas.	Mr. Thos. Thornton.
Mr. Alex. Duncan.	Hon. W. A. S. Vickers.
Mr. W. P. Ebbells.	Mr. Cyril Warren.
Mr. C. J. S. Elvey.	Mr. Athelstan Watson.
Mr. F. Evans.	

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
June 12th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE. The West India Committee learn that it is intended that the preferential rates of duty shall be applied to all goods delivered from bond on payment of duty on or after the date on which the preference comes into force. It is impossible to say as yet, however, what arrangements will be made as regards sugar in bonded refineries—i.e., as to calculating the rate of duty chargeable with respect to the proportion of Empire sugar used.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

New York prices: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c., c. and f. New York, as against 4.985c. last year; 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64c. as against 4.749c. From January 1st to March 31st 28,888,555 lb. of refined sugar was exported to the United States to Great Britain, and 61,570,552 lb. to France.

The West India sugar statistics in London on May 31st were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	15,609	10,275	21,117	
Deliveries	12,432	16,504	22,947	"
Stock	9,369	4,758	6,185	"

RUM. Following representations made by the West India Committee and the Wine and Spirit Association, the Board of Customs has taken steps to obtain the necessary authority to permit, for a further period of twelve months from May 19th, the clearance for home consumption of rum which has been warehoused for a period of not less than eighteen months.

The stocks in London on May 31st were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	4,183	5,165	8,836	
Demerara	13,167	3,251	10,208	"
Total of all kinds	21,745	13,667	31,830	"

COCOA. Shipments of Trinidad cacao during April, 1919, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight.
To all countries	11,604,045 lb.
Shipped previously	13,618,683 ..
Total from January 1st	25,422,728 ..
To same date, 1918	25,164,010 ..
" " 1917	44,024,259 ..
" " 1916	27,960,101 ..
" " 1915	30,704,080 ..
" " 1914	41,344,691 ..
" " 1913	27,503,212 ..
" " 1912	30,702,105 ..
" " 1911	23,699,791 ..
" " 1910	25,498,039 ..
" " 1909	25,101,356 ..

The market remains very firm; 2,008 bags of Trinidad were offered at auction (when 24,503 bags in all were sold), and part sold at 122s. 6d.

The stocks in London on May 31st were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	15,872	13,033	27,701	
Grenada	9,019	23,453	27,497	"
Total of all kinds	107,168	169,434	291,594	"

ARROWROOT. Since arrowroot was last mentioned there has been a rather better inquiry resulting in a moderate business. Quotations, 6d. and 7½d., and for non-association 5½d. and 5¾d.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled, small sales at 4s., but still very quiet; Handpressed, no demand. Lime-juice: Concentrated, firm and scarce; Raw, more inquiry, with sales at 2s. 7½d. to 3s. for fr. to fine. Citrate: Firm. Orange Oil: Quiet; bitters, sweet, 7s. nominal.

PETROLEUM. Exports from Trinidad continue to go ahead. From January 1st to April 12th 14,373,205 gallons were exported, as against 9,313,325 gallons for the same period last year. Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, report a production of 17,800 tons in May.

COPRA. The market has been quiet during the past week, but is closing steadier. West India, £59 c.i.f. London; £63 c.i.f. Marseilles.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.		PRICES.
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	76-78
3½ %	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	74-76
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	82-84
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	64-66
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81-83
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	85-87
3½ %	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	66-68 xd
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	73-75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	75-77
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	83-85
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	64-66
8 %	The Colonial Bank	73-7½
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	157-162
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	83-86
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures	83-85
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	89-91
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	100-105
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	12-6-13/6
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	12-6-13/6
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	54-10½
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields	7/3-7/9
—	Trinidad Dominion 10%	31-3½
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	37-42
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	99-104
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	61-66
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	65-70
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	1½-1½
6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	7½-8½ xd
6½	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd "	67-67
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	73-76

BIRTH.

TEMPANY.—On May 23rd. at Reduit, Mauritius, to the wife of H. A. Tempany, D.Sc., F.I.C., Director of Agriculture, Mauritius, a son. (By cable.)

SURGEON-LIEUT.-COMMANDER E. L. ATKINSON, D.S.O., who, as readers of the CIRCULAR will recall, accompanied Scott on his last expedition to the South Pole, has just been awarded the Albert Medal for rescuing men who had been rendered unconscious when H.M.S. *Glatten* blew up in Dover Harbour. He was at work in his cabin when the first explosion occurred, and was rendered unconscious. When he recovered he made his way on deck, and, being then unscathed, he got two unconscious men on to the upper deck. He was bringing a third man up when a smaller explosion occurred whilst he was on the ladder. This explosion blinded him, and, at the same time, a piece of metal was driven into his left leg in such a manner that he was unable to move until he had himself extracted it. Placing the third man on the upper deck, he proceeded forward through the shelter deck. By feel, being totally unable to see, he here found two more unconscious men, both of whom he brought out. The hero who is now so deservedly honoured is son of Mr. E. L. Atkinson, late manager of the Colonial Bank in Trinidad.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

Canada and the West Indies.

PUBLIC opinion on the subject of the future relationship of the West Indies and Canada is now assuming definite shape as the outcome of visits paid by MR. HARRY J. CROWE to the Bahamas and Jamaica, and by MR. T. B. MACAULAY to the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana. Even MR. CROWE, who may be regarded as the protagonist of federation between the West Indies and Canada, will, we fancy, now admit that the political union which he advocates does not enter the region of practical politics. At any rate, his proposals in this connection failed to evoke any enthusiasm in Jamaica, and his naive admission that there was no colour prejudice in Canada against West Indians, but that it was only East Indians who were kept out, will not help his cause in Trinidad and British Guiana with their large East Indian population. MR. MACAULAY, once a believer in political federation, now realises its difficulties, and advocates instead commercial union. To the present CIRCULAR he contributes an interesting article on the subject. It must not be supposed that by publishing it we support his views, but we certainly feel that these questions affecting the West Indies cannot be sufficiently ventilated, especially when they are raised by so prominent and influential a Canadian business man as MR. MACAULAY. His proposal that the basis of the existing preference under the Canada agree-

ment should be broadened in favour of the Mother Country as well as the parties to the agreement will no doubt appeal to the West Indies as well as to Canada. Indeed, it will be essential for Canada to increase the preference on British sugar if she desires to attract to her market West Indian produce, having regard to the fact that the preference in the United Kingdom will, as from September 1st next, amount to 3s. 8.75d. per cwt., against the present preference of 1s. 7d. per cwt. in Canada. MR. MACAULAY'S suggestion that, in the case of British Guiana, "there might be a mere transference of relationship from the Colonial Office to Ottawa," is decidedly novel, and hardly, we imagine, likely to be seriously canvassed until the results of Imperial Preference are demonstrated, since it would involve a tariff differentiation against the Mother Country.

Customs Uniformity.

THE recommendations of the Intercolonial Customs and Trade Conference, which was held in Trinidad from March 10th to 27th, have now been published. They take the form of a series of resolutions, most of which were agreed to unanimously by the delegates, who were drawn from all the West Indian colonies with the exception of Jamaica, the Bahamas and British Honduras. The most important work achieved was the adoption of model Customs and Customs Duties Ordinances, which, if approved by the various Legislatures concerned, will go far towards obviating the difficulty which British manufacturers at present experience through having to master the intricacies of no fewer than nineteen different Customs tariffs if they wish to open up trade with the British West Indies. It may not yet be possible to establish identical rates of duty in each of the West Indian colonies, or even in the presidencies of the Leeward Islands; but uniformity of definition and classification in the schedules of duties will be extremely helpful, and will mark a distinct step in advance. A resolution in favour of the colonies represented at the conference entering into a Customs Union and adopting a uniform Customs tariff was agreed to; but the delegates from Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia abstained from voting, and nothing is therefore likely to come of it as yet, which is disappointing. The proposals were that the receipts under the tariff should be pooled and allotted from year to year in proportion to the dutiable imports

into each colony, and that, except in the case of articles subject to Excise Duty, the products of any one colony should be admitted free into any other colony. MR. WALCOTT, the Chairman of the Conference, to whom we believe the credit is due for drafting the very clear and concise Customs Ordinances referred to above, claims that the adoption of this proposal would draw the colonies closer together in trade and other questions, largely increase intercolonial trade and communication, and secure for some of the smaller colonies a reasonable tariff in place of the unsound and indefensible tariffs with which they are now burdened. No doubt this question will be further discussed throughout the West Indies, as, indeed, it well deserves to be. Anticipating the decision of the British Government to establish Imperial Preference, the delegates, at their final meeting, adopted a resolution expressing strongly the opinion that, if that Preference should prove to be of a sufficiently substantial and permanent nature to secure the markets of the Empire for the products and manufactures of the Empire, the British West Indian colonies should arrange their tariffs in such a manner as to give full effect to this principle. That the measure of Imperial Preference now agreed upon is substantial will be admitted; the prospects of its permanency will be greatly enhanced if our colonies, by granting a substantial reciprocal preference in their duties, help to strengthen inter-Imperial trade to such an extent that it will be to the interest of Great Britain herself to continue the policy which she has now adopted. We hope that the recommendations of the Intercolonial Conference will speedily be confirmed by the colonies concerned, and that Jamaica, the Bahamas, and British Honduras will also consider the desirability of adopting the model Customs Ordinance, which is based on the Imperial Customs Acts, with additions and amendments to meet local conditions.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

We have received the following letter:—

June 23rd, 1919.

SIR,—The repatriation of the British West Indies Regiment being nearly complete, and that of the men who came over independently far advanced, it should be possible in the near future to bring the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee to a close.

Thanks to the generous response to their last appeal, the Committee believe that they now have sufficient money in hand to meet all probable contingencies, and that the Fund may now be closed.

The Committee wish to thank you for the support which you have given to their several appeals for assistance, and, through you, to thank the public for the generous response which they have made to their appeals.

EVERARD IM THURN, Chairman,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Hon. Secretary.

Membership of the West India Committee is confined by the Royal Charter to British subjects. Any member may propose or second candidates, whose names should be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3. There is no entrance fee, and the annual subscription is £1 1s. per annum, which can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to expand, and it is hoped that it will soon reach at least 2,000, the present total being 1,876. Twenty-five candidates, whose names are given below, were elected at a meeting of the Executive held on June 12th. It will be noted that Mr. Joshua Baeza introduced no fewer than 13 of these new members, and it is worthy of mention that in his enthusiasm he went to the trouble of having application forms specially printed in Barbados, his supply being exhausted. The Hon. Treasurers hope that his splendid example will be followed by others, and that a great accretion to the membership may result.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. Richard J. M. Lewin ... (Jamaica)	Sir S. Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B. Mr. Robert Rutherford.
Surgn.-Capt. A. G. Curphey, M.C. (Jamaica)	Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. Robert Rutherford.
Mr. Joseph Lionel Shannon (Trinidad)	Mr. H. W. Braithwaite. Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.
Mr. Gerard O. Case (British Guiana)	Mr. Paul Cressall, jun. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. Aubrey Evelyn (Nevis)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. Mr. Hugh F. Wildy.
Dr. C. A. Shaw, M.B., C.M. (St. Kitts)	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. Mr. Hugh F. Wildy.
Mr. Winston Hart Bryan ... (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Frederick N. Roach ... (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. Messrs. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. George W. Hutchinson (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Vincent C. McCormack (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado
Mr. N. C. Henriques (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. S. R. Reuben (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Dr. P. E. H. Giuseppe, M.B., C.M., J.P. (London)	Mr. H. F. Previt�. Mr. G. Moody Stuart.
Lieut.-Col. C. Wood Hill, D.S.O. (London)	Mr. Robert Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. James Crawford (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Clifford L. Blanchard (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Thomas A. Wooding ... (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Henry H. Carter (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Charles H. Kinch (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Messrs. John Gill & Co. ... (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Conrad B. Inness (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. F. N. A. Clairmonte ... (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Messrs. Ince & Co. (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. M. Spencer Mayers ... (Barbados)	Mr. Joshua Baeza. James A. Lynch & Co., Ltd.
Mr. Elias Abraham Issa ... (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"If yo' no listen a mangro' tree root, yo' nebber hear crab cough."

* * *

COLONEL C. G. BROWNE, D.S.O., of the R.A.M.C., whom we have to congratulate upon receiving the C.M.G., is part-proprietor of Waltham Estate in Grenada.

* * *

MR. CHARLES E. F. DUMAS, cousin of Mr. F. E. D. Man, O.B.E., has been admitted a partner in the firm of Messrs. F. D. & F. Man, produce brokers, of 7 Mining-lane, E.C. 3.

* * *

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL F. JENKINS, C.M.G. (Coldstream Guards and Nigeria Regiment, West African Frontier Force), has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados in succession to Mr. T. E. Fell, C.M.G.

* * *

MR. LLEWELLYN JONES, who, it will be remembered, went to Mauritius in 1910 as General Manager of Les Forges et Fondries de Maurice, Limited, has arrived in London with his wife and daughter for a short visit.

* * *

The Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company notify that passage rates from New York are as follows: To Grenada and Trinidad, \$80 first class, \$50 second class; to Demerara, \$100 first class, \$60 second class. United States War Tax additional.

* * *

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. WOOD HILL, D.S.O., and Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. L. Poe, commanding respectively the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, were mentioned in General Allenby's despatches published on June 9th.

* * *

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Charles P. Berthon, R.N., H.M. Submarine K.5, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude T. Berthon, of Wimbledon, and Ruth, second daughter of the late John Ferrier and Mrs. Ferrier, of Woodhayes, Wimbledon Common.

* * *

The marriage arranged between Mr. Edward Baynes, Civil Service, Ministry of Shipping, late Colonial Service, Leeward Islands, and Miss Dorothy Beauchamp, daughter of the late Mr. F. W. Beauchamp and Mrs. Beauchamp, of Colwall, Herefordshire, will take place at the Parish Church, Colwall, on July 17th.

* * *

CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALE, of the 47th Labour Group, has been mentioned in "Routine Orders" by Major-General P. R. Robertson, C.B., C.M.G., for an act of gallantry on the occasion of a fire at an ammunition dump where some 10,000 tons of ammunition were stored. Captain Hale was a member of the first Trinidad contingent.

* * *

MR. WILLIAM MICHAEL HERBERT GREAVES, of St. John's College, is among the Wranglers in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos. Mr. Greaves, who also won the Tyson Medal for Astronomy, is the son of Sir William H. Greaves, Chief Justice of Barbados, and received his early education at the Lodge School and Codrington College in that island.

* * *

SIR GEORGE SUTHERLAND, who is interested in the Indian sugar industry, has been appointed first Chairman of the Empire Sugar Research Association, which has been established to provide facilities for research and education in connection with the sugar industry, and to provide the British Empire with at least as good an equipment in this branch of applied science as Germany and the United States. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. Martineau.

A BRILLIANT function took place in the Town Hall at New Amsterdam on April 26th, when an address of welcome and congratulation upon his knighthood was presented to Sir Edward Davson. The speakers included Mr. E. A. Luckhoo, the Mayor; Mr. J. A. Abbensetts, Mr. S. S. Wreford, Mr. D. A. Oldfield, Mr. P. Saunders, and Mr. H. E. Davis. Sir Edward, with characteristic generosity, marked the occasion by presenting to the town a gift of £500.

* * *

AMONG those taking part in a Missionary Conference in the Bethesda Chapel, Bristol, recently was Mr. George E. Nicholls, who first went out to Barbados twenty years ago. He reminded the meeting that Mr. Rymer went out from that church many years ago to British Guiana, and that his name was still gratefully remembered there. From a small beginning, there were no fewer than twenty-six assemblies in British Guiana. He pleaded for volunteers to take the place of the old workers who had passed to their rest or were now very aged.

* * *

THE stirring address, entitled "The Trust of Empire," which Bishop Frodsham delivered at the Overseas Club and West Indian Contingent Committee's Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance on Empire Day, will shortly be published as a pamphlet. To the names of those present at the service should be added those of Mr. and Mrs. R. Rutherford, Lady Cameron, the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray, Mrs. C. Harley Moseley, Mrs. Spencer Churchill, Mrs. S. George Gray, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mrs. Elliot, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Rev. H. G. Frampton, Rev. A. F. Gill, and Sir William Grey-Wilson, which were omitted by an oversight from the list in last CIRCULAR. Copies of the pamphlet will be obtainable, post free, from the Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

* * *

IN these days when the manhood of Great Britain and the United States have been united in fighting side by side on the battlefields of France, it is interesting to recall the circumstance which formed the crowning act which led to the separation of the North American colonies from the Mother Country. This was the discharge into the sea in Boston harbour by the infuriated Bostonians of a cargo of tea as a protest against the duty charged by the British Government. A part of this cargo had been shipped by the firm of Rawlinson, in the City of London, established in 1650, and later represented by Messrs. Davison and Newman, of Fenchurch-street, and now of 14, Creechurch-lane, which was incorporated a few years back with the West Indian Produce Association, Limited. The "North American Colonies" were originally included in the West Indies, and thus the old firm once more resumed in its new condition its connection with what are now the United States.

* * *

MR. WILLIAM HENRY PORTER, I.S.O., was the recipient of an Address and Testimonial from a Committee representing public officers, managers of banks, planters and members of the commercial county of Dominica on his retirement from the Public Service of that island. Entering the service in 1874, Mr. Porter was Treasurer of Dominica for nearly thirty years, during which period he administered the Government of the Presidency on no fewer than thirty occasions. For many years a member of the Executive and Legislative Council, Mr. Porter has, to paraphrase the Address, earned the gratitude of all interested in the welfare of Dominica by his continued efforts to secure the betterment of the financial and general condition of the island. The Address was signed by Mr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., Mr. A. A. Seignoret, Mr. F. Woolward, Mr. R. F. Leavitt, Mr. Andrew H. Green, Mr. T. H. Shillingford, Mr. Hamilton Rolle, Mr. G. F. Branch, Mr. William Steadman Archer, and Mr. W. C. Winston.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The Case for Commercial Union.

By T. B. MACAULAY.

The author of this article is a prominent Canadian business man who for some years past has been a staunch and persistent advocate of a closer understanding between the British West Indies and Canada. He has recently returned to Montreal from a visit to the islands and British Guiana, where he addressed meetings and interviewed the leading inhabitants.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity you so kindly offer to place before your readers a summary of the suggestions I made during my recent trip through the eastern group of the British West Indies. An overwhelming case can be made out for the necessity of all parts of the Empire trading together, thus avoiding the piling up of a ruinous debt by all to our good friends of the United States. Empire co-operation in war brought victory, and Empire co-operation is at least as necessary now in peace. The 20 per cent. preference under the existing Canadian-West Indian agreement has prevented the complete capture of the trade by the United States. It has secured the Canadian market for British West Indian sugar, and the West Indian market for Canadian flour. Under the treaty, however, both these products enjoy a minimum preference in excess of 20 per cent. There are many other products of tropical or northern origin, which both parties are yet buying from the United States, but which they could, and should, buy from each other. Unless a preference makes each party reasonably sure of the markets of the other, it is of little value. To make the preference effective I suggested that it be increased from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent., applying, as at present, to imports from both the Mother Country and Canada.

Now that the Mother Country is granting an Imperial preference, it will be the duty and privilege of the West Indian Colonies to make a handsome return. Could they do better than grant a preference of 50 per cent. to both the Mother Country and Canada, as a return for the preference they would enjoy in both parts of the Empire? This would force practically all their trade into British channels. The existing preference is limited to articles mentioned in the schedules attached to the agreement. These articles contain only things which Canada can supply, and the Mother Country therefore gets but little benefit. I suggest that the preference be extended to all articles originating in the British West Indies on the one hand, and in either Canada or the Motherland on the other. An increase in the preference does not necessarily produce a loss of public revenue. The preference can be given by doubling the general tariff, and allowing the old rate to remain as the preferential. This would have the further advantage of increasing the amount of the preference, thus rendering it more effective. It moreover would tend to do away with the inequality which results from one country giving as the preference a percentage of, for example, a 10 per cent. tariff, while the other country gives the same percentage, but figured on a 25 or 30 per cent. tariff. In none of the islands

did I recommend any arrangement going beyond an increase in the preference to 50 per cent. So far as I could judge, the business men of all the colonies would enthusiastically welcome this arrangement.

The Problem of Guiana.

British Guiana, however, presents a special problem. While the islands are more or less fully developed—Barbados having nearly 1,100 people to the square mile—British Guiana has 90,000 square miles, with a little over 300,000 people, or, say, three persons to the mile. The coastal section could produce enormously increased supplies of sugar and rice. The interior has vast forest and mineral resources, while in the south-west there is the great savannah section, capable of supporting enormous herds of cattle. The colony is crying out for development, and, in particular, for the building of a railway to the hinterland. That development cannot longer be delayed. The United States has made Porto Rico prosperous, and has obtained control over Cuba, Hayti, and San Domingo. She has purchased the Danish Islands, tried to get the French Islands, and is understood to be negotiating, with every prospect of success, for Dutch Guiana. She has a covetous eye for the British colonies, which some of her prominent people have publicly declared are in the American sphere of influence, and should be transferred, so that the Caribbean Sea may be made an American lake. If the Americans had British Guiana they would develop it and make it hum with prosperity. Is it to remain undeveloped because it is British? Just as the United States develops her possessions, so the natural course would be for the Mother Country to develop British Guiana; and if she undertakes this, we in Canada will sympathetically co-operate. If, however, the Mother Country prefers not to undertake this task, why not turn to Canada? If Guiana were to unite politically with Canada, the problem would be simple. For British Columbia and the prairie provinces, the Dominion arranged for the Canadian Pacific Railway; for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, she built the Intercolonial, and for Prince Edward Island the P.E.I. Railway. For British Guiana it would be natural that the Dominion should build the desired railway.

Entrance to the Canadian Confederation as a province would present difficulties. As an addition to the present somewhat mixed population, it is hoped that the building of the railway would attract large numbers to both coast and hinterland, drawn possibly from India, South China, Java, West Africa, Brazil and Venezuela. All of these people would be heartily welcomed. To allow this heterogeneous and unassimilated population equal votes with the people of Ontario in controlling the destinies of Canada would strain our faith in democracy. It has been suggested, however, that there might be a mere transference of relationship from the Colonial Office to Ottawa, with, perhaps, representation in the Canadian Senate. During my trip, however, I carefully refrained from suggesting any form of political union, and I do not now suggest it. West Indians, apparently, do not desire it, and there is, therefore, nothing to be said.

But discarding the idea of political union, Porto

Rico is worth considering. That island has a customs union with the United States, absolute free trade with the American mainland, and the full U.S. tariff on everything imported from elsewhere. The customs revenue goes to the island Government. Would a similar customs union be practicable between British Guiana and Canada? As the increase in public revenues due to the development of the colony would all accrue to Guiana, Canada could hardly be expected to build the railway unaided. Every increase of population and wealth in the colony would, however, benefit Canada, since for commercial purposes its people would be on the same footing as Canadians. Under a customs union it would therefore, I believe, be entirely reasonable to ask Canada to bear one-half of the burden of building the railway (and possibly of developing the harbour), and I, personally, have no doubt whatever that the Dominion would consent. If Canada could consider that British Guiana for commercial purposes was practically part of the Dominion, an energetic trade policy would certainly be inaugurated. The railway to the south-west boundary would not merely develop the British hinterland, but would reach the vast northern savannah land of Brazil—an area as large as all British Guiana, having almost unlimited possibilities in cattle-raising, with no present outlet except 500 to 800 miles by river to Manaos, and 1,200 miles thence by the Amazon to the sea. The imports and exports of this great region would naturally go through Georgetown, and what that would mean for British Guiana can hardly be estimated. Canadian goods would be in Guiana at Canadian prices, with no increase except for transportation. A commercial preference treaty might even be arranged between Brazil on the one hand, and Guiana and Canada on the other.

Position of Guiana to Mother Country.

There is one objection to this plan. If the principle were adhered to that the Mother Country be given equally favourable terms with Canada, and that free entrance of Canadian goods must mean free entrance of British also, two results would follow: First, the Guiana Government would be short of revenue; second, Canada would not have that sense of identification which alone would justify her in undertaking the development of the colony. A preference to the Mother Country of 50 per cent. would be quite in order, but I fear that would be all. If the Mother Country and Canada must be treated alike, a 50 per cent. mutual preference is probably as far as we can go, and to that we can cheerfully agree, and forget any suggestion for the development of British Guiana.

Before finally deciding, let us think what Canada would now be had the provinces not federated. We would be a mere fringe of detached colonies, with, perhaps, two-thirds our present population, possibly still under the British flag, but certainly American owned and American controlled. Yet it might have been said that such a union would be unpatriotic, because goods from upper and lower Canada would thereafter have a preference in Nova Scotia over British goods. But does anyone believe this was a mistake, or that the Mother Country does not export

more to the present great prosperous Canada, with its Imperial preference, than she would now be selling to comparatively unimportant American-controlled provinces? Would it be unpatriotic to bring Newfoundland into the Dominion? For every commercial advantage that would accrue from a customs union between two northern parts of the Empire, a hundred advantages would accrue from such a union of northern and tropical sections. The United States is making desperate efforts to control the trade of the West Indies and South America, and only by united aggressive action can British trade and British influence be maintained. Would it not mean much to British Guiana to have the prosperous, energetic Dominion take in hand its development? And would not such development help the Mother Country just as the development of Canada has done? Unitedly we can build up a British America, which will be a bulwark of the Empire, and which will get its full share of the trade, not merely of North America, but of South America also.

To sum up: For an increase in the preference to 50 per cent. in favour of both the Mother Country and Canada, the Dominion and all the colonies are, I think, ready. British Guiana has its special problem. It must be energetically developed. I have suggested a way by which Canada could, if desired, undertake that task; but the decision rests with the Mother Country and Guiana herself.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Letter from Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P.

The West India Committee have received the following letter from Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., in acknowledgment of a resolution on the subject of Imperial Preference which was adopted at the Annual General Meeting of that body on May 29th—

Treasury Chambers,

June 2nd, 1919.

SIR,—

I thank you for the copy of the resolution adopted at the General Meeting of the West India Committee on the 29th May, expressing the satisfaction of the Committee with the introduction of Imperial Preference.

I thank you also for reminding me of my father's correspondence with you at the time of his resignation of the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

The terms of the resolution were as follows:—

"That the West India Committee, in General Meeting this day assembled, desire to record their sense of satisfaction at the decision of the Government, as announced by the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., in his Budget Statement in the House of Commons on April 30th, to give effect to the declaration of the Imperial War Cabinet and Imperial War Conference in 1917, that preference in duties now or hereafter existing would be introduced for goods of Imperial origin."

INTERCOLONIAL CUSTOMS CONFERENCE.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Secretary, and Delegate for Trinidad, and Chairman of the recent Intercolonial Customs and Trade Conference, we are able to publish his report, which is as follows:—

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Intercolonial Customs and Trade Conference* held here from March 10th to 27th.

2. The terms of reference as agreed on by the several colonies were as under:—

The Conference to submit for approval and adoption by the colonies concerned—

(a) A Model Customs Ordinance.

(b) A Model Customs Duties Ordinance.

(c) Model Regulations for the classification of Imports and Exports, and for the preparation of Customs statistics.

(d) A list of articles on which specific duties should be imposed, and of those to be admitted free of duty, and recommendations as to what extent rates of duties could be made uniform.

(e) A list of articles on which drawbacks should be granted, and model Regulations governing the payment of drawbacks and the shipment of goods subject to drawback.

(f) Model Regulations governing the importation, exportation and warehousing of goods.

(g) Recommendations for the establishment of free trade between the colonies in products of the colonies; and

(h) A proposal that the Imperial Government be asked to have drafted a model Merchant Shipping Act for adoption by the various colonies participating in the Conference.

3. The following subjects not included in the terms of reference were also discussed:—

(a) The granting of a preference on goods produced within the Empire.

(b) The establishment of a joint service of fast, up-to-date steamers on a circular route between Great Britain, Canada, Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, and *vice versa*, linking with the smaller colonies by a separate intercolonial service.

4. The First Resolution gives effect to (a) of the terms of reference. The Model Customs Ordinance referred to therein follows closely the Imperial Customs Acts with additions and amendments to meet local conditions. In drafting the Ordinance it was necessary to provide for the needs of the larger colonies, with the result that certain provisions, such as Part VII. Coasting Trade, will not be applicable to some of the smaller colonies which have no coasting trade; it will, however, do no harm for these colonies to adopt the Ordinance as it stands, for the reason that the provisions, although not now applicable, will be found useful as the colonies develop.

5. The Second Resolution gives effect to (b) and (d) of the terms of reference. In the Schedules attached to the draft Model Customs Duties Ordinance (Appendix B) are shown the articles on which it is recommended specific or *ad valorem* duties should be imposed as the case may be, and the articles to be admitted free of duty. Owing to the extraordinary divergence in the rates of duties imposed by the several colonies, it was not found possible to get uniformity in this direction.

6. The Third and Fourth Resolutions give effect to (c) of the terms of reference. I beg to draw particular attention to paragraph (3) of the Fourth Resolution.

The publication of the combined trade returns of the colonies, as recommended therein, should prove of much value.

7. The Fifth Resolution gives effect to (e) of the terms of reference. The adoption of this resolution will not only bring the colonies into uniformity as to the granting of drawbacks, but will tend to increase the trade between the colonies in re-exports. It will be observed that no drawback is proposed to be given on wines, spirits, tobacco and other high duty goods, for the reason that they are largely kept in bond and can be shipped therefrom.

8. The Sixth Resolution gives effect to (f) of the terms of reference. As the bringing into force of the Model Customs Ordinance (Appendix A) will be deferred pending the drafting of the necessary regulations, the Conference recommended that the Government of British Guiana be asked to facilitate this object by consenting to the seconding of Mr. Reid at an early date, to visit the several colonies for the purpose of drafting regulations to suit the local needs and circumstances of each colony.

9. The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Resolutions are self-explanatory and require little comment*. The establishment of a central authority as recommended in the 9th Resolution will be necessary so as to secure continued uniformity.

10. In view of the appointment of a Committee in the United Kingdom to consider and report on steamship communication with the colonies, the Conference were of opinion that it would serve no useful purpose to recommend the adoption of the Eleventh Resolution.

11. The Twelfth and Thirteenth Resolutions were agreed to by a majority of the delegates after much discussion. It was, I think, generally accepted that the establishment of free trade between the colonies was desirable, and that in addition to having uniformity in laws and regulations, it was also most desirable to have uniformity in rates of duties. At present in most of the smaller colonies the larger part of the revenue derived from Customs is raised from duties on food-stuffs, such as flour, rice, fish, meats, &c.; the rates of duty on these articles are in many cases excessive and bear heavily on the labouring population, which represents about 90 per cent. of the inhabitants. In the larger colonies, and particularly in Trinidad, the tendency has been to reduce the duties on necessaries and to increase those on luxuries, so that any attempt to bring the tariffs of the smaller colonies in line with those of the larger is likely to result in a loss of revenue to the smaller colony. To meet this objection I proposed that each colony should retain the right to impose a surtax on the uniform tariff, the receipts from which not to be included in the pool. The proposal in (f) of the Thirteenth Resolution that the amount required should be obtained from internal sources found more favour with the delegates, and is undoubtedly sounder in colonies where it can be so raised.

12. So as to establish free trade between the colonies, not only in products of the colonies but in re-exports, and to obtain complete uniformity in customs laws and regulations, in tariffs and in any preference that is now given or may be given in the future, I submit that the proposals put forward in the Thirteenth Resolution are worthy of careful consideration. Their adoption would draw the colonies closer together in trade and other questions, largely increase intercolonial trade and communication, and secure for some of the smaller colonies a reasonable tariff in place of the unsound and indefensible tariffs with which they are now burdened. It would also place the colonies forming the Union.

* The seventh recommends uniformity of designation of the financial officer and head of the Customs in each colony, who are to be called "Colonial Treasurer" and "Collector of Customs." The eighth provides for interchange of Customs and other laws among the colonies, and the ninth recommends the appointment of a central Customs authority.

whose total trade is some £30,000,000 per annum, in a much stronger position to negotiate trade agreements, &c., than they now are.

13. With reference to the Fourteenth Resolution, I propose, with permission, to again bring forward my proposals made in June, 1916, for a revision of the tariff with the view of this colony granting preferential rates of duty to Empire goods.

14. I regret that, owing to the pressure of work in the printing department, I have been unable to present this report and submit the minutes of the proceedings of the Conference at an earlier date.

THE JAMAICA SHIPPING PROBLEM.

In April last the West India Committee received a letter and a memorandum from the Jamaica Imperial Association on the subject of the banana and shipping situation in Jamaica. The Association drew attention to the dependence of shippers on American companies, and pointed out the remedy lay in the provision of proper British shipping accommodation for the island's products. To this end they advocated the establishment of a subsidised and independent line of steamers to carry fruit and coconuts to Canada and Europe, and so to break down the existing monopoly. In conclusion, they suggested that the Committee might organise a deputation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject. To these representations the following reply has been sent:—

The West India Committee,
London, E.C. 3.
June 2nd, 1919.

Herbert G. de Lisser, Esq.,
General Secretary,
Jamaica Imperial Association,
Jamaica.

DEAR SIR,—I must apologise for my delay in replying to your letter of March 22nd with enclosures on the subject of the Banana and Shipping situation in Jamaica, which is due to the correspondence having been circulated among various gentlemen interested before it was laid before the Executive Committee.

We have now carefully considered your letter in conjunction with the very complete and informative memorandum which accompanied it, and beg to make the following remarks:—

It appears to us that it is only by combination among themselves on the lines suggested by your Association and by establishment of a competitive line of steamers that the planters can hope to secure for their bananas an all-round increase in prices. As the banana producers are resident in Jamaica, it is clear that any efforts in the direction of combination must be made locally, and we trust that the action of your Association in this connection will meet with the support which it deserves.

With regard to your suggestion that a new steamship service might be subsidised to purchase and carry fruit to the Canadian and European markets, we fear that this would be impracticable for some years to come, having regard to the existing shortage in the world's tonnage, and the improbability of an adequate subsidy being forthcoming. It is at any rate certain that no company would now be successful in doing for an annual subsidy of £50,000—the figure suggested—what Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. failed to effect in 1902-11 (when there was no shortage of ships) for one of £40,000 per annum.

Experience, too, has shown that the problem is a far

wider one than the provision of tonnage. The successful handling and distribution of fruit, and especially of bananas, requires vast organisation and resources, ashore no less than afloat, and inquiries lead us to believe that a far larger subsidy than that suggested would be required to induce any shipping company of importance to consider the proposition.

In this connection it cannot be overlooked that the existing American combination owns or controls considerable areas of banana-producing lands in Jamaica, which raises the question as to the extent to which private growers could produce fruit for the requirements of a big competing concern.

It has been suggested that Canadian capital might be interested in the proposition; but it must not be forgotten that the consumption of bananas in the Dominion must for many years fall short of the production in Jamaica; nor can we overlook the fact that a company which was established some years ago in Canada to develop the West Indian fruit business was itself absorbed by the American combination.

We propose, however, to bring your memorandum before the notice of the Canadian Trade Mission in London, who are evincing much interest in the development of trade between the Dominion and the British West Indies.

Meanwhile, we have already taken the opportunity of submitting your views to the Secretary of State for the Colonies through the medium of the West Indian Shipping Committee now sitting at the Colonial Office under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary of State, upon which the West India Committee is represented, and before which Mr. E. A. de Pass, Chairman of the Jamaica Standing Committee, has given very full evidence.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

The dinners of the West Indian Club, which proved so popular before the war, were successfully resumed on June 12th, when Sir John Chancellor, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, was the guest of the evening. Sir Hesketh Bell, formerly Governor of the Leeward Islands, who succeeded Sir John in Mauritius, presided, and the company present included:—

Sir Wilfred Collet (Governor of British Guiana), Sir William Trollope, Bart., Sir George Le Hunte, Sir Charles Davson (Chief Justice of Fiji), Colonel Amery, M.P. (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), Mr. G. E. A. Grindle (Under-Secretary of State), Sir William Goode, Mr. R. H. McCarthy, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. F. Previte, Dr. Hagberg Wright, Mr. H. M. Graham, Captain L. G. Tebbs, Captain F. F. C. Messum, Mr. F. Evans, Mr. H. A. Smallwood, Mr. T. J. Milner, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. E. J. Morris, Mr. B. Bonyun, Captain Baeza, Mr. L. G. Stuart Graham, Mr. C. K. Pile, Mr. F. J. Milton, Lieutenant F. H. Grant, Mr. A. Martin-Sperry, Mr. George Parrott, Dr. Sturridge, Lieutenant-Colonel B. Davson, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. Charles Hewett, Mr. Clifford Bagot Gray, Captain G. B. Mason, Mr. R. A. J. Goode, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (acting hon. secretary).

The marriage of Lieut. Trenar Menendez, M.C., Royal Air Force, son of the Hon. F. M. Menendez, of Nassau, Bahamas, to Miss Dorothy Smartt, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Smartt, of the British Guiana Medical Service, took place in London on the 5th May.

BRITISH GROWN COTTON.

The Council of the British Cotton Growing Association in their annual report demonstrate by statistics the rapid growth in the demand for cotton in America, and the consequent reduction in the surplus available for export. It is shown that, whereas in 1890-95 America's consumption was only 31·2 per cent of the total crop, in 1917-18 it was no less than 58·0 per cent. The moral is the imperative need of developing the production of cotton within the British Empire. The war has resulted in an inevitable set-back in this direction; but, with the termination of the war, the Council regard the outlook for developing cotton in the different African colonies and protectorates as brighter than ever before, and they confidently believe that the developments which are now under contemplation will lead to a considerable expansion of the cotton-growing industry within the next few years.

The total amount of cotton which has passed through the hands of the association during the last six years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Bales.	Value.
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
1918	29,190	£1,410,837

With regard to prospects in the British West Indies the Council point out that there is a tendency in the direction of diminished production of superfine cotton in the United States. Sugar has proved a very keen competitor to cotton in the West Indies during the last year or two, because of the high prices which it is now realising. The production of cotton there in the year ended September 30th, 1918, amounted to 1,530,109 lb. of Sea Island cotton, of an estimated value of £229,518, and, in addition, Marie Galante cotton was produced in Grenada and St. Vincent respectively as follows: 241,524 lb., of an estimated value of £23,811, and 38,285 lb. valued approximately at £5,105; 2,335 lb. of native cotton was also produced in the British Virgin Islands. These results show considerable improvement on the figures for the previous year.

The subscribed capital of the Association remains £477,037, leaving £22,963 only still to be raised. The year's working shows a surplus of £44,345 3s. 1d., after making full provision for depreciation, which is regarded as very satisfactory having in view the difficulties and delays in transport which has involved heavy charges for interest, insurance and storage.

The Lamport and Holt steamers *Vasari* and *Vestris* are each to make a voyage from Barbados to England via New York. Among those who have booked passages by the *Vasari* are Sir Francis Watts, Sir Gilbert and Lady Carter, Major W. H. G. Thorne, Dr. and Mrs. O'Neal (Grenada), Mr. J. F. Deane, and Mr. and Mrs. George Bateman. The *Vestris* will be bringing Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. R. Arthur, Mrs. R. Challenor, and Mr. and Mrs. G. Elliott Sealy.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

It will be recalled that an article was published in the CIRCULAR of January 9th advocating the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in the British West Indies, which attracted much favourable notice. In a later CIRCULAR—that of April 3rd—resolutions adopted by the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Trinidad and Tobago and the Jamaica Agricultural Society, in which each urged that the college might be opened in, and the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture transferred to, their own particular islands, were published. These were considered at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on June 12th, when the despatch of the following letter to the Jamaica Imperial Association was approved:—

The West India Committee,
15, Seething-lane,
London, E.C. 3.
June 12th, 1919.

Herbert G. de Lisser, Esq.,
General Secretary,
Jamaica Imperial Association,
Jamaica.

SIR,—Your letter of March 3rd, forwarding resolutions adopted at the Annual Meeting of your Association advocating the transfer of the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to Jamaica and the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in connection with it, has been laid before my Executive Committee.

They desire me to state that they are strongly in favour of the establishment of such a college in the British West Indies, and that they have already ventilated the question through the medium of their official CIRCULAR, and by personal interview at the Colonial Office.

It will, however, no doubt be within your knowledge that proposals similar to those submitted by your Association have also been put forward by the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Trinidad and Tobago, who are, not unnaturally, desirous of securing for their island the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and also the Tropical Agricultural College.

In the circumstances, it would be invidious for my Committee to attempt to decide between the rival claims of the two colonies, and they venture to think, therefore, that the selection of the site for the headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and for the Tropical Agricultural College should be left to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, who should be in the best position to decide as to which of the West Indian colonies offers the greatest advantages in this connection, from the point of view of the British West Indies as a whole.

Meanwhile, my Committee attach very great importance to the question of the maintenance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. If the Department is to secure and retain the services of the best Agricultural experts it is obvious that it must be placed on a permanent footing. As you are no doubt aware, the Imperial Grant—on which it at present depends, to a great extent, for its existence—expires in the year 1921. My Committee propose, therefore, to represent very strongly to His Majesty's Government the desirability of the continuance of this financial assistance and for the adoption of such measures as will give permanency to the work of the Department, and they hope that in this they will receive the support of your Association, though, owing to the difficulties of steamer communication, your

colony may have derived less immediate benefit from the work of the Department than those nearer to the present headquarters have done.

In conclusion, I am to add that my Committee will be pleased to receive and to transmit to the proper quarter any resolutions which your association and its allied bodies may pass in support of the policy outlined above.

Your obedient Servant,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

TWO WEST INDIAN NAME SHIPS.

There are many links and associations connecting the British Navy with the West Indies and the Caribbean Sea. In that sea the great Admiral Sir Francis Drake was buried in 1596 from his ship the *Defiance* off Porto Bello. Between Dominica and Guadeloupe, on April 12th, 1782, was fought the naval battle in which the English fleet, under Rodney, defeated the French led by De Grasse. Nelson, who married a resident in Nevis, often cruised among those islands, and it was to the West Indies he hastened in 1805 in pursuit of the French Admiral Ville-neuve, who, with his ships, had escaped from the blockade of Toulon. In later days the frequent visits of the North Atlantic Fleet made many officers and blue-jackets well acquainted with those "sunny isles of the tropic sea," which have been the scenes of many naval exploits.

The admiration and esteem in which the Navy is held by all West Indians—whether of English, African, or mixed descent—has always been very great, and when it became known that two of the latest destroyers had respectively been named after Robinson Crusoe's island, Tobago, and the island of Trinidad, leading inhabitants of, and others interested in, those islands at once wished to show their interest in the Navy, and especially in those ships, by gifts for the benefit of the officers and men. Two subscription lists were opened, and substantial sums were quickly obtained, with the result that to H.M.S. *Tobago* a rose-bowl and plinth, a cigar-box, four ash-trays, a lighter and a shield (all of silver, with the badge of Tobago engraved) have been presented to the officers' mess, and an excellent gramophone

and records for the crew, while for H.M.S. *Trinidad* a handsome rose-bowl and a gramophone and records have been provided.

AN INTERESTING FIND.

The West India Committee, on behalf of the donors, has just forwarded to the Bishop of Antigua a Book of Common Prayer, which is being presented to St. George's Church in that island by some gentlemen resident in Cambridge. This Prayer-book was originally the gift of Francis Carlile, in 1731, to the Church of St. George, Antigua, and it was recently found by the late Captain A. G. W. Murray, M.B.E., M.A., Librarian of Trinity College, Cambridge, who died on February 15th last in Bournemouth, and is now restored to the church by some of his friends, thus fulfilling his intention.

The book, which was printed by John Baskett circa



A GIFT TO H.M.S. "TRINIDAD."

1727, is a folio volume in a contemporary binding of crimson morocco and gold. It bears the following inscription in gold on the front and back covers:—

"The gift of Francis Carlile to the Parish Church of St. George in the Island of Antigua: 1731."

The donors include Dr. Henry Jackson, Brigadier-General R. W. Hare, Dr. R. St. John Pary, Colonel H. J. Edwards, Mr. F. J. H. Jenkinson, Major B. C. Lake, Mr. A. H. F. Boughey (grandson of the Hon. George W. Ottley, of Antigua), Captain E. H. T. Broadwood, Mr. John Charrington, Captain G. B. Mason (of Barbados), Mr. R. Collingwood Drinkwater, Mr. A. T. Bartholomew, and Mr. M. D. Forbes.

Mr. Vere L. Oliver informs us that Colonel the Hon. Francis Carlile owned Carlile's Estate in the Parish of St. George, Antigua, and was buried there on November

27th, 1734. His estate descended to his son William, at whose death—about 1742—it reverted to his mother, Elizabeth, who, in 1752, was married again to John Gray. By virtue of a settlement they retained the estate for their lives, and after their deaths it descended to Colonel Carlile's grandson, Ralph Payne, afterwards Lord Lavington, Governor of the Leeward Islands.

THE SUGAR COMMISSION.

The Committee on National Expenditure in a report just issued speak well of the work of the Royal Commission of the Sugar Supply:—

"The whole of the sugar supplies (except molasses and syrup, invert sugar and glucose used in brewing) continue to be purchased by the Commission. The Commission have also purchased the sugar supplies for France and Italy. Until recently these purchases were financed by the Treasury, but arrangements have now been made for the transactions to be financed directly by the French and Italian Governments. The policy of the Commission continues; sales of sugar are made at a price to cover all cost and working expenses, and with only a sufficient margin of profit to ensure that there shall be no loss on the realisation of stocks when the work of the Sugar Commission ceases.

"A trading account has been prepared, including the whole period from the formation of the Commission until March 31st, 1918, showing a credit balance of £6,668,993. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the Vote of Credit Appropriation Account 17-18, para. 45, states that the trading account and balance-sheet to March 31st, 1918, have been examined by that Department with generally satisfactory results. A trading account to March 31st, 1919, will be prepared, but it is not yet ready. The accounting staff consists of four clerks only, the explanation being that the work is so highly technical that the staff cannot be increased with advantage. It is estimated by the officers of the Commission that the credit balance as at March 31st, 1919, was approximately £4,700,000. This balance is subject to the estimated freights for sugar contracted for abroad but not in the United Kingdom, the rate of exchange at the time payments are due for sugar contracted for, but not yet paid for, and certain adjustments with the Ministry of Shipping. In estimating this balance, the Treasury has been credited with about £1,000,000 for interest at bank rate on money advanced for the purchase of sugar. A credit and debit account of interest on money used by the Commission has very properly been kept, but the Commission have no knowledge whether interest will be charged by the Treasury.

"Relations between the Sugar Commission and the Sugar Distribution Board at the Ministry of Food have been maintained by the practice of appointing the same chairman for both the Sugar Commission and the Sugar Distribution Board. The relations between the two branches appear to have been harmonious and satisfactory. The work of the Sugar Distribution Board has now greatly diminished, and it is stated that after the end of June it can be performed by a staff of four or five persons.

"During their inquiry our Sub-committee considered the position of the eleven sugar refineries in the United Kingdom. The annual capacity of these refineries is about 900,000 tons, approximately one-half of the former requirements of refined sugar. They have been under control during the war, and were able at one period to produce nearly the whole of the refined sugar consumed, which was approximately 1,100,000 tons. More recently the larger consumption of sugar has made necessary the purchase of large quantities of Cuban sugar, refined in the United States of America, at a

cost of 5s. 4½d. per cwt. in excess of the cost of similar sugar produced from British refineries. On the other hand, when freights are available, the present cost in this country of Java sugar, refined in the East Indies, is somewhat less than the cost of Java sugar refined in the United Kingdom, though the latter is of better quality. Evidence was also given that no export of beet sugar from Central Europe can be expected for some time."

THE ROADS OF DOMINICA.

The following letters have passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office on the subject of the development of Dominica:—

The West India Committee
March 14th, 1919.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that, following a meeting of Dominica proprietors in London on January 30th last, my Committee have had under consideration the report of the Commission appointed last year to make full inquiry into the state of the roads in the island of Dominica.

My Committee endorse the views of the proprietors that the report is not altogether satisfactory, since it does not provide for adequate road communication for the island, and they have therefore reaffirmed the following resolution which they adopted at a meeting on March 19th, 1914—namely:—

"That this meeting of Dominica estates proprietors hereby requests the West India Committee to impress upon the Colonial Office the urgent need for securing the opening up of main roads with feeders, which will enable planters to get their produce to the various ports of shipment, and further requests the Committee to urge the immediate completion of the Imperial road, in accordance with the promise made when the local Government sold land to settlers along its route."

They desire further to recommend that the requisite cost of road development may be raised, if necessary, by a loan, and to add most emphatically that they regard it as absolutely essential for the success of the undertaking that the work should be under the supervision of a competent engineer with experience of road construction, and that no expenditure shall be incurred until the services of such an engineer are obtained.—I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.
Secretary

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Downing-street,
May 30th, 1919.

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 14th on the subject of road communication in Dominica, and to inform you that a copy will be sent to the Administrator for his observations.

2. I am to state, however, that the outlook for limes and lime products and the financial position of the Presidency do not at present appear to be such as to justify any greater expenditure on roads than the recent Commission recommended, nor, in fact, any appreciable amount of new road construction.

3. The question of the extent to which it will be possible to maintain the portion of the Imperial road which has already been constructed is under discussion with the Administrator, but there appears to be no hope that it will be possible to extend that portion in the near future.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) G. GRINDLE.
The Secretary, West India Committee.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The Revised Treaty and Germany.

For the second time the Peace Treaty has been revised, and is now under consideration at Weimar. The German delegation at the Conference, who carried it from Paris, were, however, not allowed to leave in the frigid atmosphere in which they arrived. Their departure was witnessed by a crowd, which, provoked at the vulgar manners of some of the minor members of the delegation, broke into a storm of hisses and abuse. Further on the road stones were thrown, though, fortunately, none of the Germans were seriously injured, and only two slightly. The incident, which was a sign of the tension in Paris, should not have happened, and the officials responsible have been superseded, while M. Clemenceau has made ample apologies; but it should serve to shake the enemy's arrogance a little more. It is possible, as has been suggested before, that Herr Erzberger will replace Count Brockdorff-Rantzau as the head of the German delegation. In the meantime, the Government is in a delicate position owing to the unrest amongst the masses, which are as resentful of a peace which humiliates Germany as their betters. The first finds expression in Bolshevism, the second in conspiracies—one of which is Royalist. The complaint is that "the tone of the Allies is inexcusably harsh and brusque," or, in other words, Germany is still treated as the prisoner at the bar, and not permitted to act on the assumption that she should escape responsibility for her crimes merely because she has changed the *personnel* of her Government.

The Concessions.

As a French critic puts it, the old diplomacy was accommodating in form, but firm on realities; the new reverses this wise tradition—happily less in this instance than the public had been led to expect. With regard to Upper Silesia, it is now laid down that the Polish frontier here is not to be delimited until a plebiscite is taken of the inhabitants, who, with a view to future developments, have lately been largely reinforced by Germans. No wonder Poland is indignant, as she rightly considers that the first consideration of the Allies in drawing her boundary coterminous with Germany should have been her security. The enemy's army is to be more gradually reduced, though this is not a concession that means much, seeing that, in spite of all it has lost and suffered, the German army still has elements which may be implemented to some purpose whatever the Allies may extract in the way of paper guarantees. More pregnant with the seeds of future mischief is the stipulation which holds out the prospect that Germany may enter the League of Nations at an early date, provided (1) that she establishes a stable Government, (2) signs the Peace Treaty, (3) executes it loyally. The enemy's reason for desiring this particular form of equality with the Allies is economic, which is comprehensible, whereas their willingness to meet her is not. Because her industrial revival is "in their interest" is the reason given; but surely it was the strength of the German

economic system that enabled her to prepare for war, and, if it is restored, will produce a similar result in the future.

If the Treaty is Not Signed.

As to reparation, the revised Treaty suggests that no definite sum has yet been fixed upon, and perpetuates the policy that begets unrest by allowing Germany four months in which to show how she can pay, and the estimate of the amount. On the other hand her proposals with regard to the Sarre basin, the Belgian frontier, and Alsace-Lorraine are rejected; nor will any of her colonies be returned to her on any terms whatsoever. In these circumstances will she sign? In case she does not the military preparations of the Allies will be adequate for a march on Berlin, where a peace will be imposed without any of the unrealities which have lost so much time in Paris, and prevented the enemy people from understanding their true position. The Grand Fleet is under orders and ready to put to sea at the shortest notice, while giant British airships are in the Baltic, as well as a fleet of British warships. But the probabilities are that the Treaty will be signed, for even the densest German is not so stupid as not to be able to realise that if the war is resumed it will be waged on the part of the Allies in a bitter temper, which will be reflected in the ensuing peace.

The Allies, on their side, are aware that only force will secure the loyal execution of the terms of the Treaty should it be signed within the next few days. Hence the appointment of a civilian High Commission to deal with the military occupation of the Rhineland is being considered. On it there will be representatives of Great Britain, the United States, France, and Belgium. In the region no German troops will be permitted, the cost of the Army of Occupation will be borne by Germany, and to its transport and other facilities must be granted free of charge.

Allied Russian Policy.

The Allies, who were in such a hurry to recognise the unspeakable Lenin, have taken a long time to arrive at the point of bestowing their blessing on Koltchak. They promise him their assistance in material and the loan of expert officers if he will undertake, in the event of his success, in rooting out Bolshevism, to call a constituent assembly. This he agrees to do; but with regard to the other conditions defined by the Allies concerning the revolted provinces and democratic experiments, Koltchak rather dryly informs the Four that the constituent assembly will have a say in such matters, and the Four can do no other than profess that they are satisfied. The great thing is that at last the national and patriotic Russia is recognised, and as the Siberian railway is nearly in working order again—thanks to the exertions of Allied engineers—Japan has promised to send locomotives and other necessary material to the help of Koltchak by way of Siberia. He himself has been temporarily checked at Ufa by advancing too rapidly, but in the south Denikin, in command of the Volunteer Army and the Cossacks, is sweeping forward with the help of British tanks and aeroplanes, and thereby relieving the pressure on the Siberian Army.

WEST AFRICAN COCOA.

The Danger of Over-Production.

Sir Hugh Clifford, who is still affectionately remembered in Trinidad, where he was Colonial Secretary from the year 1903 to 1907, before leaving the Gold Coast, in introducing the Budget made some interesting references to the development of the cocoa industry. According to our valued contemporary *West Africa*, only 80 lb. weight of cocoa was exported from the Coast in 1891. By 1901 the annual export was 960 tons; in 1911 this had grown to 35,000 tons. The figures for the last six years have been as follows:—

Year.	Cocoa exported. Tons.	Value. £
1912	38,646	1,642,733
1913	50,553	2,489,218
1914	52,888	2,193,749
1915	77,278	3,651,341
1916	72,161	3,847,720
1917	90,964	3,146,851

Commenting on this, Sir Hugh Clifford said: "When it is remembered that this industry has been throughout, almost exclusively, in native hands and under native management, and that these remarkable results have been achieved by a people who have for the first time embarked upon an agricultural enterprise of a permanent character, the rapid expansion of cocoa-growing in the Gold Coast will be found to be a phenomenon to which it would be difficult to find any parallel elsewhere in the Tropics. It is at once fortunate and unfortunate that the introduction of the natives of the Gold Coast to the mysteries of permanent cultivation should have been made through cocoa, which is perhaps the least exacting of any crop that falls within this category. It is fortunate, because the spread of the cocoa industry has not interfered with the production by the natives of the necessary vegetable food supplies, upon which the whole country is dependent, and yet has shown the people what advantages are to be gained from the possession of permanent, as opposed to mere temporary and shifting plantations. This lesson is one which will never be completely forgotten, and for the future, I think, the people will never again be content to put their land exclusively to the slender use and to obtain from it the poor returns which satisfied their ancestors. On the other hand, the hardness of the variety of cocoa which is grown in the Gold Coast, and the manner in which it often succeeds in defying even the most gross neglect, have caused the natives to regard permanent cultivation as a far easier task than it really is, and have encouraged them to rest content with comparatively poor results, when a moderate amount of sustained labour and attention devoted to their cocoa gardens would vastly improve both the volume and the quality of the crop. The time has arrived, however, when the rapid growth of the industry threatens the Gold Coast with the dangers inseparable from over-production, and the more enlightened of the chiefs and cultivators are awakening to the necessity for improved agricultural methods.

"The remedy would seem to lie in the inspection of cocoa at the ports of shipment, and the prohibition under a severe penalty of the export of any consignment which fails to attain to a certain standard of quality. At the present moment, unusually large stocks of cocoa are stored in the colony, and the prospects of the farmer with regard to the disposal of the 1918-1919 crop are gloomy in the extreme. When the existing stringency in the shipping world is once more relaxed, however, the exports of cocoa from the Gold Coast are likely to be resumed in greater volume than ever.

DEMobilISATION.

The s.s. *Ortega* sailed from Havre with a further detachment of the British West Indies Regiment for Barbados and Trinidad. The officers on board included:—

Major J. Tough.
 Captains Orret, H. J. L. Cavanaugh, R. J. Craig, C. C. Paul, and A. S. Lawson.
 Lieutenants G. H. Frith, V. J. Maingot, J. Burslem, W. Knaggs, J. B. Phillips, J. J. Johnson, E. K. C. Weatherhead, and Stuchbery.

Since we last went to press the undermentioned have returned to the West Indies:—

BARBADOS.

Per *Quillota*, May 28.
 Foster, 2nd Lt. S. I. Gill, 2nd Lt. H. A. and Mrs.
 Per *Ortega*, May 28.
 Brown, 2nd Lt. A. W. G. Greenidge, 2nd Lt. Skeete, 2nd Lt. C. de C.
 Burgess, C. L. E. O. B. F. C. Carmichael, E. B.
 Bynoe, 2nd Lt. E. D. Knight, Lt. A. B.
 Per *Savan*, June 18.
 Archer, G. C. Collins, R. A. Laurie, H. C.
 Atwell, G. A. Corbin, G. S. Leslie, H. H.
 Bayne, E. G. Honeychurch, H. McLeod, F.
 Bynoe, H. S. King, W. S. Reid, F. E.
 Cheeseman, B. G.

Per *Median*, June 4.
 Clarke, 2nd Lt. W. B. Johnson, Lieut. R. H.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Per *Quillota*, May 28.
 Barry, Capt. L. A. Hill, 2nd Lt. R. R.
 Per *Savan*, June 18.
 Parrett, C. W. B. Roberts, D. C. Rodway, A. E.

DOMINICA.

Latang, P., per *Ortega*, May 28.
 Per *Savan*, June 18.
 Becher, Major E. J. Canacho, J. J. Sowray, J. B.

GRENADA.

Per *Ortega*, May 28.
 Haighley, H. Noel, W. D.

JAMAICA.

Frazer, Clarence, per *Orduna*, June 7.

ST. KITTS.

Moir, Lt., per *Ortega*, May 28.

ST. LUCIA.

Kelluan, 2nd Lt. H., per *Quillota*, May 28.

TOBAGO.

Harter, 2nd Lt., per *Quillota*, May 28.
 Parris, H. H., per *Ortega*, May 28.

TRINIDAD.

Per *Quillota*, May 28.
 Bushe, Lt. C. G. Gurley, 2nd Lt. A. L. O'Connor, 2nd Lt. E. S.
 Campbell, 2nd Lt. R. B. Kernaban, Lt. J. E. A. Quesnel, Lt. E. E.
 De Verteuil, 2nd Lt. Lange, Capt. G. E. Smith, 2nd Lt. M. A.
 M. Miller, Capt. F. J. and Solis, Lt. F. G.
 Mrs.
 Farfan, 2nd Lt. J. R. A. O'Connor, 2nd Lt. E. A.
 Grant, Lt. K. L. Lange, Marc. Per French mail, June 3.
 Herrera, Ralph. Per *Ortega*, May 28.

Agostini, S. Luce, 2nd Lt. P. D. Patterson, L. A.
 Burnett, C. Jack, H. Rodriguez, G. H.
 Dash, C. Johnstone, 2nd Lt. R. Books, 2nd Lt. H. C.
 Dean, R. A. Joseph, A. Smith, Capt. A. C.
 De Verteuil, 2nd Lt. R. Kellman, H. G. Sellier, F.
 Dunn, T. L. Knowles, Errol Sheppard, B. A.
 Farrell, G. H. L. Lassale, A. Sorzano, F.
 Fernandez, C. Llanos, A. C. Spencer, H. P.
 Ferreira. Maingot, 2nd Lt. L. F. Syder, J.
 Geoffroy, E. Marques, N. Trestrail, Lt. L. C.
 Gillezeau, H. A. Marsden, F. S. Warner, N. A.
 Gooch, C. M. Nichols, C. K. Williams, C. C.
 Grant, C. Nock, 2nd Lt. M. M. Yhap, H.
 Green, A. L. Pantan, H.

Per *Median*, June 4.
 Bushe, F. Cadet W. H. De Silva, Cadet Leslie Books, Lt. Errol G.
 Per *Savan*, June 18.
 Gibbon, F. C. Pegus, F. Sanchez, T.
 Grell, M. G. Stone, A. H. Scheult, R. J.
 Hamel-Smith, L.

During the year to date 130 members have been elected to the West Indian Committee, resident in the following places:—

Antigua	3	Gold Coast	2	St. Lucia	2
Barbados	26	Grenada	4	St. Kitts	3
British Guiana	5	Jamaica	26	St. Vincent	2
Cameroon	4	Nevis	1	Seychelles	1
Canada	2	New York	1	Trinidad	16
Dominica	1	P. E. Africa	1	United Kingdom	30

NATURE NOTES.

A note in the CIRCULAR for May 29th stated that a grade of cotton superior to Egyptian—except with respect to the very finest Egyptian—can be produced in Arizona and California. How this came about is very shortly indicated in *Botanical Abstracts*. The chief varieties of Egyptian cotton were introduced into the United States in 1899. Selection was begun in 1903 at Yuma, Arizona. Gradual improvement resulted, until in 1908 a sudden and striking change occurred in two rows of the cotton plants. These two rows differed remarkably from the parent plants and from each other. One of these varieties, called "Yuma," after its place of origin, became the basis of the Egyptian cotton industry in Arizona. Planting on a small scale began in 1912, 30,000 acres were under cultivation in 1917, and probably 100,000 acres in 1918. Egyptian cotton has in consequence to face serious competition in the American market, and the probability is that other areas will be found which will yield good cotton, and prices in the world markets will be lower, at any rate, for the lower grades.

In his description of German East Africa, Calvert states that the country as a whole is elevated, the interior plateau of Central Africa ending more or less abruptly near the coast. The average altitude of the plateau is between 3,000 and 4,000 ft. The country is well watered, and in the interior of the colony the rainy and dry seasons are well defined and regular. On the Wembare plateau the composition of the soil is extremely favourable to cotton growing, being almost identical with the best Texas and Mississippi soils. In fact, the region, capable of being irrigated, would not only amply pay for a canal from Lake Victoria, but would, if grown with cotton, produce such quantities that the world's market value would be appreciably affected.

The Agricultural Department of India is taking pains to impress on the people that great increases in food production may be assured by the general use of pure strains of improved seed. For instance (*Bulletin 84, Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa*), a superior variety of rice was obtained at one of their agricultural stations, and it is estimated that by the general use of this variety as seed the rice crop of Bengal could be increased by 500,000 tons.

Very few people realise the vast expenditure, the careful forethought, and the constant watchfulness that are necessary to bring cargoes of bananas regularly and in good condition to the towns in Great Britain. Fruit steamers must be built, designed exclusively for banana carrying, fitted with specially constructed store-rooms for the fruit and with the latest cool-air system. During the voyage the thermometer in the store-rooms must be watched night and day, and the temperature adjusted. Commodious warehouses are built at the ports; insulated railway vans are provided on the railways. Ripening rooms are installed with gas-heating apparatus on the retailers' premises, and all to ensure the purchasers' getting fully ripe fruit all the year round. Everything goes on like clockwork, or, rather, like the silent processes of Nature which produce corn or bananas according to our planting.

Very different is the care necessary for "banana figs." These are ripe bananas which are skinned and dried as soon as picked, packed tight in wooden cases, and carried in steamers without all the elaborate arrangements necessary for the fruit in its natural condition. Banana figs keep well for almost any length of time. Their appearance is somewhat against them

at first, but those who have once tasted them are not particular about their looks, as they are so good to eat and so perfectly digestible. Another point in favour of banana figs is that the skins are not exported, and inasmuch as they contain over 2 per cent. of the valuable fertilising material—potash—they should be returned to the land and not lost to the country.

A "Planter," of Liverpool, is circularising the Press about the uses to which the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*) can be put, with special reference to its value as a paper material and as a possible substitute for "silk and cotton." Presumably he means silk-cotton, or kapok, the silky fibre of the silk cotton tree (*Briodeurton*). He is on stronger ground in recommending the Baobab as paper material.

Experiments in this connection which have been carried on for some years show that the fibre yields 42 per cent. of bleached pulp, which blends well with sulphite wood-pulp, giving strength, rattle, and stretch, and is therefore suitable for tissue paper. It has also been made into various other kinds of paper—e.g., strong, light-coloured wrapping-paper, a fair paper like Japanese, an exceedingly strong paper suitable for bank-notes. The severest test to which the fibre was put was in Germany before the war.

The Baobab paper was required, says the *World's Paper Trade Review*, for the manufacture of paper spools for spinning yarn, and one of the most important points in the specification was that the paper should not disintegrate or become distorted by the usual treatment of the yarn in hot water. Until the Baobab was tried no paper could be made to fulfil this requirement, although paper made from jute bagging came nearest to the mark. The material thus obtained was as clean as unbleached jute, and when mixed with 25 per cent. of jute fibre it gave an extraordinarily strong paper, which behaved splendidly when tested with hot water. The Baobab is a native of tropical Africa, and is found growing right across the continent from Senegal, and as far south as the Transvaal.

In the Limpopo valley, in the Transvaal, it is computed that there are no fewer than 13,000 trees. It is cultivated in India, and there elephants' saddles are made from the fibre. A few trees occur in the West Indies, and it is a pity that more have not been planted out—not so much for the commercial value of the fibre as for the interest attaching to trees that are said to be capable of living more than 5,500 years, and affording, during all that time, food, drink, medicine, &c. To procure the fibre the natives in Senegal first chop away the hard, outer bark, then strip the soft, spongy bark in sheets of 3 ft. to 5 ft. in length by 2 ft. or 3 ft. in breadth. They soak the bark in water, dry in the sun, and beat it with mallets to separate the fibrous layers. The innermost layer is manufactured into sacks for carrying heavy goods, or is unravelled into string, from which twine, rope, nets and bags are made.

Mr. A. S. ORMSBY, who, we regret to say, died in London recently, was the son of Mr. J. W. Ormsby, of Lime Hall, Jamaica. Born in 1862, he received a scientific education at Anderson's College, Glasgow, where he was a pupil of the Mirrlees Watson Company, Limited. He gained a Whitworth Scholarship, and later a National Scholarship for three years at the Royal College of Science, London, which, however, he resigned on his appointment as Assistant-Examiner in H.M. Patent Office. During the war he became Director of the Inventions Department of the Ministry of Munitions. His greatest desire before his early death was to see the establishment of a West Indian University.

OBITUARY.

MR. ALFREDO C. SIEGERT.

We very much regret having to announce the death of Mr. Alfredo C. Siegert, of Trinidad, the managing director of Angostura, Limited.

Mr. Siegert was the sole one surviving of the three brothers—Carlos, Louis and Alfredo—who transferred their great bitterns business from Ciudad Bolivar to this town over forty years ago. The industry has been carried on ever since to our great advantage and advertisement. No better citizens or kinder-hearted people ever settled here. Their name has been synonymous with all that is good and charitable privately as it has been honourable in business, and there are few, if any, in Trinidad whose loss will be more widely and genuinely felt than that of him whom so large a concourse of all classes followed to his last resting-place." Mr. Siegert had been a member of the West India Committee since February, 1904.

MR. SYDNEY DALZELL MELVILLE.

We regret to learn that Mr. Sydney D. Melville died at his residence, "The Bungalow," Micond-street, Castries, St. Lucia, on April 20th.

Born in St. Vincent, Mr. Melville migrated to St. Lucia four-and-forty years ago as a clerk in the Colonial Bank. After his marriage to the only daughter of the late Hon. John Goodman, he resigned, and undertook the management of the Vieuxfort estates which his wife inherited from her father. The estates were, however, subsequently disposed of to the St. Lucia Usines and Estates Company, Limited, of which he became representative in Castries. Mr. Melville was for many years a member of the West India Committee; he was also a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Advisory Committee of St. Mary's College. By the many friends whom he has left behind both in St. Lucia and England he will be much missed.

THE HON. ROBERT WILLIAM McDONALD.

We regret to state that the Hon. Robert William McDonald, Barrister-at-Law, Member of the Federal Council of the Leeward Islands, died at a nursing home in London on June 19th.

Mr. Robert William McDonald, who was the third son of the late Mr. John Scotland McDonald, of Antigua, was born in that island on April 1st, 1869. He was educated in England, and called to the Bar by the Middle Temple. Returning to Antigua he practised in the local courts, and also throughout the Leeward Islands. He came over to England about six weeks ago for the benefit of his health, which, unfortunately, became rapidly worse necessitating his removal to a nursing home where he died. Mr. McDonald, who was greatly respected in Antigua, leaves a widow, a son, who has been serving in the Royal Field Artillery, and a daughter, for whom much sympathy will be felt.

CAPTAIN IRWIN C. MALING, C.M.G.

Captain I. C. Maling, C.M.G., late 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, died at 5, St. John's-park, Blackheath, on Friday, in his seventy-ninth year.

Captain I. C. Maling was born February 2nd, 1841. The second son of the late Commander Robert Saunders Maling, R.N., he was educated at Wimbledon School and at the Royal Military Academy, Neustadt, Austria. Formerly in the 89th, 35th, and 23rd Regiments, he served during the Indian Mutiny, and was private secretary and A.D.C. to Sir A. E. Kennedy, Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, 1868-70; private secretary to the Marquess of Normanby (successively

Governor of Queensland and New Zealand), 1871-79; Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General, Grenada, 1879-80; and Administrator of St. Vincent from 1889 to 1893. He administered the Government of Grenada in 1880 and again in 1882, as also from 1884 to 1887. Captain Maling acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands and President of Antigua in 1888, and as Administrator of the Leeward Islands in 1889, retiring from official life in 1893. Captain Maling was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

AT WESTMINSTER.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The Sulphate of Ammonia combine was the subject of a question in the House of Commons on June 2nd, when Sir Albion Richardson asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture whether he was aware that the South Metropolitan Gas Company, having fully met all the demands made upon it for the home market, now had large and daily-increasing stocks of sulphate of ammonia, licences for the export of which were obtainable only through the agency of a combination of trade competitors formed with the approval and receiving the support of his Department; whether the refusal to give licences without the consent of this agency was inconsistent with the undertaking given by his Department and a breach of faith with the South Metropolitan Gas Company; whether the encouragement of the combination referred to was opposed to public policy and calculated to create a monopoly that would prove prejudicial to home users of sulphate of ammonia when the present system of control was removed; and whether he would take such steps as might be necessary to ensure that the company's applications for licences should be as favourably considered as those made by the members of the combination.

Sir A. Boscawen, in reply, said the arrangement referred to in this question is in continuation of one which had been in operation since the summer of 1917. Continued supervision of the export of sulphate of ammonia is essential if sufficient is to be retained in this country for the urgent needs of home agriculture, and the Board see no reason for changing a method which has worked well, is perfectly equitable to all makers, and has been accepted unanimously by the association representing them. So far as the Board are aware the South Metropolitan Gas Company is the only firm of makers of sulphate of ammonia which has raised any objection. The Board have written to that company expressing their willingness that licences should be granted on the same terms as to the rest of the makers for the export of the appropriate proportion of the company's product, but it would not be in the public interest to make exceptional arrangements in their case. The Board do not regard the conditions imposed on the issue of export licences as in any way detrimental to the interests, financial or otherwise, of this company. As a result of the arrangements with the main body of manufacturers the market price for export has been stabilised in the interests of all manufacturers of sulphate of ammonia, and the fact that this fertiliser is being supplied during the next four months to home agriculturists at a price below its cost of production indicates that home users, so far from being prejudiced by the arrangements, have been considerably benefited.

DEATH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. McDONALD.—On 19th June, at a nursing home in London, the Hon. Robert William McDonald, Barrister-at-law, of Antigua, B.W.I., aged 50.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

BARBADOS.—Troops Return.

The arrival of the *Ajax* with part of the local war contingent on May 23rd was made the occasion of general rejoicings. Bridgetown was gaily decorated with bunting, and Trafalgar-square was packed with dense crowds eager to welcome the returning troops. A short thanksgiving service was conducted on the Garrison Savannah by the Bishop of Barbados, after which his Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien read an address to the men, who were subsequently entertained at dinner in the drill-hall.

But for a few light showers on May 18th and 23rd the drought has continued, and the rainfall for the month is far below the average. The old crop is nearly at an end.

TRINIDAD.—Contingent's Welcome Home.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, May 27th.—By the transport *Ajax* some 450 officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment returned, and were accorded a most enthusiastic reception. A huge crowd assembled at the landing place, where Mr. F. E. Scott, the Mayor, delivered an excellent address of welcome, after which the men marched through the town to the Savannah under the blaze of bunting and between thousands who lined the streets in one cheering mass. At the grand stand on the Savannah the acting Governor, Mr. Montgonerie Gordon, welcomed the men, after which they were entertained at breakfast, being waited on by a Committee of ladies. A very sad accident somewhat marred the proceedings at the start. The landing took place in barges, on which the men were tightly packed. When right alongside the jetty, exchanging greetings with their friends on shore, part of the deck of one of the barges gave way, and a large number of the men fell into the hold. When extricated it was found that a number of them were severely injured, mostly with badly fractured limbs. They were at once attended to by doctors on the spot and removed to the hospital, but it was most sorrowful to think that these poor fellows who had braved the danger of the battlefield should be struck down on the threshold of their own home to which they were so joyfully returning.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on 23rd instant, Mr. H. B. Walcott, acting Colonial Secretary, presented his report on the Intercolonial Customs and Trade Conference, of which he was Chairman. The report, with appendices, runs into about 150 pages, comprising the evidence of most useful work upon which much careful thought must have been expended. Among the important recommendations are: The classification of imports, exports, and the methods of keeping Customs statistics for use in all the colonies, lists of articles on which specific duties should be imposed, and of those to be admitted free of duty, or on which drawback should be granted; the establishment of free trade between the colonies in products of the colonies; the granting of a preference on goods produced within the Empire; a uniform Customs tariff throughout the British West Indies and British Guiana; the receipts under that tariff to be pooled and allotted from year to year in proportion to the imports into each colony, but each colony to retain the right to impose a surtax on the uniform tariff if found necessary to raise further revenue from Customs.

When one remembers the absurd complications and restrictions to trade resulting from the manifold regulations and tariffs now existing, the advantage of uniformity so far as concerns our tariff for others, and freedom of trade between ourselves is apparent. As Mr. Walcott remarks: "Their adoption would draw

the colonies closer together in trade and other questions, largely increase intercolonial trade and communication, and secure for some of the smaller colonies a reasonable tariff in place of the unsound and indefensible tariffs with which they are now burdened. It would also place the colonies forming the Union in a much stronger position to negotiate trade agreements, &c., than they are now."

The whole work of the Conference reflects credit on its members, and will especially add another to the laurels for able service which Mr. Walcott has already won.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The Governor's Holiday.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, May 1st.—The Governments of Trinidad and the Leeward Islands have announced that, owing to the scarcity of labour locally, no proposals for recruiting labourers there for British Guiana can be entertained. Mr. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., is acting as Governor, and Mr. G. Ball Greene as Colonial Secretary during Sir Wilfred Collet's absence on leave. Recent weddings have been those of Mr. P. W. King, solicitor, second son of Mr. J. A. King, Crown Solicitor, and Mrs. J. A. King, and Miss F. Stoute, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stoute, late of Pin. "Ogle"; and Mr. F. P. Comacho, second son of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Comacho, with Miss C. Andrade, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Andrade, of Georgetown. On April 30th the wedding took place between Mr. Carlos Gomes, solicitor, third son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Gomes, with Miss E. Dias, elder daughter of the Hon. F. and Mrs. Dias, of this town. Mr. Auld, the new Director of Sea Defences, has arrived in the colony and taken over his duties. Mr. G. A. Case will be leaving in a few days.

May 12th.—The weather has been too heavy in some places; there were two days when several parts of the town were under water. On some estates the fall has been sufficient, while in other parts of the colony they could do with more rain. The death of Mr. H. H. Laurence, barrister-at-law, which caused general regret, occurred on the 5th instant, at the age of fifty-five. He was buried at St. Sidwell's the Lodge the next afternoon. Passengers to England *via* New York per s.s. *Mayaro* on the 5th instant were Dr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. J. Smith, Pin. "Rose Hall," and Mr. W. H. Parratt, engineer, Berbice.

A small batch of the men from our contingent returned to the colony on the 4th instant. They were entertained at luncheon at the Victoria Hotel the following day by the Reception Committee. Sir Edward R. Davson gave an address to the Chamber of Commerce, Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society and Sugar Planters' Association, on the 9th, on the subject of "Imperial Trade and Inter-West Indian Relations."

News has been received with regret of the death at Surinam of Mr. W. Macfarlane, merchant, and Secretary of our Chamber of Commerce.

GADELOUPE.—A Rum Boom.

MR. J. SIDNEY DASH, May 6th.—At a meeting of the Usines with representatives of the small growers and the Government, held early in the year, the price of cane was fixed at 52 frs. per ton. With this exceptional jump in the price of rum, small growers are now demanding a considerable increase on the price of cane. Small distilleries which make no sugar are in a position to pay fancy prices for cane. The Usiners, however, claim—and very justly so—that they have agreed with the Government to produce a certain amount of sugar, and, moreover, their rums have already been sold at a contract price far below that ruling at present; as a consequence, they are not in a position to increase the price of cane. In the meantime the question is being freely discussed in the local newspapers, and at the moment of writing I am unable to say what will be the result of the growers' demands.

Most of the Usines will finish grinding about the end of May. The crop will be about the same as last year's. We have been having some early rains, and the young crop of the island is very promising. At the station we have been able to proceed to the planting out of first-year seedlings, cotton, leguminous and other crop experiments.

The Royal Bank of Canada, recently opened, reports extremely good business being done. This was to be expected, as business men on the whole were not altogether satisfied with the service of the "Banque de la Guadeloupe." At the end of June there will be a good surplus in the Treasury, obtained principally from Customs duties on foreign (principally American) goods, which, during the war, have completely superseded French imports, and from increased tax on rum. Some improvements are being made to the quays, and it is understood that the harbour will be deepened. The building of a post-office and construction of more roads in certain parts of the country are also contemplated, while more money is to be spent on sanitation in the towns. It is hoped that the industries will respond suitably to this wave of prosperity, and that before long, with better cultural methods and more modern factories, the sugar industry will double itself.

JAMAICA.—New Zealand Visitors.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY. The support of the Legislature has been solicited for the movement to obtain the removal to Jamaica of the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, on the ground that it is of vital importance to the welfare of the island, and also for the suggestion that a Tropical Agricultural University should be established here under the auspices of the department. It has been decided that every effort shall be made to improve the quality of the native labour, and a Commission has been appointed to submit a scheme to deal with the various causes militating against its efficiency, notably hook-worm and various other tropical diseases. It is proposed to raise a loan to cover initial expenses.

Persistent reports of the ill-treatment of the Jamaican labourers in Costa-Rica have been brought to the notice of the Council, these reports including vivid accounts in the Central American newspapers which claim that, besides actual assaults, numbers of men have been forcibly deported to Port Limon. As a result, a conference was called between the Governor and the elected members, at which Sir Claude Mallett, who is now in the island, was present. Sir Claude stated that he had already appointed a commission to inquire into the matter, and it was therefore decided to merely send an agent from Jamaica to follow up the inquiries of that commission.

It is proposed to make better arrangements for the maintenance of internal order, in view of the generally unsettled state of affairs throughout the world, and to this end it is intended to strengthen the police force and organise a strong militia. Furthermore, power will be conferred upon all magistrates to summarily close all establishments retailing intoxicating spirits in times of disturbance. The question of making Kingston a "free" port for calling steamers is still under consideration, and copies of letters between the Secretary of State and the Government were laid on the table by Mr. Simpson, member for Kingston.

The news that colonial sugar was to be granted a preference in the British markets was cordially welcomed here, and this is regarded as a splendid augury for the future development of the industry of the island.

A strike of dock labourers occurred on April 23rd, which lasted until the 30th, and was extended during the latter period to employees of the Jamaica Government Railway and the Municipality. It was settled on the 30th by a compromise, under which the labourers will receive 6d. per hour and double pay for night work,

which will be computed to apply between the hours of 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. Two hours per day will be allowed for meals. During the strike much inconvenience and considerable delay was caused to shipping. Many ships were held up, and others were diverted to Port Antonio and other outports.

A large number of returning New Zealand troops were entertained here on April 8th and 9th, when the transport *Remuera* called at Kingston en route for New Zealand via the Panama Canal.

Among those who have left for England this month were Lieutenant-Colonel Cowie and family. Colonel Cowie was in command of the West India Regiment in Jamaica. The death occurred in England this month of Dr. W. D. Neish, who practised for so many years in Jamaica (at Spanish Town). Mr. Jas. Hutchison, of the West India Electric Company, is in the island on his usual annual visit.

ST. LUCIA.—The Estimates.

The death of Mr. S. D. Melville, which occurred on April 20th after a long illness, is much regretted, and the funeral, which took place on the following day, was attended by representatives of all classes of the community. The 1919 session of the Legislature was opened on April 26th by Colonel Davidson-Houston, who said that the year 1918-19 closed with a deficit of £3,245, which would, however, be made good by the income-tax. The estimated revenue for the nine months of the current year (and in future the financial year would end on December 31st) exceeded the estimated expenditure by £9,083. All but absolutely necessary public works would be suspended until prices dropped. Though he hoped that, with a return to peace, more shipping would visit Port Castries, the falling off in the coasting trade made it all the more necessary to encourage agriculture by all possible means in their power.

In order to ensure a constant supply of fresh provisions, the Central Ground Provisions Depot was started on March 1st, 1918, and had a most satisfactory first year's trading—306,717 lb. of produce was purchased, while more than 48,000 persons bought over 203,000 lb. weight of potatoes, farine, yams, &c. This had been a great boon to the general public in Castries, particularly the coal carriers and the labouring classes, as well as to the peasant producers, who were thus secured a steady market at remunerative prices.

That the financial position, after one year's working, on a capital outlay of £500, should show a credit balance was most satisfactory for the future of the enterprise. The Council would agree with him that all who laboured to make a success of this scheme deserved to be congratulated on the result of their efforts.

Eighteen St. Lucia soldiers in the B.W.I.R. received a cordial welcome on their return on April 29th. Each will be offered by the Government five acres of land free of charge.

ST. VINCENT.—Estates Duties Ordinance.

MR. W. N. SANDS, May 10th.—Two more of our boys received a hearty welcome on their return a few days ago—namely, Sub-Lieutenants Allan Richards and Jack McLeod. The former has seen active service with the R.E.'s in France, and the latter in a destroyer in the Mediterranean. At the last meeting of the Legislative Council an Estate Duties Ordinance was passed. The scale of death duties payable on estates is on a sliding scale ranging from 1 per cent. on values from £100 to £300 to 10 per cent. on £80,000 and upwards. The Ordinance also repeals that part of the schedule of the Stamp Duty Ordinance which relates to Probates of Wills and Letters of Administration.

Sir Edward Davson is expected to call here on the 26th on his way north. It is hoped that it may be possible for him to address the local agricultural and commercial society. Mrs. Popham Lobb, wife of the Administrator, left for England via Canada by the last Canadian Royal Mail steamer.

TOBAGO.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, May 6th.—Daily showers of rain are falling and the air is cooler. Land is being cleared for corn and ground provisions. The cacao crop is turning out better than was expected, and the trees will be pretty well cleared by the end of May. Given favourable weather, an early autumn crop may be expected. The chief topic of conversation is the difficulty in getting passages for "home."

CORRESPONDENCE.

LIMES OR LEMONS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In a recent issue you reproduced the correspondence between the West India Committee and the Admiralty on the subject of the relative merits of limes and lemons for anti-scorbutic purposes.

At the time of the inquiry into the outbreak of scurvy on the sleighing trip of the Nares Arctic Expedition I was assistant to Dr. Pavy, F.R.S., one of the experts connected with the Government inquiry, and as such came into considerable contact not only with the facts of the case, but also with the literature of the subject.

The prominent fact is that citric acid, *per se*, is not anti-scorbutic, and that therefore the fact that limes contain a higher proportion than lemons does not necessarily mean that they are more anti-scorbutic.

It may be taken as assured that the action of lime or lemon juice is due to the presence of one of those mysterious bodies classed under the head of vitamins. These bodies exist in fresh food, especially vegetables and fruit, and are essential to nerve nutrition. A good example of a vitamin is seen in the case of rice. A diet of rice deprived of its brown coating—that is to say, white rice—gives rise to the nerve disease called beri-beri, while brown rice—that is to say, unpolished rice—does not.

It is probable that the citrus fruits are especially valuable for anti-scorbutic purposes, not because they contain a larger percentage of the anti-scorbutic body, but because the large amount of juice they contain makes them particularly valuable as admitting of concentration.

Why has lime-juice been chosen instead of lemon-juice all these years by the British Marine?

A ready reply may be found in the fact that, weight for weight, limes contain more juice than lemons, and thus constitute a cheaper source of anti-scorbutic.

At the same time it is extremely probable that the richness of the juice in citric acid also means its richness in the anti-scorbutic body.

To one who, as mentioned above, has had some acquaintance with the subject, the surprise is that there should be any doubt at all, and that the inquiry is necessary.—Yours, &c.,

FREDERIC I. SCARD.

SPEAKING recently at a meeting of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association, Dr. J. Hastings Reed claimed to have perfected an invention which enabled molasses to be burned, with good profit, in furnaces of ordinary construction, and with greater profit in furnaces of special (though not expensive) construction; also that molasses could be subjected to dry distillation, with the production of valuable liquid distillates, or a specially valuable coke. Further, molasses could be converted into a dry carbonaceous (humus-like) powder containing a large percentage of potash, which could be bagged, stored and applied to the soil, by itself, or as a mixture with other fertilisers. The main object of his invention was to utilise profitably, wherever produced, molasses now going to waste, and incidentally creating competition for such molasses, thus enhancing its value to the miller.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Camito*—left Garston Docks, Liverpool, June 20th, 1919:—

Mr. J. B. Acuna.	Major R. H. B.	Capt. C. G. Seadmore
Mr. C. Beardmore	Humphreys	Lt. F. G. Sharp
Miss M. B. I. Braday.	Mrs. R. H. B.	Mrs. E. M. Cleland
Mr. F. J. Brown	Humphreys	Sharpe
Major O'Reilly Blackwood	Major H. Jarratt-Kerr	Miss Dorrit Sharpe
Mrs. Blackwood	Mr. Heywood H.	Miss Erica Sharpe
Capt. J. C. Buchanan	Latham	Miss Maisie Sharpe
Mr. R. Calvo.	Mr. E. T. Lopez	Mr. T. H. Sharpe
Mr. A. A. E. Carter	Mr. S. C. McCutchin	Lt. W. M. Sherlock
Lt. R. J. Clarke	Miss J. F. Malabre	Mr. R. S. Smith
Mr. T. E. Dorrington	Mr. J. P. Malabre	Miss A. J. Smith
Lt. R. O. Dunkerley	Mr. E. R. Manton	Capt. S. A. G. Taylor
Mrs. H. C. Dunkerley	Mr. A. A. Melhado	Mr. C. B. Thomas
Capt. J. Findlay	Mr. A. N. Orford	Lt. W. V. Turner
Mr. J. Findlay	Miss R. E. A. Phang	Mrs. W. V. Turner
Mr. E. L. Forebrooke	Lt. W. F. Phillips	Mrs. R. M. Turvill
Major C. S. Gideon	Mr. C. A. Poole	Mrs. F. C. Wells
Mr. S. H. Gilpin	Mrs. S. J. Poole	Mr. E. C. X. White
Mrs. G. A. Graut	Mr. A. Reid	Miss M. J. White
Mr. F. E. M. Hercules	Mrs. H. Reid	Mr. Llewellyn Williams
Mr. R. M. Hill	Mr. I. H. H. Robinson	Lt.-Col. A. J. Woodroffe
Mr. J. P. Holcombe	Capt. F. A. R. Saunders	Miss Woodroffe
Mrs. J. P. Holcombe	Mrs. F. A. R. Saunders	Mr. P. B. H. Wrightson
	Mr. E. A. H. Schofield	
	Miss J. M. Schofield	

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. W. Abbott.	Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson.
Sir W. I. Allardyce,	Mr. Llewellyn Jones.
K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. H. Kirby.
Mr. L. G. Alston.	Sir Norman Lamont, Bart.
Mr. A. R. Bell.	Mr. C. V. Lindo.
Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch.
Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G.,	O.B.E.
C.B.E.	Hon. A. W. Mahaffy, O.B.E.
Mr. Bernard Bonyun.	Mr. T. M. Marshall.
Dr. N. L. Boxill.	Mrs. McEwen.
Mr. G. F. Branch.	Mr. A. J. Mascall.
Mr. R. Bryson.	Mr. W. McMillan.
Sir J. Chancellor,	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C.
Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G.	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E.
Sir W. Collett, K.C.M.G.	Mr. J. H. Philipps.
Mr. W. W. Craib.	Mrs. Rapsey.
Mr. Robt. Craig.	Mr. P. W. Sangster.
Hon. S. Cuthbert.	Mrs. A. S. Sealy.
Hon. D. S. de Freitas.	Hon. Denis Slyne, C.B.E.
Mr. Alex. Duncan.	Rev. W. R. Symons.
Rt. Rev. Dr. E. A. Dunn.	Mr. Thos. Thornton.
Mr. W. P. Ebbels.	Hon. W. A. S. Vickers.
Mr. F. Evans.	Mr. Cyril Warren.
Mr. A. T. Hammond.	Mr. Athelstan Watson.

THE QUEEN'S PARK HOTEL COMPANY, LTD.

With an issued capital of \$91,200, and outstanding debentures amounting to \$7,200, the operations of this company resulted in a net profit of \$4,053.23 in 1918, this being a marked improvement on the results for the preceding year. After writing off \$2,520.00 for depreciation, and replacing \$1,400 withdrawn from the Reserve Account (which stood at \$15,400.00), \$143.86 is carried forward. The directors report an improvement in business since the commencement of 1919, and state that, with the gradual improvement in shipping facilities, it may be confidently expected that the number of visitors to the colony on business and pleasure will increase, from which the hotel will no doubt benefit. At the annual meeting on May 8th, the retiring directors—the Hon. Alex. Fraser and Mr. C. W. Scott—were re-elected to the board.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

June 26th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

THE VICTORY LOAN. We commend to the notice of readers the prospectuses of the 4 per cent Funding Loan and Victory Bonds published on June 14th and subsequent dates. The Funding Loan is issued at £80, and is redeemable within seventy-one years, but not before 1960, at £100. The Victory Bonds are issued at £85, and, being repayable at £100 by annual drawings beginning in September next, have a speculative value. *Both loans are free from all British taxation when held by bona-fide residents overseas.*

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

Grocers continue to complain at not being able to obtain supplies of West Indian crystallised and Muscovado, which is passing into manufacturers' hands at enhanced prices which the grocery trade cannot afford to pay. Unless something is done towards meeting them the public demand for these kinds will inevitably fall off. Realising this, one or two importers have recently been selling to grocers at or about the Commission's prices.

New York prices: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c., c. and f. New York, as against 4.985c. last year; 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64c. as against 4.749c.

Czarnikow-Ricuda Company in their report of May 29th anticipate a serious shortage of sugar in the Orient, and believe that Cuba may be drawn upon later in the year to make it good. They add: "Apparently on this side of the Atlantic the supply of sugar is ample for all requirements, but it has been observed time and again, that what has at first appeared to be sufficient for all needs has eventually been absorbed before the new crops of Cuba and Porto Rico became available, and this without the aid of any large export shipments. When all things are considered, it is fortunate that Cuba will this year produce the largest crop in its history, thereby enabling needy countries abroad to obtain sugars at comparatively reasonable prices."

All import restrictions in the case of sugar have been withdrawn by the French Government. France is very short of sugar indeed. For months past even the small ration allowed has not been distributed in many districts. Good prices can be obtained for immediate delivery.

The West India sugar statistics in London for week ending June 14th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	16,668	10,422	22,445	
Deliveries	14,400	18,006	26,682	
Stock	8,460	3,403	3,778	

RUM. A correspondent writes that there is much speculation in rum in the French West Indian Islands. Martinique distillers have been visiting Guadeloupe and Marie-Galante for the purpose of buying all the molasses and syrups they can, and as much as 12 fcs. per gallon has been paid for these. It is probable that legislation

will be introduced to regulate the output of rum in order to maintain that of sugar. The stocks in London on June 14th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	4,439	5,074	8,705	
Demerara	13,748	3,163	10,376	
Total of all kinds	22,531	13,165	31,771	

COCOA. The stocks in London on June 14th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	17,759	12,719	29,184	
Grenada	9,523	20,163	30,025	
Total of all kinds	109,121	161,723	291,400	

ARROWROOT. A fair inquiry for common continues with moderate sales at 6d. Quotations unchanged.

COCONUT OIL. £91 to £92 per ton; firm.

COTTON. Imports into the United Kingdom during the twenty-four weeks ended June 12th include 3,573 bales of British West Indian.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil:** Distilled quiet, with small sales at 4s. per lb. **Handpressed,** no inquiries. Quotation unchanged. **Lime Juice:** Raw firmer, with business 2s. 9d. to 3s. for fair to fine. **Orange Oil,** no inquiries.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

OUTWARD

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
West Indies	London	<i>Sargasso</i>	July 2
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Cadiz</i>	July 2
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Manzanares</i>	July 2
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Matador</i>	July 5
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Bayano</i>	July 10
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Nicoya</i>	July 16
B'dos. & T'dad.	Liverpool	<i>Napierian</i>	July 19

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.		PRICES.
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	76-78
3½ %	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	73-75
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	80-82 xd
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	64-66
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80-82
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	84-86
3½ %	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	66-68
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	73-75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-41	75-77
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81-83
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63-65 xd
8 %	The Colonial Bank	77-81
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	160-170 xd
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	84-85 xd
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures	83-85
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	89-91
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	100-105
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	11 9-12/3
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	3-1
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields	55-3
—	Trinidad Dominion 10%	77-8/0
—	Trinidad Leasholds (£1)	59-60 G
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	43-48
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	99-104
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	61-66
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	65-70
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	13-1½
6½	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6½ Cum. 1st Pref.	75-82
6½	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd "	62-63
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	93-96

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

Sanitation in the Tropics.

BY arrangement with the West India Committee, DR. LOUIS SAMBON, the distinguished authority on tropical disease, delivered an instructive address on Sanitation in the Tropics in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, in Harley-street, on June 14th. His address was illustrated by epidiascopic pictures of victims of such terrible diseases as pellagra, yaws and elephantiasis, reproduced from photographs taken by him during a visit to the West Indies in 1913, which afforded convincing proof that, though those colonies may compare favourably with other parts of the tropics from the health standpoint, much remains to be done in the direction of ridding them of the enervating sickness which saps the energy of too many of their inhabitants. One speaker in the subsequent discussion, whilst expressing gratitude to the Rockefeller Institution of the United States for conducting a campaign against hookworm disease in the British West Indies, characterised it as little short of a scandal that it should have been left to foreign enterprise to clean up our own islands, and voiced the hope that some British millionaire might be forthcoming who would take the matter in hand; and as to what could be done in this connection, DR. SAMBON had some practical suggestions to make. To begin with, he proposed a thorough pathological survey of the Lesser Antilles, which he considers offers excep-

tional opportunities for the study of tropical diseases, and for solving many questions which are still obscure regarding their cause, means of eradication, &c. This, he suggested, should be undertaken by the local health officers, physicians, and naturalists—for whom he had nothing but praise—under his guidance. Nowhere, he said, had he found better men than in the West Indies; but they laboured under great difficulties, being badly equipped, badly paid, and often unheeded by the people. He would then, if funds were available, clean up one island in the group as an object-lesson as to what could be done. For this purpose he would select Barbados, which he regards as particularly suitable on account of its limited size, comparatively level surface, and absence of forests. The idea is certainly most attractive. Barbados is fortunate in being already free from malaria, owing to the absences from it of suitable breeding-places for anophelines, and also from yaws, which was once, according to GRIFFITH HUGHES, very prevalent there; but, in common with the neighbouring islands, it is ravaged by three terrible scourges—namely, elephantiasis, pellagra, and leprosy. These diseases DR. SAMBON is convinced could be completely eradicated. Elephantiasis, or "Barbados leg," a distressing complaint, due mainly to the bite of mosquitoes, could, he believes, be stamped out without difficulty, and so, too, could pellagra, which is also, according to DR. SAMBON, an insect-borne disease, whose stations he has already located. Leprosy, again, has been believed to be an insect-borne disease since the time of LINNÆUS, and DR. SAMBON is satisfied that the disappearance of pellagra would be followed by that of leprosy. DR. SAMBON warmly eulogised the island medical service, which he believes could, with proper direction and concentrated effort, completely rid the island of every kind of tropical disease. Another interesting and practical suggestion put forward by DR. SAMBON was that an inter-allied steamer might be commissioned as a floating school to visit periodically all important tropical areas. At present the schools of tropical medicine in London, Liverpool, Paris, Bordeaux, Naples, and New York teach the methods of the laboratory and give theoretical information; but the students gain very little clinical experience. DR. SAMBON now proposes to furnish this by periodically taking the students round the tropics in a ship specially equipped with laboratories and the latest scientific apparatus, where they could study on the spot the

diseases of which they have heard in the class-room, and inspect the latest developments in tropical sanitation. The teachers would be drawn from the most famous specialists of the world, who would be in a position to diagnose new or obscure diseases, and demonstrate the most modern methods of investigation and research. In the case of any threatened epidemic the vessel would be in a position to proceed immediately to the country affected and to fight the disease at its source. DR. SAMRON'S proposals were warmly supported by subsequent speakers, including SIR JAMES CANTLIE, who suggested the immediate formation of a committee to give effect to them. That committee is, we understand, now being formed, and we trust that it will receive the support of all interested in the health of the British tropics.

"Power-Alcohol."

THE report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the production and utilisation of alcohol for power and traction purposes, which has just been issued as a Parliamentary Paper*, should prove of considerable interest to West India sugar producers. The Committee was appointed to consider and report on—(1) The various available sources of supply of alcohol, the methods of manufacture, and the cost of the product; (2) the suitability of alcohol, either alone or in admixture with solid, liquid, or gaseous combustible substances, for use in internal-combustion engines, and the modifications of the existing types of such engines which may be necessary to the attainment of efficiency; (3) the question of denaturing the alcohol, and the alterations to be made in the present excise arrangements. With regard to question (2), steps are being taken to provide accurate data concerning the behaviour of alcohol, alcohol-benzol, alcohol-ether, and other alcohol-mixture vapours on their combustion with different volumes of air, and with varying percentages of water and denaturants. These are estimated to take a further period of at least six months. The Committee appear, however, to be satisfied as to the suitability of "power-alcohol," as they wish the denatured or industrial alcohol to be called, for fuel purposes, inasmuch as they strongly advocate Government action in the direction of the investigation of potential sources of supplies of alcohol motor-fuel. In America the sale price of petrol to the public rose 200 per cent. between 1914 and 1918, and as to the future, the Committee say: "Whilst it is impossible for us to forecast the development of total petrol consumption for all countries and all purposes, facts are not wanting to indicate the likelihood in the not distant future of so great a pressure of demand as to cause at any rate a very high level of prices, and we are satisfied that close investigation should now proceed with the object of providing alternative supplies of motor-fuels derived from new or supplementary raw materials." They then proceed to express the opinion that steps should be taken to ensure increased production of power-alcohol by the extended use of the vegetable matters from which it may be obtained. Important materials of this nature being—(1) Sugar-containing

products, such as molasses, mahua flowers, sugar-beet, and mangolds; (2) starch or inulin-containing products, such as maize and other cereals, potatoes, and artichokes; and (3) cellulose-containing products, such as peat, sulphite wood-pulp, lyes, and wood. The Committee were unable to obtain comprehensive estimates of the world's production of molasses; but they received evidence to the effect that large quantities produced in numerous sugar-growing areas were allowed to run to waste. Hitherto the cost of alcohol for motor-fuel purposes has compared unfavourably with that of petrol, owing to the high cost of the denaturing process necessary to render it non-potable, which is at times as high as 6d. per gallon. This the Committee believe might be reduced by using formaldehyde, pyridine, and tobacco oil. Another reason for the higher cost of alcohol lies, of course, in the spirit surtax of 1d. per gallon which is chargeable on imported alcohol. The Committee state that their attention was called to the possibility at no distant date of the importation of power-alcohol in tank steamers, and add: "This proposal is obviously in part dependent upon the provision of adequate storage facilities at the ports of arrival, and it is our opinion that no impediment should be placed in the way of manufacturers or importers who seek to promote such new developments of fuel supply. If power-alcohol is denatured to an approved specification before landing in this country, it appears to us to be superfluous to impose the usual bonded-warehouse rules and regulations upon those who store and handle it after landing, although we are agreed that special rules will have to be observed." We hope that this may be interpreted to mean that the Committee would favour the removal from power-alcohol of the surtax, which is certainly "an impediment" in the way of the development of our fuel supply. We have from time to time pointed out that in the West Indies' surplus molasses there is a big potential for alcohol production for power purposes. A gallon of 60 to 66 O.P. spirit can be produced from 25 gallons of ordinary 40 Be molasses at cost, excluding package, of, say, 6d. per gallon—and, with the use of tank steamers and facilities in the way of denaturing and dock dues, there should be a market in the United Kingdom for power-alcohol from the West Indies in the near future. But until the surtax is removed no developments can, we fear, be looked for in this direction. In the circumstances we hope that this aspect of the question will receive consideration.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,876. For the benefit of new readers it may be mentioned that the objects of the Association, as laid down in the Royal Charter granted to it by King Edward VII. on August 4th, 1904, is by united action to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade, and thus increase the general welfare of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. Only British subjects are eligible for membership, particulars of which will be found above the first leading article on the preceding page.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"FOLLOW fashion break monkey neck."

* * *

A GENTLE reminder has been sent to every member of the West India Committee whose subscription is still in arrears. That it may have the desired effect is the fervent hope of the Hon. Treasurers, whose voluntary efforts are greatly lightened when subscriptions are paid without delay.

* * *

MR. THOMAS E. WARD, formerly Controller of the Island Oil and Transport Corporation, has joined Messrs. Buck & Stoddard as partner and manager of the New York Office of that firm, which specialises in oil-well drilling equipment, iron and steel products, and petroleum products and chemicals at 90, West-street, New York.

* * *

MUCH sympathy will be felt for Mr. J. H. Bourne, of Castries, St. Lucia, in the loss which he has sustained through the death of his wife, which occurred on April 28th in Barbados, where she had gone for the benefit of her health. The late Mrs. Bourne, who was a daughter of Mr. Thomas Plummer, a Criméan veteran, leaves also two sons and three daughters.

* * *

THE Building Societies' Association held their annual conference this year at Cheltenham during Whitsun week, at which Mr. Luke M. Hill represented the British Guiana Building Society, of which he was one of the original founders, and had been a director and chairman for some twenty-five years up to the time of his retirement from the colony.

* * *

THE Rev. Roscoe George Shedden and the Rev. David Williams Bentley, D.D., were consecrated Bishop of Nassau and Assistant Bishop of Jamaica respectively at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 24th. The Bishop of London conducted the service in the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The sermon was preached by Prebendary W. H. Stone, rector of Chipstead.

* * *

MR. M. J. TAUREL, the well-known manufacturers' representative, who for over twenty years has been regularly visiting the British West Indies and the Spanish Main in the interests of many prominent firms, has opened an office and sample rooms at Port of Spain. He expects to leave for Trinidad at the end of July, until when he will be found at 27 Highbury Quadrant, N. 5.

* * *

THE Contingent Committee acknowledge with thanks a parcel containing eleven pairs of socks and one pair of mittens from the following: Mrs. J. Anjo, Mrs. Cooke, Mrs. J. McDonald, Mrs. Auchinleck, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Nugent, Miss Anjo, and Miss L. Currie. These have been sent to Pitt Corner Camp, Winchester, for distribution among the men of the British West Indies Regiment stationed there.

* * *

THE recent Demerara *cause-célèbre*—the Hon. Nelson Cannon, late Mayor, *versus* the *Argosy* Company, Limited, for libel—which had created great interest in the colony and occupied the time of the Law Courts for several days, has resulted in favour of the newspaper company, with costs, a lengthy judgment to that effect, based mainly on justification, having been pronounced by Mr. Acting Justice Dalton.

* * *

IT is satisfactory to learn from the Demerara *Argosy* of May 30th that the future of artesian wells in British Guiana seems assured by the adoption of the improved

sand-strainer devised by Mr. E. C. Buck, Director of Public Works, as indicated in our issue of May 15th last. This apparatus has been attached to the end of the bore-pipe of the Nabaclis village well on the east coast of Demerara, with, it is stated, complete success, thus solving one of the chief difficulties in the general adoption of artesian borings for securing an adequate supply of good potable water, which is so important for the colony at large, especially in regard to its public health.

* * *

FROGHOPPERS are not the only cause of the serious loss of the sugar crop in Trinidad, according to Mr. William Nowell, mycologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who visited the island earlier in the year. Sir Francis Watts, in a letter to the Governor, forwarding the mycologist's report, states that when Mr. Nowell's services were asked for the investigations, which had been in progress for some time, had reached a stage when it was felt that other factors than the presence of froghoppers were at work causing the serious loss of the sugar crop which was complained of. Mr. Nowell's investigations fully confirmed this impression; he finds that the position is complicated by the presence of fungus root disease of the canes. But his observations more particularly go to show that the diseased conditions generally met with are attributable mainly to defective methods of agriculture, and that froghopper and root disease are to be combated rather by general methods of agricultural improvement than by application of specific remedies.

* * *

SIR LIONEL PHILLIPS, at the annual meeting of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation on June 19th, said that the company's holding in Trinidad Leaseholds was a very substantial one, and would be further augmented by the shares in the new issue. "The company has decided to enlarge the scale of its operations by opening up further fields. The prospects of this enterprise are very encouraging—in fact, the outlook for producers generally is excellent, and the growth of the demand for oil in its various forms is one of the industrial features of the times. The development, for instance, of its use as fuel for steam-raising and for internal combustion engines is proceeding rapidly, especially for marine purposes, and will no doubt expand to an even greater extent when bunkering facilities for these classes of oil are extended to such a degree that ships can rely upon obtaining satisfactory supplies in all parts of the world. In this connection it is to be remembered that the island of Trinidad occupies a most advantageous geographical position. In 1900 the world's production of crude petroleum amounted to 150,000,000 barrels, or a little over 21,000,000 tons. In 1916 it was about 65,000,000 tons, and the tendency is still upward. There is an immense future for the oil industry."

* * *

MR. JOHN CARGILL, Chairman of the Burmah Oil Company, Limited, addressing the shareholders of that concern on June 26th, was, on the other hand, less optimistic. "Our interests in Trinidad," he said, "unfortunately have given continued to give disappointing results, and, so far, the new area briefly referred to by me last year as holding forth somewhat favourable indications—inasmuch as our operations in it were not so seriously subjected as in the older area to the sanding-up problem—has not come up to our hopes in the matter of production. At the same time active operations and the carrying out of new ideas for getting over this sanding-up trouble have been greatly retarded and hampered by both plant and labour difficulties, only recently eased by the termination of the war, and with greater facilities in these directions we and our associates in this enterprise are still hopeful of achieving success."

THE TRINIDAD OIL INDUSTRY.

Mr. P. Stevens, Inspector of Mines for the colony of Trinidad and Tobago, in his report for the year 1918, states that the number of feet drilled on the oilfields of Trinidad showed a slight increase over that for 1917, while the production of oil increased by nearly 30 per cent., the figures being as follows:—

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1917.

	Feet drilled.	Oil won. Imperial galls.
Crown lands	42,480	37,307,980
Private lands	9,557	18,772,934
Totals	52,037	56,080,914

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1918.

	Feet drilled.	Oil won. Imperial galls.
Crown lands	47,487	55,609,748
Private lands	6,751	17,262,650
Totals	54,238	72,872,398

During 1918 the number of new wells drilled was 41 (37 on Crown and 4 on private lands), and in 29 of these oil was struck. The total number of wells drilled in the colony to December 31st, 1918, is 410, of which 236 are on Crown lands. Companies engaged in the winning of oil numbered 12 as against 11 at the end of 1917.

Dealing with the work of individual companies Mr. Stevens says:—

During the year the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, acquired the property at Barrackpore from the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Limited, and a fair production of oil is being obtained therefrom. On the Crown lands of the Morne L'Enfer Reserve, held by them under lease, work has progressed satisfactorily and the production has been considerably increased. In several of the wells the oil is extracted by means of compressed air. Most of the oil is refined at the company's refinery at Point-a-Pierre; this refinery has been in operation during the whole of 1918, and has given excellent results. Considerable quantities of oil fuel to Admiralty specification, white oil and petrol, have been manufactured and exported for the use of his Majesty's Navy. It having been found that the waters of the Gulf of Paria had a very detrimental effect on the pipe lines laid on the sea-bed for the purpose of shipping oil, these lines have now been taken up and laid on piles from the sea-shore to the island jetty. The company now possesses four pipe lines for shipping different grades of oil. A number of storage tanks, bungalows, &c., have also been erected during the period under review.

The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, did no drilling on their private lands at Brighton, but continued to produce oil from the old wells. They have large stocks of crude oil on hand owing to the difficulties experienced in obtaining shipping facilities. One cargo of oil was shipped by the company to the Admiralty.

Drilling by the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, on the Parry area near the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve has been continued, and a fair production of oil obtained. Oil has also been extracted from the old wells in the vicinity of Point Fortin. The whole of the production has been sold to the United British Refineries, Limited, at Point Fortin, and the resulting products either exported or disposed of locally.

The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, have continued drilling on the areas formerly held under licence by Clark and Dreyfus. A small production of a fairly high-grade oil, which has

been sold to the United British Refineries, Limited, has been obtained from the Clark area.

The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, have now taken a lease over a considerable portion of the Crown lands formerly held by them under prospecting licence at Tabaquite. In my last report I stated that the prospects of an enlarged production appeared favourable, and I am pleased to say my anticipations have been realised—the production of this company having of late very largely increased. The oil obtained is of the highest quality. Considerable quantities of the crude oil have been refined on the field, the balance being pumped to their storage and shipping depot at Claxton's Bay. Towards the close of the year a bulk shipment was made to the Admiralty.

The Petroleum Development Company, Limited, have continued to produce oil from the oil wells, and this oil has, as in former years, been disposed of to the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited. When the shipping situation becomes easier it is expected that operations will be resumed on a much larger scale.

Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer has not drilled any new wells on the Perseverance estate at Guapo, but has obtained a small production from the existing wells.

I regret to state that the Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited, have not yet resumed drilling on the Crown lands held by them under lease at Palo Seco. The wells already drilled have produced oil in small quantities. This has been passed through their refinery and the resulting products disposed of locally.

The company known as the T.O.P. Limited, is now the Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Limited, and from wells situated on their private lands at Point Ligoure small quantities of oil have been obtained.

The Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited, continued drilling operations on their private lands at Guayaguayare during the early part of the year, but were not successful in striking oil.

The Iere Oil Company, Limited, the capital of which has been subscribed locally, drilled two wells on private lands near Barrackpore, and quite lately from one of these wells oil has been obtained.

Another new company—the London and West Indies Oil Company, Limited—commenced drilling operations on private lands adjoining the Crown lands held under lease by the Trinidad Leaseholds in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve. So far one well has been drilled and oil struck.

The Cruse Syndicate, Limited, and Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), Limited, have been absorbed by the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, and an agreement with the Government has been entered into regarding the taking up of a licence and lease over these and other lands. No work has been done by any of the following companies: The Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company; the Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited; and the Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited.

The royalty earned during 1918 was £18,542, as against £14,616 in 1917. Leases accounted for £18,485, and licences for £57.

The revenue obtained from way-leave in respect of pipe lines laid along the Trinidad Government Railway and along the public roads of the colony has also shown an increase. The amounts for 1918 are: Railways £2,167, and roads £1,334, as against £2,599 and £1,039 respectively for 1917. Fees charged for crossing the foreshore, railway and roads with pipe lines amounted to £14.

The companies have regularly submitted the various returns in respect of drilling work and the extraction and disposal of the oil. These, after being checked, have been filed with the office records.

The officers of the department have carried out the usual routine inspections, in addition to which a large number of special inspections in connection with accidents, royalty, way-leave, refineries, and exclusion of

water from wells have been made, and it has been found that in the majority of cases the provisions of the Ordinances and Regulations have been carefully carried out. It has not been necessary to institute any prosecutions.

A mining lease over 1,000 acres of Crown lands was issued to the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited. The prospecting licence to the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, mentioned in my last report, has not yet been executed.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Luncheon to Colonel Jenkins.

Lieut.-Colonel F. Jenkins, the newly-appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados, was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon at which Mr. R. Rutherford presided on Dominion Day, July 1st.

The Chairman, proposing the health of the guest, said that Colonel Jenkins had already had a distinguished career. He had served with his regiment, the Coldstream Guards, during the South African War, after which he had been seconded for service with the West African Frontier Force. At the beginning of the recent war he was Staff Officer attached to the Colonial Office, to which he subsequently filled the important and responsible position of Military Adviser in the absence of General Wilkinson. He then went out to take command of the Nigeria Regiment, with which he again saw active service, greatly distinguishing himself and receiving the C.M.G. Colonel Jenkins was assured of a cordial reception in Barbados, whose people, owing, perhaps, to the fact that it was garrisoned with Imperial troops for many years, and until 1905, always gave a particularly warm welcome to military administrators. It had been hoped that Colonel Jenkins' predecessor as Colonial Secretary of Barbados might have been present, but unfortunately Mr. Fell had left for Fiji sooner than had been expected. Fiji's gain was Barbados's loss, for Mr. Fell had endeared himself to the little community to which Colonel Jenkins was proceeding, and in which he was sure of a hearty welcome.

Replying to the toast, which was cordially honoured, Colonel Jenkins mentioned the interesting fact that in going out to the West Indies he was following in the footsteps of Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Short, his grandfather. Colonel Short, who was junior Ensign in the Coldstream Guards at Waterloo, and spent a happy day in Hougoumont, though still under sixteen, after leaving the regiment in 1840 became a partner in the well-known firm of Marryat, on behalf of which he visited St. Lucia, Grenada and Demerara in 1840-41, and again in 1848, and a director of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. His great-uncle, too, Mr. Mayow Short, had held an official position in Jamaica, and had a daughter who married Mr. Briggs, of Barbados. He (the speaker) would not therefore feel altogether a stranger in Barbados.

The company present included:—

Captain Bambridge, Lieutenant-Colonel Challenor, C.B., D.S.O., C.M.G., Mr. G. Challenor, Mr. Altamont E. Da Costa, M.B.E., Captain D'Alton, Sir Edward Davson, Dr. H. Farquharson, Mr. Frank Grant, Mr. L. W. Gwyn, Major Harragin, D.S.O., Mr. Charles Hewett, Mr. A. Hirsch, Captain Holloway, Mr. C. J. Le Feuvre, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., Mr. F. N.

Martinez, Captain F. F. C. Messum, Mr. F. J. Morris, Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C., Mr. J. C. O'Dowd, Mr. L. G. Perkins, Captain Peterkin, Mr. J. H. Phillipps, Mr. G. K. Pile, Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Mr. E. A. Robinson, Hon. A. P. Sherlock, Mr. T. J. Sims, Mr. Edgar Tripp, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G. Acting Hon. Secretary.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

What Dominions and Colonies Offer.

At the recent meetings of the British Imperial Council of Commerce a memorandum was submitted to the delegates giving the following list of dominions and colonies which give preferential rates on British goods imported:—

1. Commonwealth of Australia.—The Tariffs Act No. 7 of 1908, as amended by Acts No. 39 of 1910, and 19 of 1911, and by Resolution of the Commonwealth Parliament on December 3rd, 1914, provides for preferential rates of duty on goods, 5 to 10 per cent. *ad valorem* lower than the general rates of duty.

2. Dominion of New Zealand.—Preferential treatment is accorded produce and manufactures of the British Empire under the Tariff Act No. 35 of 1908, as amended in 1915 by the imposition of additional duties of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* on certain goods which are not the produce or manufacture of some part of the British Dominions.

3. Union of South Africa.—Preferential treatment is accorded under the Tariff Act No. 26 of 1914, as amended by Act 22 of 1915, by means of a rebate of import duty on certain British goods to the extent of 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, and in some instances rebates equivalent to one-fifth of the duty.

4. Rhodesia.—Provision is made in the Customs Tariffs of Southern and Northern Rhodesia for the preferential treatment of British goods according a rebate of duty upon certain articles the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom.

5. Dominion of Canada.—The Customs Act No. 11 of 1907 contains a British Preferential Tariff providing for special rates of duty for British goods, 5, 7½, 10 per cent. *ad valorem* lower than the general rates of duty.

6. Barbados, British Guiana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Leeward Islands, Trinidad, and Tobago.—Under the Canadian-West Indian Reciprocity Agreement of 1912, certain goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, are accorded preferential rates of duty when imported into the countries indicated, equivalent to a rebate of one-fifth of the general rates of duty.

THE R.M.S. *Quillota*, now on her homeward voyage from the West Indies, has on board among her passengers the main portion of the delegation appointed to lay the colonisation scheme for British Guiana before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as referred to in the CIRCULAR of June 12th. One of the delegates—the Hon. E. G. Woolford, Mayor of Georgetown—will be associated with Mr. Kenneth J. S. Harris, city engineer—also a passenger by the *Quillota*—in maturing a scheme of pipe-sewerage for Georgetown, proposed to be carried out at the joint expense of the Government and the Municipality. We understand that these two gentlemen have been instructed by the Mayor and Town Council, when on this side of the water, to confer on the matter with Mr. Luke M. Hill, former City Engineer of Georgetown, and at present residing in Cheltenham.

DR. SAMBON ON TROPICAL DISEASE.

A Proposed Floating Laboratory.

Dr. Louis Sambon, the eminent authority on tropical diseases, who, it will be recalled, visited the West Indies in 1913, delivered a lecture on the sanitation of tropical lands before a large audience at the Royal Society of Medicine, by special arrangement with the West India Committee, on June 14th. Dr. Sambon recalled the fact that in 1897, in the columns of the *British Medical Journal*, he had contested the belief that the white man could not be acclimatised in tropical countries, maintaining that it was not climate but disease which opposed tropical colonisation, and that the diseases of tropical countries were due to parasites. On this theory acclimatisation became simply a matter of active and intelligent hygiene. This view was supported at the time by Sir Patrick Manson and Sir James Cantlie, and the eminent geographer Sir Harry Johnston, but was opposed by other authorities. One object of his visit to the West Indies was to investigate further his hypothesis that pellagra was an insect-borne disease. Each of the islands had its own geological structure, its own flora and fauna. In one island would be found a disease from which another island was exempt. In Barbados, for example, there was no malaria; yaws also, which at one time was a plague on this island, seemed now to have disappeared. But Barbados had three terrible scourges—elephantiasis, leprosy, and pellagra.

The islands of the Lesser Antilles altogether offered opportunities for the study of tropical diseases such as might be impossible in vast forest-covered continental areas. The medical men now practising there were most zealous, but they suffered from lack of laboratory equipment and were miserably paid, some of them having to add to their income by cultivating the sugar-cane or by rearing cattle. The hospitals offered rare opportunities for clinical investigation, but, owing to difficulty of access to current medical literature, many things went unpublished because those in whose way they came had no idea whether or not they had been published already. In the matter of sanitation the profession in the West Indies was not adequately supported by the lay authorities. Dr. Sambon suggested that there was here a great opportunity for a school of tropical medicine of a new order—a floating school, which would bring the students periodically into the tropics. If once or twice a year such a trip—perhaps under international auspices—could be arranged, the students would benefit by actual contact with the diseases in their natural habitats, and regular visits of students and teachers would stimulate sanitation in the parts visited. A pathological survey of the Lesser Antilles should be made, and one of the islands—Barbados lent itself particularly well to the experiment—might be made perfectly clean, in the same way as Havana and Panama had been cleaned by Gorgas. It was a reflection upon the British Empire that elephantiasis, leprosy, and pellagra should still be so widely

prevalent in these possessions in the Caribbean Sea, especially the first of the three diseases, in view of the knowledge as to its mode of transmission. By effective measures the disease could be stamped out in a few months.

Dr. Sambon added that he had had the opportunity of bringing forward this suggestion for a mobile school both in France and Italy. In Italy it had secured the enthusiastic support of the Italian Government and the Colonial Institute of Naples. In Paris the Faculté de Médecine acclaimed the proposal, and it was stated that it would receive assistance from the French Government. The present suggestion was that an experimental journey be undertaken next summer to determine what could be done later on a larger scale.

A ROMANCE OF THE WAR.

How "Charybdis" Became a Tramp.

One of the romances of the war, of which mention can only now be made, was the use which was made of H.M.S. *Charybdis*. Towards the end of the year 1917 the people of Bermuda were reduced to dire straits through the action of the Government in commandeering the s.s. *Bermudian* for transport work. That vessel was the sole remaining link with the United States—Bermuda's chief market for vegetables—and the local "market gardeners" were in despair.

H.M.S. *Charybdis* was lying in the dockyard at Ireland Island at this period minus her bows as the result of an "accident," and the brilliant idea was conceived of turning her into a merchantman. The Admiralty's consent was obtained, and she was fitted up with temporary wooden bows and packed off to the United States, where she was converted at the colony's expense into a passenger-cargo liner, as which she ploughed the seas for eighteen months. Though run at a loss, she saved the vegetable industry!

The writer is reminded of this episode by the arrival in London on July 7th of a deputation representing the Bermuda Government and comprising the Hon. S. S. Spurling, O.B.E., Hon. A. W. Black, and Mr. J. P. Hand, M.B.E., with the object of calling attention to Bermuda's need for steamer communication generally. These gentlemen, who spent some days in New York *en route*, have already succeeded in making an arrangement with Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, Limited, for a regular steamer service between New York and Hamilton, Bermuda, for a period of five years in return for a subsidy of £15,000. The service will be a weekly one in winter, and during the summer months two trips will be made every twenty-one days. The steamer will carry 320 first-class and 76 second-class passengers, and will have 60,000 cub. ft. of cold storage space for vegetables. The contracting company has acquired for the service from the Canada Steamship Lines, Limited, the s.s. *Bermudian*, which has now been released.

The main object of the deputation will now be to secure steamer communication with the Mother Country also, to which end the Bermudan Government has already agreed to vote a subsidy.

It may be recalled that H.M.S. *Charybdis* was at the head of the combined English and German squadron which bombarded the fort at Puerto Cabello in December, 1902, during the blockade of the Venezuelan coast in consequence of President Castro's outrages on British and German subjects.

A VALUABLE WAR DIARY.
Presented to the West India Committee.

LIEUT. COLONEL WOOD HILL, D.S.O., and the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned

Officers, and Men of the 1st British West Indies Regiment have presented to the West India Committee

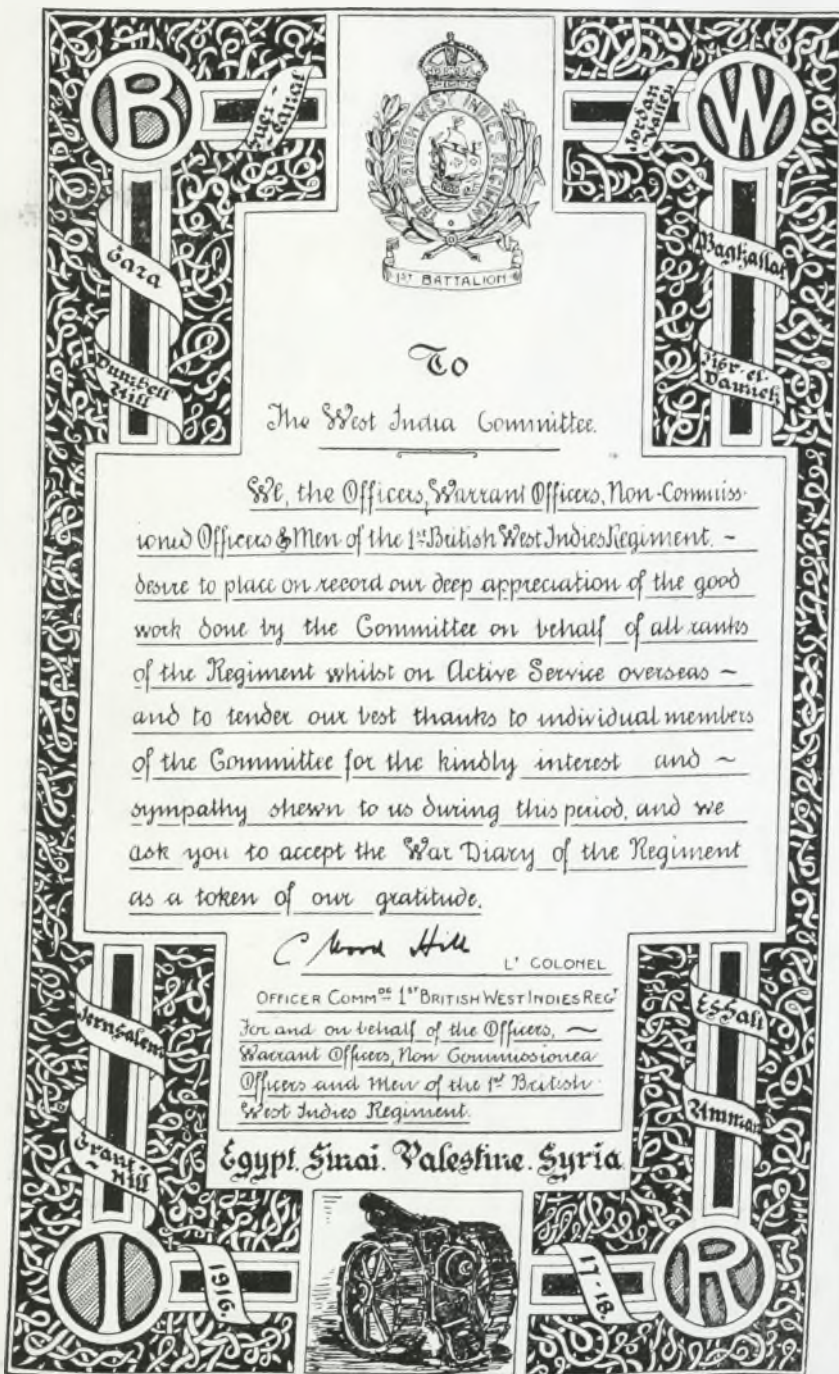
the War Diary of the Battalion which was kept without intermission from August 21st, 1915, the date of the embarkation of the first unit of the West Indian Contingent at Georgetown, Demerara, to November 30th last. The diary, which gives a very complete history of the life of the battalion and of the operations in which it took such a brilliant part, was written out by Company Sergeant-Major W. C. Mills, who designed the handsome book-plate which is reproduced on this page. On a scroll worked into the design of this book-plate are the honours of the battalion, including Suez Canal, Gaza, Dumbell Hill, Jerusalem, Grant Hill, Jordan Valley, Es Salt, Amman, &c. The volume has several appendixes, including a series of maps to illustrate an account of the operations in the Jordan Valley, a complete list of all officers who ever served in the battalion, and a list of all the honours and awards.

The "spade-work" of the diary was carried out by Capt. R. H. L. Fink, and the excellent maps and plans were executed by C.Q.M.S. Mills under his direction.

The idea of the regiment in presenting the diary to the West India Committee was to render it accessible to all interested in the doings of the British West Indies Regiment, it being realised that the Committee was a permanent body while the West Indian Contingent Committee would presumably bring its career to a close after the completion of demobilisation. The volume is to be bound at the expense of the donors, and at their request in solid calf with the title "War Diary, British West Indies Regiment" and the regimental crest in gold on the cover.

A particularly gratifying feature of the gift is the generous reference to the services rendered to the regiment by the West India Committee during the war.

It is hardly necessary to state that this War Diary will be greatly prized by the West India Committee, to whose library it will form a most valuable addition.



The Dedication Page of the War Diary.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, of Trinidad, has received a cordial welcome from his many friends on his arrival in London for a short visit—his first since 1898. From 1894 until last year, when he resigned, Mr. Tripp, besides being actively engaged in the business of his firm, was Secretary of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, a position which he accepted originally at the invitation of Sir Napier Broome, the then Governor. It may be added that Mr. Tripp has been the Commercial Agent of the Government of Canada since 1893, that he is Hon. Secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, of which Sir Edward Davson is President, and that, as Consul for Norway, he was recently elected Dean of the Consular Body of Trinidad. But he will perhaps be best known to the majority of readers of this publication as Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee, a position which he has filled most conscientiously, as his entertaining letters in the CIRCULAR have shown, for the last twenty years or more.

In an interview with a representative of the CIRCULAR, shortly after his arrival, Mr. Tripp expressed his pleasure at being "home" once more; though he admitted that the climate was rather trying after that of Trinidad. He naturally found the Metropolis much changed, and was struck by the congested state of the thoroughfares, hotels and transport system, and by the evidences of the recent war which still manifest themselves on every side.

Asked as to the conditions prevailing in Trinidad, Mr. Tripp said that the colony was now more prosperous than it had been at any period in its history. The representative of the CIRCULAR said that he was glad to have this confirmation of his own opinion, since he had been taken to task and charged with "drawing the long bow" for stating that the West Indies, generally speaking, were never more flourishing than they were at present. Mr. Tripp then said that there could be no question about it. The present prosperity was more widespread than it was in the old days of the sugar lords, when fortunes were made in the West Indies and spent in London.

Continuing, he said, "There is now a growing tendency of people to make Trinidad, at any rate, their home, as is shown by the many palatial residences erected in the island in recent years, and especially in the neighbourhood of the Savannah at Port-of-Spain, some of which would not look out of place in Park-lane. It must also be remembered," he added, "that in the days when great fortunes were made in the West Indies the labouring classes earned no wages, and, consequently, money was not circulated then as it is to-day."

Dealing with the agricultural industries of the island, Mr. Tripp said that the prosperity of the local sugar industry was doubly assured by the preference in the duty in the United Kingdom, which it would enjoy as from September 1st next—for which the colonies could not be too grateful. Large sums of money were being expended in improvements in cultivation and a higher standard both of agriculture and manufacture had been reached. In this connection much was hoped for from the proposed Tropical Agricultural College, the establishment of which he was glad to notice the West India Committee was so warmly advocating.

Cocoa, when he left the island, was flourishing, and

this commodity was fetching \$25 per fanega as against \$12 at Port-of-Spain not so very long ago. Cocoa cultivation was expanding every day, and the practice of claying in Port-of-Spain, which had led to abuses, had now ceased.

Asked why such an obsolete measure as a "fanega" still survived in Trinidad, Mr. Tripp defended it on the grounds that the 110 lb. which it represented had always been the standard of weight handed down from the old days of the Spanish possession of the colony, and adapted and understood by the numberless small proprietors who placed their produce on the local market.

And now about oil, said our representative. "The local boom," Mr. Tripp said in reply, "has never been so pronounced. Land in the neighbourhood of ascertained anticlines is fetching from five to ten times more than it did a few years ago, and it is noteworthy that all the great oil interests are now represented in Trinidad by geologists or by agents—a fact which speaks for itself. The asphalt industry, which was handicapped by the war, is now showing signs of revival, which means an increased revenue for the colony."

THE EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

Dissatisfaction has been caused by the delay of the Government in granting relief to those liable to pay Excess Profits Duty in the colonies as well as in the United Kingdom, as provided for by Section 23 of the Imperial Finance Act of 1917. It will be recalled that the British Guiana Tax Ordinance, 1918 (No. 24 of 1917), imposed an Excess Profits Tax (Section 64), and foreshadowed a further Ordinance to lay down the terms and conditions on which this tax should be levied. This further Ordinance entitled the Tax on Excess Profits Ordinance, 1918, was assented to on February 28th, 1918. An explanatory memorandum, published in the *British Guiana Gazette* on January 31st, 1918, called attention to Section 23 of the Imperial Finance Act, 1917, and clearly foreshadowed that relief would be granted to those firms and individuals subject to double Excess Profits Tax. Up to the present time, however, no such relief has been forthcoming, and the West India Committee have repeatedly called attention to the matter. In reply to recent representations the following letter has been received:—

Downing-street,
June 23rd, 1919.

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th June (5572) regarding the British Guiana Excess Profits Tax, and to inform you that the proposals made by the Board of Inland Revenue are still under the consideration of the Colonial Government, but that he hopes to receive a report from the Acting Governor on the subject shortly.

It is understood that some delay has been caused owing to the death of Mr. H. A. Cameron, the Chairman of the Board of Assessment in British Guiana.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary,
West India Committee.

Mr. A. G. O'H. Russ has been appointed Assistant Master at Harrison College, Barbados, and hopes to leave for that island at the end of July. During the war Mr. Russ was Education Officer in the Calais area.

NATURE NOTES.

The history of veterinary science is briefly reviewed in the *Veterinary Journal*, and the importance of veterinary hygiene and preventive medicine is strongly insisted on. It was the appalling losses due to contagious diseases among troop horses that created the veterinary service, and within a few years of its starting work the results more than justified its formation.

* * *

Flies are a great source of danger to health. It is pointed out in *Journal Pharm. Chim.* that castor oil is an active poison for them. Castor oil, either alone or mixed with sugar, is very attractive to them. The addition of croton oil in the proportion of two drops to the ounce of castor oil greatly increases the toxic action. Other oils, such as coconut oil, have no such fatal action.

* * *

Commercial peanut butter, although manufactured and packed under poor sanitary conditions, shows a surprising absence of microbes. According to the *American Food Journal*, the explanation, as a result of bacteriological studies, is that the germicidal property resides in the oil of the peanut, the organisms dying out merely because the oil make the protein and carbohydrates suspended in it inaccessible for bacterial growth.

* * *

How can adequacy of nutrition be combined with such a use of food as to produce both financial and national economy? This question is discussed in detail in an article on food chemistry in the service of human nutrition in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. It comes to the conclusion that it seems a good general rule for families to spend at least as much for milk as for meat, and as much for vegetables and fruit as for meats and fish.

* * *

The buffalo is the mainstay of the dairy industry in India, says the *Agricultural Journal of India*. It thrives on rather coarse food such as that rejected by other live stock. When not milking it can be put to work in wet lands. The milk is better in quality and quantity than cows' milk. It yields 10 to 12 lb. of milk per day, the value of which is at least twice the value of its daily keep. There used to be camels in Barbados; why not buffaloes?

* * *

Measures were taken last year in St. Vincent for the control of the cotton-stainer. Silk-cotton trees and John Bull trees, or sea-side mahoe (*Thespesia populnea*), which harbour stainers, were cut down; cotton stalks were pulled up and burnt, or used as traps for the stainers. Not only was the loss caused by stainers much reduced, but the attacks of the leaf-blister mite were negligible, so that the yield of cotton per acre exceeded the average of the previous thirteen years.

* * *

Darwin showed that in many cases a flower fertilised by pollen from another flower gave better results than if fertilised by its own pollen. The number of seeds produced were more, and the offspring more vigorous. The Minnesota Experiment Station has been experimenting with corn (maize). The wind carries the pollen from one plant to another. Not more than 5 per cent. of the corn in a field is self-fertilised. If all were self-fertilised, the loss would be 50 per cent. in vigour. If seed were used from detasselled plants only there would be no loss.

* * *

Guango pods (*Enterolobium saman*), have been used with success in Jamaica for feeding dairy cows. The

report of the Department of Agriculture states that the food value as compared with oats is 10 lb. oats equals 11 lb. crushed guango equals 12½ lb. whole guango. The seeds are rich in protein, but are so hard that they pass through the animal undigested. They can, however, be crushed in a mill, if worth while. The pods must be ripe and quite dry when gathered; mouldy, wet pods are poisonous. If they are to be stored, they should be dried in the sun for some days.

* * *

In war the chief losses among animals, as among men, were due not to casualties in fighting but to preventable disease. The fight against disease has to be based upon precise scientific knowledge. Some few years ago entomologists, or "bug-hunters," were generally looked upon as harmless cranks; but it was the patient and thorough study of certain species of blood-sucking flies and ticks that revealed the true nature and origin of diseases that still remain incurable and are capable of destroying the whole human and animal life of a sub-continent. The first step towards combating disease is to understand its exact nature.

* * *

Sugar estates in Louisiana, according to the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, lose about 500 lb. of sugar per acre by the depredations of the moth-borer. The borer is controlled to some extent by a native parasite (*Trichogramma minutum*), which attacks the egg of the borer. If it were not for this check, the loss would be double as much. If the borer were fully controlled, the planters would make about one-fourth more sugar than the average crop. Measures have been taken to introduce from Cuba parasites of the larva and of the pupa of the borer. The old practice of burning the leaves probably destroyed vast numbers of the egg parasite; but for the past six years the leaves have been ploughed under with a marked benefit to the soil, and probably a reduction of the borer.

* * *

Rats cause the destruction of immense quantities of food, and, besides, are carriers of plague. The *Journal of the Board of Agriculture* (England) recommend two rat poisons which are not injurious to human beings and domestic animals—viz., squills and barium carbonate (BaCO₃). The latter has been largely used by the authorities in India in the plague areas. It has the merit of being tasteless and odourless when conveyed in a proper medium. It is very effective, and probably one of the safest rat poisons. Rats are particularly susceptible to the effects of squills, and an extract of squills is manufactured at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, under the direction of Dr. Danysz, and has been used during the war in the trenches. This extract is also manufactured in England. In France they make a pancake with meat dripping, to which 20 per cent. of finely chopped squills (red variety) is added to the batter before frying. When cold the pancake is cut in pieces of about ¼ in. square, and laid in rat-runs.

A VERY successful Health Week has recently been held in British Guiana, including an instructive Health Exhibition at the Town Hall in Georgetown, at which practical illustrative lessons in hygiene were given, the whole winding up with a sanitary conference, at which valuable addresses were delivered by local experts on various subjects dealing with health matters, such as Birth and Death Rates, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Water Supply, Housing, Drainage and Sewerage, &c. To Dr. F. G. Rose, Government Bacteriologist, is due the credit for the successful organisation of the arrangements, in association with the Government and Municipal Health Authorities, the scheme extending also to the town of New Amsterdam and the county of Berbice.

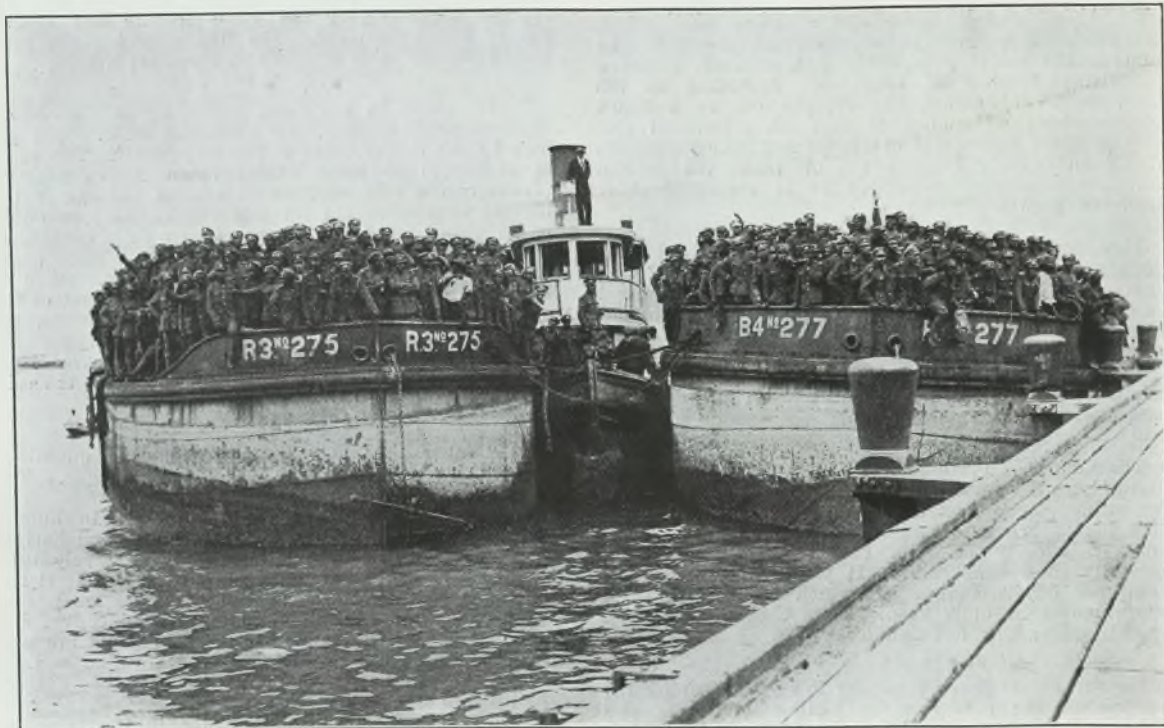
THE TRINIDAD CONTINGENT.

The CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. A. V. Stollmeyer, governing director of H. Strong, Limited, for the photographs from which the illustrations depicting the return of a Trinidad Contingent of the British West Indies Regiment on this and the opposite page are reproduced. It will be gathered that the scene after the arrival of the transport *Ajar* on May 26th was one of great animation. The men were landed in barges, a platform in one of which unfortunately gave way, with the result that a number of the men fell into the hold and were seriously injured. But even this regrettable episode failed to damp

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The Peace Treaty Signed.

In spite of their frantic appeals to the honour and justice they have so long outraged, and efforts to gain an extension of time and fresh concessions, the Germans were finally confronted with an emphatic "No!" from the Allies. Moreover, M. Clemenceau, in a masterly letter, put the tame Socialist Schiedemann in an impossible situation. Either he, as head of the enemy Government, signed and admitted the guilt of the German people, or he did not sign and renewed the war. The result was that another Ministry had to be formed, as even the



THE RETURN OF A TRINIDAD CONTINGENT TO PORT-OF-SPAIN.

the enthusiasm of the crowds, the dimension of which is well demonstrated by the characteristic view of Frederick-street. The returned warriors were welcomed by the Mayor, Mr. F. E. Scott, at the landing-stage, and addressed by the Acting Governor, Mr. Montgomerie Gordon, on the Savannah, after which they were entertained at a breakfast.

A PORTRAIT of James Hay, first Earl of Carlisle, Lord Proprietor of the Caribbee Islands, who gave his name to Carlisle Bay, Barbados, recently changed hands at Christie's for 300 guineas, the purchasers being Messrs. Gooden & Fox. The painting, which was the property of the Earl of Home, and was originally one of the Clarendon pictures, shows the Earl in black dress with slashed sleeves and white lace ruff, and wearing the Riband of the Garter.

military party perceived that public opinion in Germany could not be counted upon for the support of further resistance. As might be expected, the new Government consists of nonentities, the Premier being Herr Bauer. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Herr Müller, and the Minister of Communications, Dr. Bell, were the delegates to Versailles, who signed the Peace Treaty on behalf of Germany. Should circumstances be favourable later on the signatories can be repudiated. For whoever is nominally in power at Weimar, authority is in the hands of the military party. This is, perhaps, inevitable in a country situated as Germany is.

1871-1919.

Peace was signed on Saturday, June 28th, China alone of the Allies withholding her assent in protest

at the treatment of her claims in Shantung, and on the fifth anniversary of the assassination at Sarajevo, which served the Central Powers as a pretext for the Great War. The scene was the Hall of Mirrors, as it was in the time of Louis XIV., and where Germany raised its arrogant head with its foot on the neck of France. The very walls therefore emphasised the depth of the enemy's humiliation, as did the moderation and frigid courtesy of the Allies in their hour of triumph. There was great and unrestrained rejoicing in France when it was known that the Germans would sign, and when they had actually done it; but in England Peace was accepted more soberly. The delays and disappointments of the Conference, the unrest at home, and unstable condition of the larger part of Europe have robbed us of the buoyancy which was so marked in the celebrations of the Armistice, and so when Peace was signed there was little "rafficking" in London.

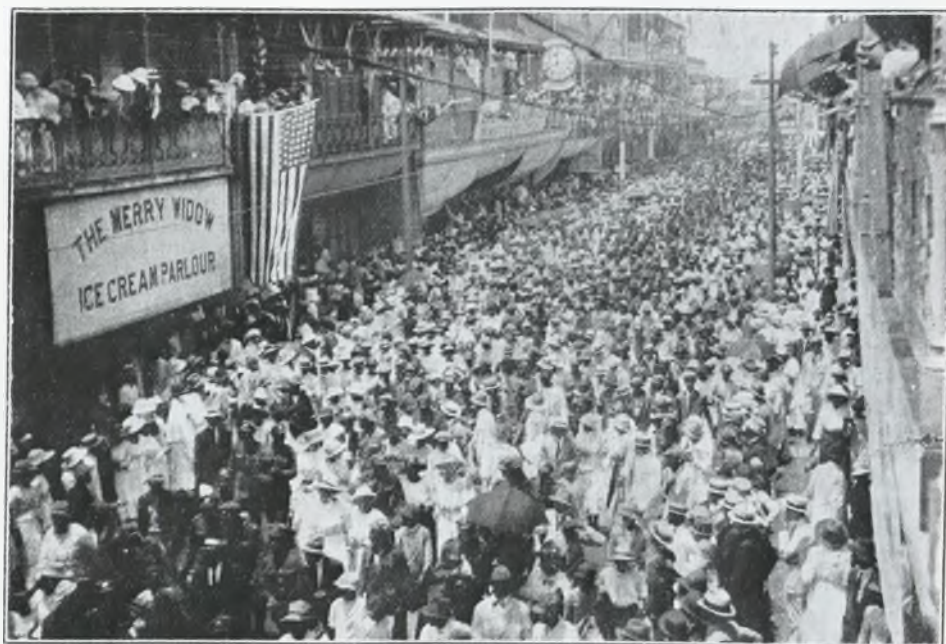
Ratification of the Peace Treaty.

The question now is when will the Treaty come into force? When formally ratified by the Governments of Germany and three of the Allied Powers. If Mr. Wilson were in the position of the heads of the other Allied Delegations, the United States would be one. But in that country the treaty-making power is not in the hands of the President, but of the Senate. Not only can this body amend a Treaty, but ratification depends on a two-thirds majority of votes. Unfortunately, Mr. Wilson's own party, the Democrats, are in a minority of one in the Senate, so that it is difficult to foretell what may happen. In any case, ratification of the Peace Treaty by the United States is not likely to be as prompt as the general interests of the world demand. Italy, owing to the trouble she is finding in arriving at a settlement of the Adriatic and other questions that will be involved in the Treaty with Austria, is in a still more delicate position. The third Allied Power will therefore be Japan. In France ratification takes the form of a simple vote by both Houses of Parliament. In England all Treaties are submitted to Parliament, and in connection with the Peace Treaty a Bill is already being drafted for the purpose. But the process is little more than formal. Hence there will only be delay, if delay there be, in Germany. Once the constitutional procedure is

carried through in the four States, each will send a representative to Paris charged with a formal declaration showing that the Treaty has been legally ratified. Then, on the mutual exchange of the declarations, an elaborate minute of their purport and the circumstances will be drawn up, and the Treaty will thereupon come into operation.

The Future of the Treaty.

Already the terms of the Treaty have been modified by the Allies, and, in two instances, broken by the Germans. The first and most dramatic was the sinking of the German Fleet, handed over to the British Navy after the Armistice in November last. This nation was led to believe that the ships were surrendered, whereas it now appears that they were merely interned at Scapa Flow. In this matter



A TRINIDAD CONTINGENT'S RETURN: SCENE IN FREDERICK STREET.

the representatives of the British Admiralty were overruled by the Council of Ten, influenced, of course, by political considerations. Had the ships been surrendered they would have been guarded by the British Navy, which would have been responsible for their safety. As things were arranged, the Germans themselves guarded their own ships with skeleton crews under the command of Admiral de Reuter. By his orders the German colours, in defiance of the naval terms of the Armistice, were flown, and the ships, in the absence of the British Fleet, which was away exercising, were scuttled. The only thing to be said in connection with their inglorious end is that it solves the problem of their future without any credit to the Peace Conference. A further sign of the German spirit was the burning of the French flags, captured in 1870 and 1914, before the statue of Frederick the Great, in Berlin.

Under the terms of the Peace Treaty they were to be given up to France. The truth is, Germany, whatever she signs, will be bound by no obligation but that of force, and because the Allies know this the Treaty has been so drawn up that few of its provisions have any definiteness, not even the indemnity, no sum having yet been fixed.

The Three-Power Convention.

Fortunately, the Allies, which for months persisted in devising a Peace in accordance with ideals and theories, at last took due account of economic and political realities. The result is a Convention by which Great Britain and the United States pledge themselves to go to the help of France with all their resources should Germany again cross the Rhine. The Peace Treaty thus rests not on the League of Nations, but on a Three-Power guarantee, and though it is obvious that, should the need arise, it could not be met without the consent of public opinion in England and America, there is little doubt but that France's extremity would again, if necessary, enlist Anglo-Saxon sympathies in a practical way. The danger is, however, that Germany balked in the West, may turn to the East, where there is a vast field for her mischievous activities and desire for dominance. In spite of Allied orders, she maintains troops in Russia's ex-Provinces, and on the Polish frontier has a fully-equipped force of 150,000 men, while the armament factories in Silesia are working night and day. On paper, Germany is to have an Army of 100,000 men, but in reality she has six millions of veterans, the whole of the 1920 class of recruits has been trained, and the economic and industrial system of the country is intact. For years to come her armed strength will be a danger, since, should the opportunity present itself, she could defy the League of Nations, which is entrusted with the duty of seeing that the stipulations of the Peace Treaty are carried out, and quickly organise herself again as a military Power. In that case, what will the Council of the League of Nations do?

Peace and the British Empire.

But, whatever happens, the British Empire has emerged from the war, not dissolved into its constituent parts, as Germany hoped, but stronger than ever. The cosmopolitan interests which prevented Britain from treating the Dominions except as "strangers" in trade, are doing their utmost to restore the old conditions. But events will be too much for them, for, as Sir Eric Geddes recently pointed out, England is no longer a creditor, but a debtor nation, with a ruined Europe on one side and a rich and prosperous America on the other, and in these circumstances our fiscal system will have to be revised. In short, Britain will be forced to develop her overseas estates in co-operation with the Dominions, instead of neglecting them in favour of foreign countries. No one will sum up the effort of the Empire during the past five years better than General Botha, on his departure for South Africa: "Of all the peoples in the Alliance, the peoples of the British Empire have played the greatest part. This war . . . was primarily a French war, it was not essentially a British war. Nevertheless, the British

people made it their own, and so saved not only France, but also civilisation itself . . . placing them first amongst the nations of the earth . . . and as Britain has led in the war, so she has led in the Peace, and we look to her to secure its just fulfilment." General Botha has probably anticipated the judgment of history. He has certainly expressed the mind of the British people everywhere, although no British statesman, for obvious reasons, is likely to echo him.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

ST. LUCIA.—Canadian Garrison Leaves.

Mr. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, June 5th.—The long spell of dry weather experienced since the end of January, and which suited the sugar factories, now appears to be breaking up—heavy rains are now falling. The Hon. M. Murphy, colonial engineer in this island since 1905, left with his family for England in April. Upon his arrival in London he was offered, and has accepted, the post of Director of Public Works, British Honduras, in succession to Mr. J. P. Auld, who has gone to British Guiana to direct the sea-defence work there. The new Attorney-General, Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Negus, D.S.O., M.A. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Inner Temple, and Mrs. Negus arrived by the R.M.S. *Caraquet* on May 29th.

H.M.S. *Lauraster*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Philip H. Colomb, Captain A. L. Gresson, arrived at this port for bunkers on May 22nd. His Honour the Administrator paid an official visit to the ship, which left the same day for England. H.M.S. *Dartmouth* is expected to arrive here about June 8th. The s.s. *Ajax* arrived in Castries harbour at 5.30 a.m. Empire Day, bringing 105 of our men returning from the Front. The main streets of Castries were tastefully decorated, and triumphal arches were erected on the northern wharf and at other points of advantage in the town. The men were met upon arrival by members of the Reception Committee, the members of Council, the members of the Town Board, the Cadet Corps, and a band under the direction of Mr. John Myers. After attending Thanksgiving Services in their various churches, the men paraded on Columbus-square, and were inspected by his Honour the Administrator, Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G. Addresses of welcome and thanks for the services they have rendered to their country, combined with advice for their future guidance, were delivered to the men by the Administrator and by the Chairman of the Reception Committee. The men were then marched to the Roman Catholic Boys' Schoolroom, where luncheon had been provided for them.

The last draft of the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery, including Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Harris, O.C., and staff left by the R.M.S. *Chaudiere* for Canada on May 29th. A local committee has been appointed by the Administrator to draw up a programme for the Peace celebrations, and to make suggestions for a war memorial for St. Lucia.

The Hon. G. S. Hudson having resigned his appointment as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council on account of ill-health, Mr. Gabriel Laffite, proprietor of La Dauphine estate, Soufriere, has been provisionally appointed to succeed him. Mr. A. D. Lockhart, formerly of Geneva estate, Dominica, has purchased Morne Lezard estate in the Choiseul district. Mr. Lockhart is the second prominent Dominica planter who has left that island and come to St. Lucia to try his luck. Mr. A. P. Skeat, formerly of Londonderry

estate, Dominica, purchased an estate and settled in the Choiseul district some time ago. Now that this island is being opened up with good roads we welcome such experienced planters. New blood and additional capital are our chief needs at the present stage of our agricultural development.

The R.M.S. *Taff* is to be withdrawn from the coastal service at the end of June, unless the present subsidy is substantially increased. The Government have advertised for tenders for a boat to replace the *Taff*, and there is some talk of a local company being formed to run this service. Sir Edward Dawson passed through here on the R.M.S. *Chaudiere*, which remained in harbour for a few hours, enabling him to meet his Honour the Administrator. His Majesty's birthday was observed on June 3rd. Flags were flown from Government buildings, but in the matter of ceremonial observance the precedent of the last four years was strictly followed. Sales of St. Lucia concentrated lime-juice have been made during the month on the basis of £42 per standard pipe.

TOBAGO.—Cacao Trees defy the Kaiser.

Mr. ROBERT S. REID, May 28th.—On Empire Day school celebrations were held all over the island, but the weather was too uncertain for sports on a large scale, although one school in this district bravely carried them on. Loyalty is genuine but not very demonstrative in Tobago, and there is the need for Union Jacks for schools which the League of Empire will no doubt agitate for when peace is definitely established. We are far behind the big educational programme of the old country; but progress comes surely, even if slowly, in this outpost of the Empire. A great time is promised for Peace Day and the King's birthday, when rejoicing will be combined with thanksgiving. Last week we were pleased to welcome back Lieutenant Macpherson, R.F.A., from active service to his former position at Millers' Stores, Limited, and he is now manager at their Scarborough branch.

Since my last letter the weather has been showery, with occasional dry and rather hot days. To-day has been over-clouded and stormy, and it looks as if heavy rains are nearby. The cacao crop is almost over, and in this district has turned out comparatively good, while in the drier districts big shortages are reported. The young crop has made a vigorous start, and with favourable weather conditions there ought to be good pickings from October onwards. Sugar-making is over for the season, and the output is steadily shrinking. In its place coconuts are thriving, and the exports are beginning to attract outsiders as well as Trinidad, whose merchants are now competing for any plantations offered for sale. The public companies in the Leeward, whose operations were curtailed by the war, will no doubt resume activities at an early date. Their trees, fortunately, were growing in spite of the Kaiser!

TURKS ISLAND.—Cotton Seed for England.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Mr. C. E. Frith has left for New York to go into hospital. Business generally has been exceptionally quiet. The merchants are getting somewhat anxious owing to the absence of shipping, having large quantities of salt on hand. Very little has been raked this year as compared with the quantity raked last year. It is reported that the merchants in the United States are waiting for freights to drop. Small quantities of conch shells and sponge have been shipped to the United States during the month. Mr. J. D. Wood is instaling a plant for cutting the conch shells, so that only the lipped portion is shipped. This will be the second for that purpose, Mr. E. N. Coverly having one. Both are run by oil engines. Quantities of cotton are still coming in to be ginned, and the Commissioner reports that he is trying to get a larger gin and engine. Permission has been obtained for the cotton seed to be shipped

via Jamaica to England. That previously shipped by way of New York was not allowed to be landed; consequently it was returned and dumped overboard, which resulted in heavy loss.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Consolidated Rubber & Balata.

The net profit of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Limited, for the year ended December 31st last amounts to £17,920 4s. 5d., making, with the balance brought in from the year 1917, a total of £19,640 16s. 1d.

The operations of the company during the year were prejudicially affected by a severe drought, which involved a heavy reduction in the output of balata, while the cost of production was materially increased. 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, 1918—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, 1918, amounting to £1,169 6s. 3d., that the sum of £1,000 be written off preliminary expenses, and that the balance of £913 1s. 3d. (subject to excess profits duty in British Guiana) be carried forward to the year 1919.

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited.

The net profit for the year ended December 31st carried to revenue account, after writing off a sum of £12,687 6s. 11d. for depreciation and providing for all expenses, but before charging income-tax, is £11,949 16s. 10d., as against £6,000 1s. 9d. for the fourteen months to December 31st, 1917. Taking into account the balance of £3,026 15s. on profit and loss account at January 1st, 1918, and adding thereto the above figure of £11,949 16s. 10d., there is a total credit of £14,976 11s. 10d. After reserving £5,168 4s. 6d. in respect of income-tax, there remains a net balance of £9,808 7s. 4d., which it is proposed to carry forward.

The directors in their report, which is signed by Mr. Alexander Duckham, Chairman, state that the operations of the company during the period under review continued to be hampered by the difficult conditions generally prevailing. During the latter part of 1918 the drilling operations of the company were impeded by a lack of casing. An embargo was placed upon supplies of casing which had been ordered in January, 1918, from the United States of America, with the result that deliveries were not made until March, 1919. The machine shop equipment which had also been ordered from America was delayed, and as a consequence the repairs to machinery and casing had to be carried out in Port of Spain at a greatly increased cost and loss of time. Shortage of shipping also contributed to the other difficulties in carrying out the programme the directors had initiated. During the year 1918 the number of feet drilled was 12,132, as compared with 6,925 ft. for 1917. The production for 1918 was 81,480 barrels, against 36,648 barrels for 1917. In February last the Chairman and Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, the company's petroleum expert, paid a visit to the field and satisfied themselves that the prospects of the company under improving conditions generally are excellent. The work so far carried out shows that the value of the areas over which the company holds licences is undoubtedly considerable, and that the future may be looked forward to with confidence. Several geologists were sent out last month for the purpose of reporting upon the company's areas in various parts of the island over which the company possesses exploration or prospecting licences. The issue of the balance of capital at 5s. per share premium made in February, 1919, was readily subscribed.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

July 10th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

THE VICTORY LOAN. We commend to the notice of readers the prospectuses of the 4 per cent Funding Loan and Victory Bonds published on June 14th and subsequent dates. The Funding Loan is issued at £80, and is redeemable within seventy-one years, but not before 1960, at £100. The Victory Bonds are issued at £85, and, being repayable at £100 by annual drawings beginning in September next, have a speculative value. Both loans are free from all British taxation when held by bona-fide residents overseas.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

Grocers continue to complain at being unable to obtain supplies of West India crystallised and muscovado sugar. The retail prices being still rigidly fixed, the grocers are unable to compete with the manufacturers for these kinds of sugar. Moreover, the grocers could only purchase the sugar against vouchers, whilst the manufacturers can buy quantities over and above their regular rations. It will be recalled that the importation of West India crystallised and muscovado was only sanctioned on the grounds that if the public demand for them were not met this old-established trade would be wiped out. These sugars are now passing into the hands of manufacturers and exported, and the public demand for them is not being met. The result will inevitably be that consumers will turn from Demerara and muscovado sugars to white sugar and dyed imitations. A remedy would be for the Royal Commission to free West India crystallised and muscovado sugar from control altogether, and to allow grocers to retail them as specialities at whatever price the public would pay. Alternatively, the importers should combine and feed the market, for which they might be thankful later on if it were kept alive.

The spot market has been very firm, owing to purchases for France. Crystallised W.I. has advanced to 71s. to 73s., duty paid, and muscovadoes 60s. to 63s., duty paid.

Buyers of 96° refining crystals (next crop), 31s. f.o.b.

Himely reported, under date June 16th, that the 121 Cuban mills which had finished grinding showed a production of 15,372,000 bags, as against an estimate of 14,891,000 bags.

The West India sugar statistics in London for week ending June 28th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	21,254	11,296	31,689	
Deliveries	16,145	19,248	30,528	"
Stock	11,301	3,035	9,176	"

RUM. There is no change to report in this market. Prices asked from Jamaica are a good deal above dealers' ideas here, but the market may be called firm. The stocks in London on June 28th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	5,154	4,969	8,523	
Demerara	14,016	3,716	10,561	"
Total of all kinds	23,557	13,389	31,651	"

CACAO. Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., Limited, give

the following statement of exports of cacao from Trinidad during the last four years, from October 1st to May 31st.

Crop.	England. Bags.	France. Bags.	America. Bags.	Total.
1915-16	42,810	47,719	124,961	215,490
1916-17	26,980	69,692	178,953	275,625
1917-18	12,856	2,100	156,864	171,820
1918-19	43,670	128,709	45,740	218,119

The stocks in London on June 28th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	19,405	11,396	29,206	
Grenada	12,628	17,565	28,853	"
Total of all kinds	111,363	146,631	286,116	"

ARROWROOT. Very quiet, with a few inquiries for the lower qualities. Medium kinds are neglected. Quotations without change.

HONEY. Jamaica was rather dearer at auction for finest pale quality, which sold at 95s. to 99s., in small supply. Other grades steady to rather easier, say 75s. to 82s. 6d. Cuban neglected.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed lower; sellers at 11s. 6d. Distilled quiet, nominal value, 4s. Lime Juice: Raw, quiet and unchanged. ORANGE OIL: Sweet, small sales at 6s. 10½d.; Bitter, nominal.

COPRA. Market firm, upward tendency; value, West Indian, June-August shipment, £59 10s.

SPICES. Pimento: Business done on the spot at 5½d. Nutmegs: 10d. to 1s. 2d. for 110's to 80's. Mace: 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. for red to good pale.

BALATA. Market unchanged. West Indian sheet spot, 4s. 2½d. to 4s. 3d.; forward, 3s. 11d. to 4s.

RUBBER. The market shows a further decline. Delivered: Crepe—spot, 1s. 9½d.; October-December, 1s. 11d. Sheet—spot, 1s. 8d.; October-December, 1s. 10d.

OIL. Trinidad shipments for May amounted to 2,627,885 gallons.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.		PRICES. July 7th.
4 %	Antigua Redeemable 1919-44	76-78
3½ %	Barbados Redeemable 1925-42	73-76
4 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1935	80-82
3 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1923-45	63-65 xd
4 %	Grenada Redeemable 1917-42	80-82
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1934	84-86
3½ %	Jamaica Redeemable 1919-49	71-73
3 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1922-44	66-68
4 %	St. Lucia Redeemable 1919-44	75-77
4 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1917-42	81-83
3 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1923-44	63-65
5 %	The Colonial Bank	74-84
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	160-170
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures	82-84 xd
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	87-89 xd
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	1 ½
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	97½-102½ xd
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	11/9-12/3
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	8-10
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields	22-6
—	Trinidad Dominion 10%	8-9
—	Trinidad Leasholds (£1)	65-6
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	43-48
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	99-104
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	61-66
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	65-70
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	1 10-1 10
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref	7-7½
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd	6½-6¾
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	92-94 xd

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West Indies and Imperial Preference.

IF West Indians study Imperial Preference as it was adopted in Great Britain last April, they will perceive that their own islands produce all the natural and the manufactured products which benefit. This may be accidental, or it may be generous recognition that the colonies which suffered most by *laissez-faire* should first enjoy the blessings of a sounder policy. For Imperial Preference has come to stay. It is not an emergency measure, which may be abandoned with a change of Government; nor is it a concession to the Overseas Dominions for the military aid they rendered in the war. Its foundation is the solid one of Britain's own interest. Before the war she was a creditor nation, with all the exchanges in her favour, and therefore her fiscal policy served cosmopolitan finance and foreign trade. Peace finds her a debtor nation, with some of the exchanges in her favour, and with at least one heavily against her. Therefore it is not profitable investment for her surplus capital that concerns her so much now as increased production, which is absolutely essential to her if she is to pay her debts. Since increased production is only possible through the exploitation of the vast resources of the Empire in food and raw material, Imperial Preference is no longer a debatable question in England, but a matter of life and death if she is to

survive as a great Power. If there had been no war the issue was bound to arise through the phenomenal growth of the United States and Germany. That is why, one after the other, the Dominions, in anticipation of the day, and perhaps in the hope of hastening it, gave the Motherland a substantial Preference in their markets. It was a free gift on their part, justified on sentimental and on practical grounds by the Imperial services of the British Navy. The West Indies participated in this movement only indirectly through the Canadian Agreement. It is now their duty, as well as their interest, to come directly into line with the Dominions and Rhodesia by giving a return to this country in kind. Only in this way can they contribute to the permanence of Imperial Preference. She admits their products into her markets at a lower rate than the products of foreign lands. It is up to the West Indies, then, to admit her manufactured goods into their markets at a lower rate than the manufactured goods of her competitors. The effect will be that trade between them will increase both in value and volume, and as it increases, on established lines, new and profitable channels will open up to their mutual advantage. Under the old conditions their interdependence was restricted, as neither gave any encouragement to the other. Under the new conditions, as established in April last, products of the West Indies have a great new opening in front of them on favourable terms; but if there is no reciprocity the tendency will be in Britain to buy where there is. For with the initiation of Imperial Preference competition will not be eliminated. It will merely take a fresh form as the foreigner recedes and the children of the house come into their own. The Empire is so vast in extent and so diversified that the opportunities for push and enterprise are in proportion, and as it has been under *laissez-faire* at British ports, so it will be under Imperial Preference, products will ensure the greatest demand, and command the highest prices according to their quality and suitability. To secure these, science, organisation, and well-directed individual and collective effort will be required. If, for instance, the West Indies are to recover their old pre-eminence in sugar, the latest machinery and up-to-date methods of production must be employed; if the West Indies are to hold their own with South Africa and other competitors in the fruit trade, packing, grading, the most enlightened methods of cultivation, and a generous and judicious use of advertisement will have to receive due practical con-

sideration. And so it will be with other West Indian products; they must all of them attain a high standard of quality, and reach the British market in good condition. The tariff benefit they enjoy must be reinforced by State directed and aided efficiency. In short, Imperial Preference will promote the prosperity of the West Indies only by ceaseless effort on their part. Their reward will be in proportion. In the first place they will recover their old wealth and importance; in the second, they will find their future amply and honourably secured in the British Empire. The talk of annexation to the United States was always an offence to the West Indian spirit; it is now futile as well as offensive. If these incomparable islands in the days of their poverty and neglect remained truer to England than she was to herself, they are not likely to be false when she takes them to her heart, and, incidentally, to her markets, again. They will never again be urged into the arms of a foreign Power, their value under modern conditions of warfare being as great as it was in their painful days. The kind of place they fill in the Empire depends upon themselves and their own exertions.

The Prohibition Campaign.

THE projected crusade against the sale of alcoholic liquors has a special interest to rum manufacturers, and brings prominently forward the question of the physiology of alcohol. How is it that from time immemorial the use of alcoholic beverages has been known amongst all peoples who have at hand material and conditions necessary for fermentation? The world's history shows that an alcohol-drinking nation is not necessarily a drunken race. The Latin people, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Italians, are habitual wine-drinkers, and yet are remarkably free from drunkenness. It is important in this connection to remember that alcoholic liquors are not taken for the sake of the alcohol which they contain. No person, save the most depraved, would think of drinking spirits of wine or methylated spirit—that is to say, spirit rendered "unfit for human consumption" by the addition of methyl, &c. Alcohol must be associated with other conditions to satisfy the requirements of alcohol beverage. Thus, in the case of wine and spirits, there are the esters, the compound ethers produced through fermentation, and it may be remarked in passing that rum is especially rich in these. On the other hand, these esters are useless for drinking purposes without the alcohol. It is therefore the combination which completes the drink, and the greater the proportion of esters in alcohol the less the drunkenness of the people, since less alcohol *per se* is consumed. It must also be remembered that the use of alcoholic beverages in moderation is invaluable as an aid to digestion. It must not, however, be overlooked that so strenuous a nation as the United States is prime mover in the prohibition movement. If alcoholic beverages are forbidden by legislation, so also should the use of meat. The extractives of meat are exciting, and can even produce among those unaccustomed to its use a form of intoxication. Indeed, going back to the first

causes, it might be said that man's diet should be vegetables earned by the sweat of his brow; but heaven forbid that we should get back again to that style of living. There is one set-off against the effects of prohibition, and that is the increased consumption of sugar which it brings about; but this would not go far towards making good the loss of the market for rum, although here, again, the probability of producing a motor spirit from molasses would somewhat temper the wind to the shorn lamb. It is, however, a far cry to prohibition in this country, and if signs and portents go for anything, Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson and his friends will not receive a particularly cordial—though it may be a warm—welcome from the people in this country, who, apart from other considerations, resent outside interference in their affairs.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,987, and it is hoped that it will reach 2,000 before the close of the year. If every member were to introduce at least one candidate it would be possible to extend the work of the Committee and also to restore the CIRCULAR to its pre-war size. The assistance of readers is invited in this connection. At a meeting held on July 17th the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. Wills Burleigh Close (British Guiana)	Sir Edward Davson. Mr. H. F. Previte.
Mr. A. Louis Vaughan (Trinidad)	Mr. Thomas Boyd. Mr. David Morrin.
Mr. Nathan D. Maidman (Nigeria)	Mr. G. C. May. Mr. Robert Rutherford.
Major A. E. A. Harragin D.S.O. (Trinidad)	Mr. H. F. Previte. Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Lieut.-Col. F. Jenkins, C.M.G. (Barbados)	Mr. Robert Rutherford. Sir William Trollope, Bart.
Mr. L. Wallace Thomas (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. John Fernandes (British Guiana)	Mr. L. M. Roach. Mr. J. Pairaudau.
Mr. H. Eustace de Cambra (British Guiana)	Mr. J. Pairaudau. Mr. J. J. Rodrigues.
Sir Robert Blair Roden (British Honduras)	Mr. Robert Rutherford. Sir Edward Davson.
Dr. H. Bamford, M.P.S. (British Guiana)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. A. McConnell.
Mr. Winston H. Badley (Antigua)	Mr. A. P. Cowley, M.B.E. Major J. T. Drew.

Membership of the West India Committee is confined by the Royal Charter to British subjects. Any member may propose or second candidates, whose names should be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3. There is no entrance fee, and the annual subscription is £1 ls. per annum, which can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada.

The address given by the Right Rev. Bishop Frodsham, D.D., at the Special Service of Thanksgiving, held at St. Clement Danes, on Empire Day, 1919, has been published by the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3, from which copies can be obtained free on application.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"PARSEN christen him own pickny first."

* * *

THE cable censorship was abolished as from midnight on July 23rd, and private telegraphic codes may now be freely used again.

* * *

MR. SAMUEL CAMERON and Mr. W. H. Alty have been re-elected Chairman and Deputy-Chairman respectively of the West India Association of Liverpool for the ensuing year.

* * *

MR. A. S. CREIGHTON, formerly manager of the Royal Bank of Canada at Port of Spain, has joined the firm of Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Limited, as Vice-Governing Director.

* * *

MR. WILLIAM GORDON GORDON and Mrs. Gordon, who arrived in the Clyde, per s.s. *Crown of Granada*, from Trinidad, have rented Killiechassie House and shootings near Aberfeldy for the summer.

* * *

SUGAR helped Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen to win the tennis championship. She had, it is said, two or three lumps of sugar thrown to her by her anxious parents, and these helped to turn the scales in her favour. A correspondent writes that the sugar was taken in liquid form from a small silver flask—but we don't believe him.

* * *

A SUBSTITUTE for sugar is, states the *Southern Grocer*, to be produced in a New York brewery. It is called "Americose," a crystalline water-white syrup, having a sweetening power equal to cane sugar. It is a maltose sugar, made from corn, from which the objectionable malt flavour has been eliminated, and will sell for about 3d. a pound.

* * *

MR. CYRIL C. HENRIQUES, who organised the jippi jappa hat industry of Jamaica, which now gives employment to several thousands of people in the island, has opened temporary offices at 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C. 3. These hats, which are virtually identical with "Panamas," are made from the torquilla paha, or *Carludovica jamaicensis*.

* * *

THE breakdown of West Indian cable communication during the fortnight has been complete. The Jamaica-Porto Rico section of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's system has been interrupted since July 8th, and consequently messages have now to be sent via Haiti and Porto Rico, at the exorbitant message rate of 3s. 10d. per word.

* * *

LIVELY satisfaction has been caused in Trinidad by the announcement that Lord Jellicoe will visit the island next January in H.M.S. *New Zealand*, en route from San Francisco to Cape Town. It will be recalled that Lord Jellicoe is son of the late Captain John Henry Jellicoe, one of the most popular Commanders, and for many years a Director of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

* * *

THERE are large areas of land in British Guiana suitable for cattle. The cattle in the colony, including 24,000 estimated to be on the hinterland savannahs, is estimated at 122,700, but it is certain that this estimate is far below the actual figure. 872 cattle were exported. Horses are returned at 970, sheep at 22,000, goats at 13,750, swine at 11,800, and donkeys at 6,700.

CAPTAIN E. P. MINETT, Government Medical Officer of Health for British Guiana, who was seconded early in 1915 to enable him to proceed on active service, is returning to the colony at the end of this month. Captain Minett, who was an officer in the Territorial Force before the war, rejoined his unit shortly after the outbreak of hostilities and has seen active service in France, the Balkans, Egypt, Palestine, and Damascus.

* * *

THE West Indian Contingent Committee have forwarded to Brigadier-General Cary Barnard, Base Commandant at Taranto, a contribution of £50 towards the improvement of the local cemetery in which upwards of 300 men of the British West Indies Regiment are buried. At the instance of Lieut.-Colonel Wood Hill, D.S.O., flowers and shrubs have been planted in the cemetery, and a supply of water is now to be provided.

* * *

AT the recent meeting of the British Imperial Council of Commerce the following resolution was moved by Mr. Stanley Machin (Chairman), seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford (Barbados), and carried unanimously:—"That this Council welcomes the steps which have been taken by his Majesty's Government to give some effect to the recommendations of the Council and of Lord Balfour's Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy in favour of preferential treatment of the Dominions and Dependencies."

* * *

THE arrival at the London docks of a famous old China tea clipper reminds the *Morning Post* of the *Betty Cairns*, whose longevity was remarkable. Built on the Thames early in the seventeenth century, the *Betty Cairns*, already very old by modern reckonings, was bought in 1688 by William III. to convey him to England, and thereafter served for many years as a Royal yacht. George I. sold her to a firm which employed her on the West Indian trade for over a century. She was still in excellent condition when wrecked on a rock off South Shields in 1827.

* * *

THE continuance of food control was foreshadowed by Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., in a statement which he made to the Press on July 15th. As to sugar, the Royal Commission had purchased enough to maintain supply up to the end of this year, and although sugar was being sold below present world prices, this method could be continued until Government and prospective supplies were exhausted. The question was, What was to be done after the end of this year? Sooner or later the retail price of sugar would have to be made to correspond with the world prices instead of the Commission's artificial prices. Meanwhile it was proposed that the Sugar Commission should continue its present operations well over next season.

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THE shortage of white sugar has prompted Mr. Henry N. Pharr, President of the American Cane Growers' Association, to request Judge R. E. Miling, chairman of the Louisiana Sugar Central Committee, to offer to the Equalisation Board the use of as many as may be needed of Louisiana's great central sugar factories, wherein Cuban 96-test sugar can be washed nearly white without melting, and by melting and re-crystallising them turn them out pure white. This, says the *Louisiana Planter*, can easily be done in a hundred Louisiana sugar houses if the Equalisation Board would send the sugar there and contract to have the work done. There is no scarcity of actual sugar. There is a great scarcity of white sugar and the Equalisation Board has it in its power to avail of a hundred sugar factories to relieve the Federal Union from the impending sugar famine.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

A Valuable Conference and Report.

It will be remembered that in 1916 the West India Committee circulated the Governments of all tropical parts of the British Empire with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of the development of the British sugar industry, and that the replies received were published in a pamphlet which has been widely quoted from time to time on the platform and in the Press. In the following year Professor H. E. Armstrong suggested to the Society of Chemical Industry that it would be useful to obtain further details regarding the production and consumption of sugar, as well as the possibilities of its extension within the Empire, and to this end a Committee was formed, comprising, besides members of the Society, representatives of producers and users of sugar in the overseas parts of the British Empire, refiners, confectioners, preserve manufacturers, and makers of brewing sugars. A questionnaire was then addressed to the Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies, and Protectorates of the Empire on the subject.

The replies so far received have been embodied in a preliminary report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical Committee), which was laid before the annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industries in the Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing-lane, on July 16th.

Lord Denbigh, who presided, said that it was Free Trade principles and nothing else which stopped the sugar-beet industry from being adopted in this country several years ago. At that time the problem was that in Germany they had a highly developed industry, and everybody understood it, from the agricultural labourer and the farmer to the factory. Here in England everybody was ignorant. It was impossible for the British farmer, with his uneducated labour, to grow his sugar as cheaply as the Continental farmer. It was necessary to guarantee him a price considerably above the market price. The British factory would therefore have had to pay more for its raw material, and then the question would have been at what price it could sell its sugar at a profit. Unless there were prospects and it would pay, it would naturally be difficult to get the necessary capital for the enterprise. While he was engaged in a campaign in favour of the establishment of the sugar-beet industry, he asked that it might be treated as an infant industry; but the moment he mentioned fiscal assistance for a few years, he was kicked out. Now a change in feeling had taken place, which had resulted in Government assistance towards the establishment of a sugar-beet factory, which he hoped was going to be put up at Kelham in Nottinghamshire, and which, he hoped, would show what the sugar industry might be to the agricultural needs of the country.

Mr. A. R. Ling, Chairman of the Committee, then presented the report. After giving briefly the history of the sugar industry, Mr. Ling proceeded to state that it would not be invidious if he mentioned that in the early stages of the investigation, when the whole scheme had to be arranged, not one of

them was more active than Mr. F. J. Scard, who, unfortunately, for some time past had been too ill to continue his participation in the work. Mr. Scard's collaboration was invaluable on account of his long association with the production of sugar in the West Indies. Proceeding, he said that the British Empire, according to the last returns, had about 3,500,000 acres under sugar, mostly cane, yet the total production from this was less than that of Germany and Austria-Hungary combined, which countries could not have had as much as half that number of acres under beet. Obviously there must be something wrong with our methods, and this would become apparent when the data obtained was considered in detail.

"Let us bear in mind that the British Empire exceeds all other States in the production of sugar, yet the United Kingdom occupies the second place, coming next to the United States, as an importer of sugar. It is of particular significance in connection with this last-named fact that prior to the war more than 90 per cent. of the sugar imported into the United Kingdom came from foreign countries, and by far the greater portion of this (quite 90 per cent.) was European beet sugar. In fact, before the war the importation of raw cane sugar was restricted to the demands of those industries who found raw beet sugar unsuitable for their requirements. As regards the consumption of sugar per capita per annum, Australia heads the list with over 1 cwt., the United Kingdom comes next with 91 lb., whilst the United States is third on the list with 65 lb.

"Since the outbreak of hostilities the production of sugar from beet has dropped from 46 per cent. to 29 per cent. of the world's total supply. On the other hand, the production of the British Empire has increased from 3,275,500 tons in 1913-14 to 4,394,100 tons in 1917-18 (34.1 per cent.), whilst the total production of sugar throughout the world, which was 18,653,100 tons in 1913-14, was in 1917-18 17,556,400 tons. The country showing the largest increase of any is Cuba.

"There is no doubt that the importance of the race now being run is fully recognised in all parts of the British Empire, and the granting of Imperial preference should help our sugar industry, but it must not be forgotten that all such measures without efforts on the technical side will be unavailing. It is our special object to insist on this point and to indicate where, and in what directions, reforms and improvements are most needed. Let us not forget, however, that time presses. Our late enemies are eagerly watching all we are doing, and unless we make the necessary improvements within the next year or two we shall again be left behind in the race for supremacy."

Through the courtesy of the Society of Chemical Industry we are permitted to publish the following extracts from the preliminary report of their Empire Sugar Committee—

EUROPE.

1.—Possibilities of a Beet-Sugar Industry in the United Kingdom.

In the *International Sugar Journal*, 1914, 16, 510-515, a writer signing himself "Home Counties" states that the first beet-sugar factory in England was founded by

the late Mr. James Marriage, an account of which is published in the *Quarterly Magazine and Review* for 1832.

It seems that about this time several young men from Essex, members of the Society of Friends, visited France in order to qualify themselves for establishing a beet-sugar factory in this country. They made several visits, and inspected many works of the kind, engaging into their service ultimately two Frenchmen who understood the process. A company was then formed, and factories were erected at Ulting, upon the line of the Chelmer Navigation, near Hoe Mill, in the vicinity of Maldon. These buildings, with the apparatus, cost Messrs. Marriage, Reed, and Marriage about £2,000, and were equipped on the most modern principles, the metal used in pans and other utensils being chiefly copper, the heat conveyed in every department by steam. It appears that the factory stopped through lack of capital.

Desultory experiments were made on the culture of sugar beet in England and Ireland from the year just mentioned onwards to 1870, the year in which Mr. James Duncan started a sugar factory at Lavenham in Suffolk, which was at work for about nine years. Duncan's idea was that of extracting beetroot juice, clarifying it, and concentrating it, to enable it to be carried to the refinery at Clyde Wharf, Victoria Docks. He never obtained more than 8,000 tons of beets per annum, and he found it impossible to continue work unless he had a guarantee of 20,000 tons per annum. This not being forthcoming, the factory closed down in 1878.

We may here remark that one of the great difficulties of establishing a beet-sugar industry in this country is lack of co-operation between the agriculturist and the sugar manufacturer. Without such co-operation no regular supply of roots can be guaranteed. Unless he has some interest in the factory, the farmer as soon as he experiences a bad crop becomes disheartened, and either discontinues the cultivation of beet altogether, or limits the supply. Obviously for its successful working a factory must be run up to its full capacity.

Among the numerous experiments that have been made in more recent years of the cultivation of sugar beets in this country, must be mentioned in the first place those of Dr. G. Schack-Sommer. These experiments were undertaken between the years 1889 and 1895 (see this journal, 1890, 153; 1891, 318; 1892, —; 1893, —; 1894, —; 1895, —; *Farmer's Magazine*, 1890, p. 306). They demonstrated that roots equal in sugar content and purity to the best obtained at the time on the Continent could be grown in the United Kingdom.

Within recent years the problem came again to the fore, and it was taken up by the British Sugar Beet Council in 1910, over which the Earl of Denbigh at first presided, and subsequently Major Courthope, M.P. In 1911 the National Sugar Beet Association was formed under the chairmanship of the Earl of Denbigh, and some fresh trials were made, the agricultural aspect of the problem being placed under the control of Mr. R. N. Dowling. A report was issued showing comparative experiments on the cultivation of sugar beets, mangolds, and swedes in various parts of the country.

We would here point out that in our opinion the comparative yields of these three crops are of no value to the sugar problem. Mangolds and swedes are grown under entirely different conditions from sugar beet, and with a different object.

(To be continued.)

The West India Contingent Committee has, at the request of the 8th British West Indies Regiment, purchased a silver cup and silver medals, suitably inscribed, for the football eleven of that battalion which won the Football League Tournament at Taranto.

BRITISH GUIANA EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

The system of taxation prevailing in British Guiana was adversely criticised by Mr. R. Tayler, Chairman of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Limited, at the annual meeting of that concern on July 3rd. In the United Kingdom, he said, the company was allowed 10 per cent. as the pre-war standard. In British Guiana they had not been so fortunate. "The mode of assessing the duty there is different from that which obtains in the United Kingdom, and we have had to pay this tax as well as the new export tax levied on shippers in the colony. I am prepared to believe that these new taxes are necessary for the purpose of obtaining revenue, but when one notices that at the same time there is a desire on the part of those in authority to attract capital for the purpose of developing the resources of the country, one wonders how it can be deemed politic to commence operations by the imposition of new taxes which must be calculated to deter investors. It may be said that the taxes are small in their ratio, but business men know that there is usually a tendency to increase the ratio when a new tax has been established as a permanent feature of the Budget, and they are guided in their decisions by the spirit underlying the imposition of the tax rather than by the actual ratio at a given time."

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Finance Bill's Preferential Clause.

We give below the full text of the Imperial Preference Clause in the Finance Bill which is now under discussion in the House of Commons. As recorded in another column, under the heading "At Westminster," this Clause was carried by 271 votes to 52 on July 9th.

CLAUSE 7.—(Imperial Preference.)

(1) With a view to conferring a preference in the case of Empire products, the duties of customs on the goods specified in the Second Schedule to this Act shall on and after the dates provided for in that Schedule be charged at the reduced rates (hereinafter referred to as "preferential rates") shown in the second column of that Schedule, where the goods are shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to have been consigned from and grown, produced or manufactured in the British Empire.

For the purposes of this Section:—

"The British Empire" means any of His Majesty's Dominions outside Great Britain and Ireland, and any territories under his Majesty's protection, and includes India:

Provided that where any territory becomes a territory under his Majesty's protection his Majesty may by Order in Council direct that that territory shall be included within the definition of the British Empire for the purposes of this Section, and this Section shall have effect accordingly.

Goods shall not be deemed to have been manufactured in the British Empire as aforesaid unless such proportion of their value as is prescribed by regulations made by the Board of Trade is the result of labour within the British Empire.

(2) Where the Board of Trade is satisfied as respects any class of goods to which the preferential rates apply that those articles are to a considerable extent manufactured in the British Empire from material which is not wholly grown or produced in the Empire, the Board may by Order direct that the preferential rate shall be charged only in respect of such proportion of those goods as corresponds to the proportion of dutiable mate-

AT WESTMINSTER.

Indian Emigration.

Replying to Sir J. D. Rees, who asked the Secretary of State for India what the present situation was as regards the scheme of assisting emigration to Jamaica, Fiji, Trinidad, and British Guiana, Mr. Montagu replied recently: The Government of India are taking no steps to proceed with the scheme. It involves legislation, and Indian public opinion is strongly opposed to it.

Debate on Imperial Preference.

The Finance Bill was considered in Committee on July 8th, when an amendment to exclude from it the special import duties imposed in 1915 was rejected and the tea duties clause carried by 208 to 55.

On the following day the Imperial Preference Clause of the Bill (which is published on another page) came under discussion on the motion of Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., who moved to leave out the first sentence. He complained that the financial advantage by which it was proposed to consolidate the Empire was unequally distributed, and would go not to the colonies but to people in this country. The colonies had accepted with perfect goodwill our refusal to give them preference. The present proposals would cause irritation in the colonies instead of gratitude, because some—for example, New Zealand—would get no benefit at all from them. In reply to the question whether we should not treat our brothers better than strangers, he would remind the House that more family quarrels were caused by financial arrangements than by anything else. If the preference clause became law it would be impossible to go back on it.

Lieutenant-Commander Kenworthy, M.P., said that he had learnt from the war that at the present moment the preferential idea would be ruinous to humanity. We were preaching the same spirit which Germany had preached before the war. He did not believe that there was a demand in the colonies for preference. We wanted to persuade other nations to open their doors and get rid of their tariffs.

Mr. Wilson Fox, M.P., opposed the amendment, and strongly advocated keeping trade within the Empire. If tariffs were advisable, that, he said, was purely our own domestic concern.

Mr. Gideon Murray, M.P., spoke warmly in favour of Imperial preference, of which he had had a good deal of experience, having, he was proud to say, taken a considerable part in arranging the reciprocity agreement between the West Indies and Canada in 1912. One of the main arguments advanced against that agreement was that the United States would take exception to it, that the United States would take offensive action, that this offensive action would affect our trade in the West Indies, and that the West Indies would suffer tremendously. A certain number of merchants and business people in the West Indies believed in that argument. Their trade had for half a century or a century been carried on with the United States, and, being naturally of a conservative nature, they did not like the idea of having suddenly to transfer that trade from the United States to Canada. Notwithstanding these arguments, the West Indies and Canada decided to go ahead, and the United States carried out none of their threats. How could they do so? On the other hand, quite a number of agents who were carrying on trade in New York with the West Indies transferred their agencies or set up fresh agencies in Canada, and so fresh British trade was created. Why was it that the United States was unable to take any aggressive action? It was for the simple reason that they had got exactly the same principles themselves. Puerto Rico was in the United States Customs Union, they gave a preference of 20 per cent. to Cuba, and in Hawaii they gave a preference. They were within the

family circle, and so it was impossible from the point of view of a great nation for the United States to take any aggressive action, because we in two parts of our Empire came to an agreement. Did not France give enormous preference to Martinique, to Guadeloupe, to Senegambia, and such a preference that we were unable to trade there in any of the articles in which they actually gave preference?

Mr. Murray went on to say that he would like to mention sugar. For years the West Indian colonies had asked the Mother Country to give them a preference in sugar in order that they might get a permanent market and revive that industry. He knew perfectly definitely, after a residence of eight years in the West Indies, that if it were not granted they would turn to the United States, who would be perfectly willing to grant it.

Mr. Chamberlain's Speech.

Mr. Chamberlain said he was sorry to find that the hon. and gallant member who initiated the debate took up the discussion exactly where he left it before the great struggle from which we had emerged. He had forgotten nothing—not one of the old arguments was missing—and he had learned nothing. At least he had hoped amongst Mr. Asquith's small but distinguished following in the House there might be some recognition of the necessity for an advance and for a new orientation of our policy such as Mr. Asquith recognised as resulting from this struggle and from the dangers revealed to us by the outbreak and in the course of that struggle against which he thought it necessary to guard. The hon. and gallant member said there was no further need for preference since we had got all we wanted from the Dominions during the war, and because the Dominions were perfectly contented with our policy. The Dominions had again and again disclaimed any desire to interfere in our domestic controversies or to ask from us for themselves anything we thought injurious to ourselves to give.

The Dominions had asked repeatedly and unanimously that when we had settled our own tariffs in accordance with our own ideas and to suit our own needs we should then embody in those tariffs the system of Imperial preference. The first man to make the request was that great Dutch leader Mr. Hoffmeyer at a Conference in Paris; the first man to carry it into effect was the Leader of the Liberal Party in Canada, the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and he carried it into effect in spite of threats against the aggressive action of our late enemy, Germany—action taken in order to prevent it or to punish Canada for having done it, and to deter other portions of the British Empire from conceding a preference to our goods. At other conferences, Imperial and Colonial, for years past this question had been raised; at every conference but one it had been carried with the representatives of the United Kingdom alone dissenting, while at the last conference it was carried with unanimity, the representatives of the United Kingdom assenting. It was really idle to say that there was no desire on the part of the Dominions that we should take this action if we could take it consistently with our own interests. The Government thought it not only consistent with our own interests but in the highest interests of our own people that this should be done. It had been said that the Government had no warrant for this and that the verdict at the last election was taken on other issues.

Those of them who had had the longest experience of politics would be, perhaps, the least ready to define exactly the issues which the voters had in their minds at an election, but he thought he might crystallise in a sentence what the country did at the last General Election. It was to express confidence that the Prime Minister was the proper man to handle the difficulties with which we were confronted. It then became of importance to remember what the Prime Minister said

to the country as to the things he was prepared to do. The following words were in the address which the right hon. gentleman and the Lord Privy Seal issued to the electors:—"The country will need all the food and raw material 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 industries. 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." Could there be a more explicit declaration of the policy which they were pursuing? Would it not be more true to say that if they did not now propose a preference on existing duties they would be breaking faith with the electorate?

The hon. and gallant member had said that with the limited duties which were at present the subjects of the incidence of preference there would be inequalities as between the different parts of the British Empire. Some would derive a greater advantage from preference than would others, and this the hon. and learned member considered must arouse irritation and discontent in the Dominions which received little or less than their share of advantage. By what right did the hon. and gallant gentleman assume the duty of making this statement on behalf of the Dominions, none of whose representatives had made it for themselves? They had never claimed and never suggested that it would be possible for us to make the preference in such a form that one Dominion would get exactly the same benefit from it as another. They had never taken that shortsighted commercial view of the proposal. What they had asked was that we should recognise the claims of kinship and the unity of the great commonwealth of nations which composed the Empire.

"Thin End of the Wedge."

Then the hon. and gallant gentleman said that this was the thin end of the wedge. He had only one answer to that. It was that Parliament and the people of this country might hereafter decide. He did not mind what measure a Government spoke of or what expenditure they proposed, if it was thought good in the eyes of Parliament and the country it was always alleged to be the thin end of the wedge. The argument only came to this: "I do not like what you are doing; I like still less what you may do hereafter." That was the attitude of mind adopted on most proposals that came before the House. The hon. and gallant gentleman complained that the hands of the House would be tied and that the Liberal Free Traders would hopelessly compromise themselves. He thought the hon. and gallant gentleman was again misunderstanding and therefore mis-stating the whole attitude of mind of the Dominions statesmen and people. Just as they did not ask that we should put duties on which we did not find it expedient to put on for our own purposes, so they had never asked that we should keep duties on after we had found it expedient to take them off. What they had asked and what we had openly agreed to, before the last election, was that where we had a duty and so long as we had that duty we would give a preference. That left the House free to abolish the preference to-morrow.

President Wilson's Fourteen Points.

Another complaint was that the step the Government were taking was hostile to the world movement of the hour, and more particularly to the third of President Wilson's Fourteen Points. He thought that President Wilson must sometimes have wished to be allowed to explain his own points, and not to find so many people ready to explain them for him. It had already been pointed out that the present practice of the United States was the practice that we were asked to establish here. Cuba was not part of the United

States, yet the United States gave a preference to Cuba. Was it not perfectly clear that President Wilson had no intention of renouncing the policy of his own country or of reversing it? Those misinterpreted the third of President Wilson's Fourteen Points who contended that the acceptance of them was any bar to what we were doing now. He was certain that President Wilson's Fourteen Points did not suggest that a country had no right or would not continue to have the right to differentiate between its own citizens and the citizens of another nation. What he thought the President desired was to lessen the amount of discrimination or to abolish the discrimination with which one country treated other foreign countries as compared with one another. That was a totally different thing.

He agreed that there was a great deal to be said for free trade with the whole world—when we could get it. What he would like to see was free trade within the Empire to-morrow. We could not get that. (An Hon. Member: "Why"?) It did not depend on us. If it did he thought we should have it to-morrow. But the fiscal conditions of the Dominions did not admit of their raising the revenues which were necessary to them except by the aid of a Customs tariff. To say that what we did within the British Empire, as between one part of it to another, was a matter on which foreign countries had a right to offer remonstrance, was a denial of that which he thought had been solemnly sealed by the blood we had shed in common. It was true that the preference given on the duties now in force was, measured in money, very small, but measured in potentialities it might even within those duties be considerable. It might just give the impetus to development which might mean the difference between early and late development, between poverty and prosperity in many of our Dominions. He did not, however, justify the preference on the ground of its tangible results, but as a spiritual recognition of a spiritual union. It was something for which all the Empire had asked. The last five years would indeed have been wasted for the Empire if, after the great struggle in common, we could not make this spiritual recognition of the great bond of union which embraced us all. (Cheers.)

Sir Donald Maclean, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, declared that people were bothering very little about Imperial Preference at the time of the General Election, and Coalition Liberals should therefore exercise their responsibilities and take the consequences. In 1906 these proposals were definitely rejected by the electorate, and the Dominions had said that if the policy was going to bear hardly on our people they did not want it. Other members having spoken, the question that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause was carried by 271 votes to 52.

Mr. Chamberlain then moved an amendment the object of making it possible to extend the preference to a territory which had mandated to us if that was found desirable. To effect this object he proposed to insert in subsection 1 of Clause 7 (see page 189) the following words, "or is a territory in respect of which a mandate of the League of Nations is exercised by the Government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions." The mandated territory would be under the protection of the League of Nations, and the terms of the mandates had yet to be settled. German South-West Africa, for example, would go to the Union of South Africa, and must be worked as an integral part of the system of the Union. It would be quite clear that in such a case as that we must not be prevented from extending the Preference to South Africa Proper, because the late German South-West Africa was incorporated within the Union and formed part of the Customs and Administrative Union of South Africa. He anticipated that there was no reason why we should not extend the Preference to the products of any mandated country.

The amendment was carried by 195 votes to 58.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

In spite of the shadow of war abroad and industrial discord at home, Paris celebrated Peace with almost delirious joy. One can understand why, for the humiliation of 1870 has been for France transformed into a triumph, symbolised by the dropping of the chains placed across the Arc de Triomphe forty-nine years ago. London, bright with gaily streaming flag decorations, in which, by the way, Dominion flags had a very small place, was with less reason equally enthusiastic. The enormous crowds which lined the route taken by the procession evidently took the Peace Treaty at its face value. Not that there was anything like the wild excitement of the popular reception given to Hawker, the hero of a plucky attempt to fly the Atlantic. In spite of the awful peril and ruin from which we have been saved by the sailors and soldiers, a sportsman who catches the popular imagination is more certain of a rousing welcome. This curious kink in British psychology was as much in evidence on Peace Day celebration as when the Guards came home and the Dominion troops passed through London.

One of our more worthy characteristics was noticeable in the pageant. In Paris Marshal Foch and Marshal Joffre rode first, then followed the Allied Generals and Contingents. In London the Allied Contingents went first, Marshal Foch, at the head of the French, and General Pershing, of the Americans, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig leading the Army Contingent, and Admiral Sir David Beatty the Navy Contingent, representing all branches of the service. One of the most striking features of the procession in London, as in Paris, was the gorgeous medley of colour formed by the colours of the different regiments in the British Army, carried in front of the British Contingent. An interesting departure in a naval and military pageant was the presence of women, representing all the female organisations which have done such admirable service in a semi-military capacity during the war.

The scene in the Mall was indescribably beautiful and impressive against the grey walls of Buckingham Palace and the green of the parks. White pylons, surmounted with gold lattice-work globes were placed at intervals between the Victoria Memorial and Admiralty Arch, and on eight of them were inscribed in letters of gold the names of the battles fought by the Empire in the war. From projecting poles on the others flags were draped in a wonderful scheme of colour. In front of Buckingham Palace a stand was erected on which the King stood to receive the salute, the climax of a noble spectacle worthy of the occasion. In the Thames the Navy was represented by a fleet in which such famous ships as the *Queen Elizabeth*, *Lion*, *Tiger*, *Fearless*, and others equally battle-scarred had a place. In the evening there was a concert in Hyde Park in which 10,000 voices took part in a superb chorus of praise, and all the afternoon dancing and singing entertainments were given in the parks in stands erected for the occasion. The rejoicings closed in the traditional British way by bonfires,

which were lit all over the country. Thus was the end of the great war celebrated, and a new chapter in the world's history opened. But the doubt that it will be a quiet one shadowed Peace Day even at its gayest. But it was fitting that those, living and dead, who played an immortal part in winning victory for the Allied cause should receive a popular ovation. And so "The War and After" comes to an end with Peace as "The Progress of the War" came to an end with the Armistice.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

As announced in the CIRCULAR of June 26th, this Fund has now been closed. It is hoped to terminate the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee on September 30th next, and to publish the final statement of accounts and report shortly after that date. Since the last list of donations was published (see CIRCULAR, May 1st) the following have been received—

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana Branch Contingent Fund, per J. B. Cassels, Esq., M.B.E.	551	18	7
People of Barbados, per Hon. W. L. C. Phillips, O.B.E.	500	0	0
Trinidad Ladies' W.I. Committee, per Mrs. Gordon	100	0	0
11th Batt. B.W.I. Regt., per Lt.-Col. E. C. Ogle	75	0	0
Miss A. Hutson (collected by)	9	12	6
Catholics of Belle Vue, St. Vincent (earmarked for St. Vincent men)	8	6	8
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent—			
Kingstown Club	3	11	0
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	1	10	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	1	10	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	1	10	0
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	1	5	0
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	9	0	0
Evan Hopley, Esq.	6	0	0
James A. Davey, Esq.	3	0	0
	10	4	0
"W. B. G." (Jamaica)	3	3	0
N. J. A. Bascom, Esq.	3	2	6
G. S. Seton-Browne, Esq.	2	10	0
W. F. Samuels, Esq.	2	2	0
Hon. G. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O.	1	0	0
Peter Paterson, Esq.	10	0	0
Sundry receipts	2	6	0

The Governor of the Panama Canal Zone, in his report to the United States Secretary of War for January, discloses the interesting fact that during the month five British troopships, south-bound, brought 4,459 Canadian, Australian and New Zealand officers through the Canal on their return from the Front. The number of ocean-going commercial ships passing through the Canal for the month was 171, with a net tonnage aggregating 472,977 tons. The cargo carried amounted to 561,268 tons. Ships of ten different nationalities were included in the month's traffic, the United States heading the list with sixty-one, Great Britain coming second with fifty-nine, and France and Norway third with twelve each.

NATURE NOTES.

Data presented in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Federated Malay States* show a wide range of variability in the yield of latex among seedling *Hevea* rubber trees. This fact indicates the need of scientific seed selection.

* * *

Two kinds of sugar-cane are grown in India. One with many varieties is very thin and grass-like, and able to resist frost. The other kind is a thick cane, which is killed by frost. The frost-resistant forms are supposed by the *Agricultural Journal of India* to have arisen from one or more similar wild forms, natives of India. The thick tropical cane probably arose from another species of *saccharum* now extinct in its wild form, indigenous in the islands of the Malay Archipelago, or possibly in Cochin China.

* * *

There is a large number of forms in Sea Island cotton plants. These differ in certain characters, and on these the yield depends. Strains pure to any given character can be obtained by self-fertilisation and selection. A marked improvement can be effected in a comparatively short period by the method of pedigree selection, if the work is conducted on a large enough scale. In St. Vincent, the *West Indian Bulletin* states, it has been possible to isolate a strain of Sea Island cotton with a weight of lint per boll 31 per cent. greater than that of the ordinary type grown in the island.

* * *

In the usual gas or oil engine much of the heat generated by the combustion of the fuel is wasted. It passes away with the exhaust gases and with the water used for cooling the cylinder. A new form of prime mover has been invented by Mr. W. J. Still, and described at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts. It represents a combination of internal combustion engine and steam engine. The waste heat is employed to generate steam. The piston driven in one direction by gas or oil is driven on its return stroke by steam. It is claimed that the Still engine shows a fuel efficiency at least 20 per cent. higher than that reached in other types of prime mover.

* * *

The timber resources of Queensland are known to be very considerable. It is stated in *United Empire* that there are 30,000,000 sup. ft. of Queensland maple still standing on the Atherton tableland, and 12,000,000 sup. ft. of the same wood on the Evelyn tableland. This timber has largely displaced red cedar, and is said to be the best possible wood for the manufacture of aeroplane propellers. About 8,000,000 sup. ft. is cut annually on these tablelands. No doubt the forest officers are taking care to plant as many trees as are cut down. The annual value of the export of timber from Australia before the war was £1,000,000, and the total value of timber cut was £2,250,000.

* * *

From the time of the agricultural chemist Liebig almost to the present time it has been the general opinion with farmers and planters that the soil is a chemical mixture. The idea was strongly held that the chemical composition of the soil should be compared with the chemical composition of the crop to be grown, and any deficiency made up by adding chemical manures to the soil. Experiments at Rothamsted and elsewhere have gradually changed this idea to another—namely, that fertility depends chiefly on the action of bacteria in the soil. Bacteria are living organisms. The conditions in the soil most favourable to their increase have been studied. Three factors are considered essential: these are water, air, and decaying organic matter.

It was at one time supposed that Indian opium contained a much lower percentage of morphine than Turkey or Persian opium. Investigations have been carried on for some years at the Imperial Institute. The results definitely show that opium coming from certain areas in India average 10 per cent. or more of morphine. Ten per cent. is the standard of the British Pharmacopœia. The idea that Indian opium was of inferior quality has thus been shown to be erroneous. As long ago as 1896 the Imperial Institute suggested without avail that opium should be exported from India to Europe. The restrictions placed on the export to China in 1907 again brought up the subject. At length, after the outbreak of war, the Government of India permitted the export of a certain quantity to the United Kingdom for use by manufacturers of morphine.

* * *

To kill bacteria in liquids by freezing, intermittent freezing is said by the *Journal of Bacteriology* to be more effective than continuous freezing. The reduction of germs is much less in milk and cream than in water. This is due to the presence of solid and colloidal matter in milk which affords a certain amount of physical protection to the bacteria. The degree of cold below the freezing point is not an important factor in the destruction. The death rate of *Bacillus coli* is much higher in media which are frozen solid than it is in the same media not solid, and at a slightly lower temperature. The formation of ice probably results in mechanical crushing, causing the death of bacteria. The greatest reduction occurs in freezing and refreezing, but is not caused so much by the sudden change in temperature as by this mechanical factor.

* * *

The short supplies of meat during the war called attention to other sources than the ox, sheep, &c. One suggestion was that the manatee should be kept in captivity and used as food. Experiments in rearing it have been made in the lagoons of Florida. The *Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence* states that the meat is not only nutritious, but very palatable, and that the West African species can also be reared as a food animal. The manatee is frequently seen in shallow water on the coasts of the West Indies. No doubt the experiment will also be tried there by those who have experience in turtle crawls. The time may come when the flesh will compete with mutton, and the dried skins and the oil form articles of export. The manatee is a vegetarian and perfectly harmless, unlike its distant relative the walrus, which is carnivorous. The family consists of the two parents, one half-grown calf, and a young one; they do not appear to go in flocks. They would probably need to be fed in captivity.

* * *

Experiments with the leaf-blister mite which attacks certain varieties of cotton are discussed in the *West Indian Bulletin*. Sea Island and Upland cottons are very susceptible to attack by the mite. Certain indigenous West Indian cottons and some of Brazilian origin are completely immune. In crosses between immune and susceptible types the first generation (F_1) is attacked in varying degree. The resistance of the F_1 generation varies according to the particular varieties used as parents. Some are immune and some susceptible. In the second generation (F_2) segregation occurs into immune and non-immune with a series of intermediates. In the crossing of certain varieties ten families from F_1 immune parents bred true to immunity in the third generation (F_3). Thirty-seven families from F_1 non-immune parents threw immunes in widely varying ratios. That it is possible to get immune strains in the F_3 generation is of great importance from the economic point of view, for it opens up the way to the production of immune strains of Sea Island cotton.

HOMeward MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Sugar De-controlled.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, June 16th.—We have had favourable weather since my last—fine, with occasional showers. Following on the part removal of the restrictions on the sale of sugar in England, the Government here have removed the fixed prices on sugar for local consumption. This was promptly followed by a rise in refining crystals to \$5.75, and yellows to 7c. per 100 lb. The retention of a certain percentage for local sale is still insisted on.

The cable has been interrupted for some days, and the news we get comes through by wireless.

On May 24th Mr. J. P. Foster was married to Miss K. Bellamy, youngest daughter of the late Captain Bellamy and Mrs. Bellamy, and on the 4th inst. Mr. W. Macaulay, manager of Pln. "Marionville," was married to Miss Gemmel, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gemmel. On the same day Mr. J. S. De Freitas was married to Miss K. De Mattos, daughter of Mrs. De Mattos.

Mrs. Clementi and Mrs. J. H. Conyers have had the Order of the British Empire conferred on them.

News has been received with regret of the death of Mr. Gregoric Bettencourt, a prominent member of the community, at the age of eighty-two, at Barbados. His body is being brought over for burial here to-day.

The first large contingent of the returned men of the B.G. Contingent arrived here on May 29th, and another is expected to-day.

JAMAICA.—Liquor Prices Rise.

Mr. Frank Cummins writes under date June 4th:—Jamaica has been experiencing for some little time past very heavy rains. These have in a great measure brought much damage to the island in several ways, and have caused a few casualties, owing to swollen rivers and streams. In Kingston the tramcar service was tied up, owing to the electric plants going out of order. Many persons fared very badly in this respect, as owing to the very unsatisfactory transportation facilities offered otherwise, many had to walk miles to go to work. His Honour Mr. Justice C. Haïman Beard, Acting Chief Justice, who was down in Vere waiting passage to Spanish Town, where he was to have presided over the Circuit Court, was unable to pass, owing to the rivers overflowing. In fact, Mr. Beard stated afterwards that he and his wife and little boy very narrowly escaped drowning.

A Memorial Service has been held in the Kingston Parish Church for the officers and men who have fallen in the Great War, the preacher being the Bishop of Jamaica.

A very important petition has been got up and signed by several persons in Kingston, asking that there may be no distinction between barristers and solicitors.

The following cablegram was sent to Mr. Harry Hawker by the Jamaica Imperial Association, on the news reaching Jamaica that he had reached Ireland: "Jamaica's admiration. Congratulations your safety. Good luck next trial."

Mr. C. E. Mellish, clerk of the Courts for St. Elizabeth, and who has been acting as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, has returned to the island, and taken up duties as Acting R.M. for Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

The price of liquors has gone up. The dagger rum has jumped from 38s. to 42s. per dozen bottles, and the Golden Stag from 32s. to 36s. Whisky has also gone up, and a glass is now being sold at 9d. Aerated waters too have gone up fully 100 per cent.

ST. LUCIA.—Mail Delays.

MR. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, June 5th.—The news that Mrs. Pordage, Nurse-Matron, Victoria Hospital, had been

appointed by His Majesty a Member of the British Empire Order was received with gratification. Mrs. Pordage has worked hard and silently throughout the war, and the honour now conferred upon her is well merited.

Throughout the war European mails were received regularly, and with but little delay. Since Armistice Day, however, we have fared very badly in this respect. Our last mail, which arrived on June 9th, by schooner from Barbados, brought letters posted in England between May 5th and 20th, and parcels posted on April 15th did not arrive here until June 18th. The s.s. *Crown of Castille* arrived on June 8th, bringing only intercolonial mail. After loading with sugar, she left for London on June 11th. His Honour C. E. Collier, C.B., has resigned his post as Chief Justice of this Colony. During his tenure of office he undertook the revision of the laws of the colony. Major G. J. L. Golding, Chief of Police; has been offered and accepted the appointment as Inspector-General of Constabulary, and Sheriff and Inspector-General of Prisons, Fiji.

H. M. Transport *Ortega*, which left France on May 30th, bringing one officer and sixty men for St. Lucia, and two officers and sixty-three men for the Leeward Islands, arrived here on June 10th. The men landed at 8 a.m., and a similar programme to that carried out for the men from the *Ajax* was followed. In honour of the occasion a public holiday was proclaimed throughout the colony. To facilitate business the telephone service will be opened from July 1st, continuously night and day, including Sundays and public holidays.

Weather conditions are more favourable for general planting, good showers having fallen during the last fortnight. Reaping is now practically finished. Now that preferential treatment is to be accorded to British sugar, we look for a considerable extension in this industry. The greatest problem in this connection will no doubt be that of labour supply, and although this may to some extent be solved in a few of the larger colonies by the general adoption of mechanical tillage, the question for the smaller islands will remain a very difficult one. Mr. E. G. Bennett, K.C., manager of the Cul-de-Sac Company, has returned from America, after an absence of over a year. Mr. Bennett has been in failing health for some time, and it is hoped that the benefit he has derived from his stay in America will prove permanent. H.M.S. *Dartmouth* arrived at 7 a.m. this morning, and intends to remain for five days.

TOBAGO.—Cacao Showing Well.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, June 18th.—By the *Belize* twenty-five men of the B.W.I.R. were landed, and Scarborough was *en fête*—two bands and great enthusiasm. The men were very orderly, and all glad to be safely home again. Private George Dick, M.M., was made quite a hero of. There is no fear of unemployment among the Tobago section, and it is hoped that their discipline will benefit this rather erratic community.

We continue to get light showers with dry intervals and nice cool winds. The young cacao crop shows up well, and if the young fruit holds there ought to be good pickings in October. Exceptionally large clearings have been made this year for ground provisions, in addition to cacao and coconut gardens, and Tobago is certainly on the high road to prosperity. Labour is scarce, and it is a serious matter that infant mortality continues so high. Our doctors have large districts, and it seems impossible at present to get village nurses or midwives. H.E. the Governor has this question well in hand, and a move in the right direction is hoped for on his return.

TRINIDAD.—Reception at Golden Vale.

The British Guiana Colonisation Deputation delegates have been birds of passage, having arrived by the *Chaleur*, and left again for London in the *Quillota*. During

their short stay they were entertained by well-wishers at the Hotel McKinney, and attended a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. W. G. Freeman, Acting Director of Agriculture at the Western Boys' School. A valuable exchange of views regarding cane farming took place. It is reported that the authorities of the Caroni estate are handing over 150 or more acres of rice lands in small plots to labourers, who each of them undertake to supply the estate with three days' labour weekly during the rice-planting season, and five days weekly during the remainder of the year. The land is being supplied free of cost. An official inquiry will be held to-morrow touching the accident on the R.M.S.P. barge bringing ashore returned soldiers from his Majesty's transport *Ajax*. A hearty welcome was extended yesterday to Major L. H. Elphinstone, the colony's new Solicitor-General, who arrived from London by the s.s. *Saba*. The Major was met on the steamer by Mr. W. Savary, Barrister-at-Law, and is a guest of his Excellency the Acting-Governor, at Government House, St. Anns. Until the return of the Hon. R. S. A. Warner, B.A., K.C., Attorney-General, from leave of absence, Major Elphinstone will act as Attorney-General. A further contingent of returned Trinidad men of the British West Indies Regiment were given a grand reception on their arrival at Port-of-Spain yesterday morning. The contingent, which numbered four officers and 413 men, were expected here on Monday, the 16th, but the voyage down was completed three days ahead of the scheduled time; but preparations were hurried through in time. By the same transport—the *Ortega*—thirty-nine men of the Merchants' contingent arrived, and they were met by the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., Major Bowen, Mr. George Huggins, O.B.E., Hon. Hugh McLelland, and Mr. J. Phillips. A fitting reception will be given them next week, and they were allowed to leave for their homes immediately after landing.

On June 21st a very successful reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Huggins, at their residence, Golden Vale, to welcome home the men of the local Merchants' and Planters' Contingent. Mr. Montgomerie Gordon addressed the men, and other speakers were Major Bowen and Mr. Huggins—whose birthday it happened to be. After dark the grounds were illuminated, and dancing was kept up until the small hours.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Bayann*, Glasgow for Jamaica, July 3rd:—

Major and Mrs. A. L. Allwood	Mr. and Mrs. R. Hackworth	Mr. B. G. Morris
Mr. L. Ashenheim	Mr. M. V. Hearne	Mr. C. Morales
Mr. J. E. E. Armstrong	Mr. H. H. Hearne	Mr. E. R. Mantou
Mr. W. Basnett	Mr. and Mrs. N. Hanna	Mr. C. V. A. Malville
Mr. Alfred Bell	Mr. L. W. Huddle	Mr. G. D. Preston
Mr. A. D. Barrow	Capt. and Mrs. F. P. Heath	Mr. J. Richardson
Mr. C. H. Bennett	Mr. and Mrs. Shirley H. Jenks	Mr. B. C. Scottock
Mr. C. F. Berkley	Capt. Paul Kosster	Mr. G. W. Pape
Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Cameron	Capt. Arbuthnot Leslie	Miss J. Smith
Rev. J. H. Cartwright	Mr. D. O. Kelly Lawson	Mr. V. J. Streadwick
Mr. P. H. Dougall	Mr. A. N. Mackay	Mr. Charles Taylor
Mr. H. E. A. Digby	Mr. J. P. McDonald	Mr. and Mrs. Hans Tischbein
Mr. W. Dowling	Maj.-Gen. Sir Newton Moore, K.C.M.G., M.P., &c.	Mr. J. Warren
Mr. G. S. Escottory		Mr. W. H. Watson
Mr. John B. Foote		Mr. E. Webb
		Miss H. A. Whitelocke
		Mr. F. Whitson-Perry

Sailings per s.s. *Coronado* from Garston Docks, Liverpool, July 10th:—

Miss N. G. Alexander	Mr. B. G. Dent	Miss J. E. L. Smyth
Mr. R. B. Barker	Mr. W. E. P. Dent	Miss Brenda J. Smyth
The Right Rev. Bishop Bentley	Miss M. J. Farrell	Miss P. St. John Smyth (2)
The Hon. Miss M. B. Buckley	Capt. H. Lynch	Mr. C. St. John Smyth
Mrs. C. P. de Diaz and child	Miss Lynch	Miss C. D. Williams
	Mr. C. MacGregor	Mr. B. W. Williams
	Mr. M. MacGregor	
	Mr. K. G. Percy	

Sailings from Avonmouth Dock, Bristol, per s.s. *Patuca*, on July 17th:—

Lieut. A. J. Anderson	Lieut. Heron	Mr. W. J. Palmer
Mr. J. A. Apenes	Mr. J. P. Jaramillo	Mrs. W. J. Palmer
Mr. G. Cochrane	Mrs. J. P. Jaramillo	Miss M. H. Palmer
Mr. J. S. Erskine	Mr. W. Johnston	Master L. Salaman
Miss N. Farquharson	Mr. A. L. Keeling	Lieut. Swaby
Miss L. Fuertado	Mr. A. E. Laidlaw	Lieut. P. Urquhart
Mrs. E. M. Gilbert	Mr. W. J. Masterton	Mrs. Urquhart
Mr. G. F. Hardley	Lieut. Mills	Mr. A. Verley
Capt. Hayter	Mr. E. R. D. Nagel	Mr. E. Verley
Lieut. Hayter	Mr. Lancelot Owen	Miss P. Verley

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Home arrivals from West Indies per s.s. *Quillota*, July 16th:—

Miss M. Alves	Miss E. Gonsalves	Master W. T. Milling
Mr. C. Andrews	Master C. Gonsalves	Capt. D. Moffatt, RAMC
Mrs. Andrews	Master B. Gonsalves	Mr. A. Rayman
Capt. L. E. Barry	Master F. Gonsalves	Rev. E. O. Robertson
Miss A. Blackman	Master D. Gonsalves	Mrs. M. Santos
Mr. Boodhoo	Miss E. Gonsalves	Mr. P. Sawh
Miss M. E. Bowen	Mr. K. J. S. Harris	Mr. C. Sadler
Miss A. Brandon	Mr. A. H. Hill	Mrs. E. Sadler
Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C.	Mrs. E. A. Hill	Master R. D. Sadler
Mrs. E. de F. Browne	Mr. R. G. Humphrey	Master S. Sadler
Hon. A. B. Browne	Mrs. A. R. Humphrey	Miss M. S. Sadler
Mr. R. V. Butt	Miss A. K. Humphrey	Mr. E. L. Sellier
Mrs. A. M. Butt	Miss M. R. Humphrey	Mrs. M. J. Sellier
Master M. J. Butt	Master R. A. Humphrey	Miss M. V. Sellier
Master E. G. C. Butt	Miss C. R. Hughes	Miss M. O. Sellier
Master C. H. Butt	Cpl. J. S. Jobbings, RAMC	Miss E. Sellier
Miss D. M. Butt	Mr. L. Keir	Miss M. J. Sellier
Mr. P. J. Dean	Mrs. M. Laurence	Mr. J. D. Sellier
Mrs. C. M. Dean	Master A. E. B. Laurence	Mr. R. Sellier
Rev. W. Driver	Mr. M. J. Leotaud	Miss M. Smith
Mrs. A. E. Driver	Mrs. A. S. Leotaud	C. H. Stockdale
Miss P. G. Driver	Miss G. M. Leotaud	Mr. G. W. Taylor
Master R. A. Driver	Master J. M. Leotaud	Miss N. Thavenot
Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow	Miss R. M. Leotaud	Mr. P. de Verteuil
Mr. J. L. Ewing Chow	Master R. Leotaud	Mrs. V. de Verteuil
Miss M. H. Ewing Chow	Mr. Luckhoo	Mr. C. E. Vezey
Mrs. E. M. Fuller	Mr. J. McFarlane	Mrs. E. M. Vezey
Miss M. E. Fuller	Pte J. M. Macher, RAMC	Mr. E. Woolford
Miss E. M. Fuller	Mr. J. Miller	Mrs. E. G. Woolford
Mrs. H. Gonsalves	Mr. E. W. Milling	Mr. W. Wooliscroft
Miss N. Gonsalves	Mrs. A. Milling	Mr. S. Wreford
Miss M. Gonsalves	Master P. F. Milling	Mrs. M. J. Wreford
Miss C. Gonsalves		Miss L. M. J. Wreford

Sailings per s.s. *Arzila*, London, July 18th:—

Miss U. M. Archer	Miss Jackman	Lieut. L. Prada
Mr. E. L. Atkinson	Miss D. James	2nd Lt. P. Saint Hill
Mrs. Atkinson	Lieut. D. L. Johnson	Mrs. Saint Hill
Lieut. G. Booth	Miss S. E. Jones	Mr. T. M. Savage-English
Lieut. A. Boyce	Lieut. P. J. Knox	Mrs. Savage-English
Mrs. F. G. Browne	Capt. J. F. L. Lamport	Mr. P. T. Savage-English
Miss K. M. Bushe	Lieut. K. M. Leighton	Miss S. C. Savage-English
Capt. H. Clark, M.C.	Capt. McDonald	Miss Annie M. Scott
Miss A. G. Clark	Mrs. McDonald	Mr. G. C. Spiers
Rev. F. FitzPatrick	Miss McDonald	Mr. J. G. Spiers
Mrs. Fitzpatrick	Miss McDonald	Mrs. J. J. Spiers
Rev. A. E. Gardiner	Lt. J. H. Maingot, M.C.	Miss F. R. Spiers
Mrs. Gardiner	Miss Man	Miss E. G. Spiers
Master G. M. Gardiner	Mr. A. Messervy	Miss W. I. Spiers
Mrs. J. Gaskin	Miss S. P. Montague	Rev. C. H. Trowell
Mrs. E. A. Hare	Miss B. C. Montague	Mrs. Trowell
Lieut.-Col. G. L. Hinds	Mrs. E. M. Palmer	Lt. H. D. Weatherhead
Howell	Miss L. O. Paterson	Mr. R. Wilson
Lieut. J. F. Irving	Lieut. L. G. Perkins	Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. E. C. Jackman	Lt. D. P. Pogson, D.F.C.	Mrs. L. L. Withers

Advance bookings from London to West Indies per s.s. *Quillota*, end of July:—

Mrs. S. J. Abrahams	Father Franco	Mrs. Martin-Sperry & two Children & Nurse
Miss J. E. Abrahams	Mrs. La Frenais	Mrs. A. P. Marryat
Master W. H. Abrahams	and three Children	Miss B. M. Maynard
Mrs. F. R. Arrindell	Mrs. J. G. Frew	Mrs. M. Milliken
Miss E. M. Arrindell	Mr. H. E. G. Gonin	Mr. Robert Morrison
Mr. H. A. Arrindell	Mr. W. U. Gooding	Mrs. A. J. Price
Mrs. F. M. Braithwaite	Mrs. Gooding	Mr. L. Radix
Master Wm. L. Braithwaite	Master M. E. Gooding	Miss E. Rapier
Miss F. M. Braithwaite	Miss M. R. Gooding	Mr. Cecil E. A. Rawle
and Infant	Mr. Alex. Gordon	Mrs. Rawle
Mrs. W. M. Branch	Mrs. Gordon	Mrs. G. A. Salomon
Mr. J. E. Brandon	Miss N. Hamel-Smith	Master J. W. Salomon
Mr. Richard Black	Mr. Henzell	Master J. A. Salomon
Mr. H. E. de Cambra	Mrs. A. J. Hill	Mr. A. Shaw
Miss A. M. Chipchase	Miss E. B. Hobson	Mrs. Shaw
Mr. C. H. Clark	Mrs. E. A. Jones	Mr. A. Shaw
Miss I. M. Everitt	Master W. I. Jones	Mr. A. P. Sherlock
Mr. John Fernandes	Mr. Keen	Mrs. L. Sowray
Mr. C. L. W. Fleming	Mrs. B. Knaggs	Mrs. V. Watson
Mrs. M. T. Fleming	Miss E. J. Leighton	Mr. F. W. Willison
	Miss McQuarrie	Mrs. Willison

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—8642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

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

July 24th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

It is probable that present prices will hold until the autumn, but a rise in price towards the end of the year would appear to be inevitable.

The following table shows the imports of refined sugar into the United Kingdom during 1917 and 1918:—

From	1917.		1918.	
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
Netherlands ...	136,902	243,046	120,528	227,723
Java ...	1,436,827	2,629,813	10,361	21,999
United States ...	752,575	1,465,584	106,295	194,521
Mauritius ...	397,089	763,715	62,677	121,931
Other Countries ...	666,014	1,286,537	119,951	223,835
Total (refined) ...	3,389,407	6,388,695	419,812	790,009

Our imports of unrefined sugar during the same years were as follows:—

From	1917.		1918.	
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
Java ...	5,414,046	6,757,295	3,702,231	4,795,420
Cuba ...	13,987,047	16,588,006	16,553,472	20,349,842
Peru ...	1,017,867	1,207,948	802,774	1,006,607
Brazil ...	470,046	598,625	175,610	278,131
Mauritius... ..	625,351	1,110,552	1,908,670	3,485,609
British West Indies* ...	2,587,841	3,736,436	2,307,802	3,342,068
Other Countries ...	258,589	322,039	275,833	367,701
Total (unrefined) ...	24,360,787	30,320,901	25,726,392	33,625,378

* Including British Guiana.

New York prices: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c., c. and f. New York, as against 4.985c. last year; 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64c. as against 4.749c.

The West India sugar statistics in London for week ending July 13th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Imports ...	24,108	13,222	38,152	Tons.
Deliveries ...	18,311	20,721	35,134	"
Stock ...	11,989	3,488	11,033	"

RUM. The stocks in London on July 13th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Jamaica ...	5,597	5,054	8,415	Puns.
Demerara ...	14,349	4,813	10,640	"
Total of all kinds ...	24,531	14,541	31,279	"

COCOA. The stocks in London on July 13th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Trinidad ...	22,178	9,936	28,554	Bags.
Grenada ...	13,262	16,239	27,654	"
Total of all kinds ...	113,007	130,148	279,209	"

The following table shows the imports of raw cocoa into the United Kingdom during 1917 and 1918:—

From	1917.		1918.	
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
British West Africa... ..	826,695	2,341,808	551,806	1,773,370
Ceylon ...	21,767	86,896	2,167	9,357
British West Indies ...	148,286	582,068	181,061	803,319
Ecuador ...	36,305	146,866	4,275	21,098
Brazil ...	37,239	123,489	10,182	36,178
Other Countries ...	87,868	288,720	105,889	420,029
Total ...	1,158,160	3,569,847	855,380	3,063,351

ARROWROOT. Rather more inquiry for the lower qualities; no change in values.

BALATA. The market has ruled quiet with very little business passing in Venezuela block, which is lower. West Indian sheet, however, continues firm, and good quality Panama block is called for. West Indian sheet forward quoted 3s. 11d. c.i.f.; spot, 4s. 1½d. and 4s. 2d.

COPRA. The market continues firm. Value to London quoted at £60 c.i.f. delivered, Marseilles £68 delivered.

HONEY. Jamaica in moderate supply at last auctions was dearer for the small lots of fine pale, which brought 92s. to 99s., but the lower qualities were sometimes rather easier; dark liquid to amber selling at 72s. 6d. to 75s. per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil: Handpressed**, some business at 11s. 6d. per lb.; **distilled**, steady at 4s., with business passing. **Lime juice: Raw**, quietly steady. **Orange Oil: Sweet and Bitter**, more inquiry, with business at 7s.

OIL. Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, report output for June 13,600 tons.

BIRTH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

FOSTER.—At "Hope Ville," Sydenham-avenue, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sophie, the wife of John R. Foster, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

BAYNES—BEAUCHAMP.—On the 17th July, at St. James' Church, Colwall, Hereford, by the Rev. C. Harris, D.D., Edward William Baynes, Civil Service, Ministry of Shipping, late Colonial Service, Leeward Islands, elder son of the late Edward Hercules Robinson Arthur Baynes, Commissioner of Montserrat, and the late Mrs. Baynes, to Dorothy Margaret, second daughter of the late Frederick W. Beauchamp and Mrs. Beauchamp, of Colwall.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Divid.		PRICES.
		July 21st.
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44 ...	76-78
3½ %	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42 ...	73-76
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935 ...	80-82
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45 ...	63-65
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42 ...	80-82
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934 ...	84-86 xd
3½ %	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49 ...	71-73
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44 ...	66-68
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-41 ...	75-77
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42 ...	81-83
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44 ...	63-65
8 %	The Colonial Bank ...	7½-8½
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...	160-170
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...	82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures... ..	82-84
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures... ..	87-89
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	1½
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	97½-102½
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. ...	9/3
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares) ...	20/3-21/3
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields... ..	50/0
—	Trinidad Dominion 10/- ...	8/9
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1) ...	60/0
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ...	43-48
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref. ...	99-104
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4½ Ex. Pref. ...	61-66
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures ...	65-70
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	1½-1½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	7-7½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd " ...	6½-6½
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures ...	92-94

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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 ls., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

British Guiana Colonisation.

IF the will to win counts for anything, the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation now in London will not fail to accomplish the immediate objects which it has in view. These are, briefly, to secure the introduction into the colony in each of the next three years of 5,000 adults of races suitable for colonisation under local tropical conditions, preferably in families, the sexes being approximately equal. To this end it is proposed to raise a loan or loans to the amount of £500,000 during the next five years, the interest and sinking fund on which will be provided by the present Colonisation Export Tax, which yields about \$160,000 per annum. Part of this loan will be devoted to chartering or subsidising steamers to ensure regular communication every two months, alternately *via* Panama and the Cape of Good Hope, with West Africa, India, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, and the principal West Indian colonies. Incidentally, it is proposed also to ask the Combined Court to set aside \$100,000 a year for five years for irrigation and drainage purposes, and it has been enunciated as a general principle that no colony funds or Crown lands shall be applied as inducements to work unless such inducements are open on the same terms to the "natives" of the colony equally with immigrants. It is confidently believed that, if India can be induced to remove her ban on emigration, the natural and

economic advantages offered by British Guiana will suffice to attract a steady influx of Indian families on a free basis besides settlers from other parts of the British Empire. With this belief we find ourselves in accord, and we have all along held the view that the door was not finally closed against emigration from India to British Guiana. Unlike South Africa, Canada, and certain other parts of the Empire, our great mainland colony offers to the Indian equality of opportunity politically and commercially in the fullest sense with residents and settlers from every other part of the world. It welcomes them to her shores, and encourages them to remain. In British Guiana the Indian has full civil and political liberty; he can open shops or stores; he can own land; he can practise in the courts and sit in the Legislature. This, we are convinced, has only to be known and realised in India, for the objections against emigration to the colony, where half of the population is already of East Indian origin, to be withdrawn. During the past ten days the deputation has had the opportunity of laying their case before many of the leaders of Indian thought and public opinion who are at present in London in connection with the Government of India Bill, and their reception has been altogether favourable. Before, however, a definite decision can be arrived at, it may be necessary for a delegation to visit India to state the case of the colony, as was proposed by the West India Committee earlier in the year; but if this can be obviated it will be so much the better, though we have no fear as to what the verdict of the Indian people will be when once the position is put fairly and squarely before them. But in any case some little time must elapse before any proposals for Indian colonisation can be matured and carried out, and the deputation is doing well in paying attention to other sources of supply, the most promising of which would appear to be the West Indian islands and Liberia. It is admitted that some thousands of Jamaicans are leaving their island home every year for Cuba, and it seems to us that an effort should certainly be made to divert this stream into British channels by offering inducements for families to settle in British Guiana, and if 40,000 British West Indians could be persuaded to dig the Panama Canal and thousands more to work on the Madeira-Marmore railway—in most unhealthy surroundings—it should certainly not be impossible to secure the smaller number immediately required for work in a neighbouring colony under the British flag! Liberia, too, offers possibilities,

and we understand that interviews between the African Committee of the deputation and leading officials of that State have been altogether encouraging. As to the importance of solving the labour problem of British Guiana there can be no two opinions. The British Empire being now in the position of a debtor instead of a creditor as it was before the war, production and the development of her resources is of paramount necessity. It is a very urgent and a pressing need. In British Guiana there are over 9,000,000 acres easily accessible for beneficial occupation and suitable for tropical cultivation; all that is required to set the machinery in motion is population, and, to quote the pamphlet "Imperial Colonisation," published on behalf of the deputation,* "With those persons who consider that 90,000 square miles of country are sufficiently populated by an average of three persons to the square mile, while there are many tens of thousands of square miles of forest and savannah without any inhabitants at all, except a few nomadic aboriginal Indians, one cannot argue."

The Cotton Situation.

DURING the past two years the West Indian Sea Island cotton crop was purchased by the Government for war purposes at satisfactory, though not excessive, prices. As soon, however, as the Armistice came into effect the Government, having no further need for the cotton, disposed of the crop which they had on hand to those of the fine spinners who had Government contracts, at the same price as that paid to the growers. Unfortunately, early this year the suspension of Government contracts brought about a slump in the fine-spinning trade, and, to make matters worse, most of the fine spinners found that with the Government cotton which they had purchased they had sufficient cotton in hand to last them for a very considerable time. They accordingly ceased to bid, and the West Indian planters were advised to substitute other crops for cotton for a while. The folly of this suggestion must be obvious. When an industry declines to vanishing point its reuscitation is no easy matter, and we hope that none of the growers will follow advice so thoughtlessly given. It is manifestly to the advantage of the fine spinners no less than it is to that of the growers that the West Indian Sea Island cotton industry, which has made us independent of America in respect of this variety, should be maintained and encouraged, and we are glad to learn that this aspect of the position is now being realised. Meanwhile, owing to the ravages of the boll-weevil in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, the situation for West Indian Sea Island cotton has completely changed. The crop grown in the United States, which formerly amounted to from 80,000 to 100,000 bales, is now not expected to reach 30,000 bales, and, although larger consumers who took over the Government supply of the West Indian cotton still hold considerable stocks, under the changed conditions we have little doubt they will continue to buy. It must also be borne in mind that the

smaller users and also the French spinners are without cotton, and are inquiring on the Liverpool market for the better qualities of West Indian. In these circumstances, it would not appear that there is any necessity for the planters to reduce their acreage, especially in view of the fact that there is every prospect of their getting, after all, satisfactory prices in the near future.

THE EXPORTATION OF CACAO.

Strong representations made by the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to the Ministry of Food through the Colonial Office, urging the removal of the restrictions on the export of raw cacao from this country, have elicited the following reply:—

SIR.—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 30th, relative to the restrictions on the exportation of cacao from this country. The Secretary of State is informed by the Food Controller that in normal times the quantity of raw cacao exported is much less than 50 per cent. of imports, and that since the grant of the concession allowing 50 per cent. of all imports of cacao into this country to be exported to approved destinations under licence from the Export Licence Department the quantity exported has been much less than the maximum allowed.

Mr. Roberts further states that he has not received any complaints that the export trade is hampered by the present restrictions, and that he does not therefore think that there is any just ground for a further relaxation of restrictions at present. Before withdrawing the restrictions altogether he thinks it most desirable in the interest of the home consumer to await the result of the anticipated removal of the blockade, which is likely to lead to a largely increased demand.—I am, Sir, &c.,

(Signed) G. GRINDLE.

Downing-street, July 10th, 1919.

According to our contemporary *West Africa*, a rejoinder, of which the following is an extract, has been sent to the Colonial Office:—

Owing to the restriction on shipments to other markets, much more cacao has been imported into this country than in pre-war days, so that the 50 per cent. can have no relation to existing circumstances. For instance, the Gold Coast crop had reached before the war about 80,000 tons (now over 100,000 tons), while only between 20,000 and 30,000 tons came to England. Previously the Continent had been the future market for West African cacao. The limitation proposed would, if persisted in, have the tendency to restore the business to Hamburg and elsewhere, whereas it is the hope and the desire of this Chamber to secure that Liverpool shall remain, as it is to-day, the principal market.

THE Jamaica Tourist Association, whose activities were suspended after the outbreak of war, has now reopened its Information Bureau at 85, Barry-street, Kingston, Jamaica. The Jamaica Imperial Association and the Jamaica Tourist Association will thus be under one and the same roof, and it would be difficult to conceive a more admirable arrangement. Many tourists are interested in the products of Jamaica, while business men like to visit the various parts of the island. The mutual exchange of information will prove of manifest advantage to both classes.

* "Imperial Colonisation: British Guiana and the Empire, 1919." London: The West India Committee Rooms. Post free on application.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Hog fat when guava ripe."

* * *

SUGAR machinery now ranks third among Hawaii's exports. Ironworks at Honolulu are shipping a considerable quantity of sugar-mills to the Philippines.

* * *

THOSE few members of the West India Committee who have not already done the needful in this respect are requested to pay their subscriptions for the current year at any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada *without delay*.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT declares that the War Office offered a friend of his who was awaiting repatriation to British Guiana passage to Brazil, and suggested that he could proceed from that country to Georgetown by rail. This was perhaps an intelligent anticipation of events!

* * *

THERE was a young man from St. Kitts
Who went to a ball at the Blitz;
But his style was so curious,
Exotic and furious,
That most of his partners had fits.

—*Punch*.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Nicholas Robin Udal, Assistant Director of Education, Sudan Government, youngest son of his Honour J. S. Udal, late Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and Mrs. Udal, to Margaret Ruth, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Oliver, of Orlestone, Kent.

* * *

THE Post Office announces that a Government cable is now in operation between this country and Canada, telegrams for which country and for the West Indies are forwarded by Government cable across the Atlantic if marked "*via Imperial*." The charges per word are the same as by the routes already in force.

* * *

THE importation of citrus fruit from South Africa, which was suspended during the war, has been resumed, and several shipments of oranges, pineapples, tangerines and grapefruit have recently arrived from the Cape. When will some enterprising individual, firm or Government establish a similar trade between the West Indies and the United Kingdom?

* * *

MRS. PEREZ, of Trinidad, and Mr. Altamont Da Costa, of Jamaica, were among those who were recently invested with the insignia of the Order of the British Empire by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace. Mr. Da Costa represented his Lodge in Jamaica, of which he is the present Master, at the Masonic Peace Celebration recently held at the Albert Hall.

* * *

MR. H. A. P. COTTON, head of the passenger department of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the past fifteen years, has been the recipient of a handsome pair of Georgian silver candlesticks on the occasion of his promotion to be an assistant manager of the company. The presentation was made by Mr. F. F. C. Messum, the manager of the West End office.

* * *

THE REV. C. H. DICK, B.D., minister of St. Mary's United Free Church, Moffat, has been informed that

he is about to receive a unanimous call from the congregation of Grey Friars' Presbyterian Church, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Mr. Dick has been minister of St. Mary's for the past nine years, and was for four years minister of the East United Free Church, Bellshill. He is the author of *Highways and Byways in Galloway and Carrick*.

* * *

MR. R. L. FORBES, who, we regret to state, died on July 16th at his residence at Blagdon, The Chine, Winchmore Hill, fell a victim to over-work at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight. Son of Mr. Robert Lindsay Forbes, he was until lately one of the general managers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Mr. Forbes joined the R.M.S.P. Company in 1902, when he was appointed assistant manager, successively occupying the positions of secretary, manager, and general manager. Owing to continued ill-health he was compelled to retire at the end of last year.

* * *

THE value of quinine in cases of fever has, says a writer in *Chambers's Journal*, been known for nearly 300 years. Its virtues were first brought to light in Europe by the Jesuits, one of the brotherhood having been cured of fever in Peru by administration of cinchona-bark by a South American Indian. There is also a well-authenticated instance of the medicinal use of cinchona-bark for fever in 1638 by the Countess of Chincón, wife of one of the Governors of Peru, and the name given to the bark is said to have been derived from the connection of this lady with the remedy. Sir Clements Markham, who in 1860 superintended the first consignment of these plants from South America to India, thought that the term should therefore be written *chinchona*.

* * *

AMONG the products of the Empire which before the war were not utilised in this country to the extent they might have been cacao takes a prominent place. The quantity of cacao produced in British countries in 1913 was more than three times the amount consumed in the United Kingdom, yet this country only obtained about one-half its supplies from those sources, the remainder consisting largely of South American cacao and foreign cacao shipped *via* Continental countries. Not only was this the case, but we were importing large quantities of prepared cocoa and chocolate from foreign countries which had been manufactured there from British-grown cacao. During the war the position improved and a much larger proportion of the raw cacao came from the Empire, no less than 86 per cent. of the total imports into this country coming from British possessions in 1917, and it is to be hoped that this state of affairs will continue.

* * *

THE paramount importance of the matter will be realised when it is stated that in 1916 the total imports were valued at no less than £6,750,000. The question of the production of cacao in the different countries of the Empire, the world's consumption, and the cacao trade of the United Kingdom is fully discussed in an article in the current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. Of the many interesting points brought out two call for special mention. The first is the unprecedented growth of the cacao industry in the Gold Coast, where the product is grown and prepared for the market entirely by the natives. The Colony commenced to export cacao in 1891, and it now produces more than one-quarter of the world's output. The other equally remarkable fact is the enormous increase in the consumption of cacao in the United States in recent years. The consumption has trebled since 1913, and about one-half the total quantity produced in the world now goes to the States.

BRITISH GUIANA COLONISATION DEPUTATION.

The Delegates' Busy Week.

Since their arrival in this country the members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation have been very active. Several sectional meetings of the African and East-Indian Committees have been held, and the latter have published 5,000 copies of a pamphlet dealing with the question of colonisation from the Indian standpoint. Prior to the arrival of his colleagues, Dr. W. H. Wharton paid a visit to Edinburgh and addressed a meeting of the local East India Association, whose members approved of the proposals for the resumption of emigration from India to British Guiana by forty-two votes to four.

Sir Wilfred Collet, Dr. J. J. Numan, Hon. P. N. Browne, Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow, Hon. E. G. Woolford and Hon. A. P. Sherlock met the Empire Resources Development Committee in the Board Room of the Rhodes Trust at Seymour House on July 24th, and discussed with them the question of the development of the Hinterland of British Guiana. The Development Committee, who were represented by Lord Queenborough (better known as Mr. Almeric Paget, M.P.), Lord Morris, Mr. Moreton Frewen, M.P., Mr. Charles Jesson, M.P., and Mr. Arthur Bigland, M.P., subsequently entertained the delegates at luncheon at the Café Royal. In the afternoon a meeting of the whole deputation was held at the West India Committee Rooms, Sir Wilfred Collet presiding, to discuss arrangements in connection with the deputation to Lord Milner, and Sir Edward Davson, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Captain Montgomery Parker were nominated as members.

On the following morning, July 25th, the East Indian Section, Dr. W. H. Wharton, Mr. Parbu Sawh, Mr. Abdool Rayman and Mr. Luckhoo, with Sir Wilfred Collet, Dr. J. J. Numan, Hon. A. P. Sherlock and Mr. Aspinall, attended a meeting of the East Indian Parliamentary Committee at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, when an interesting exchange of views took place. Mrs. Besant presided, and the members of the Parliamentary Committee, which was decidedly sympathetic, also included Mr. Wadia, Mr. Jannadas Dwarakadas, Hon. Yakub Hosain of Madras, Mrs. Despard, and Mr. Burns.

Captain Montgomery Parker, proprietor of Plantation Wales, West Bank, Demerara, entertained the deputation on the following afternoon at his father-in-law's country seat, Woolmers Park, Cole Green, near Hatfield. The delegates proceeded by saloon carriage to Cole Green Station, and were met by three motor-cars, which took them to their destination. An enjoyable afternoon was spent inspecting the famous herd of shorthorn cattle, and the delegates had an opportunity of seeing English country life at its best. Among the company invited to meet the delegates was the late Governor of Martinique.

Through the kindness of Dr. Herbert Ryle, Dean of Westminster, the party were accommodated with a special pew at Westminster Abbey on Sunday morning, July 27th, when they heard the farewell

sermon of Dr. James Gow, Head Master of Westminster School.

Deputation to Lord Milner.

At 3 o'clock on Monday, July 28th, the deputation waited on Lord Milner, Secretary of State for the colonies, his lordship being accompanied by Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. T. H. Allen, of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office, and Sir Malcolm Seton, K.C.B., Secretary of the Judicial and Public Department of the India Office.

The object of the deputation was to place before the Colonial Secretary the colonisation scheme already approved locally. This comprises the introduction into the colony in each of the next three years of 5,000 adults of suitable races, in families if possible, and the provision of a loan or loans of £500,000 during the next five years, the interest and sinking fund on which will be met by the present colonisation or export tax. Part of the loan will be devoted towards securing regular steamship communication between British Guiana and the East. The Combined Court will also be asked to set aside \$500,000 for carrying out irrigation and drainage schemes between 1920 and 1925.

Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., the Governor of the colony, having introduced the deputation, Dr. J. J. Numan, the Attorney-General of British Guiana, called attention to the continental character of the British Guiana problem, where an area of three times the size of Scotland awaited colonisation by races suited to tropical conditions, and investment of capital commensurate with its resources in timber, minerals and cattle, as well as in the present dominant industries of rice, sugar and coconuts. The vast supply of bauxite—the ore of aluminium—in easily accessible localities was referred to. The resumption of the colonisation of British Guiana by free immigration of agricultural families from India was advocated. It was pointed out that British Guiana offers equality of political rights and equality of opportunity to East Indians and Africans to an extent not realised in any other part of the world. In asking for the co-operation of the Colonial and India Offices, confidence was expressed that the present scheme would receive the active support of all the unofficial leaders of public opinion in India and of their representatives in London, many of whom were at present in this country in connection with the Government of India Bill. The deputation had already had an interview with the East India Parliamentary Committee.

Lord Milner gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing, and promised to introduce them to the India Office.

In the evening the delegates were entertained at dinner by Mr. T. Greenwood and Hon. A. P. Sherlock, in the absence of Mr. Arthur McConnell, who is in Scotland. Mr. Greenwood, in welcoming his guests, reminded the delegates that they had been chosen by the common consent of the majority of the people to represent British Guiana in one of the most important movements which had ever taken place for the advancement of the colony. Lieut.-Colonel Amery, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, had

said recently that, compared with our undeveloped wealth, our burden of debt lost its crushing weight, and that all we needed was faith in ourselves and concentration upon the task of Imperial development. With this he was in full agreement. British Guiana would now no longer be looked upon as a poor relation; but what the Mission would have to do would be to convince the Imperial Government and the people in this country that the development of British Guiana would be for the benefit of the Empire as a whole.

Sir Wilfred Collet having replied, the party broke up. His Excellency and the Indian delegates then proceeded to Prince's, where they attended a reception given by the European Association of India to meet the Parliamentary delegates from Madras who had come over in connection with the Government of India Bill. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Joynson Hicks, M.P., and Mr. Welby, after which the visitors from British Guiana were able to describe the conditions of their colony to many of their fellow countrymen from India. The remainder of the party visited the Hippodrome, and in the course of the evening the following telegram was sent to Mr. Arthur McConnell: "Your guests assembled at dinner desire me to express their appreciation of your kind hospitality and public spirit."

A visit to the House of Commons was the principal appointment for Tuesday, July 29th. All the delegates attended, and were met by the Hon. C. Gideon Murray, M.P., Sir Harry Brittain, K.B.E., M.P., Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee, M.P., and Mr. Arthur Bigland, M.P., who kindly showed them the House of Lords and the Parliament buildings, including the crypt. Through the courtesy of the Speaker of the House of Commons, the visitors were accommodated in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, and they were subsequently entertained at tea on the Terrace by Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee, M.P. At 5 o'clock the Indian delegates, accompanied by Dr. Nunan and Mr. Aspinall, attended a conference with the British and India Association at the Caxton Hall.

A Conference on Sanitation was held at the West India Committee Rooms on July 30th, presided over by the Governor, Sir Wilfred Collet. Dr. Louis Sambon attended and delivered an interesting address, and explained the proposals for a pathological survey and for the sanitation of the West Indies. He proposed to take one island at a time, and to compare the different diseases with the conditions prevailing in order to ascertain how they influenced each other.

The Delegates' Flight.

The principal event on Thursday was a morning visit to the Handley-Page Aeroplane Works at Cricklewood. The delegates were met by Mr. Handley-Page, C.B.E., and after inspecting the works, which now cover an extensive area, were given the opportunity of taking a flight in one of his world-famous machines, of which all, with one exception, more or less eagerly availed themselves. Luncheon followed, after which Sir Edward Davson,

while thanking Mr. Handley-Page for his hospitality, referred to the possibility of securing a photographic survey of British Guiana by aeroplane. Such surveys had been constantly made over the German lines during the war with remarkably successful results. Mr. Handley-Page said that the project was perfectly feasible, and could be carried out at a cost of a few thousand pounds, and it was evident from subsequent speeches which were delivered by Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C., Mr. A. P. Brown, Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, Dr. Wharton, and the Rev. E. Robertson, that this idea appealed to the British Guiana airmen—as they were now entitled to call themselves—immensely.

In the evening Sir Edward Davson presided at a dinner given by the West Indian Club to Sir Wilfred Collet and the members of the deputation at 4, Whitehall-court. After welcoming the guests, he said that the deputation might be regarded as a sign of the awakening consciousness of the British Empire to the importance of developing its latest resources, which had become all the more necessary now that we had become a debtor instead of a creditor nation. Even if the delegates failed in carrying out their objects—and he was far from suggesting for one moment that they would not succeed in doing so—they would have done good by establishing comradeship between those in the colony and those at home, who were looking for the common good of British Guiana.

Sir Wilfred Collet, responding for the guests, said that they wanted the public to understand that we had in British Guiana a country as large as England, Scotland and Ireland put together. The development of the vast area would be child's play if only a supply of labour could be secured. If British Guiana had a population as large for its size as that of Jamaica it would have one of 16,000,000, and still have room for many millions more. Much was heard about shortage of coal, and he wanted it also known that British Guiana had within its borders a territory of 30,000 square miles riddled with waterfalls—a latent source of power of illimitable possibilities.

Dr. J. J. Nunan, who also responded, described the origin of the colonisation movement, and the objects which the deputation had in view. He spoke of the success which had so far met their efforts, referring especially to the interviews with Lord Milner and the Indian Parliamentary Committee, which would, he said, be followed by a visit to the India Office, and, in conclusion, proposed the health of Sir Frederic Hodgson, who suitably replied. After Sir William Goode had spoken on the international position of foodstuffs and raw materials, the Chairman's health was proposed by Mr. Allan E. Messer, and the company then adjourned to the Club rooms, where the remainder of a pleasant evening was spent.

Those present at the dinner included:—

Messrs. W. W. Arnott, E. H. Bell, Hons. A. B. Brown, P. N. Browne, K.C., Messrs. G. O. Case, D. J. Ewing Chow, Ewing Chow, junr., Sir Wilfred Collett, K.C.M.G., Messrs. J. M. Corry, H. A. P. Cotton, Sir Edward Davson, Messrs. E. V. Field, B. H. Gainfort, Mewburn

Garnett, Sir William Goode, K.B.E., Messrs. C. C. Gousalves, Thos. Greenwood, N. Haynes, A. H. Hill, Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Messrs. H. T. Kemp, B. T. King, J. A. Luckhoo, H. Martin, F. N. Martinez, J. Z. Mayhew, A. E. Messer, S. J. Milton, F. J. Morris, Hon. J. J. Nunan, Lieut. R. C. Otway, Messrs. R. M. Parker, G. Parrott, C. K. Pile, H. E. Pittam, A. Rayman, Rev. E. Robertson, Messrs. P. Sawh, T. J. Simms, Edgar Tripp, Sir Wm. Trollope, Bt., Dr. W. H. Wharton, Mr. W. H. Wharton, junr., Hon. E. G. Woolford, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G.

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The Report of the Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture of British Guiana for the year 1917 is now to hand, and, as usual with the publications of that Department, is replete with valuable and varied information on many subjects of importance with which it deals. Naturally, sugar takes a prominent place in the Report, and in connection with seedling canes some interesting details are given. Some idea of the enormous amount of work which has been done by the Department in this direction may be arrived at when it is read that no less than 299,360 cuttings of forty-nine varieties of sugar-cane were distributed to plantations during the year, together with 1,910 plants of new seedling varieties; further, that 27,735 seedlings were raised during the year, of which 9,984 were possible hybrids.

As regards the sugar industry itself, Professor Harrison states that the total area under cultivation in the colony in 1917 was 78,346 acres, or 2,602 acres in excess of the previous year's figures; D625 was still the favourite cane, no less than 39,798 acres being cultivated with this variety, the Bourbon coming next with 7,403 acres, together with 4,257 acres mixed with other varieties. The export of sugar from the colony during the year amounted to 114,007 tons—an increase of 12,251 tons on that of 1916. Rum totalled 3,415,921 proof gallons, and molasses 149,940 gallons. The export of molascuit was 2,425 tons.

As might be expected from the continued demand for the product, the area in cultivation of rice showed an increase, 58,900 acres being recorded, or 1,068 acres over the 1916 figures. The total area reaped was 64,814 acres. The crop expressed as rice reached 42,040 tons. As showing the development of the industry, it is stated that in 1878 there were only 6,778 acres in cultivation.

Another cultivation showing a big increase is that of coconuts. While in 1904 there were only 5,104 acres in cultivation, in the year under review no less than 23,872 acres are recorded; 1,911,404 coconuts were exported. The export of coconut oil increased to 26,674 gallons, as from 7,500 gallons in 1910. Rubber cultivation was still a small item, but showed an increase on the previous year's figures, the area being 5,237 acres, as against 4,944 acres. The export, however, had decreased from 15,570 lb. to 14,784 lb. As with the other minor industries, coffee showed a small increase, the acreage being 4,953. The progress also of this industry is shown

by the fact that in 1905 1,432 acres were in cultivation.

Prof. Harrison gives a very poor account of the cacao industry, which, as he says, is in a state of stagnation, only 1,970 acres being in cultivation as against 1,994 acres in 1905. "In some parts of the colony," he says, "cacao-planting is an industry of promise, but it requires for its successful installation far more capital, patience and perseverance than small farmers can command."

Lime cultivation showed an increase of 466 acres over the 1916 figures, the area planted in 1917 being 1,480 acres. The export of citrate of lime amounted to 155 cwt., together with 3,891 gallons of concentrated lime-juice, 13,576 gallons of non-concentrated, and 251 gallons of essential oil of limes.

As usual, the Report, of which the above is but a very brief summary, shows that the colony of British Guiana is not, with the exception of the rice industry, in a state of substantial agricultural progress. At the same time it will be patent to many readers of Professor Harrison's Report that the potentialities are there, and only need development, while it is very evident that in the Department of Science and Agriculture machinery exists for giving scientific aid in the direction of agricultural progress, all that is needed being the provision of the capital and labour.

INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, a member of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation and President of the East India Association, spoke strongly in favour of Indian colonisation at a meeting of that body on June 19th, just before his departure for England.

They wanted, he said, more people to develop the resources of the colony, and from their point of view he would like to see the arrival of more East Indians of every class and trade, so as to increase their influence in the community. First of all they wanted people to come when conditions were made to receive them, and to come voluntarily. This would necessarily involve a land settlement scheme laid down on proper lines, with further schemes of drainage and irrigation. As regards the present labouring and agricultural class in the colony, the same facilities afforded the new-comers should also be given them. This would allay all fear of discrimination in the minds of the people, and conduce to the general harmony and well-being of the community.

In the Civil Service of the colony facilities should be afforded to educated East Indians to occupy better positions than they held at present, and every avenue to the higher departments of the Service should be opened to them.

There should be the formation of labour bureaux, with an Indian at the head of affairs to protect the interests of the labourers. This would tend to remove all suspicion from the mind of the Indian public, and help materially to the success of the scheme. It would not only afford protection, but suitable employment to the immigrants, and avoid the necessity of their being thrown on their own

resources. Beside the labouring class he would like to see Indian engineers working side by side with the other races in opening up the hinterland of the colony. He would like also to see professional men and men of the artisan class coming into the colony. This would help to increase the influence of the Indian community. He would insist on fair and equitable treatment being meted out to those Indians who might come there. The scheme, to be successful, must be worked on the lines of a true colonisation scheme, and not on the lines of the old indentured system.

He would also like to see Indian capitalists coming to the colony—men who would give employment to members of their own race, who would recognise them in all respects, and would be able to give fair and equal treatment to them. On the whole, he would like to see established an Indian colony, and this was the idea they should all aim at. In short, British Guiana should sustain the same relationship to India as Canada or Australia is to the Mother Country.

He would also like to see a printing press established to be run exclusively for the interests of East Indians in the colony in order to educate and mould public opinion, and establish a feeling of unity and harmony among all classes of the East Indian community.

ELECTRICITY AND SUGAR.

About thirty years ago an enterprising American startled the sugar-manufacturing world by announcing the discovery of a process whereby he claimed that sugar could be refined by electricity. He even went so far as to establish an experimental plant for demonstration purposes. Raw sugar was introduced into a closed chamber in which it was supposed to be treated by electricity. Eventually it emerged as white crystals! After considerable discussion the fraud was exposed. Later on a process of clarification was introduced by which a powerful current was passed through hot cane juice, manganese oxide playing an important part. Clarification certainly resulted, but it was shown afterwards to be due to the solution of the zinc of the electrodes, the salt thus formed having a clarifying effect on the cane juice. Since then little has been heard of electrical sugar making, and it is not too much to say that so far no successful process has been introduced for manufacturing sugar by the application of electricity.

In recent years, however, electricity has assisted materially in the machinery side of sugar production. Pumps, carriers, motors, centrifugals, hoists, &c., are now satisfactorily driven by electricity, and attempts have been made to use that agent for driving the mills themselves.

The question arises, Where does the advantage of the use of electricity come in, having regard to the fact that the primary source of power must still be steam? As regards the mills, there is no advantage to be gained from the use of electricity. Exhaust steam is advantageously used for evaporating

purposes, and electricity is not suited for dealing with the heavy strain of mill work. The motor would have to be run at an excessive speed to provide the power, and would be far too delicate to deal with the continuous conditions of modern cane crushing. From the mills onward the conditions are different. Instead of power being provided for each item—such as pumps, motors, &c.—there is a central station from which the power is transferred to the several points of application. This is done by insulated wires, in which the loss is infinitesimal compared with that occasioned by condensation in steam piping. Then, again, the power applied can be completely utilised, and the loss from the "exhaust" of comparatively small engines, although this is utilisable, is avoided. Cleanliness is, of course, another great factor of advantage from its use.

It is a scientific truth that the development of a higher form of energy from a lower is attended with greater loss than when the converse is the case. To develop electricity from steam would therefore appear to be inadvisable. But, as before stated, the losses from steam are so very great compared with those from the electric current that the actual nett result is a gain with the latter. Another factor in favour of the use of electricity is the economy of space that is provided by its use, an admirable arrangement being permissible with its use.

A modern sugar factory therefore should have for its sources of power—

(1) A boiler range in which steam at a higher pressure—say, 120 lb. on the square inch—is generated from the megass.

(2) A generating electricity plant, in which the current is produced by means of an economical high-pressure engine.

The steam from the boiler plant is reduced to, say, 90 lb. for the purposes of the mill plant, and the exhaust used for the evaporators and heaters provides the evaporating power for the vacuum power with the generating power for electrical plant. The power from the latter is used for the pumps, small motors, centrifugals, &c.—in fact, all the power of the factory beyond the mills, including the electric light. The nett result is economy and gain of power.

The Government of Cuba, states the *Cuba Review*, is negotiating with the Governments of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Brazil relative to establishing an aerial postal service between Havana, Eastern Cuba, Kingston, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Rio de Janeiro. It is expected that powerful machines for service on these routes will be ordered within a short time.

The seaplane "Sunshine," the first seaplane chartered for freight-carrying purposes between the United States and Cuba, arrived at Havana on May 20th with a cargo of soap. The "Sunshine" was chartered by S. S. Friedlein, a Havana merchant, and the cargo came on a regular manifest with consular papers similar to those issued to ships.

The cargo did not pass the Havana Custom House, however, because the seaplane landed at Marianao Beach, and the holiday bathers there seized the entire contents as souvenirs. The aviators were an American, John Green, owner of the "Sunshine," and Augustin Parúa, a Cuban, formerly of the Cuban Army.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Further extracts from the valuable report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee (page 188), to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR, are given below:—

ASIA.

1.—The Indian Empire.

India was at one time the largest producer of sugar of any country in the world, but as far as statistics show at the present time it occupies a second place in the list, Cuba coming first. However, it must not be forgotten that statistics in British India are by no means complete, whilst those of the native States are still less so; consequently much of the sugar which is produced and consumed by the natives is unrecorded.

The annual production of sugar in India in 1915 was 2,600,000 tons from cane, and about 500,000 tons from palm. This sugar was the soft variety made by the natives under the name of gur (Sanskrit gud) or jaggery for their own consumption. In 1917-18 the yield of cane gur had increased to 3,311,000 tons, but in the year following it had dropped to 2,337,000 tons owing to deficient rainfall, more especially in Northern India.

The annual consumption of sugar in India in 1905 was 3,750,000 tons, which left a deficit of 750,000 tons, which was made up by the importation of white sugar from Java, Mauritius, and other countries. The imports of white sugar into India in 1913 amounted to over 800,000 tons, some of which came from Germany and Austria-Hungary.

The consumption of sugar in India is on an average just below 17 lb. per capita. Large quantities of cane, however, are chewed by the natives, and the sugar they consume is exclusively the soft variety above referred to.

The area under sugar-cane and sugar-yielding palms for the season 1916-1917 was estimated to be as follows:

Sugar-cane	...	...	...	2,437,000	acres.
Palms	...	...	...	175,000	..

The cane was estimated to produce 2,626,000 tons of gur, and the palms 400,000 tons of gur, a yield of 0.92 tons and 2.28 tons per acre respectively. These figures have, however, little significance so far as our object is concerned, for the present small holdings will have to be converted into centralised estates if any real improvements are to be effected in India as regards increasing the yield and quality of the sugar.

The exports of sugar from India for the three years prior to the war were as follows:—

	1911-12. Cwts.	1912-13. Cwts.	1913-14. Cwts.
Sugar 16 Dutch standard and above	25,388	32,214	30,568
Sugar 15 Dutch standard and below	175,895	287,853	161,269
Confectionery	...	83	93
	201,283	320,150	191,930
	Tons 10,064	Tons 16,007½	Tons 9,596½

The average yield of cane per acre differs in various parts of India. In the Northern Provinces, including United Provinces, Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, and Assam, which together constitute 91.6 per cent. of the total sugar-growing area of India, where for the most part thin canes are grown, the average yield of sugar in the current year was only 0.72 tons per acre. On the other hand, in the Southern Provinces, Madras, Bombay, and Sind, situated in the tropics, where thick

canes are grown, the average yield of sugar was 1.95 tons per acre.

In considering the sugar problem in India we have in the first place to bear in mind that the sugar is produced by the natives on small holdings by very primitive methods. The juice is expressed by bullock-driven mills, by which at most 50 per cent. of the sugar is extracted, the remainder being left in the bagasse, which is used as fuel. Then, again, the juice is evaporated in open pans, so that in this way much of the sugar is destroyed, amounting sometimes to another half (see Reports by Mr. William Hulme and Mr. P. Sanghai, 1918).

On the other hand, we have been informed by Mr. J. McKenna, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, that in Bombay, in the area under canals where cane is specialised, the yield of Pundia cane which is generally grown is as high as 40 tons per acre, this being due to heavy applications of manure and irrigation, which are possible owing to the peculiar situation of the district where the cane is grown, and no criterion from this can be drawn for the rest of India.

With such a yield of cane as this, and assuming that the variety cultivated was the best suited to the district, it should be possible with modern methods of extraction and manufacture to obtain 4 tons and upwards of sugar per acre.

It should here be mentioned that in India wild boars, jackals, mice, white ants, and borers, beetles and grasshoppers do much damage to the cane crops, besides a host of parasitic fungi.

In some correspondence between Mr. Kelavkar and one of us (J. W. Macdonald) in 1916, Mr. Kelavkar draws attention to the facts given by Mr. McKenna. He is strongly of opinion that if some firm of standing such as Messrs. Henry Tate & Sons in England would start a factory in India the money for the scheme would be subscribed at once, and the Government would find every facility.

It must not be forgotten, however, that the native desires a soft, luscious sugar of the character of the gur which is now produced by such primitive and wasteful methods. Bearing this in mind, one of us (J. W. Macdonald) made the following recommendations in a letter replying to Mr. Kelavkar:—

“I would recommend an up-to-date factory to produce a good class first quality raw sugar for export to England, and a second quality for local or India consumption, making it as near as possible to the sugar now favoured. The second quality would be made from the syrup coming from the centrifugals which would spin the first quality, but, owing to careful manufacture, it would be really better than the crude sugar now produced direct from the cane juice. The syrup would be concentrated in the vacuum pans, but not boiled to grain. It would be boiled to string-proof only—i.e., thick with, say, 10-12 per cent. water, and then run off into cooling tanks and allowed to slowly crystallise. It would be finally spun in the centrifugals so as to produce a soft low sugar containing a large amount of molasses, and would be very sweet and pleasant to eat. It would be a clean, wholesome product. The more molasses you leave in it the cheaper you could sell it, and the less molasses you would have to sell as molasses. The production of India at present is 2,600,000 tons, but I am sure the same canes with careful manufacture would produce another million tons or more, as the waste must be very great.

“What we want over here is good, dry crystal sugar, loose grain (not solid) made from the juice, and packed in strong 2-cwt. bags. The colour should not be spoiled by mixing low products with first boiling. These low products should be sold separately, and there is a boundless market in India for them, particularly if care be taken in their manufacture to keep them clean and wholesome. If the first qualities be made to a standard colour and analysis, and be free crystalline

sugars (not solid), and be packed in good 2-cwt. bags, I am sure they would command a leading position in the English market, particularly as they would be Empire sugars."

The most feasible means of extending the sugar industry in India is by the establishment of central factories in which all interested in the manufacture co-operate, and are bound by legal contract to assist one another. The factories must be fitted with up-to-date power mills, vacuum evaporating plant, and other modern machinery. This would naturally necessitate considerable organisation and research, and the outlay of much capital. The Indian sugar industry greatly needs capital to extend it. Mr. Wynne Sayer is of opinion that the capital necessary for the development should be forthcoming in view of the assistance available from Government sugar experts, which has made it possible to overcome many obstacles which formerly obstructed progress.

We may point out that for several years past experiments have been carried out by Mr. C. A. Barber on the growth of seedling canes, and many thousands of new plants have been raised in this way.

In Southern India gur is made from various species of palm, and, as already mentioned, the sugar so made amounts to something like half a million tons per annum, the principal sources being the wild date (*Phoenix sylvestris*), fan palm (*Borassus flabelliform*), and the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*).

Mr. H. E. Annett has studied the production of sugar from palm, and has published several papers on the subject. It appears that 2.3 tons of gur can be obtained per acre of palms, so that this source of sugar supply is one of importance.*

Sugar beets have been grown experimentally in the Punjab, the North-West Provinces, and Kashmir, but we have up to the present received no information regarding these crops.

As will have been seen from the above, there are in India several scientific men of high standing who are continually prosecuting valuable research work in connection with the sugar industry. We are of opinion, however, that, considering the magnitude of the problem of the possible extension of the sugar industry in India, there would appear to be a lack of co-ordination among these workers, and we believe that the immediate future calls for the establishment of a large number of experimental stations, together with more scientific workers. Only by these means can a secure foundation for the establishment of a sugar industry in this vast Empire be secured. The problems awaiting solution consist not only in the selection of suitable canes for various districts, but also in combating numerous pests, and for this purpose the services of zoologists and cryptogamic botanists are needed.

That the sugar problem is worthy of serious attention follows from the fact, as we have seen above, that there are vast additional areas awaiting cultivation, whilst there is also a plentiful supply of the necessary labour.

CEYLON.

The average importation of sugar into Ceylon for the years 1911-16 inclusive was about 20,000 tons. It included jaggery from British India, unrefined sugar from British India and Straits Settlements, refined sugar from the United Kingdom and various British Colonies, as well as from Austria-Hungary, Belgium, China and Germany.

The kinds of sugar required are palmyra and coconut jaggery for the natives, and white sugar for the European residents.

There is one sugar refinery in Jaffna for the production and refining of palmyra jaggery.

Much of the lands under tank cultivation in the Northern and North Central Provinces, and river lands

in the North-Western Provinces could be made available for the cultivation of sugar-cane; but some imported labour would be required, and the climate is somewhat unhealthy at times.

There is a technical institute in Colombo, but there are no real facilities at the present time for training in practical sugar-making.

Cane was grown at one time in the Southern Province in one district, but the land was gradually planted with rubber, as this was found to be more profitable. There was, however, a good demand for the sugar produced. Cane grows freely and yields large crops, but the percentage of sugar is said to have been unsatisfactory in some cases. Attempts are being made to encourage the growth of sugar-cane where soil and climate are favourable, as well as to manufacture an improved jaggery. Sugar-cane may be found growing all over the colony.

The Excise Commissioner reports that the Ceylon Sugar Refineries, Limited, which is now in liquidation, imported from India all the jaggery used in producing refined sugar. The company also made use of, though on a very limited scale, palmyra toddy obtained locally, but was barely able to get 10,000 gallons of toddy per day, even during the middle of the palmyra tapping season, and the quantity of refined sugar manufactured from raw material locally obtained was almost negligible.

The total acreage under palmyra cultivation in the Jaffna district is about 36,959 acres. There are also numerous kitul trees growing wild over most of the lower hills and foothills, but they are so widely scattered that the collection of the sap, and manufacture of jaggery or sugar therefrom on a large scale, would be very expensive. With regard to coconut toddy as a sugar-producing juice, since the copra industry will in all probability rapidly develop now the war is over, it cannot be expected that toddy will be available at a low cost. The tendency will be to allow the nuts to form, and to discontinue tapping the trees.

With regard to the future development of sugar cultivation in Ceylon, it may be said that fully two-thirds of the island receives less than 75 in. of rain per annum, and the cultivation could only be carried out in the dry area with irrigation, especially when it is remembered that the greater part of the rainfall falls within the months of the north-east monsoon season.

(To be continued.)

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. W. Abbott	Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson
H.E. Sir W. L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G.	Mr. G. Scott Johnstone
Mr. L. G. Alston	Mr. Llewellyn Jones
Mr. Tom Archer	Mr. L. Keir
Mr. R. Arthur	Mr. A. H. Kirby
Mr. E. I. Baeza	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, O.B.E.
Mr. A. B. Bell	Mr. John Macdonald
H.E. Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.	Mrs. McEwen
Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E.	Mr. W. McMillan
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. T. M. Marshall
Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C.	Mr. A. J. Mascall
H.E. Sir G. J. Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	Mr. J. Miller
H. E. Sir W. Collett, K.C.M.G.	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
Mr. Altamont Da Costa, M.B.E., Strand Palace Hotel, Strand, W.C.	Hon. J. J. Numan, K.C.
Mr. W. W. Craib	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., 37, Henderson Street, Edinburgh.
Mr. Robert Craig	H.E. Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G.
Hon. S. Cuthbert	Mrs. Rapsey
Mr. P. J. Dean	Mr. P. W. Sangster
Hon. D. S. de Freitas	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. H. G. de Lissu	Mr. J. B. D. Sellier
Mr. P. de Verteuil	Hon. Denis Slyne, C.B.E.
Mr. G. P. Dewar	Rev. W. K. Symonds
Mr. W. P. Ebbels	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Mr. F. Evans	Hon. W. A. S. Vickers
Dr. J. Foreman	Mr. Cyril Warren
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. Athelstan Watson
Mr. Hammond, c/o Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
Mr. C. C. Henriques	Mr. A. J. Webb, 3, Ridgeway Place, Dayswater, W.
Mr. C. V. C. Horne	Mr. J. H. Wilkinson
	Mr. W. Wooliscroft

* Mr. Annett states that 350 trees could conveniently be grown per acre and that the yield would then be equal to 3.3 tons of gur.

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

II.—Thomas, Seventh Baron Windsor.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

[The first article under this heading appeared in the CIRCULAR of January 23rd, and dealt with Edward Doyley, the first English Governor of Jamaica.]

Thomas Windsor, seventh Baron Windsor, was the son of Dixie Hickman, of Kew, Surrey, by his wife Elizabeth, elder sister and co-heir of Thomas Windsor, sixth Baron Windsor of Stanwell, who claimed descent from Walter Fitz-Other, who, in the eleventh century, was castellan of Windsor Castle—whence the title. Henry VIII. compelled the first Baron Windsor to exchange the Manor of Stanwell for Bordesley Abbey, Worcestershire.

Thomas Windsor was born about 1627. Though but little more than fifteen at the outbreak of the Civil War, he is said to have been a captain of horse in the Royalist army in 1642, and he rose to be lieutenant-colonel three years later.

In consequence of a threatened duel in Flanders, he was in 1651 summoned before the Council of State, and had to give a bond not to do anything



LORD WINDSOR'S COAT OF ARMS.

prejudicial to the existing government. During the Commonwealth he lived for the most part quietly in England, interesting himself in the navigation of the river Salwarpe for the good of the Droitwich salt trade. In May, 1656, he married Anne, daughter of Sir William Saville, Bart. By her—she died in 1666-7—he had a daughter Elizabeth and a son Other, styled Lord Windsor from 1682 till his death in 1684. By his second wife, Ursula, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Widdrington, whom he married in 1668, Windsor had two sons and one daughter. After the Restoration the abeyance of the barony was removed in his favour, and in June, 1660, he took his seat in the House of Lords as Baron Windsor, and in the same year he was made Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire. On July 20th, 1661, he was appointed Governor of Jamaica with a yearly salary of £2,000, payable by the British Exchequer. He did not leave England until April, 1662; but he seems to have spent the intervening period in a wise study of the government of colonies. Charles Lyttelton, writing to Christopher, Viscount Hatton, from Hagley, in August, 1661, says, in reference to his going to Jamaica with Lord Windsor, "My lord having got his pension settled, will delay his going so long as he can, and that he says, he hopes will be till spring, vainly imagining,

as I conceive, that he shall receive it—though he tarry here."

On his leaving for Jamaica, Windsor was accompanied by Sir Charles Lyttelton, as Chancellor; but his wife apparently did not go with him—she was in poor health shortly before he sailed.

Passage was arranged for him to bring with him forty planters, and Charles Lyttelton twenty; twenty were to be sent by the Lord Chancellor, and there were to be five ministers, with fifteen persons in their families.

Windsor arrived at Barbados in July, and published his proclamations for the encouragement of settlers in Jamaica, which stated that, as the king had given permission to all free persons to transport themselves with their families and goods from any of his dominions to Jamaica, "his frontier plantation in America," all persons then ready to transport themselves to Jamaica would have the benefit of the present fleet, and upon their arrival would receive allotments of land; that all handicrafts and trades would have encouragement; that none would be imposed upon in point of religion, provided that they conformed themselves obediently to the civil government; that justice would be duly administered agreeably to the laws of England or such laws, not repugnant thereto, as might be enacted by consent of the freemen of the island, and that free commerce with foreigners would be allowed.

Barbados promised all assistance in her power. At the request of Lord Windsor the proclamation was published by beat of drum in St. Michael's Town, and in all the parish churches and in the several courts of common pleas. Some debtors, it is said, successfully evaded the precautions taken by the Barbadians and sought fresh woods in Jamaica, Windsor apparently turning a blind eye.

Leaving Barbados on August 1st, Windsor reached Jamaica on the 11th. As his instructions formed the basis of the subsequent government of the colony they are of importance. He was instructed to publish his commission as soon as he landed, to constitute the Council and to administer the oaths; to settle judicatories for council affairs and for the Admiralty; and to commission, under the public seal of the island, judges, justices, sheriffs, and other officers with fit salaries. He was given power to pass grants of the little islands adjacent to Jamaica, as Salt Island, Good [Goat?] Island, Pigeon Island, and others, and to raise forts there; to grant commissions and erect Courts of Admiralty; to promulgate the King's licence for transporting planters from the neighbouring plantations to Jamaica, with liberty to trade with the Spanish plantations for the benefit of Jamaica; and he was to order an exact survey of all harbours and landing places and erect necessary fortifications, and "as well for the bearing of suchlike expenses as for a mark of our sovereignty in and over the said islands" to set out 400,000 acres for a Royal demesne, 100,000 acres in each quarter of the island, to be preserved and improved to the best advantage for the use of the King and his successors; also to order a survey of the whole island, and a register of the plantations to be sent home as soon as possible. All planters and Christian servants were to be provided with arms, and mustered and trained; and he was

given power, in case of insurrection or invasion, to proclaim martial law. He also had power to grant lands and ratify former grants to the planters and their heirs for ever, with reservation of quit rents to the King, and to grant to himself and his heirs for ever lands not already granted to the extent of 50,000 acres. He was to take care that drunkenness should be discountenanced and punished, and none admitted to public trust or employment whose ill conversation might bring scandal thereupon, and to give the best encouragement to orthodox ministers. He was to encourage trade and suppress the engrossing of commodities. All goods exported were to be free for seven years, and afterwards a duty of 5 per cent. was to be paid. He was to appoint markets and fairs and take care that the wild cattle, horses, hogs and sheep were preserved, licensing or prohibiting the hunters as he thought fit. He was instructed to direct the improvement of the cocoa-walks and the repair of the houses in St. Jago. Power was given to him to search ships suspected of trade with the Spaniards, or of carrying planters ammunition or other commodities to Spanish territory, and to adjudicate on the same in the Admiralty Court. He was to so contrive that the plantations should be near together, and that the sea-coast first planted, the better to prevent invasion. Lord Willoughby, Governor of Barbados, was to assist him, in case of any considerable attempt being made by the Spaniards against Jamaica.

For the better encouragement of intending planters, no one was to enjoy more than one office at a time, or to execute the same by deputy; and all officers, both civil and military, on misbehaviour to be suspended and discharged. He was instructed to send accounts of increase of planters, the defects and wants of the place, its chief products and improvements, and the advantages to be obtained by trade. He had power to constitute corporations and grant manors and royalties, provided that no manor or lordship contained less than 500 acres. He was instructed to call Assemblies, levy moneys, and make laws, such laws to be only in force for two years, unless confirmed by the King. He had power to ratify to every person the number of acres he was lawfully possessed of, to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, and to grant 30 acres for every servant transported thither, and at the end of his service of four years 30 acres each to such servants. Lastly, he was given power to act for the advantage and improvement of the island in all things not particularised in his instructions.

An additional instruction required him to endeavour to obtain and preserve good correspondence and free commerce with the plantations belonging to the King of Spain, but if the Spanish Governors refused he was to endeavour to settle such trade by force. He was further instructed to disband the officers and soldiers in the island, leaving 400 foot and 150 horse, and distribute 300 negroes that were undertaken to be delivered in ten months by the Royal African Company.

Finally, in May, 1662, he was instructed that as, after he had established the Government of Jamaica, he might find it necessary to inform his Majesty in person of the grounds and probabilities of future

designs for the advancement of the colony and to take directions thereon, he was granted licence to repair to England, leaving a Deputy fit to govern in his absence.

In April, 1663, the Solicitor-General was instructed to prepare a Bill containing a grant to Lord Windsor of all that point of land next to Fort Charles, containing about 400 acres, with all privileges, *monies*, &c., and also the ferry over the harbour and all its rights, "to be holden in free soccage, as of the manor of East Greenwich in Kent."

Windsor brought with him a seal and a mace, which was long supposed to be the "bauble" which Cromwell had turned out of the House of Commons. It was thought by some that Windsor's mace perished in the earthquake of Port Royal of 1692, but there is evidence of its repair just afterwards. What became of it after that is a mystery. Its successor of the year 1753 is in the History Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica. It is possibly Windsor's mace refashioned.

The Governor also brought a donative from the King to the troops on their disbandment, who had received but little or no pay during the Commonwealth. These he disbanded, leaving, according to his instructions, 400 foot and 150 horse. In their place a militia, divided into five regiments, was formed, which in varying degree has existed ever since. He called in all commissions granted by Doyley to buccaneers and "reduced them to certain orderly rules, giving them commissions to take Spaniards and bring them into Jamaica." He made general patents of land, and in this case kissing seems to have gone by favour. Major Hope, of the army of occupation, Colonel Archbould, Sir William Beeston and Sir Thomas Lynch getting the lion's share. John Man was appointed Chief Surveyor.

One of Windsor's most popular actions was a declaration of war with Spain and an attack on St. Jago de Cuba, because the Spaniards there declined to trade with Jamaica. On the victorious return of the expedition, Windsor, who does not seem to have cared for life in Jamaica, "being verie sick and uneesie," sailed for England on October 20th, 1662, after a residence of little more than ten weeks' duration, leaving Lyttelton as his Deputy-Governor, "a fit and worthy person, to the great content of the inhabitants," and his brother-in-law, Colonel William Mitchell, head of naval affairs. Mitchell, who died about March, 1664, had married Mariana Hunloke, elder sister of Lord Windsor, and widow of Sir Henry Hunloke, Bart.

Although one of the proclamations which Windsor issued alludes to "the Governor and Council having thought fit," there is no record of Windsor having presided at a Council meeting.

Pepys speaks of "my Lord Windsor's being come home from Jamaica, unlooked for, which makes us think that these young lords are not fit to do any service abroad." Windsor was then about thirty-five years of age, and had certainly proved himself a man of some force of character. He came home "poorer by near £2,000 than I was when I sett to sea."

For some reason unknown to Windsor, Lyttelton seems to have taken offence. Windsor wrote to

Hatton in March, 1664-5, asking him if he could find out the cause. A letter from Lyttelton to Hatton of two years earlier seems to suggest that it was Windsor who had behaved with lack of consideration to Lyttelton's wife, who had then recently died in Jamaica.

The King, in 1664, contemplated the appointment of the Earl of Marlborough as successor to Windsor at Jamaica, but the Governorship was ultimately given to Sir Thomas Modyford.

In 1671 Windsor got into trouble through challenging Lord Berkeley, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, who informed the King, thus causing Windsor to be confined for a time in the Tower.

In 1676 he was made Master of the Horse to the Duke of York and Governor of Portsmouth. In 1682 he was made Governor of Hull and was created Earl of Plymouth. He died in 1687.

A portrait of him, a copy in oils, by John L. Reilly, of the contemporary portrait by an unknown artist, in the possession of the Earl of Plymouth at Hewell Grange, is in the History Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica.

In the map which is given in Blome's "Present State of His Majesty's Isles and Territories in America" (1687) are given the Arms of the first four Governors of Jamaica, and Lord Windsor's appear as: Party per pale indented, argent and azure. But on the portrait of him at Hewell Grange it is given as in the 2nd and 4th quarters of the present Earl of Plymouth's arms, a saltire argent between twelve cross-crosslets or.

MR. FOLLETT HOLT ON GUIANA.

"Difficulties of transport, unfortunately, made it impossible to visit our undeveloped South American Colony, British Guiana, the possession of which, considered with our vast investments throughout the continent, should entitle us to a political status in South America neither enjoyed nor attainable by any other nation." In these terms Mr. Follett Holt, the commercial member of the British Diplomatic and Commercial Mission to South America, refers in his report to our "magnificent province." He continues: "The energetic and scientific development of the bountiful resources of this colony, and of its roads and railways, would, apart from the direct commercial advantage obtained, go far to extend that spirit of political and commercial sympathy which already connects us closely to the South American Republics. It is important, therefore, from a large point of view, that this British tropical possession, the area of which exceeds that of Great Britain, should not be allowed, as heretofore, to lag behind, but that an energetic policy should be pursued which will place it in the position it should hold among the progressive countries of South America." Mr. Follett Holt, it may be mentioned, is a life member of the West India Committee.

DEATH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. HAYNES. Captain C. Graham Haynes, M.C.(bar), 4th K.R.R.C., attached to R.A.F., missing October 23rd, 1918, now officially reported killed on that date.

TROPICAL MEDICINE.

Proposed Floating School.

To most of us, says the *Lancet* of July 26th, the stimulus of encouragement and criticism is necessary to bring forth our best, and the foregathering of workers on kindred subjects at the regular meetings of learned societies has often acted like the piece of leaven in the amorphous dough, or, as we should now say, as a catalyst in a mass reaction. This stimulus has been wanting to most workers in tropical medicine, cut off for months or years from their friends and critics, and, in addition, borne down by conditions of great bodily discomfort. Small wonder that under these circumstances the best work has not always been done, although the history of tropical medicine is punctuated with individual brilliant successes.

Nine years ago, in a letter to our own columns,* Dr. Andrew Balfour, struck with the usefulness of the Wellcome floating laboratory on the Nile, suggested the extension of the marine floating laboratory for the purpose of visiting any desired portion of the globe and bringing back a store of material for museum and teaching purposes. By such a perpetual *Challenger* expedition diseases could be studied on the spot, parasites observed in a living state, and tutorial classes given to successive crews of students desirous of obtaining a nearer insight into the fascinating problems of disease and its prevention in hot countries. Dr. Balfour's suggestion passed unheeded, and it remained for Dr. Louis Sambon, in a lecture delivered before the Royal Society of Medicine on June 14th last, by arrangement with the West India Committee, to develop the theme of bringing students periodically into the tropics by means of a floating school. The islands of the Lesser Antilles, which he had recently visited, were ravaged each by its particular breed of epidemic, and nothing would co-ordinate the isolated efforts of medical officers on these lonely isles so thoroughly as a regular circulation of expert advice and help. He advocated a development on international lines, having already received encouragement from the French and Italian Governments. The idea thus timely set forth was not allowed to drop, and came up for discussion at a private meeting held under the chairmanship of Sir Humphry Rolleston on Thursday, July 10th, at the same place. Here Dr. Balfour set out the views summarised above, adding the further claim of a floating laboratory as a link between the Dominions and the Mother Country. Sir David Bruce and Dr. G. C. Low, among others, doubted the feasibility of the floating school as a substantial agent of research, the latter pointing out that sleeping sickness and kalaazar at all events could not be studied on the littoral. The extended establishment of local shore laboratories appealed to the majority of those present for the purpose of actual research work, neither nostalgia nor rolling and pitching apparatus being specially conducive to the desirable mental detachment. Sir Thomas Horder voiced the general consensus in finding the floating school an attractive idea for teaching purposes, adding that finance should not be an impediment if the ruling authorities were satisfied of the practicable character of the proposal. A committee was appointed, with Dr. Balfour as chairman, and Dr. Low, Dr. R. T. Leiper and Dr. Sambon as secretaries, to inquire into the question in all its aspects.

Those members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their subscription should do so without delay.

* *The Lancet*, 1910, ii., 55.

NATURE NOTES.

The principal forage crops of the Philippines, besides native grasses, are guinea grass, uba or Japanese forage cane, Sudan grass, desert Indian corn from the United States, peanuts, cowpeas, non-saccharin sorghums, mungo beans, and field corn.

* * *

A factory is being erected at Colon, according to the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, for the production of coconut and other oils, glycerine, soda, soap, &c. Supplies of coconuts and other oil seeds will be brought to the factory by two schooners of the company trading along the coast.

* * *

A description of the methods employed in the cross-fertilisation of sugar-cane is given in the *Journ. Amer. Soc. Agric.* Some of the results obtained in breeding work with sugar-cane in Porto Rico are discussed. It is shown that sugar-cane can be cross-fertilised and protected from foreign pollen, and that characters of the parent varieties are combined in the seedling. It is also pointed out that desirable combinations can be perpetuated in hybrid condition by asexual propagation.

* * *

Experiments on a fairly large scale in the cultivation of castor-oil seed is about to be made in the Isle of Pines. A short notice of a United States Commerce Report on the subject is given in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. The soil is light and sandy, and considered very suitable. An area of 1,500 acres is to be put under the cultivation. The seed will at first be exported to the United States. If the experiment prove successful, the industry may become permanent. The erection of an oil-mill would then be proceeded with.

* * *

The production of honey and wax is one of the minor agricultural industries of Cuba. A report of the United States Department of Commerce shows that in 1915 7,289,397 lb. of honey, valued at \$364,563, were exported, the Netherlands taking the largest amount, with the United States next and France third. Small quantities were shipped to the Canary Islands and the United Kingdom. The bees are the native or wild bees, the German and the Italian. The last named have proved the most satisfactory and the greatest producers. The flowers of the royal palm furnish a large portion of the food of the insects, and there is a small, native, short-throated, and very fragrant "morning-glory" that runs riot over other vegetation. This is the principal dependence of the honey crop.

* * *

Water, air, and decaying organic matter in the soil are necessary for fertility. If the rainfall is insufficient, resource must be had to irrigation, or, if that is impossible, dry-farming methods must be employed. If the soil is at all stiff and clayey, it becomes water-logged and airless. This condition may arise even on slopes which drain off the surface water. The fork, the plough and drains are the remedy. Organic matter is supplied in Nature by the fall of the leaf, by decay of both animal and plant remains, and by the excreta of animals. This process is imitated by the planter in adding mulch and pen manure. Certain chemical substances are essential for plant life. If there is a deficiency of these in the soil, it must be made good by chemical manures. The subject is so complex that experiments in the application of manures are necessary.

* * *

The question of erecting a central refining factory in one of the best sugar-producing areas in the Punjab has been worked out in the Agricultural Research Insti-

tute at Pusa, India. A report on "Sugar and the Sugar-cane in the Gurdaspur District" is summarised in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. The climate, soil, and native methods of cane cultivation and sugar manufacture are considered. Analyses of the different varieties of cane grown are furnished. The result of this most careful inquiry is that a factory under present conditions would not be a financial success. The soil must first be improved by cultivation and manuring. Better varieties of cane must be found. Heavy yielding canes ripening in from eight to eleven months and giving a juice of such purity as to be easily handled in the factory are essentials for success.

* * *

The agricultural position of the Gold Coast is in a way unique in the opinion of Sir Hugh Clifford (quoted in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*). Until about thirty years ago the experience of the people had been confined to the most primitive methods of agriculture. They utilised the oil and wine which self-sown palms yielded, and they raised annual food crops in temporary clearings. The introduction of the cocoa-tree entailed permanent cultivation. This was an unknown art, wholly foreign to their experience, and for which their previous history had in no way prepared them. The industry has throughout been almost exclusively in native hands and under native management. The results have been most remarkable. The export was 80 lb. in 1891, whereas now the annual production in the Gold Coast and Ashanti does not fall far short of 120,000 tons.

* * *

The ordinary method of extracting the essential oil of citrus fruits is by the *écuelle* process. A metal cup large enough to hold the orange is used, armed on the inside with sharp points, and with a tube from the base. The fruit is rubbed in this cup. The skin is torn, and the oil runs out and down the tube into a receptacle. A writer in the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* estimates that this method only extracts one-third of the oil, and suggests another plan. An orange-peeler removes the layer of skin which contains the oil. The skin is reduced to the form of sawdust by a sort of meat-grinder. A fruit press will squeeze two-thirds of the oil out of this pulp. The squeezed pulp remaining can be placed in a vessel of boiling water cooled down to about the temperature of 150 deg. With a suitable paddle like the plunger of a churn, the pulp is agitated in the hot water, and the oil is skimmed off. The pulp left after all this treatment can be used, it is suggested, to make marmalade. The orange-juice may be exported for use in soda fountains.

* * *

During the war life-belts and life-waistcoats were always at hand on board ship owing to the seas being infested with enemy submarines. The material used for stuffing to give buoyancy is "kapok," the silky hairs from the seeds of the silk-cotton tree (*Eriodendron*). In commerce this is known as Java kapok, as it is imported almost solely from Java. The silk-cotton tree, however, is found throughout the tropics—in the West Indies as well as in the East Indies. Indian kapok consists of silky hairs from an Indian tree, a species of bombax. Tests made by the Imperial Institute showed that the Indian product was equal in quality to the Javan. The Board of Trade, however, refuses to allow life-saving appliances to be made with Indian kapok. The reason given is that Indian kapok is liable to be adulterated with the seed-hairs of akud floss, known in the West Indies as French cotton. This floss is not so buoyant as either Javan or Indian silk-cotton, and soon becomes water-logged. The Board of Trade regulations require that "a life-jacket whose buoyancy is derived from kapok must be capable of supporting at least 20 lb. of iron after floating in fresh water for twenty-four hours with 15 lb. of iron attached."

AT WESTMINSTER.

West Indies—West Africa.

Replying to Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee, M.P., on July 23rd, Mr. Pease said that the Imperial Communications Committee had not considered the question of laying a cable between St. Lucia and Bathurst. The distance between those two places was about 2,600 nautical miles, and it was estimated that the cost of a cable, at present prices, would be about £1,000,000.

Help for British Beet.

On July 19th Sir Arthur Boscawen said that the Government had decided in principle to give assistance to the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society for the purpose of establishing a beet-sugar factory at Kelham by means of an advance of part of the capital required, and a guarantee of interest for a certain number of years on the remainder of the capital, up to a fixed amount. The exact terms and conditions of the assistance to be given were now under consideration.

Cable Communication.

Major Hurst, M.P., on July 17th moved to reduce the Post Office vote by £1,000 in order to call attention to the breakdown of the cable system between this country and oversea markets. Successive speakers referred to the inefficiency of the present services and to the loss resulting, and Lieutenant-Colonel Archer Shee referred specifically to the West Indian cables, the duplication of which to the West Indies from Halifax had been urged repeatedly by Royal Commissions, by chambers of commerce, and by other important bodies all over the Empire, though nothing had been done. He asked the Postmaster-General to signalise his term of office by also using his influence to try and get an improvement made in that direction.

The West Indies' "Supplementary Wireless."

To a further question by Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee Mr. Pease replied that the Imperial Communications Committee had not considered the question of duplicating the cables between Halifax and the West Indies. The Royal Commission on Trade Relations between Canada and the West Indies recommended in 1910 that those cables should be duplicated or supplemented by wireless, and a supplementary wireless service had since been provided. The question of duplication was again considered in 1915 by a committee of the departments concerned, but it was decided that the heavy expense involved would not be justified, more especially as there was an alternative route through the United States and Cuba, while the direct cables were by no means fully occupied.

Imperial Preference: Our Future Fiscal Policy.

An amendment, moved by Captain Benn, M.P., against the adoption of Imperial Preference having been defeated by 219 votes to 48, the Finance Bill was read the third time and passed on July 23rd.

Captain Benn urged the Chancellor to disclose the Government's full fiscal policy. To assume a cash "nexus" of the Empire was to misunderstand the whole policy which bound it together, and the new duties were calculated to create irritation by their unequal incidence. It would in particular annoy foreign countries. Free Trade had enabled us to finance the war.

Major Hayward having seconded the amendment, Mr. J. W. Wilson objected to the application of preference to mandated territories.

Mr. Chamberlain said, in reply, that powers only were taken in this respect, and that before any Order in Council on the subject was issued it would be submitted to Parliament. With regard to preference irritating our Allies, he reminded the House that America had

given a preference to its oversea colonies, and had done more—it had had for some years a preferential arrangement with Cuba. They were told that preference must ultimately lead to the taxation of food; but sugar and tea were essential foods, and the party opposite never contemplated the possibility of abolishing the sugar or tea duties. The principle the Government were establishing was that where there was a duty there would be a preference. That would be a permanent feature of our fiscal policy.

Sir D. Maclean said that we had such good times under Free Trade that he viewed with horror a system of Protection which must put up prices to the consumer. Mr. Seddon (Lab.) having spoken of the need of protecting the agriculturists in this country, Mr. Adamson (Lab.) said that he did not believe that the close, keen dividing line of the future would be limited so much as it had been in the past between the various political parties in this country to Free Trade and Protection. The question was then put, with the results as above stated.

West Indian Court of Appeal.

The West Indian Court of Appeal Bill "to provide for the establishment of a Court of Appeal for certain of His Majesty's Colonies in the West Indies," was presented by Lieut.-Colonel Amery, supported by Mr. Attorney-General, on July 24th. It was read a second time on the following day, and ordered to be printed.

In introducing the Bill, Colonel Amery said that it provided for the constitution of a West Indian Court of Appeal for the Colonies of Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, Barbados, the Leeward Islands, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. The more distant islands of Jamaica, British Honduras and the Bahamas were so many hundreds of miles away that they had not, up to the present at any rate, evinced a desire for co-operation in this particular purpose. Power was, however, taken to bring other colonies within the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal by Order in Council if the Legislature of the colony so provided, and similarly there was a provision that if the Legislature of any colony included wished to be no longer under the Court of Appeal it could make provision to that effect. The existing Windward Islands Appeal Court set up by an Act of 1889 was superseded and replaced by this new Court of Appeal. The proposed Court was normally to be presided over by the Chief Justice of Trinidad with the Chief Justices of the islands and colonies to which the Act applied.

The Court itself will be an itinerant one, and would visit the various colonies in succession to take their appeals. There was no interference contemplated with the right of appeal to the Privy Council, except in so far as local Legislatures might provide that appeals from their courts should in the first instance go to the West Indian Court of Appeal. This proposal to set up a single Court of Appeal for the West Indies, or for a great part of the West Indies, had been discussed for a great many years, and, as the outcome of these discussions, an Intercolonial Conference met at Trinidad in 1916, and formulated proposals which were the basis of the present Bill. It was thus an agreed measure as far as those who were affected by it were concerned, and the only reason why it had come before this House was that the proposed Legislation affected a number of colonies simultaneously and in combination, and that for that reason an Imperial Statute was required. The House of Commons was, in fact, being asked to do what it had so often done before when different Legislatures in the Empire had wished to combine for some common purpose. It was the residual power of legislating for the whole Empire in order to enable them to achieve their objects in the most convenient and most expeditious fashion. He had no doubt that this Court of Appeal which the West Indian colonies ask this House to set up would be a

useful institution from the legal point of view, and he thought that they in that House should also welcome it as an indication of the growing tendency of the British West Indies towards closer co-operation in every way. Their danger had always lain in isolation, not only from the Mother Country, but from each other, and the inevitable tendency of that isolation towards parochialism. He believed the prospects before the West Indies in the future were brighter than they had ever been in the past, and the more effectually the various colonies worked together and tended to regard themselves as a single unit for their common purposes, the more assured their future success would be.

The Development of Guiana.

In the debate on the Colonial Office on July 30th Mr. Gideon Murray, M.P., raised the question of the development of British Guiana. It was, he said, our special duty to develop that, our only colony in South America, in order to show that we were not behind the great republics in that continent. It was perfectly obvious that the present population was too small to develop that huge territory, and assistance from the Imperial Government in the form of a loan would be essential; but the Government would require some control over the finances, and he suggested, therefore, that the hinterland might be separated from the developed coastal area and placed under a High Commissioner with the Governor of British Guiana at its head. This would free the hands of the Colonial Government from the responsibility which they knew was theirs, but which they were unable to face because they had not enough money. He put this forward not as a new proposal, but as one which to-day he believed to be practicable. Proceeding, he criticised the Colonial Office as being out of gear and not sufficiently modern for the requirements of the present day. He believed that by cutting off the limb of the Dominions Department, as foreshadowed by Lord Milner, they would strengthen the rest of the body of the Colonial Office.

Replying for the Government, Lieutenant-Colonel Amery said that the sources of the neglect of the West Indies were not difficult to understand. The area of the colonies was small in some cases. They were scattered. Under our principle of leaving each particular colony to look after itself it was not easy to get development. The hon. Member quoted British Guiana, and compared it with Uruguay. He quite agreed that British Guiana was just as rich as Uruguay, but there were certain differences which were reasons against the development, and which offered an explanation why British Guiana had not been developed before. In Uruguay you were dealing with open country, easily opened up for cultivation or stock-raising. In British Guiana you got a long way inland and you had to face immense cost in cutting down timber. In Uruguay you were on the estuary of the greatest river in the world for navigation. In Paraguay you were within easy access of some of the biggest steamers. In British Guiana it was true that we had very fine rivers, but they tumbled over cataracts fairly close to the coast, and navigation had not been established. In order to develop British Guiana properly you needed large capital and initiative, which had hitherto not been within the scope of a small colony of 300,000 inhabitants. His hon. friend had made a very interesting suggestion when he advised the Colonial Office to separate the undeveloped interior of British Guiana from the little coastal strip, which should continue to be governed as at present, and that in the undeveloped interior the Imperial Government should set up a High Commission, with Imperial funds or private funds, for the purpose of developing that part of the country, leaving the colony to carry on its own local work as in the past. It was a suggestion well worthy of consideration. He agreed entirely that in the West Indies

we wanted progressive policy of development, of railway building, &c. All these things required a great deal of capital, and he did not think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would smile upon any suggestion from him that we should have a few extra millions for British Guiana. But we would have to find eventually from public or private sources capital to develop any part of the Empire which is not developed as it should be, and the country would be well repaid. After all, the development of the Empire in the long run, as was true of the Government of the Empire, could not rest only on the shoulders of the people of this country. It must be a common task for all the self-governing colonies. He hoped the time was rapidly approaching—and it is approaching—when Canada will take a continually increasing interest in the economic development and welfare of the West Indies. She had already done a good deal through the mutual provisional tariff, which had been in existence for some years, through the development of shipping lines, and through the interest which Canadian capital had begun to take in the West Indies. He only hoped that that interest would go on increasing, and that Canada would take an ever-increasing share in developing and helping forward not only the West Indies, but every part of the dependent Empire, which at present was so largely dependent on this country alone, not only for its Government, but also for its economic development.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF TRINIDAD.

Mr. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, in succession to Mr. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., who has retired from the public service.

Mr. Best, who administered the government of the Leeward Islands from early in 1916 until the arrival of Sir Edward Merewether in the colony this year, was born in 1870, and was educated at Cheltenham and Magdalen College, Oxford. His first colonial appointment was as assistant to the British Central Africa Administration in 1896. From 1909 to 1910 he administered the government of the Falkland Islands, and was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands in 1913.

COLONIALS AND THE INCOME-TAX.

The West India Committee has submitted to the Royal Commission on the Income-tax the following resolution, which was adopted at a meeting of the Executive on July 17th:—

That the attention of the Royal Commission on the Income-tax be drawn to the hardship to which residents in British colonies are subject through being compelled to pay the highest rate of the British income-tax on interest derived from investments in the United Kingdom, irrespective of the amount of their total income, and that they desire strongly to urge upon the Royal Commission on the Income-tax that they will recommend that British residents in His Majesty's Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates may be placed on the same footing in respect of abatements of tax as residents in the United Kingdom, as they were prior to the Finance Act of 1909-10.

The National City Bank of New York has opened a branch office at St. Vincent-street, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, under the management of Mr. Paul Widmer.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

JAMAICA.—A Distinguished Airman.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., LIMITED.—Major G. F. Thomas, R.A.F., son of Inspector H. G. Thomas of the Constabulary, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bombing and sinking a U-boat off the coast of Northumberland last year. Major Thomas is the youngest of Inspector Thomas's sons, all of whom have served in the war, the three elder sons having been killed. Two of these were also decorated; Captain F. F. Thomas, R.M.L.I., won the D.S.C. for gallant services in the Dardanelles campaign, and was afterwards killed in East Africa. Hon. G. P. St. Aubyn, R.M. for St. James and Trelawney, has been appointed to act as judge of the Kingston Court, vice his Honour Mr. Justice Brown, who is discharging the duties of Puisne Judge. Mr. L. C. Levy, Clerk of the Courts for Clarendon, is acting as R.M. for St. James and Trelawney. Mr. G. S. Thompson, Deputy Stamp Commissioner, will shortly retire and will be succeeded by Mr. E. S. Murray, the present assistant Collector of Taxes for Kingston.

Messrs. Swift & Company, of Chicago, have opened a branch in Kingston, and Messrs. Colgate & Company have also opened a local branch.

A memorial service was held in the Kingston Parish Church for those who fell during the recent war, recently. His Lordship Bishop de Carteret officiated, and the service was attended by the Governor and all the leading officials.

Mr. William Scholesfield, Clerk for the Courts of Trelawney, has been appointed Assistant Commissioner for Turks Island, in succession to Mr. Hutchings, who has proceeded to the Cayman Islands to take up his position as Commissioner.

Messrs. Grace, Limited, have acquired the premises in Harbour-street recently occupied by Messrs. Soutar & Company. The premises extend to the water front, and it is understood that Messrs. Grace, Limited, will construct a modern wharf and carry out other extensive improvements with a view to establishing suitable docking facilities for their ships in Kingston.

Mr. F. H. Luhrs, representing the National City Bank of New York, is now on a visit to the island, and hopes to make arrangements for the opening of a branch of his Bank in Kingston.

Mr. C. E. Mellish, having relinquished his post as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, has returned to Jamaica and is now acting as R.M. for the parishes of St. Elizabeth and Manchester during the leave of absence of His Honour Mr. R. T. Orpen.

A representative of the Westinghouse Electric Company, of U.S.A., is now in the island investigating the possibilities of electrifying the Government railway and employing water power for generating electricity in bulk for this and general industrial purposes.

The Income-Tax Bill has passed its third reading in the Legislative Council and will come into force in 1920. The Bill finally passed with little opposition. The tax is collectable on all incomes in excess of £100, commencing at 2½d. in the pound and rising to 2s. in the pound for every pound in excess of £10,000. A resolution by the Member for Kingston, asking the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Commission to inquire into the social, financial and industrial conditions in Jamaica and to make suggestions for remedying those conditions found unsatisfactory, was passed by the Council. A Bill granting Limited Woman Suffrage was also passed. Under this Bill women over twenty-five years of age paying a minimum of £2 per annum in taxes will be given a vote. At present, how-

ever, they may not be elected to any representative body existing under the Constitution of the island.

ST. LUCIA.—Wireless Station Now Permanent.

Mr. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, June 30th.—In spite of unfavourable weather, a large gathering attended the "At Home" at Government House given by Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houtson, C.M.G., on June 20th, in honour of the visit of H.M.S. *Dartmouth*. Tennis being impossible owing to the weather conditions, a pleasant afternoon was spent in dancing.

Owing to the anniversary of Coronation Day, June 22nd, falling on a Sunday, the celebrations were kept up the following day, which was also H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' birthday. The usual salute of twenty-one guns was fired at noon by H.M.S. *Dartmouth*. Flags were flown in town and country in honour of the double event. It is hoped that his Royal Highness will include these islands in his proposed tour to the outlying parts of the Empire. The *Dartmouth* left on June 24th, after spending five days in harbour. The decision of the Imperial authorities to maintain the wireless station at Port Castries, thus linking up St. Lucia with Trinidad, Demerara, and Jamaica, has been received with much gratification. Coming events are said to cast their shadows before, and this decision, coupled with other local signs, may indicate the possibility of Port Castries becoming a naval and military base in the near future. Whether this materialises or not, it is very essential in these days of keen commercial competition that every facility should be provided to enable us to compete with our neighbours.

The Very Rev. Father Tapon, F.M.I., Vicar-General and Superior of the Fathers in St. Lucia, has been appointed Superior of the House of St. Marie Chavagnes-en-Pailliers (Vendée). This news has been received with sincere sorrow and regret by all classes of the community. Father Tapon came to St. Lucia in February, 1878, when only twenty-four years of age. He was appointed parish priest of Castries six years later and remained in charge until April, 1915. In August, 1890, he was appointed Vicar-General by His Grace the late Archbishop Flood, and continued in that post until he left for France in February last. During his forty-one years' ministry in this colony he built the cathedral and St. Mary's College in Castries. To do this he had to work hard and beg hard; he gave generously both of his means and labour. Often by moonlight, after a hard day's work ministering to his flock, he was to be seen carrying stones on his head or begging pennies in the streets. St. Mary's College is now in a prosperous condition with over eighty boys, and is the only institution in the colony where higher education can be obtained. When these buildings were completed Father Tapon commenced building elementary schools, and today every quarter of the parish is provided with them, and under his able direction schools were also established in the country districts throughout the island. When leaving for France last February, he fully intended to return in spite of his failing health, but his superiors, being afraid of the consequences, have decided to keep him in France, hoping that a temperate climate will help in restoring his constitution which has been undermined by malaria and completely exhausted by his continuous exertions on behalf of others. As Superior he was most severe and exacting to himself, but to his subordinates and his flock he was gentle, indulgent and beloved by all. By his departure St. Lucia loses one of its noblest and hardest workers, and the community sincerely hope that he may enjoy improved health and many more years of successful ministry in his native land. Rev. Father Dugast has been appointed to succeed Father Tapon as Vicar-General and Superior.

The weather still continues on the dry side, although a few heavy showers have fallen during the last fortnight. The R.M.S. *Taff* has ceased to perform coastal

service, and up to the time of writing no practical solution to the difficulty has been found. In the meantime, a small motor boat will convey mails and a limited number of passengers daily between Castries and the villages along the leeward coast as far as Choisenl. The news that peace had been signed was received on Saturday afternoon, June 28th; but beyond the flying of an occasional flag and the pealing of the church bells in Castries, there was nothing to mark the event, which was received with indifference by the general public.

ST. VINCENT.—Proposed West Indian University.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, June 21st.—On the arrival of different contingents of local men who have seen active service with the British West Indies Regiment the local committee arranged excellent programmes for their reception and entertainment, which appears to have been much appreciated. Questions connected with the settlement and employment of the men are now being dealt with. At the sale by auction of Mt. Bentinck, Langley Park and Fancy estates on the 18th instant the bids were far below the reserve prices placed on the properties, and they were not sold.

An important memorandum on the needs of education in the West Indies by the Administrator is published in the *Sentry*. It is understood that copies have been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The view expressed is that the West Indies collectively should provide funds for a college of university rank in Trinidad, with which the Imperial Department of Agriculture should be associated. The various educational and other facilities which would be provided by such an institution are fully described, and reference can be made to them in the paper above named. The necessity of adequate educational facilities in the West Indies is a subject to which consideration has and is no doubt being given by the West India Committee. The scheme thoroughly deserves all the support that can be accorded it.

After a somewhat prolonged spell of dry weather good showers have fallen, and planters are pushing ahead with cotton planting. The crop may be a bit late, but may not be affected adversely. The 1918-19 Sea Island cotton crop totalled 1,214 bales of 360 lb. each—the highest since the 1912-13 season. Mr. J. S. Rae, our new Attorney-General, has arrived from England. He was acting Chief Justice, as his Honour Antony De Freitas had gone to Grenada on leave for three months. Mr. T. W. S. Garraway was acting again as Attorney-General. Mr. T. Osment, who acted Chief of Police during the war, has been appointed Commissioner and Magistrate of the Southern Grenadines. Hitherto the Commissioner of Carriacou performed certain of the duties, but it was thought desirable, in view of the increase of work, to have a resident Commissioner. The buyers of syrup had their premises congested owing to lack of shipping facilities to Canada. It will be a pity if this promising industry receives a set back, as it was developing quite satisfactorily, and the quality of the product was good.

TOBAGO.—Cacao Prospects Favourable.

Mr. ROBERT S. REID, July 3rd.—The rainfall for June was 8.83 in., which is a fair average for the month and was well distributed, with only seven dry days in my district. July opened with squally winds and heavy showers, with some thunder, and the rainy season seems likely to maintain its reputation. The young cacao crop has made a good start with this favourable weather, and there are good reports of coconuts and sugar, while ground provisions seem to absorb nearly all the time of the peasants. Fortunately cacao pickings are over, but cultivation has to "go slow" until labour is more plentiful. The rise in prices has filled the workers' and peasants' pockets, and they will no doubt enjoy the money while it lasts! Coconut planters, who have had

a bad time with losses in transit and on Port-of-Spain open jetty, were glad to deal with a buyer who will take delivery at the steamer depots, and sales at satisfactory prices have been made for July delivery, with the prospect of more business later on.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Lampport & Holt, Limited, Liverpool.—Passenger list s.s. *Vasari*, from Barbados to New York and England. Sailed June 5th:—

Mr. Tom Archer	Mr. Colin Campbell	Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale
Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bateman & 4 children	Mr. Fred Deane, Jr.	Mr. Jno Pae
Sir Gilbert and Lady Carter and son	Mr. A. Moore Jackson	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
	Mr. J. W. McVey	

Passenger list s.s. *Vestris*, from Barbados to New York and England. Sailed June 15th:—

Mr and Mrs Robert Arthur	Capt. and Mrs Fellowes	Mr. S. Richardson
Mr., Mrs., and Miss Ashpiter	Miss Genever	Mrs. and Master Robinson
Mr. E. Baeza	Mr. & Mrs. C. Kitching	Mr. T. G. Ross
Mrs. E. Boyle	Mrs. Louis N. Laffitte	Mr. and Mrs. G. Elliott Sealy
Mrs. K. Challenger	Mr. K. Peter	Mrs. Templeton
	Misses M. & E. Pogson	

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Camito* from Garston Docks, Liverpool, July 28th:—

Mrs. I. Bradshaw	Mr. Victor Heine	Mrs. H. A. Moody
Mr. W. L. Brown	Mr. W. A. Helme	Masters Moody (2)
Mrs. W. L. Brown	Mrs. A. W. Hill & Child	Misses Moody (2)
Master A. V. Brown	Mr. C. Jermyn	Rev. W. T. Mumford
Miss M. M. Brown	Master L. Juggins	Mr. A. H. Mumford
Colonel H. Bryan	Mr. W. J. Law	Mr. J. G. Nelligan
Mr. Cecil Elmy	Mr. B. A. Llewellyn	Captain L. O. Spain
Mr. Thos. W. Derbyshire	Mrs. R. A. Llewellyn	Mrs. L. O. Spain
Mrs. H. Derbyshire	Miss D. E. Llewellyn	Mr. Stephen Taylor
Master H. Crum Ewing	Mr. C. Leys	Mrs. Emily A. Taylor
Master N. Crum Ewing	Captain P. A. Miller	Mr. T. H. Whitfield
Master R. Crum Ewing	Mrs. P. A. Miller	Mrs. T. H. Whitfield
Master A. W. Foott	Mr. J. Mitchell	Rev. A. E. Whittle
Mr. A. Fraser	Captain C. Moffat	Mrs. A. E. Whittle
	Dr. H. A. Moody	Mrs. E. H. Williams

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings per s.s. *Quillota* from London, July 30th, 1919:—

Mrs. S. J. Abrahams	Mrs. La Frenais	Mrs. Martin-Sperry & two Children & Nurse
Miss J. E. Abrahams	Miss M. F. G. La Frenais	Miss B. M. Maynard
Master W. H. Abrahams	Miss C. A. La Frenais	Mrs. M. Milliken
Mrs. F. B. Arrindell	Master W. H. La Frenais	Mr. R. Morrison
Miss E. M. Arrindell	Mrs. J. G. Prew	Mrs. A. J. Price
Mr. H. A. Arrindell	Mr. H. E. G. Gonin	Mr. L. Radix
Miss M. D. Bell	Mr. W. U. Gooding	Miss E. Rapiet
Miss J. de Boissier	Mrs. Gooding	Mr. Cecil E. A. Rawle
Mr. Boodhoo	Master M. E. Gooding	Mrs. Rawle
Mrs. F. M. Braithwaite	Miss M. R. Gooding	Mrs. G. A. Salomon
Master Wm. L. Braithwaite	Mr. Alex Gordon	Master J. W. Salomon
Miss K. M. Braithwaite	Mrs. Gordon	Master J. A. Salomon
Miss M. Braithwaite & Infant	Miss N. Hamel-Smith	Mr. A. Shaw
Mrs. W. M. Branch	Lieut. E. W. Harford	Mrs. E. M. Shaw
Mr. J. E. Brandon	Mrs. Harford & Infant	Mr. Shaw
Mr. H. E. de Cambra	Mr. O. M. Henzell	Mr. A. P. Sherlock
Miss A. M. Chipchase	Mrs. A. J. Hill	Mrs. L. Sowray
Mr. C. H. Clark	Miss B. E. Hobson	Mr. J. Todd
Miss I. M. Everitt	Mrs. E. A. Jones	Miss T. O. Vidal
Mr. John Fernandes	Master W. I. Jones	Mrs. V. Watson
Mr. C. L. W. Fleming	Mr. A. J. Keen	Mr. D. S. Webster
Mrs. M. T. Fleming	Miss B. Knaggs	Mr. F. W. Willison
Father G. Franco	Miss E. J. Leighton	Mrs. Willison
	Miss E. L. Macquarrie	
	Mrs. A. P. Marryat	

The General Post Office announce that deferred telegrams to and from Bermuda, Turks Islands, and Jamaica will be accepted by the Imperial Cable. These may be handed in at any post office.

A company has been formed in Jamaica for the purpose of shipping Jamaica bananas to the American market and possibly extending their operations to other markets later on. Prominent among the promoters of the new venture are Captain S. D. List and Mr. C. E. Johnston. The first shipments of fruit by the new company have already gone forward, and the local price for fruit has already risen considerably as the result of competition.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

August 7th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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 market has continued strong for all sorts of "grocery" sugar, which has been in great demand for export. Crystallised yellow W.I. done at 81s. to 84s. 6d.; white Trinidad crystals 90s., duty paid.

Imports for the six months ended June 30th: 12,816,603 cwt., against 12,229,686 cwt. and 11,635,132 cwt. for the same periods in 1918 and 1917 respectively.

New York prices: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c., c. and f. New York, as against 4.985c. last year; 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64c., as against 4.749c.

Willet & Gray's latest estimates are: Total cane crops 12,023,866 tons, and beet 4,339,856 tons—a grand total of 16,363,722 tons, against 17,328,860 tons actual for 1917-18 and 16,992,519 tons for 1916-17. European beet estimates for the current year are as follows (in tons): Germany, 1,411,900; Czecho-Slovakia, 700,000; France, 109,783; Belgium, 75,000; Holland, 164,981; Russia (Ukraine, Poland, &c.), 700,000; Sweden, 119,000; Denmark, 115,000; Italy, 100,000; Spain, 135,000; Switzerland, 4,000; Bulgaria, 8,000.

The latest Cuban crop estimate is 4,000,000 tons, as against 3,446,083 tons actual last year.

The West India sugar statistics in London for week ending July 26th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	25,615	13,612	40,150	
Deliveries	21,667	22,351	40,653	
Stock	10,140	2,248	7,512	

RUM. The market remains steady, though supplies arriving from Jamaica have been heavy. Jamaicans of 1919 distillation are worth 8s. 6d.-8s. 9d. landed, and older rums considerably more, but particulars are not reported.

The stocks in London on July 26th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	5,968	4,958	8,243	
Demerara	14,370	5,286	10,759	
Total of all kinds ...	25,298	14,863	31,436	

COCOA. The market has been steady, and for export there has been a strong demand, particularly for West African, at which sales have been reported up to 100s. for fine. A fair business is also reported from Liverpool up to 90s.; lower qualities are slow of sale. Grenadas have sold at 125s. to 126s. Trinidad is rather firmer at 124s. to 126s., and small sales are reported at 127s. for export. Latest U.K. prices: Trinidad—middling red 123s., good middling red 124s., fine to superior 125s. to 126s.; Grenada—fair 116s., fine 126s.; Jamaica—fair 105s. to 110s., fine 123s.; St. Lucia, 116s. to 126s.; St. Vincent, 105s. to 123s.; Dominica, 105s. to 123s.

Imports for the six months ended June 30th: 1,535,157 cwt., against 200,781 cwt. and 983,893 cwt. for the same periods in 1918 and 1917 respectively. To this total West Africa contributed 1,065,881 lb., and the West Indies 161,950.

New York is very strong, and are buying large supplies on the French market, both of Accra and Guayaquil. They quote spot Accras 24 cents, and superior Bahia 26½ cents.

The stocks in London on July 26th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	31,625	9,380	27,323	
Grenada	15,608	15,403	26,676	
Total of all kinds ...	136,733	122,943	273,016	

COFFEE. Imports for the six months ended June 30th: 684,331 cwt., against 54,758 cwt. and 499,713 cwt. for the same periods in 1918 and 1917 respectively.

BANANAS. Imports for the six months ended June 30th: 1,523,264 bunches as against 355,672 bunches and 1,440,801 bunches in the same periods of 1918 and 1917 respectively. Since April last the wholesale price has been £30 per ton of 57 to 58 bunches. The statement of a Canadian correspondent in the *Times* of July 31st that the price was 20s. per bunch was incorrect.

BALATA. The market for W.I. sheet continues steady, and prices are practically unchanged since on last. Spot value, 4s. 2d.; c.i.f., 3s. 11d.

COPRA. The market continues firm. The value of fine West India, £60 to £61 c.i.f. London; £70 c.i.f. Marseilles.

HONEY. Very quiet at auction. Cuban neglected; Jamaica unchanged. We quote the latter at about 75s. to 95s., according to colour.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled, steady but quiet at 4s.; handpressed, small sales at 11s. 6d. Lime-juice: Raw, quiet and unchanged.

ORANGE OIL. Bitter, sweet: 8s. in good demand.

SPICES. Pimento quiet; sellers on the spot 5½d. per lb. Nutmegs unchanged, but Mace a little easier.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Divid. end.		PRICES.
4	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44 ...	76-78
3½	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42 ...	73-75
4	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935 ...	80-82
3	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45 ...	63-65
4	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42 ...	80-82
3	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934 ...	94-96
4	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-49 ...	71-73
3½	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1922-44 ...	66-68
3	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44 ...	73-75
4	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42 ...	81-83
4	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44 ...	63-65
8 %	The Colonial Bank ...	73-81
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...	160-170
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...	82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures ...	82-84
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures ...	87-89
6	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	1½
6	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	97½-102½
7	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. ...	9-3
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares) ...	11-1½
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields ...	50-0
—	Trinidad Dominion 10 ...	8-6
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1) ...	63-0
4	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ...	43-48
7	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref. ...	99-104
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref. ...	61-66
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures ...	65-70
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	1½-1¼
6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	7-7½
6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd " ...	63-6½
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures ...	92-94

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

A West Indian University.

ALL genuinely interested in the future welfare and prosperity of the British West Indies must favour the development of education in those colonies on sound lines, for on the raising of the standard depends the physical and economic progress of the population. As matters stand, we have shown that there is almost universal ignorance of child welfare and of personal hygiene and sanitation, which operates adversely, not only on the birth-rate and on infantile mortality, but on the efficiency of labour. The effect on the primary as well as on the secondary industries of the West Indies is obvious. The supply of workers is not capable of expanding proportionately to enterprise; their intelligence is not developed up to modern requirements, and their average health is lower than it should be owing to the prevalence of preventable diseases. Therefore the problems involved can only be solved by the multiplication of educational facilities, the first essential of which is a sufficient number of properly trained teachers. With them lies the future of the West Indies, since in the school the boy is receptive of instruction as he never can be in later life, at a period when he is most susceptible to outside influences, and when his impressions are most clear and lasting. At present the supply of teachers is far from meeting the needs of the islands, and the quality is capable of improvement. Generally speak-

ing, the teachers in the primary schools have received no education except what they have acquired from text-books in their spare time. At the date of the latest available returns seventy-two students were being trained at the Mico Training College in Kingston, Jamaica, including twenty-four from Antigua and six from British Guiana. In the St. Andrew Training College for Women sixty students were under training as school teachers, including six maintained by the Government of British Guiana. State aid on a small scale is also given to private institutions, by which twenty-six additional students were being qualified. There is also a system of registration in order to secure a supply of certified teachers, of whom there were 500. Between 1900 and 1912 eleven courses of lectures on agricultural science and practical agriculture were given in Jamaica, at which 562 teachers were present and were greatly interested in the proceedings. A beginning is being made to put domestic training and the education in infant schools on a sounder basis. This is all excellent as far as it goes, and is, no doubt, mainly due to the initiative of the Board of Education constituted in 1892. But if progress in Jamaica has reached no higher scale, it can readily be imagined what the conditions are in the other islands. In these circumstances a memorandum, drawn up by Mr. R. POPHAM LOBB, Administrator of St. Vincent, and recently submitted to the Colonial Office, is of special significance. It shows the glaring deficiencies of the existing system, not only in primary, but in secondary schools, and, with regard to higher education, it makes it clear that expense and distance prohibit British and Canadian Universities except to a favoured few. The bulk of West Indian students who take a diploma or degree avail themselves of American educational facilities, which is not desirable. The West Indies, in their own interests, should therefore aim at developing a university of their own. If other colonies can maintain one, why not they? In a well-thought-out scheme Mr. POPHAM LOBB urges that the preliminary steps towards the establishment of such an institution should be taken without delay, and that, as the islands individually cannot achieve much, they should co-operate in this as they have done in other matters. He accordingly proposes an inter-colonial conference of education authorities and others interested, to be held, if possible, with the blessing of the Colonial Office which might frame the terms of reference. The members should, he thinks, consist of half-a-dozen school inspectors, a few medical

men, and a representative of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, together with an official of sympathy and experience as Chairman. The idea is that only in this way can impetus be given to progress, no power being generated by paper correspondence. By means of the proposed conference the situation will be thoroughly discussed, and recommendations made on which the several Legislatures and Chambers of Commerce can act. When the value of the body has thus been proved it should become an institution meeting at regular intervals for a comparative review of health and education in order to institute further efforts. The joint educational centre should aim at turning out, not scholarly, but practical, men, trained either to teach hygiene, sanitation, and the elements of agriculture or to take an active part in the economic growth of the islands. It should, moreover, be the headquarters of the West Indies for agricultural education and research under the control of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and provide post-graduate courses for Government medical officers, private practitioners, and sanitary officers and inspectors. When these objects are realised a West Indian University will be a practical proposition. The cost of creating such a joint educational centre could, Mr. POPHAM LOBB believes, be met by each colony contributing to a common fund a fixed percentage of its revenue. Thus a contribution at the rate of one-half of 1 per cent. would, on their total revenue of £2,500,000, yield an income of £12,500 a year. It is a relatively small sum, but steadily and intelligently applied to the end in view it would not only raise the standard of education and health in the West Indies, but promote joint activities which would have far-reaching results on West Indian agriculture, industries and trade.

The West Indies and the Mercantile Marine.

IT was, if our memory serves us correctly, Admiral Sir Percy Scott who, in 1913, said that in war the sinking of two or three merchant ships would tie up all our trade in ports. As he was not alone in this opinion it is evident that the great part played by the Mercantile Marine in previous wars, particularly in connection with the West Indies, had been forgotten. Losses by piracy and privateering never deterred our sailors from putting to sea; neither in the recent war did losses by submarine—the most terrible menace they ever encountered, reinforced, as it was, by other new perils in the form of the mine and of aircraft—deter them. For the first two years of the war, although for the first time merchantmen had to share the same risks as warships, they were unarmed and lacked convoy. But even when the total tonnage sunk ran into hundreds of thousands of tons monthly, and most of our sailors had suffered hunger, thirst, exposure and torture at the hands of the pitiless Hun, they were always ready to face all again, and, in addition, mutilation and death. Incomparable pluck, endurance and devotion would not of themselves, however, have enabled the Mercantile Marine to keep the waterways of the world open had those qualities not been combined with resource and consummate seamanship. The sister

service of the Navy was the beginning of everything. Not a soldier, not a gun, nor a pound of food or of stores could have been transported oversea without its aid. To it fell, too, the dangerous task of mine-laying, mine-sweeping, and many another war duty. But its main preoccupation, whose difficulty increased with every month's submarine toll, was the preservation of the Empire's trade. If the flow had been checked even temporarily the effect on the course of the war would have been disastrous and ruinous to Britain, and to every British colony. But it never ceased for a single day. The West Indies, in common with the rest of the world, suffered from a shortage of tonnage; but they were able to carry on, and to send substantial aid to the Allied cause. Their products were conveyed to the familiar markets, and the food and manufactures they required carried to them in return. In short, as far as was absolutely necessary, their oversea intercourse was maintained, and because of it their debt to the Mercantile Marine can never be fully paid, any more than it can elsewhere in the Empire. But a beginning has been made. For instance, owing to the timely action of British Guiana's Chamber of Commerce, at the instance, we believe, of its Secretary, Mr. A. McLEAN, the colony is expressing its gratitude in a tangible form. An eloquent address is being presented to the chief members of the Mercantile Marine who traded with Georgetown from Glasgow, Liverpool and London during the war, together with silver cigar and cigarette cases suitably inscribed and ornamented with the colony's coat-of-arms in gold. To the third and fourth officers, engineers and chief stewards gold nugget sleeve-links, also ornamented with British Guiana's coat-of-arms, are being given, whilst each member of the crew is to receive the sum of £2. The precedent might well be followed elsewhere in the West Indies. Meanwhile, some of the islands are honouring our sailors in another way. They are subscribing to King George's Fund for Sailors, and have already contributed nearly £15,000 towards this worthy object. It is to be hoped that the West Indies will contribute to this fund steadily and with generosity, more especially as it is being raised for disabled sailors and the dependents of our hardy mariners who gave their lives that we might live. This fund affords an excellent means of showing the personal and collective gratitude for the enormous benefits received during the war. The men who performed countless heroic deeds that will never be narrated were poorly paid, and could never receive adequate State recognition. Therefore it is for the people who owe them so much to pay their debt in a practical shape as well as in appreciation of services rendered. Only so can the sincerity of their gratitude be tested. Anything less would be unworthy of them, and West Indians will not be the last of the King's subjects to recognise it.

JAMAICA is credited by philatelists with being first in the field with a Peace stamp. This consists of an oblong label of 1½d. denomination, showing a crowded troopship, inscribed "Contingent Embarking"—presumably at some foreign port for home. In the right-hand corner is the profile of King George.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"NYAM some, leave some, tink on to-morrow."

* * *

THE remarkable age of 113 years was reached by a woman named Mrs. Thelvell, who died in Georgetown, Demerara, on June 25th.

* * *

THE Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has disclosed the fact that it has this year set aside 199,000 tons of sugar for jam-makers, as against 135,000 used by them in 1915. In addition, 65,000 tons have been set aside for domestic preserving.

* * *

A MEMORIAL tablet to Sir Walter Raleigh, who was Governor of Jersey from 1600 to 1603, has been erected in the States Chamber in that island. Jersey is thus ahead of British Guiana, which has so far taken no steps to commemorate the tercentenary of her first explorer.

* * *

WE regret to learn of the death of Captain D. W. Hunter, formerly of the s.s. *Saba*, at 66, Jerningham-road, New Cross, on July 17th. For over thirty years Captain Hunter was connected with the Scrutton Line, and was well known in all of the West Indian colonies.

* * *

WE note from the Press that Mr. Francis B. B. Shand, of Antigua and latterly Dominica, who has just been demobilised after four years' active service at Gallipoli, in France, Mesopotamia, and elsewhere, latterly as an officer in the Royal Air Force, is now practising at the Bar in London.

* * *

A RECENT wedding of West Indian interest was that of "Bertie" Cox to Miss Mary Dorothy Berkeley. The bridegroom was the younger son of Sir Charles Cox, K.C.M.G., formerly Administrator of St. Kitts, and Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, whilst the bride was the only surviving child of Mr. Justice Berkeley, of that colony.

* * *

No less than 3s. 3d. of every £1 1s. subscription paid to the West India Committee is absorbed by postage on the CIRCULAR alone, leaving only 17s. 9d. net! When postage on demand notes is added this does not leave much for general purposes. Members are therefore earnestly requested to pay their dues punctually at one of the branches of the Colonial Bank, or Royal Bank of Canada, or direct.

* * *

INFANTILE mortality in the Presidency of St. Kitts-Neirs is, says Dr. Fretz in his report for 1918, "enormously high." The death-rate of infants under one year was over 300 in St. Kitts, 283 in Neirs, and 133 in Anguilla. In view of these figures all must agree with Dr. Fretz that "there is an urgent call for the adoption of a complete systematic scheme against infantile mortality," and this applies not only to St. Kitts, but also to the West Indies as a whole.

* * *

ACTING on behalf of the Commissioners of Health and Highways for St. Michael's Parish, Barbados, the Secretary of the West India Committee has selected and appointed Mr. Fred. William Vallé-Jones City and Sanitary Engineer for Bridgetown and the Parish of St. Michael. Mr. Vallé-Jones until recently was Deputy Borough Engineer and Surveyor to the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford, and he has wide knowledge of road construction and maintenance. This new development in the work of the West India Committee opens

up an entirely new field of activity which should prove useful to the West Indian Colonies.

* * *

M. RENE BOUCHON, of the Sugar Makers' Association of France, believes that the Kelham estate offers great opportunities for the cultivation of sugar, since soil and climate are eminently suitable and transport facilities are assured. The British Beet Sugar Council is equally optimistic, and believes that the inception of the industry will form a starting-point for new agricultural development on a large scale, which will offer employment to thousands of people and help to restore the prosperity of our country districts.

* * *

WE learn from a correspondent in Porto Rico that, even since the United States recruited men for the army, munitions and general work, there is still a surplus of labour for the plantations in that favoured island. The rates of pay in Porto Rico are not such as to attract the British West Indians, though, our informant adds, "floods of them, particularly Jamaicans, are going over to Cuba all the time." That flood should most certainly be diverted to British territory, and this can obviously only be done by offering superior attractions.

* * *

THE possibilities of Mexico as an important sugar producer after order is restored are, says the *Louisiana Planter*, very great, but not very well appreciated throughout the sugar world. Mexican mining industries have attracted large amounts of outside capital, while its sugar industry, a very old one, has not progressed as rapidly as it has in some other countries. Sugar is grown in Mexico in eighteen of the twenty-eight States forming that Republic. Some of these lie along the Pacific Coast and some on the Gulf of Mexico, and others are in the interior, south of Mexico City. In the higher latitudes, in central Mexico, and also in the mountain regions of the north central States, the sugar-cane crop is of uncertain growth; but in the more southerly country first enumerated the culture of sugar-cane would seem to be the most reliable one in which to engage, if the government of the country could be more easily effected by those in power, and the large peon population of Mexico thus be given all the work they were willing to undertake.

* * *

THE origin of the name Kaieteur, in British Guiana—it is said to be the Indian for "Old Man Fall"—which has come into such prominence lately through the "movies," described elsewhere, is derived from a tragedy enacted on the spot. The tale, as related to Mr. Barrington Brown, in "Canoe and Camp Life," in 1870, is as follows:—"Once upon a time, there was a large village above the fall, situated on the little savannah, amongst the inhabitants of which was an old Indian who had arrived at that period of human existence when his life had become a burden to himself and a trouble to his relatives. Amongst other duties, there devolved upon his near relatives the tedious one of extracting the jiggers from his toes, which there accumulated day by day. These duties becoming irksome at last, it was arranged that the old man should be assisted on his way to his long home, that spirit land lying two days' journey beyond the setting sun. He was accordingly transferred with his pegall of worldly goods from his house to a woodskin on the river above the head of the great fall, and launched forth upon the stream. The silent flood bore him to its brink, where the rushing waters received him in their deadly grasp, bearing his enfeebled body down to its watery grave in the basin below. Not long after, strange to relate, his woodskin appeared in the form of a pointed rock . . . while on the sloping mass of talus to the west of the basin a huge square rock is said to be his petrified pegall or canister."

BRITISH GUIANA COLONISATION.

The Deputation's Continued Activities.

The "Athenæum," perhaps the most exclusive of London Clubs, opened its doors to the members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation on August 5th, when the host was Sir William Haynes Smith. A connecting link was Mr. Macfarlane Corry, who had been clerk to Sir William when Solicitor-General of British Guiana as far back as 1865. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and in the post-prandial speeches Sir William expressed the belief that our great South American colony was at last emerging from its shell, and that if the population question could be solved the colony was assured of a brilliant future.

In an atmosphere vividly reminiscent of the tropics an audience of nearly 300 assembled on August 7th at the Roof Garden Theatre in Wardour-street—kindly placed at the disposal of the Colonisation Deputation by Messrs. Pathé Frères—to witness a private exhibition of moving pictures of life and scenery in British Guiana. The films were taken in the colony about a year ago on the initiative of the Permanent Exhibitions Committee, and Mr. W. P. Humphrey, a well-known entrepreneur, who controls several picture-palaces in the West Indies. They were now shown for the first time in England.

Sir Wilfred Collet, who was accommodated with a seat near the screen, reminded the audience that in British Guiana we had a colony as large as Great Britain which awaited colonisation and development. He called attention to the crying need for labour in order that the colony might be fully developed; but perhaps his most interesting reference was in connection with water-power. Coal, he admitted, was not at present cheap in British Guiana; on the other hand, an immense prospect was opened up to the colony by the world's growing realisation of the value of water-power. "We are in a position," he said, "to work our existing railways, mines, and sugar factories by electricity, and to increase that quantity of power some fifty-fold. By the utilisation of our waterfalls we could supply a railway running from Manaos, in Brazil, together with its branch lines, without any difficulty whatever, and could cut, haul and saw hundreds of millions of feet of lumber. There is in sight employment for hundreds of thousands of men of all classes by the economic utilisation of our water-power. Our cataracts, which have postponed the exploration and development of the interior by making the navigation of our great rivers so difficult from 60 miles inland, will eventually be turned into our greatest source of wealth."

The motif of the pictures—the selection of which shows the hand as well as the eye of the expert—is a trip to the great Kaieteur waterfall, which was somewhat inconspicuously described on the screen as "The perfect cataract." Perfect, yes; but it is vastly greater than what we generally call a cataract. After a thorough inspection of Georgetown, the expedition followed the familiar route up the Demerara river to Wismar, thence to Rockstone and Tumatumari, stopping on the way to visit the Greenheart Camp

and to experience the thrill of a passage of the Etaballi rapids and to obtain glimpses of many exquisite creeks, one of which yielded an immense anaconda or caecidic snake which must have been at least 40 ft. long. Flora and fauna were shown in "close up" pictures of remarkable clearness, and the almost impenetrable nature of the tropical forest and bush were demonstrated by telegraph posts erected in the river as the line of least resistance.

The Majestic Kaieteur Filmed.

The views of the Kaieteur fall itself could justly be called superb. They conveyed an accurate and lasting impression of the might and majesty of this mass of water, which thunders down a sheer precipice of 800 and odd feet—five times the height of Niagara—and held the audience spell-bound. If the subsequent pictures were somewhat of an anti-climax, it was not through any intrinsic shortcomings, but simply because they were not to be compared with the really remarkable pictures of the great fall itself.

The cultivation and tanning of rubber at present an almost negligible industry in the colony—the preparation of cassava and a primitive method of washing for gold were shown in succession; but beyond a general view taken on pay-day at Peter's Hall Estate and a native expressing juice from a cane by leverage in the fork of a tree, the sugar industry was completely passed over. The cultivation of canes and the manufacture of sugar should certainly have been included, and it can only be hoped that they will, with Indian life on the estates, form the subject of a future series of pictures.

Unfortunately, only a single set of prints of these really wonderful films has been brought to England, the original films being in New York. These should certainly be secured without delay, with a view to the exhibition of the pictures in the cinemas throughout England.

Among those present at this successful and useful entertainment were Mr. Tilak, Mr. Kilkar, Mr. Juss, Sir Edward Davson, Sir William Haynes-Smith, K.C.M.G., Captain Hotham, R.N., C.M.G., Sir W. Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., Colonel Amery, M.P., Captain R. Montgomery Parker, Hon. E. G. Woolford, Dr. J. J. Numan, LL.B., Hon. A. B. Brown, Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C., Dr. W. H. Wharton, Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, F.R., Mr. Parbu Sawh, Rev. Eric Robertson, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Mr. H. N. Cobbles, Miss A. Elmslie, Mr. L. Guggenleim, Mr. E. K. Walcott, Mr. de Jonge, Mrs. and Miss de Jonge, Mr. L. de Freitas, Mr. A. J. de Freitas, Mrs. and Miss Bell, Mr. A. F. Williams, Mr. C. Barr Fryer, Mr. N. H. Knights, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. J. Blunt, Mr. Ockenden, Mr. W. Crombie Steedman, Mr. Delbano, Miss Hamel Smith, Mr. Follet Holt, Mr. J. E. Boswell, Mr. J. H. Pereira, Mr. Ernest Rouse, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Captain Chas. E. Down, O.B.E., Mrs. P. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Bamford, Mr. Oliphant, Mr. W. Wallace Young, Dr. and Mrs. Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. Truscott, Captain E. H. Quinn, Colonel J. L. O'Connor, O.B.E., D.S.O., Mr. D. S. Kalewar, Mr. C. H. de Lemos, I.S.O., Mr. and Mrs. D. Gibson, Mr. C. T. Budgett, Mr. Gordon-Turner, Mr. Wm. Howatson, Mr. H. Martin, Mr. C. P. Kennis, Captain F. Corner, Mr. Otto Rochs, Mrs. Shortt, Mrs. Messervy, Miss Barry, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Gibbs, Mrs. and Miss Howell-Jones, Mrs. and Miss Baillie, Mr. David Haes, Mr. E. K. Nightingale Major Bowen, Miss L. D. Goffe, Mr. R. A. Robertson, Mr. Alexander Bailey, Mr. F. P. Rudder, Rev. and Mr.

Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. Broadhurst, Mr. T. C. Cooke, Mr. A. J. Darrell, Mr. and Miss Hamilton, Mr. J. E. Elmslie, Mr. G. H. Paitaudeau, Mr. John W. Gordon, Mr. J. McFarlane Cory, Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G.

The theatre was packed to overflowing, and owing to many who had not replied to the invitation entering an appearance, fully seventy or eighty people had to be turned away at the doors.

Royal Colonial Institute Lunch.

Sir Charles Lucas presided at a luncheon given at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, August 13th, 1919, to the members of the deputation by the Royal Colonial Institute.

The Chairman, proposing the toast of "Prosperity to British Guiana," described the deputation as a thoroughly representative one. They were fortunate in having Colonel Amery present on behalf of the Colonial Office, because the Dominions and the colonies had in him a strenuous and sympathetic advocate. (Cheers.) British Guiana was of the size of Great Britain, with a population smaller than that of Bristol. It had a rich foreshore, and a far-spreading interior yet to be developed. Its resources included great rivers, sugar and timber plantations, and minerals. There was gold there, and even diamonds had been found, though diamonds were not yet so valuable as Demerara crystals. It was a colony which flourished, and would flourish even more. British Guiana, indeed, had all the elements that made for future prosperity. Twenty years ago her fortunes were at their lowest depths, but even in those days he felt there was a good time coming. If there was one man who more than another had stemmed the tide of adversity in that group of colonies, it was the father of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Chamberlain. (Cheers.) A quarter of a century ago the West Indies were the poor relations of the Mother Country. At the present day it looked as if the Mother Country would be the poor relation of the West Indies. (Laughter.) The war had brought in its train that preference denied them in times of peace, and it had given the peoples of those colonies an opportunity of showing that they were not dependent, that they were straight, upstanding sons of the Empire who had contributed in money and in time to the common cause. (Cheers.)

Sir Wilfred Collet, in responding, said the prosperity of the colony depended upon its being able to have a population. If they could get a large population in British Guiana they could substantially help to clear off the war debt of the United Kingdom.

Colonel Amery on Self-Help.

Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, proposing "Our Guests," said: My task this afternoon is a very pleasant one, and that is to propose the health of and success to the deputation from British Guiana, who are the guests at this luncheon, success to a band of worthy successors of Sir Walter Raleigh. They have come here to tell the people of this country, and I believe to tell the people of India as well, of that El Dorado which does in fact exist in British Guiana. If they are successful, the result of their efforts will be to translate its splendid possibilities into actual realities. I think we can all agree in wishing every success to the deputation, and I think we shall also agree in being confident that they will attain that success. I feel that they have started on the right lines. They are working on sound principles, and they are laying down, as Sir Wilfred Collet has reminded us, the principle of self-help. They have not sat down waiting for the Colonial Office to do something, waiting for someone to get up and tell them what they ought to do. They put

their heads together, made up their minds as to what they wanted, and decided what ought to be done, and they have come here to tell us that they mean to do it; but they want our support and help, and the help also of the business community of this country and of the Government and the people of England. A great deal has been talked about self-determination in these days, but I do not know that self-determination amounts to very much unless it includes the determination to do something for yourself, something useful and effective. Self-reliance and self-help are the main essential features of self-determination. The old motto says, "Heaven helps those who help themselves," and I think that is also true of another place called the Colonial Office, a place said to be as inaccessible as heaven itself. (Laughter.)

Colonisation and the Labour Problem.

Certainly I think I can speak the mind of the Secretary of State in this matter when I say he is impressed with the way in which this deputation is handling its problems. Their efforts make it all the easier for the Secretary of State to help them. Then it struck me that the deputation are working on very sound lines in another direction. They have put into the forefront of their programme the objects of colonisation. They are endeavouring to put the labour question on its proper footing, and they are applying the principle which is just as sound in the West Indies as it is here. The great mistake in the past in this country, just as much as in other parts of the Empire, has been to regard labour, whether white, brown, or black, as a mere instrument and tool of production to be spent in the immediate purpose of making money, and not as an object in itself, not as men and women whom it is desired to enlist in the partnership of industry and in the partnership of the community. We have suffered a great deal in this country from that. We owe to it many difficult social problems, many a difficult problem of national health and national housing. Many a weakness and many a flaw which this war has brought to light is due to the errors of the past generation, which treated labour as a mere instrument of production, and not as men and women whom we wanted to help. We have suffered the same in different parts of the Empire; even after slavery had ceased, we seemed to have retained the idea that it was the right thing to get the cheapest labour in the cheapest way, and use it only as we needed it. That policy had possibly meant quick returns, but it has been a short-sighted policy in the long run.

When you think how small the population of British Guiana is to-day compared with the numbers of labourers who have been brought in, you can see that the old policy has failed and does not in the long run pay. Now we have got to tackle this problem at home and in the Empire on new principles. We have got to do it, for we cannot help ourselves. At home organised labour will see to it that that policy does not go on any longer. In the Empire there is a different form of problem. In India the people oppose a form of labour which they consider degrading to the Indian community. You have to take a higher view now, because we believe here and all over the Empire that the right way to solve the labour problem is not by a short cut to get labourers as labourers, but to bring in people who are willing to become permanent settlers, making their home and life where they go, and building up a community—people who will become ambitious to see their children become honourable public men in the community, as members of the deputation are honourable members of the community. That I may say is the right principle, and is the principle which will get you over many difficulties, even if it means much more work.

I am very glad to hear that you have already met with considerable success in your discussions with official

and unofficial representatives of Indian opinion. I believe there is a prospect of the deputation going on to bring home to the Indian people what British Guiana can offer to the people of India, and that she is not only prepared to pay good wages, but to promote settlement, and ensure the advancement of settlers in every sphere of life. You have started on sound lines, and I have every belief and every hope that you will succeed. You have also been wise in limiting your programme—your immediate programme—to bring in 5,000 settlers a year for a number of years. That is something within the compass of the community which is already settled in British Guiana, and also within the compass of its revenue; but, of course, that is only a beginning. British Guiana is a country of immense possibilities, and what is done in the way of colonisation in the next few years will have to be done on a much vaster scale, when the whole of your great country comes to be opened up. I had to speak in the House of Commons a few days ago upon the whole of that problem of the development of Crown colonies and protectorates, and I venture to say that we in this country sadly neglected our opportunities, and failed to put into those territories which are directly under the authority of Parliament here the capital and energy which would have yielded a great return if only it had been properly directed.

Guiana Under-Capitalised.

I venture to suggest that Guiana is sadly under-capitalised compared with the self-governing Dominions and some of the countries in South America and elsewhere into which British capital has so freely flowed.

I notice that the whole British capital sunk in the colony is about £850,000, while Uruguay, which is about the same area, but has no greater possibilities, has had about £26,000,000 raised in loans. New Zealand, which is about the same area, has had about £100,000,000. This putting of capital into a country brings its results. The trade of British Guiana is about £3,500,000, compared with £18,000,000 to £20,000,000 in Uruguay and over £50,000,000 in New Zealand. Does not that seem to suggest that capital put into a country is bound to yield a return to the prosperity of the country? It is the same with railways. British Guiana has 19 miles of railway; New Zealand, which is largely insular and largely served by steamers, has built over 2,000 miles of railway. It seems to me that we have, somehow or other, to get British capital to flow from here and from other parts of the Empire, like Canada, and also from foreign countries, and prosperity will be assured. Do not let us disdain the help of foreign capital. The United States have built themselves up by British capital. By all means, let us use all the capital we can get. By all means, let us welcome all the help we can get.

The British Government, as you know as well as I do, has immense burdens to bear, and if there is a bottom to its purse it is almost reached to-day, and it is not quite possible to find money for developments everywhere. Only money for the most pressing and urgent needs can be found by the British Exchequer. But there is still a vast reservoir of private capital to be tapped, which we can help to direct within Imperial channels. I would like to see Imperial preference, not as a negative, but as a positive attempt to encourage, by every means and in every way, the development of our great Imperial resources—not to the detriment of foreign resources, but on the simple principle that charity begins at home. That does not mean that you should be uncharitable to others. This policy as regards tariffs is now adopted in a form which can be a great help to British Guiana. Much can be done to show that capital finds it easier to flow into Imperial channels. Shipping is most important. I think all who represent the West Indies will agree with me that anything that can be

done to improve the shipping situation between India and Canada and the West Indies will be an immense help. It is pleasant to know the vigorous efforts that have been made in the colony to deal with the problems of sanitation, irrigation and education, and I would like to see the development of education more particularly in respect of tropical agriculture. Science in these matters is a vital element of success. You must be in a position to take advantage of your opportunities. I would close on the note of the immense importance of scientific development in every way as the starting-point and the foundation of every form of development in the colonies. I think we all agree in wishing success to the deputation. (Cheers.)

Dr. J. Numan, in responding, said they had not come to this country to ask for money, but to tell the people that British Guiana offered opportunities for millions of people to establish themselves there. They appealed particularly to Indian and African people who were accustomed to work under tropical conditions.

Mr. A. B. Brown referred to the opportunities for development in the sugar, gold, diamond, bauxite and timber industries of British Guiana, and said that if they could find the necessary labour and capital it would be like finding the key of a locked door.

Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, who also acknowledged the toast, said if labour could be obtained for the sugar industry it would never be necessary to go back to German beet. British Guiana could also supply all the meat, except mutton, consumed in the Mother Country.

OBITUARY.

MR. E. H. G. DALTON.

We regret to learn that Mr. Edward Henry Goring Dalton died at his residence, 97, Fellows-road, South Hampstead, on August 13th.

Mr. Dalton, who for some years had been in very bad health, was formerly Registrar-General of British Guiana. Entering the Colonial Civil Service in 1857 as clerk to the Stipendiary Magistrate, Demerara River, he entered the Customs Department in 1859, becoming a sworn clerk in the Registrar's Office in the following year. He was made a notary public in 1862, and was promoted to be chief clerk in 1864. In May, 1874, he acted as Assistant Government Secretary, and Assistant Receiver-General for Berbice, and in 1875 he was appointed Colonial Postmaster. In the following year he was appointed Registrar-General of the Supreme Court, and ten years later he was made Registrar-General—a position which he filled until his retirement.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Bayano* from Garston Docks, Liverpool, August 11th:

Mr. J. R. Ackerley	Major M. M. Eastwell	Capt. F. J. Parkes
Mr. William Barr	Mrs. Eastwell	Mrs. Parkes
Q.M. - Sergt. C. W. Bower	Mr. D. Ebanks	Miss A. L. Parkes
Mrs. Bower	2nd Lt. J. H. Freeley	Mr. D. A. C. Paterson
Master A. E. G. Bower	Mr. A. H. Gibson	Mr. E. Pratt
Lt.-Col. A. A. P. Butler	Mr. K. J. Gibson	Mrs. Pratt
Mrs. Butler	Mr. F. F. Gow	Miss O. A. Pratt
Mr. G. K. Cameron	Mr. Guinsey	Miss P. J. Pratt
Mrs. Cameron	Mrs. Grimsey	Mr. James Prentice
Master Douglas K. Cameron	Mr. C. W. E. Groppler	Mr. W. R. Prentland
Lieut. A. F. Clark	Mrs. Groppler	Capt. J. L. Ramson
Ch. Artif. A. E. Daniels	Mrs. C. A. Hislop	Mrs. Ramson
Mr. C. A. F. Dewhurst	Mr. A. S. Hodges	Mrs. T. H. Sharp
Mrs. Dewhurst	Mr. J. C. McVittie	Mr. J. A. Thomson
2nd Lieut. J. L. Doherty	Mrs. Kate Magnus	Mrs. Thomson
2nd Lieut. R. P. M. Dowling	Miss R. C. Magnus	Master J. A. Thomson
	2nd Lt. H. J. Mulcahy	Miss O. M. Thomson
	2nd Lieut. C. J. O'Hare	Miss H. A. Thomson
	Mr. I. Picciotto	Mr. A. E. Whitelaw
	Mrs. Picciotto	Mr. Zaki Zafarani

IMPLEMENTAL TILLAGE.

How Labour can be Saved.

By J. J. A. CARLEE.

Much has been said and written about the shortage of labour on British West India sugar plantations, but if we compare our population and sugar production with cane-sugar countries, where labour is really very scarce, we are led to wonder whether we do make the best of our labour supply. For instance, one of the measures whereby an almost incredible amount of labour can be saved consists in tillage by implements, drawn by animals, in order to replace most of the generally employed hand labour.

One acre of young plants requires, on the average, fifteen people to be weeded by hand. A horse-hoe, hauled by a mule and handled by one labourer, can pass over a little more than 1 acre per day, and will weed the land *between* the cane rows, leaving it in better tilth than hand labour would, so that the hoe gang need clean up only *in* the cane rows, whereby almost half of all the hand labour used in weeding can be saved. If the fifteen weeders cost \$5.25 (and I think I am right in saying that this at present cannot be considered as high), and, on the other hand, we allow 50c. for the implement operator and 50c. for the mule, and for, say, eight weeders for cleaning in the row \$2.80, the cost in the latter instance is \$3.80, or \$1.45 per acre under the cost of hand labour. The saving is, in actual practice, far greater, for after the cane covers the ground the hoe gang can be dispensed with, and plants can be kept clean with the cultivator.

In brushing, or outlassing, six men can clean 1 acre, which, at 35c. per task, represents a cost of \$2.10. The mowing machine, hauled by two mules and guided by one man, would cost \$1.50 to operate per day, and it can go over 4 acres. In the former case the cost of cleaning 4 acres amounts to \$8.40, so the saving is \$7.10 per day's use of the mowing machine. These mowing machines cost about \$50.00, and will therefore soon pay for themselves, not to speak of the labour they save. They will equally well brush traces and grassy banks along a road, the blade being so balanced that it follows a downward slope of a cane bed or road bank. There is a small wheel at the end of the blade whereby the latter is enabled to follow any unevenness.

I find the greatest saving in labour and cost in the use of the plough. It takes about twelve men to fork 1 acre of ratoons by task work, but a man driving a mule can perform this with a plough and do it better. If in the former case 35c. is paid per task, the cost is \$4.20, which, it will be agreed, is not excessive; but an East Indian ploughman, paid 50c., and a mule, costing 50c. per day in upkeep and for depreciation, can execute this work. The saving in labour is enormous.

To use the plough the cane must, of course, be planted in the length of the bed, and in order to plough ratoons the trash should previously be burned. There is hardly any stage in the cultivation of sugar-cane which, in the British West Indies, is not per-

formed by hand, and which, in countries where labour is extremely scarce, is not performed mechanically. So there are manure spreaders, lime distributors, harrows of all kinds, and stock-feed grinders, and an up-to-date planter will find ways to utilise these implements to replace hand labour.

Conditions Requisite for Implements.

There are certain conditions required to enable one to make use of implements. As already stated, the cane must be planted, instead of across, in the length of the beds. When the rainfall is heavy, water may stay for some days between the cane rows, and on level lands the latter must therefore be formed into small ridges.

One of the greatest objections which is often mentioned against the use of implements consists in the existence of numerous surface canals. But this objection can be overcome in two ways: Firstly, by allowing the mule to turn at the end of the bed; secondly, with the use of small wooden bridges over which the mule and ploughman walk, crossing the drain. Where several implements are working in one field, the driver in charge can have a man allocated to him for the duty of moving the bridges from row to row. In the former case the end of the bed cannot be planted until the cane cultivated is laid by, and an early ripening sugar-cane variety may be planted by hand at the end of the bed. Should it be too late to plant cane here the small turning space of the mules may be utilised for the growing of corn.

At one time it was also thought that the sugar-cane lands in the West Indies were altogether too impervious to allow of their being properly tilled by light implements. The writer has frequently been shown clayey, retentive soils which, in the dry season, would break up with deep hexagonal cracks, and in wet weather would be formed into puddles, and such soils, well drained and richly manured, may grow heavy crops of canes, and are often supposed to be unsuitable for implemental tillage. This is a fallacy, for those lands can be very well worked with ploughs and harrows. But there is one rule which those who employ implements should apply for these soils—*i.e.*, never to work them when they are wet. When the ploughed cut is glazed, or when the harrow drags over the surface, these lands cannot be tilled with benefit, and any tilth they might have had before would be lost by working them thus. There are in every rainy season—no matter how wet it may be on the whole—periods of dry weather which should be utilised for dealing with the stiff lands, and when these obtain the benefits of tillage, they will afterwards not be apt to suffer from drought.

The agricultural implements at present in use on the Waterloo Estates comprise four, two and one mule ploughs, disc harrows, straight-tooth and spring-tooth harrows, horse-hoes, mowing machine and hay-rakes. The system of cultivation is the following:—

At the opening of the rainy season four-mule ploughs break the land, which is levelled with straight-tooth harrows drawn by two mules or two oxen, and is thereafter sown in cow-peas. The harrows follow the ploughs with an intermission of

from one to two days, and peas are sown as soon as possible after the harrowing, preferably on the same day. The cow-pea used is the Speckled Virginia variety, which is extensively employed on the cane plantations of Louisiana. In the manner 1,700 acres were sown by us in cow-peas during the wet season of 1918, and their generous, thick foliage and healthy appearance proved that these legumes will grow quite luxuriously in the tropics. After the peas are full grown they may be ploughed in or cut up with disc harrows, and thus incorporated into the soil, or they may be allowed to ripen, when the peas can be collected for seed, the vines being, in this case, removed and employed as cattle food.

With the approach of the planting season the lands are all re-ploughed with the mule ploughs and laid out in furrows, in which the cane plants are placed in slanting position, whereafter the furrows are closed with the plough. Shortly after the plants begin their germination, the horse-hoes are utilised for harrowing the soil between the cane-rows, and upon the first appearance of cane-shoots the rows of the latter are cleaned out by the hoe gang. After heavy rains the soil between the cane rows will pack, and after a few days of dry weather has to be worked with horse-hoes or one-mule ploughs.

Subsequent cultivation consists merely of harrowing the cane rows, and with the advent of the dry weather this operation must be performed, as the surface soil has to be kept loose to prevent the loss of the film or capillary water, and to form a moisture-saving mulch. As implemental tillage can be effected far quicker than hand labour, it enables the planter not only to save labour, but to choose his time of planting and to extend his plantings. Its possibilities are only now beginning to be realised, and when fully understood will, I have no doubt, have an important bearing on the progress of the sugar industry in these parts.

Very much has lately been said about the use of gasoline tractors, and some planters appear to be of opinion that they will prove to be of much more use than animal-drawn implements. If the writer had to choose between accepting a tractor of, say, \$2,500, and ten mules of the same value, he would, without hesitation, choose the latter. In the first place, tractors are principally used for breaking the soil—not so much for cultivation—whereas mules can be used for ploughing as well as for cultivating. Secondly, the average life of the tractor is not much more than one season, owing to the extremely heavy wear and tear to which these machines are exposed when in use, especially where the land to be worked is rough. We can put the average life of mules at not less than eight years, even if we make all allowances for the diseases these animals are subject to. Thirdly, one requires rather a good and careful mechanic (extremely rare in the tropics) to operate the machine and keep it in order. Fourthly, at the time when the tractor is most needed a breakage may occur, and possibly the outfit may be laid up for weeks for lack of a spare. It is said that a gasoline tractor does not eat when it is out of use. Neither does it make pen manure.

I doubt not that tractors will have a great future, but I believe that they came generally into use

because of the very high prices which agricultural products commanded during the war, so that farmers lacking draft animals were enabled to increase their productive acreage. I confess that I have not seen any conclusive proofs and authenticated records of the greater economy of the tractor over the mule or ox in preparing land for cultivation.

It would in any case be most unwise for a planter unaccustomed to the use of implements to employ tractors on his plantation. One has to be well acquainted with the use of ploughs and harrows under varying conditions of weather in order to obtain the maximum results of a tractor. No doubt the desire for tractors shows greater ambition than the desire for animal-drawn implements, but as the latter still possess untouched possibilities for relieving the so-called labour shortage on the sugar estates of the British West Indies, it would seem advisable that they be given a more extended use than has hitherto been the case.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

A Canadian correspondent who put forward in the *Times* of March 14th, 1917, a suggestion for the political and economic union of the British West Indies and Canada and Newfoundland, undeterred by the lukewarm reception of his proposals in the West Indies, has now returned to the charge, and in an article published in the *Times* of July 31st last he revives his suggestion, and draws a pitiful picture of the present position of Jamaica, hinting that under union with Canada "the production of petroleum, minerals, citrus fruit, bananas, castor and other vegetable oil-yielding seeds, vegetable dyes, hardwoods, cattle, coffee, cacao, and coconut is capable of enormous expansion" in the West Indies, and that banana growers should receive 3s. more per bunch for their fruit. (Incidentally, he states that the wholesale price of bananas in England has been 20s. per bunch more, though it has actually been under 10s. since April last.) Of the West Indian problem he suggests the following solution:—

"(1) Commercial and political union between the British West Indies, Canada, and Newfoundland, beginning with Jamaica and the Bahamas. This would permanently establish free interchange of commerce between these countries. The adoption of the Canadian tariff, resulting from political union, would give Great Britain 33½ per cent. preference in these tropical markets over foreign countries. This she does not now enjoy. The requirements of these islands would therefore be mainly produced in Great Britain and Canada, and because of these tariff reductions would greatly reduce the cost of living in the West Indies. Canada would assume the deficit due from this loss of revenue in the West Indies, as they would be placed on an equal footing with her present provinces with respect to this matter. The increased production of tropical products generally would not only ensure the future prosperity of these islands, but would furnish full cargoes for a British line of steamers to and from Canadian and British ports.

"(2) To avoid dumping, the British Government should protect the producer as well as the consumer, and the British transport company, by passing a law similar to the one existing in Canada with respect to unfair competition.

"(3) With the above protection, I have reason to believe that Canada would provide all the transport required for the British West Indies to the satisfaction of British interests."

Sir Edward Davson, in a letter published on August 2nd, referring to his recent visit to the West Indies and Canada, wrote:—

"As for the West Indies, I may say at once that I found no desire existing for political union with Canada, while in Canada itself, although the opinion was general that the Dominion would be glad to receive the West Indies into the union under some form of Crown Colony government, provided they desired so to join, yet it was realised that the desire was at present non-existent, and that therefore the Dominion should aim rather at developing mutual trade relations to the utmost extent, in the hope that the further development might follow by the gradual growth of common interests."

With regard to the commercial aspect of the question, he pointed out that the West Indies were contemplating giving a preference of 50 per cent. in return for the Mother Country's preference, and it was their wish to give Canada this increased preference if Canada reciprocated.

"I could not find any present desire for commercial union with Canada, except a divided opinion in British Guiana, and I think that the difficulty of adopting the Canadian tariff and preference system, of making up deficits by the giving and receiving of subsidies—in fact, of the adoption of commercial without political union—is fully realised both in the West Indies and in the Dominion."

The publication of a further article in the *Times* of August 8th from its Toronto correspondent elicited a forceful reply from Mr. Gideon Murray, M.P., who wrote:—

"There is one aspect of this question which the Imperial Government cannot overlook. This is, that several of the West Indian islands—such as Jamaica, Trinidad, and St. Lucia—are of extreme importance from a strategical point of view, lying as they do upon the main routes from Europe to the Panama Canal, and in comparatively close vicinity to that great inter-ocean waterway. They are as necessary to the Empire from the strategical standpoint as are, for instance, Gibraltar and Malta, and, in my belief, therefore, should always be controlled by the Imperial Government."

After pointing out that, though the West Indies favoured closer commercial relationship with Canada, there was no indication as yet that any of them desire a political union with Canada, he continued:—

"British Guiana presents, it is true, a different case. She has an undeveloped area of 90,000 square miles (nearly as large as the United Kingdom), full of potential resources in timber, gold, diamonds, bauxite, and, possibly, oil, together with large rivers capable of supplying all the power necessary for any development that could take place, even to the electrification of a trans-colonial railway system. But I observe that your correspondent in Toronto, in quoting Mr. Macaulay—to whom all tribute is due for the active interest he has taken in the subject of the development of the West Indies and British Guiana, and of Canadian-West Indian commercial relationship—makes no reference to the most vital issue connected with the development of British Guiana—namely, the sparsity of population, which to-day, in this huge territory, numbers only 320,000. Any scheme for development, as I stated last week in the course of the debate on the Colonial Estimates, must inevitably be accompanied by arrangements for the further colonisation of that country.

"Now I submit, with all respect to the great Dominion of Canada, that their Government is not the proper instrument for carrying out any scheme of colonisation of coloured people in a country like British Guiana. They have not the requisite experience, and besides in Canada to-day there is restrictive legislation against coloured people and their immigration into the Dominion which is even harsher than the immigration restrictions imposed in the United States of America, and this, unless modified, would prove an almost insurmountable obstacle to any form of political union which could be devised. I do not think that the Imperial Government should attempt to shelve their responsibilities in this way, and I cannot believe that Colonel Amery, who was replying to certain proposals made by me for the better government and development of British Guiana when he made the statement that the British Government hoped that Canada would take an increasing interest in the West Indies, meant to convey anything more than increased commercial interest."

Commenting on what it describes as "the audacious proposal for the annexation of the British West Indies by the Dominion of Canada, which was first ventilated two or three years ago," *Truth*, of August 8th, wrote:—

"It is styled a scheme of political and economic union; but annexation strikes me as a more appropriate word, seeing that Jamaica and the other colonies would come under the control of Canada, and cease to have any closer relationship with the Mother Country than Alberta or Saskatchewan. In support of this we are told that the adoption of the Canadian tariff in the West Indies 'would give Great Britain 33½ per cent. preference in these tropical markets over foreign countries.' Consider what this precious preference means. Great Britain now possesses a free market in her West Indian colonies. Canada trades there on an equal footing. In place of this system it is proposed to erect a tariff wall which will protect Canadian trade against British; but, on the ground that the tariff will be ½ per cent. higher against foreign countries, we are coolly asked to accept the arrangement as a gift for which we should be grateful. The advocates of the scheme evidently regard the Mother Country as an old fool who will swallow any flappedoodle garnished with fine-sounding phrases about the consolidation of the Empire, &c."

ROLL OF HONOUR.

CAPTAIN C. GRAHAM HAYNES, M.C. (and bar), R.A.F., who was reported missing in October, 1918, was the son of the late Mr. J. E. Haynes, of Trinidad. He enlisted in the Artists' Rifles O.T.C., on the outbreak of war, and in April, 1915, received a commission in the K.R.R.C. He was severely wounded in May, 1915, at Ypres. He returned to France, and in October, 1916, was awarded the M.C. for gallantry in the field, receiving a bar the following year. In October, 1917, he transferred to the Royal Air Force, in which he had a splendid record.

Other gallant airmen from the West Indies who were reported missing, and are now believed to have been killed, were SECOND-LIEUTENANT C. FORTE CAVE, of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, who was in Captain Haynes's Squadron, and was reported missing at the same time, after having come unscathed through thirteen successful bombing raids; SECOND-LIEUTENANT W. J. MILLER, of the 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, who was missing in September, 1918; and SECOND-LIEUTENANT RALPH KNOWLES, of the Bahamas, who was last seen falling from a height of 14,000 ft. over the German lines near Bapaume, in April, 1918.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

In last CIRCULAR extracts from the report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee were published, showing the position and prospects of the sugar industry in India and Ceylon. To this are now added notes regarding other parts of Asia, together with an instalment dealing with the position of Africa in this connection.

HONG KONG.

The pre-war consumption of sugar in Hong Kong was 20,000 tons per annum, imported from Java as white and brown sugar, and molasses, from Formosa as brown sugar and molasses, and from the Philippine Islands as brown sugar.

There are two sugar refineries—the Taikoo Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and the China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—besides ginger and fruit preserving factories, and samshu and soy factories.

The general public consume refined sugar, Java plantation white and brown sugar.

The climate of Hong Kong is not so suitable for sugar cultivation as that of British possessions nearer the Equator, and the area available is small.

Hong Kong University could be made available for scientific instruction, but there is no other provision at present.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

At the present time only about 20 acres are under sugar-cane cultivation, producing about 50 tons per annum. The consumption of sugar is from 900 to 1,000 tons per annum. The bulk of the sugar comes from Java, and is chiefly white plantation.

There are at least 10,000 acres of land in Cowie Harbour, Tawau district, which could be used for sugar cultivation. The time in which the land could be made available, however, depends on capital, organisation and labour. All areas are at present jungle-land, and would first have to be cleared. Chinese and Javanese labour would be necessary, and could easily be obtained.

SARAWAK.

Only a small quantity of sugar from the Nipa palm is produced for home consumption, but the yield has never been determined. The imported sugar, amounting to about 1,000 tons per annum, is chiefly soft Java of low grade.

The cultivation of sugar-cane was attempted some years ago, but the land then put under cultivation was unsuitable, and the percentage of sugar insufficient to make it commercially profitable. There may, however, be land suitable for the crop. Transport would be by small boats to main rivers, where, if prices justified it, loading could be effected to launch or steamer.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The sugar industry in these Settlements was formerly of much more importance than it is now, as it has been slowly but steadily supplanted by the cultivation of rubber.

The following table gives the pre-war exports of sugar from Singapore:—

	Sugar. Tons.	Sugar candy. Tons.	Jaggery. Tons.	Molasses. Tons.
1910	29,167	7,271	3	217
1911	29,040	795	39	247
1912	61,698	11,207	0.5	681
1913	53,150	10,574	nil	445
1914	37,754	7,309	nil	239

In 1916, 2,316 tons of sugar were imported into Malacca. Sugar has never been cultivated in this Settlement.

The consumption of sugar in Penang in 1916 was 12,140 tons, and the pre-war exports were as follows:—

	Sugar. Tons.	Sugar candy. Tons.	Jaggery. Tons.	Molasses. Tons.
1910	11,018	32	0.2	727
1911	8,146	35	3.75	898
1912	7,498	77	13	920
1913	5,950	380	11	452
1914	4,924	29	15	293

There is no land in Penang or Province Wellesley available or suitable for the extension of the sugar industry.

AFRICA.

EGYPT.

The portion of the country in which sugar-cane is cultivated is the valley of the Nile, from Cairo to Assouan, near the Sudanese frontier, and without irrigation the cultivation of sugar-cane would be impossible. The crop has fluctuated very much during recent years.

The total amount of cane used for sugar in 1915-16 was the produce of 54,400 acres, and the total production of sugar during this period was 99,973 tons, or 1.83 tons per acre.

During the five years ended 1916 the average yield of sugar-cane per acre was 30.8 tons, and the average percentage of sugar extracted during this period was 10.12 per cent, or 3.12 tons per acre.

The estimated consumption of sugar in the same season as shown by the excess of production and imports over exports was 78,629 tons, thus:—

Production	99,973 tons.
Imports	7,471 "
Exports	107,447 "
Consumption	78,629 "

There are several factories in Egypt belonging to the Société Générale, and the main object of the industry is refining, the raw sugars being produced in the best form suitable for that purpose. There are jam factories, which have extended since the war, also factories making liquors, lemonades, syrups, and numerous pastries. There are also some native factories producing sweetmeats of all kinds. The kind of sugar generally required by these trades is refined granulated.

The types of sugar imported are raw and refined, the importing countries being Austria before the war (for consumption), Java, and other countries of the Far East (for refining).

At present there is no suitable land available for the extension of the sugar industry, but should the remaining basins of Upper Egypt be converted to perennial irrigation, a considerable area will be available.

MAURITIUS.

The area under sugar-cane for the production of sugar has increased from 63,570 acres in 1893 to 152,000 acres at the present time.

The average production of sugar for the last five years has been 252,000 tons, out of which 5,904 tons are used for local consumption, the balance being exported.

The number of factories in Mauritius has decreased from 73 to 55 from the year 1904-1917, but, on the other hand, the tendency has been to centralise the

industry, so that the total capacity is much greater than it was formerly.

Sugar-cane is cultivated by two distinct classes of planters—(a) the estates with or without factories, from which a yield of 2 tons per acre is obtained, and (b) the small planters, almost exclusively Indian planters, who obtain a yield of 1 ton per acre or less.

The description of sugar manufactured is 94 per cent. of plantation white sugar, and 6 per cent. of low-grade sugar.

There are no refineries or other sugar-using trades in the island.

There is attached to the Department of Agriculture a School of Agriculture, where every year a certain number of students are admitted, and they then follow the three years' course of instruction leading to the diploma of the Department. Students are also admitted in the Laboratories of Sugar and Manure Factories, where, under the guidance of the chemist, they study agricultural chemistry and sugar technology. After a certain stage they present themselves first to a preliminary and then to a final examination as enacted by a Bill—No. 20 of 1915 (Local Government)—the promoter of this valuable step having been the Société des Chimistes. The Board of Examiners is appointed by the Governor, and is composed of the Director of Agriculture, the Professor of Chemistry of the Royal College, and two members of the Société des Chimistes.

Practically the whole of the lands in Mauritius which are suitable for cane cultivation are at present under that crop. There is a certain area in the drier districts of the island which might be available for cane cultivation provided that an adequate supply of irrigation water could be obtained for application thereto. A limiting factor to extensions of area lies in the labour supply, which is decreasing in amount, largely owing to the very marked extension of small planters' cultivation which has taken place in recent years. The existing cultivation is not, however, very extensive, and greatly increased yields might in many cases be anticipated as a result of the adoption of improved agricultural methods. Moreover, the existing scarcity of labour is probably capable of being overcome to a considerable extent by the introduction of labour-saving devices both in field and factory, and it may be regarded as highly probable that the adoption of such measures would lead to considerable increases in output in a short space of time. No sugar is imported into Mauritius.

BASUTOLAND TERRITORY.

The climate of this territory is unsuitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane. About 364 tons of sugar is imported annually, almost entirely from Natal. The kinds of sugar demanded are No. 1 refined and best raw whites.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

The country of this Protectorate is essentially pastoral, and no sugar is cultivated in the Protectorate. It is estimated that the consumption of sugar by the white population would be quite 400 tons annually.

SWAZILAND PROTECTORATE.

No sugar is grown, pastoral pursuits being followed more than agricultural. About 250 tons of sugar is imported annually to meet the requirements of the white population.

SOMALILAND.

This country is not an agricultural one, and no land is suitable for sugar-growing. The natives would militate against the successful establishment of the sugar industry. In the eight years from 1909 to 1917, the average quantity of sugar imported was about 100 tons.

GOLD COAST.

The average annual importation of sugar in the four years 1910-13 was 2,000 tons, and the consumption is now on the increase. Of this Germany supplied 1,140 tons,

and the United Kingdom 870 tons, both refined. The comparative sparseness of the population, and the fact that the majority of the agricultural population is composed of peasant proprietors who have found even the unexacting labour required by the production of cacao too severe a strain upon their energies, are the principal factors against the establishment of a sugar industry in the Gold Coast, whilst European supervision is more expensive in West Africa than in any other part of the tropics.

The Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony regards sugar cultivation as quite unsuited to the natives in their present state of development. Sugar-cane is, however, grown in small patches practically all over the colony for chewing, and it appears to grow very successfully.

(To be continued.)

THE SUGAR-HUNGRY WORLD.

Discussing the question of the future demand for sugar, our contemporary *Facts about Sugar* rejects the theory that lessened consumption will become a habit, and that the world's requirements of sugar would show a notable decline—at least for a number of years following the great conflict.

It maintains, on the other hand, that the amount of sugar consumed by the individual except as influenced by its price or by difficulties in the way of obtaining it—is determined by its physical requirements. Consequently it believes that, as the standard of living of the various peoples improves, and as the pace of the world's work accelerates, more and more sugar will be consumed.

This belief is substantiated by recent developments. There is no question that the demand for sugar in the United States has swung back to normal with great rapidity since the lifting of restrictions upon its distribution and sale. The same appears to be true of the few other countries in which available supplies approach the normal volume. From all other parts of the world come reports of complaints, riots and evasions of regulations on the part of people who cannot obtain the sugar that they want and need.

Beyond question the whole world, broadly speaking, is sugar-hungry. Instead of being less than in the pre-war period, demand will be so much greater that the most heroic efforts of sugar producers will be unable to satisfy it. In this connection it is interesting to note that various countries which in the past have not been large consumers of sugar are steadily enlarging their requirements. This is notably true of China, which is showing a rapidly growing capacity for the absorption of refined sugar. The increased demand that manifests itself throughout Far Eastern markets is, in fact, one of the most interesting and significant features of the present situation. It is a factor to be reckoned with in calculating probable future developments.

The war has demonstrated that sugar has a food value never before appreciated, and that there is no satisfactory substitute for it. The rate of increase in its use will be measured only by the possibilities of expanding production—at least, for several years to come.

NATURE NOTES.

The intestinal strongyles of the horse are difficult to expel. Oil of turpentine (60 gms.), followed immediately by a litre of olive oil, causes the expulsion of about 50 per cent. of the parasites. Oil of chenopodium, states the *Journal of the American Veterinary Association*, in doses of 16 to 20 c.c., is very efficacious, causing the expulsion of over 95 per cent. of the parasites.

* * *

It is stated in *Sugar* that a factory is to be erected in Hawaii to make sacks out of banana fibre. The factory is estimated to turn out 10,000,000 sacks per annum. A machine has been invented in Honolulu to separate the fibre from the pulp of banana stems. The fibre is to be shipped from the coasts of the Caribbean through the Panama Canal. It is thought that the sugar planters of Hawaii will benefit by the output of the factory.

* * *

The Jerusalem artichoke can be grown in the higher altitudes of the West Indies. It will grow on a variety of soils, but gives best results in rich, sandy loams. Ten to twelve tons of tubers are considered an average crop. The *Journal of Agriculture*, Victoria, recommends it for that State. It does not require to be planted every year. It yields more to the acre than potatoes. When fed to dairy cows, the milk is increased to an extraordinary degree, and the quality is improved. It is an excellent food for cattle, horses, and sheep, and is one of the cheapest and healthiest pig foods raised. The tubers may be left in the ground without spoiling. No insect, blight, or rust attacks it.

* * *

Can megass be utilised to more advantage than as a fuel? Suggestions made in *Sugar* are considered in an article in the *Agricultural News*. The actual value of megass as fuel in sugar mills depends on the locality. Each mill will have to consider whether it would not be economical to purchase fuel, and utilise megass in other ways. Experiments in the Philippines show that megass fibre or bamboo mixed with banana fibre yields material for a very high quality of white paper. This paper can be profitably manufactured in tropical countries. Paper is already being made in a sugar factory in Hawaii, to be used as a mulch for cane fields. It might be feasible in some localities to mix megass with banana fibre and turn it into paper worth £15 per ton.

* * *

The exports of cocoa from the Gold Coast rose from 80 lb. in 1891 to 950 tons in 1901, to 35 261 tons in 1911, and 90,984 tons in 1917. At the present time the annual crop produced in the Gold Coast and Ashanti amounts to nearly 120,000 tons, according to Sir H. Clifford, as stated in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. This amount may be taken as representing approximately half the total annual production of cocoa for the whole world. The variety of cocoa grown is very hardy. It requires little care, and stands gross neglect. This accounts for the rapid growth of the industry. But the time is at hand when the size of the crop will be such that only the cocoa that is well grown and properly cured will be accepted, while the inferior cocoa will be rejected. The cultivators are awakening already to the necessity for improved agricultural methods.

* * *

Coconut growing with the view of exporting copra shows a somewhat narrow margin of profit. This has tended to check a rapid extension of the industry. But *Tropical Life* points out that owners of coconut plantations should turn their attention to the production of coconut oil of an edible grade. There is a shortage of edible oils

throughout the world, and coconut oil is suitable for edible purposes. An object-lesson is at hand in the Philippines. In 1912, 169,000 tons of copra, and almost no coconut oil, was exported. In the same year oil mills were established. During 1913 the export of coconut oil was 1,300 tons. In 1916 the export had risen to 16,000 tons, and in 1918 it mounted to more than 100,000 tons. The value of 100,000 tons of coconut oil is about £6,000,000. *Tropical Life* for July contains a technical paper on the production and refining of edible oils.

* * *

The forest policy in New South Wales is favourably noticed in *Bot. Abstracts*. The fundamental requirements of Government forestry are: (1) Stable and expert management; (2) assured certainty of policy; (3) a fixed system of finance. The Forestry Law was passed in 1916. The Forestry Board is independent of politics; it has executive and administrative powers to establish a settled policy, and to maintain continuity. A Commission of three persons is to handle the work of the forests, one of whom represents the Government, another is a technical forester, and the third is a business expert. Two large sawmills have been erected. In a competitive sale to the Government of 1,250,000 ft. of lumber, £1,500 was saved to the State over the nearest competitor. The auditor reported that on one year's business, with a turnover of £10,720, a profit of 15 per cent. was made after all charges for overhead, interest, depreciation, and profit and loss had been deducted.

* * *

The soy bean might well be considered in the West Indies as a food plant both for man and beast. The *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* contains an important article on the subject. Its value for human food may be appreciated by the statement that in 1916 one canning firm alone used 100,000 bushels of soy beans for the production of "baked beans." The unripe green pods can also be canned, or used as a green vegetable. The soy bean has been cultivated for food in China, Japan and Korea for many centuries. Of late years large cargoes have been exported from those countries for the extraction of oil. The oil in a crude condition has been used for making soft soap. Lately the refined product has been found very useful in the preparation of butter and lard substitutes. The meal left after expression is a good cattle food. It is also very important for mixing in the proportion of 1 part to 3 parts of wheat flour in making bread and pastry. Soy-bean hay is relished by all browsing animals.

* * *

Sponge culture in the seas of the West Indies is attracting the attention of the Imperial Government, and also of capitalists in the United States. Already 8,000 acres of sea at one of the Turks and Caicos islands has been conceded to a New York capitalist for growing sponges artificially. The Imperial Government is most willing to help, and, as stated in the *Agricultural News*, a grant of £1,500 has been made for a scientific inquiry. The sponges native to the West Indies will be examined, the best breeding-grounds for sponges ascertained, and their artificial culture taken up on a thoroughly scientific basis. Dr. Harmer, Director of the Natural History branch of the British Museum, is taking a keen interest in the subject. It is understood that a marine zoologist is to proceed to the Bahamas to start the inquiry there. There is already a trade in sponges from the Bahamas and Turks Islands, and it is fitting that scientific work should begin where local efforts have initiated the culture. Probably the grant will be renewed as required, and that the whole of the British West Indies will be examined with reference to this question. No doubt the aim will be to introduce the best kinds that can be grown, and to supersede Turkish by West Indian sponges.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

BARBADOS.—The Drought Broken.

The drought, which has lasted from November, has at last broken, and from the beginning of July to the 10th, when the mail closed, rains fell every day, though a much more heavy downfall was needed. Planters are, however, thankful for small mercies! Crop is nearly over, and will probably turn out to be smaller than was anticipated. The death of Dr. Colin Bowen, Medical Officer of St. Michael, which occurred on June 26th, at the early age of forty-four, has caused general sorrow. The son of Dr. Thomas Bowen, he studied in America, and returned to Barbados about nineteen years ago to practise. Dr. Bowen did much good work in examining and passing recruits for the British West Indies Reg-



A BRITISH GUIANA CONTINGENT DISEMBARKING.

ment. His funeral at St. Leonard's was attended by a large and representative gathering.

The British Union Oil Company, which has leased the R.M.S.P. Company's premises in the neighbourhood of and including Shot Hall, has petitioned the Legislature for privileges in connection with the establishment of an oil-fuel depot near Needham's Point.

BRITISH GUIANA and the Merchant Service.

At the instance of Mr. A. McLean, Hon. Secretary of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, that body has marked its appreciation of the services of the Mercantile Marine during the war. A fund has been raised, and addresses are being presented to the officers and crews of the steamers of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Company, Prentice Service and Henderson, and the Booker Line trading regularly with the colony. The senior officers are receiving silver cigar and cigarette cases inscribed "For devoted service," and the badge of the colony. The third and fourth officers, engineers and chief stewards receive colony nugget gold sleeve-links with the colony's arms, while £2 is given to each member of the crews.

A further batch of the British Guiana contingent

reached home in the *Chignecto*, and by the courtesy of Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., two scenes on the occasion of their arrival are depicted in the present CIRCULAR. The men are to be offered grants of land in recognition of their services, and legislation to this end is being passed. Mr. R. E. Brassington, who was prevented by private affairs from accompanying the Colonisation Deputation to England, has returned to the colony for Trinidad.

Following the success of the new strainer used at Nabachis artesian wells are to be sunk at New Amsterdam, and a loan of \$120,000 is to be raised for the purpose. The tax of \$3 per proof gallon on all rum sold for consumption locally is to be continued until December 31st. A committee appointed to consider the construction of a bridge over the Berlice river favours the project, which could be carried out for \$500,000, thus paving the way for the extension of the railway to the Corentyne coast. The construction of a motor road to Venezuela by way of Morawhanna, Yarikita, Arakaka and the Ridge is also under consideration.

Mr. W. G. Taggart, B.Sc., Assistant Director of the Louisiana Sugar Experiment Station, is to be offered the post of Supervisor of the proposed Sugar Experiment Station which is to be set up. A committee comprising Mr. R. Strang, Mr. A. E. Craig, Mr. J. C. Gibson, Mr. W. M. B. Shields, and Mr. A. E. Bratt has been appointed to co-operate with Professor Harrison on the subject. The German machine guns presented to the colony by the West India Committee are on temporary exhibition at "The Argosy" Company's and Booker's Stores.

Exports to June 26th include 37,155 tons of sugar, 3,029,328 gallons of rum, 818 tons of molascuit, and 2,762,182 lb. of rice.

GRENADE.—Representative Government.

The full text of the Petition to the King for the re-establishment of Representative Government in the colony is published in the *West Indian* of July 18th. It covers the following resolution adopted at public meetings:—"Whereas the existing form of Government—Crown Colony—established since 1876, is unsuited to present conditions in Grenada: And Whereas it is desirable in the interest of just and progressive government that the existing system be abolished and a change effected in the present constitution by the introduction of the principle of popular representation: Be it Resolved, that a humble Petition be presented to His Most Gracious Majesty the King, praying His Majesty to bestow upon the people such a measure of Representative Government as will enable them to have an effective voice in their own government."

After stating that the British West Indian Colonies of Jamaica, Barbados, and the Bahamas, as also the British South American Colony of British Guiana, possess some form of representative government, while Grenada,

similarly circumstanced, is wholly disfranchised, it concludes, "Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray as follows:—

- (1) That Crown Colony Government be abolished, and Representative Government established in its stead.
- (2) That (without attempting to restrict the exercise of the discretion of your Majesty and your advisers as to the form of such Representative Government) your Petitioners respectfully recommend:—
 - (a) That the Government of the Colony be vested in an Executive Council, presided over by the Governor, and in a Legislative Chamber.
 - (b) That the Legislative Chamber be composed of popularly elected members representing the several parishes of the Island, the Dependency of Carriacou, and the capital Town of St. George, and constituting a majority of the said Chamber; together with such of the principal officials of



RETURN OF A BRITISH GUIANA CONTINGENT : SCENE IN GEORGETOWN.

the Colony as shall be members of the Executive Council.

- (c) That the Executive Council consist, in addition to the Governor, of a number of the principal officials of the Colony and an equal number of elected members of the Legislature."

JAMAICA.—Trade Improving.

MR. FRANK CUMMINS.—Jamaica extended a hearty welcome to the fourth batch of returning B.W.I.R. men on Friday, July 4th, under command of Lieut.-Colonel E. C. Ogle. The *Farouj* also brought out reliefs for the R.G.A., some invalid men, who were lauded at Port Royal, and a good batch of seamen, who were transferred to the H.M.S. *Berwick*. Vice-Admiral Morgan Singer, C.B., who came out in H.M.S. *Constance*, and will have his headquarters at Bermuda, has been visiting the island. He has transferred his flag to H.M.S. *Berwick*, and has sailed for Bermuda. A sensational discovery was recently made on the line of the Jamaica Railway between Albany and Highgate, where it was discovered fully 30 ft. of lines had been torn up and thrown into a gully below. The act is believed to be that of certain railway employees who are dissatisfied

with existing conditions as regards wages, &c. A pleasant feature at the close of last week was the marriage at the Kingston Parish Church on Saturday, July 12th, of Mr. A. Innes Pocock, Acting Superintendent of the D.W.I. Cable Company, in Jamaica, to Miss Constance Mais, daughter of Mr. J. H. B. Mais, Collector of Taxes for Clarendon. The annual convention held at Mandeville is again in session. One of the important questions dealt with was infantile mortality. In the case of "J. V. Calder v. Fred. L. Clarke," for damages in respect to the sale of certain articles at Worthy Park Estate, in St. Catherine, after two days' hearing before His Honour the Chief Justice and a Special Jury, the parties came to an agreement, and the case was dismissed. Reports have again reached this island of the alleged ill-treatment of Jamaicans in Cuba. As a result of one case it is understood that the British Government have called upon the Cuban authorities for an explanation. The deceased in this case is Joseph

Williams, who, it is stated, was lynched and murdered by a Cuban mob who were suspicious that the deceased was about to commit a crime. It is stated that he was in the habit of giving a little girl sweets as he passed along a certain road. On the afternoon in question he omitted to bring the sweets, but immediately took the little girl to a fruit stall to get her something there. A policeman appears to have come up, ill-treated him, put him in gaol. Then the mob, suspecting that the Jamaican intended to kidnap the little girl, is stated to have gone in force to the gaol, broke their way in, and, after getting hold of deceased, put him cruelly to death. Brevet-

Major L. Fink, M.C., W.I.R., was married on Tuesday at the Kingston Parish Church to Miss Moira Lucie-Smith, daughter of Mr. E. W. Lucie-Smith, manager of the Colonial Bank here, and Mrs. Lucie-Smith. Mr. Leon Colvin, manager of the Royal Bank of Canada here, has been given an appointment in Demerara, while Mr. E. C. McLeod, manager of the Nova Scotia Bank, goes to England shortly to take up duties as branch manager there. The *Jamaica Times, Ltd.*, has been successful in the case brought against it by Mr. S. M. Jacobsen, judgment being delivered in favour of the defendants, with costs, by the Appeal Court, two Judges being in favour, one against. The question of Canadian Federation is still in the air, although for the present the matter has been publicly dropped. The island is at present suffering from severe heat, very little rain having fallen for some time past. Small strikes are again reported from different towns in the island. These strikes, however, do not keep up long, the workers in the end turning back to work. The shipment of island produce is again brightening up, and, with the R.M.S.P. Company's boats coming on here regularly for cargoes, things are looking much brighter for the producer. The s.s. *Aylesbury*, just sailed for London, has on board a large cargo, including sugar

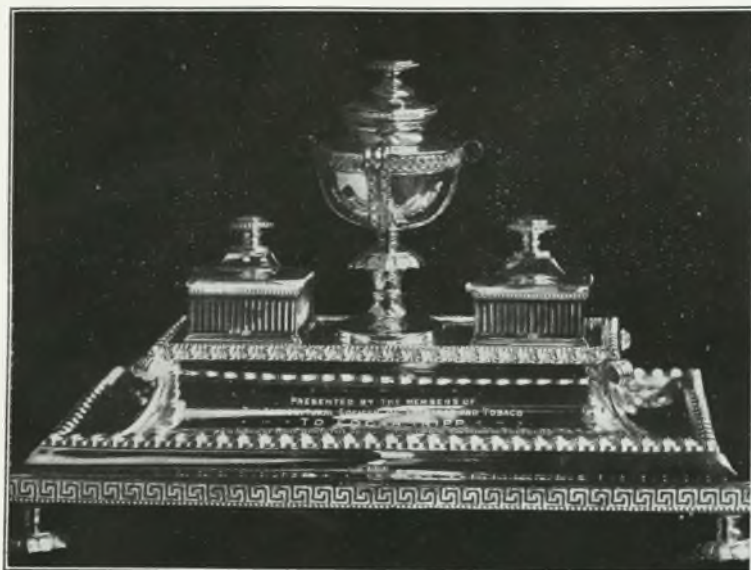
and other island produce. The *Hemuera*, the boat which took a batch of New Zealand troops home, through the Panama Canal, and which called here, is now in port, en route to England.

TRINIDAD.—Sugar Revival.

As an indication of the revival of the sugar industry, it may be noted that a large consignment of machinery has arrived for the Usine St. Madeline Company. The Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution thanking the Mercantile Marine for their services during the war.

The handsome silver inkstand depicted on this page is the testimonial recently presented to Mr. Edgar Tripp on the occasion of his resignation of the Secretaryship of the Agricultural Society of this colony, which he filled with marked ability from its foundation twenty-four years ago. Mr. Tripp will be returning to Trinidad in the autumn, when England's loss will be Jere's gain. All will look forward to a resumption of his informative letters under this heading.

Captain U. H. McU. Gooden-Chisholm, son of Captain and Mrs. R. C. Gooden-Chisholm, of Whin Croft, Fern-down, Dorset, and "El Salvador," Bande L'Est Road, Trinidad, was married to Miss Claire Lange, daughter of



SILVER PLATE PRESENTED TO MR. EDGAR TRIPP.

Lieut.-Colonel Andre P. Lange, at the Church of the Sacred Heart on July 16th.

Lieut.-Colonel Maxwell Smith has been appointed Deputy Inspector-General of the Constabulary. Dr. K. S. Wise, our newly-appointed Surgeon-General, is expected to arrive here early in August. He was married in England on June 26th to Miss Violet Mary Ground, daughter of Dr. Ground, of Maidstone. A branch of the Trinidad Information Bureau has been opened at the Queen's Park Hotel. Peace celebrations were quite a success, and included a naval and military review on the Savannah, but a display of fireworks was affected by the damp.

TURKS ISLANDS.—Salt at a Standstill.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Rain is badly needed, all signs of vegetation having practically disappeared. Reports from the Caicos group say that the crops will be very poor; in some parts only enough corn will be saved for the next sowing. Business has been exceptionally quiet. The salt industry, as in the previous month, is at a standstill. The plant recently

installed by Mr. J. D. Wood for cutting conch shells is out of commission, owing to an accident to the engine. Quantities of shells are being shipped to the United States every available opportunity. Owing to the prolonged drought, there is nothing doing in the fibre industry. The cotton industry is progressing favourably. Living during the past few weeks has been exceptionally hard, owing to the absence of both fruit and vegetables, even sweet potatoes and yam being unobtainable. The absence of direct communication with Canada is badly felt along this line. Since the Americans have practically taken over Hayti and San Domingo, they will not permit of the small craft which come over here for salt, bringing cargoes of fruit and vegetables as formerly.

AT WESTMINSTER.

"Sauce for the Goose . . ."

Indignation at the interference of Americans in Irish affairs was shown in the House of Commons on August 14th, when Col. Guinness asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that the United States Senate had recently found time to discuss the Irish question, and whether he did not consider that it would be a graceful act to reciprocate by placing at the disposal of the United States the benefit of our experience in governing the negro races throughout the British Empire.

German Wrappers for Grape-fruit.

On August 14th Brigadier-General Croft asked the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention had been drawn to the fact that Jamaica grape-fruit was being sold in London in wrappers "full of instructions in German."

Mr. Bridgeman, in his reply, said that colonial fruit could be imported under general licence irrespective of the nationality of the exporting firm; but he probably struck the true explanation when he said that the wrappers were perhaps taken from old stock, for before the war active steps were being taken to develop a fruit trade with Europe.

Privately Imported Sugar.

Major Knight, M.P., asked the Food Controller on August 13th why a manufacturer could obtain from the merchant four times the quantity of sugar specified on his licence to buy sugar, while the private individual could obtain half only of the quantity he had applied for for jam-making.

Mr. McCurdy: During the period of restricted supplies, vouchers to manufacturers, other than manufacturers of jam and condensed milk, were issued upon the basis of 25 per cent. of their 1915 usage. When supplies became more plentiful the rate of issue was raised, first to 50 per cent. of the 1915 usage and later to 100 per cent. For administrative convenience the old vouchers, issued at 25 per cent., were retained, and the increase was secured by honouring the voucher at twice, and later at four times, its face value. Manufacturers are now receiving 100 per cent. of the quantity they used in 1915, and not, as seems to be implied, four times the quantity they are entitled to purchase. Private individuals desirous of using sugar for jam-making received 100 per cent. of the quantity applied for in respect of the earlier fruits, and are now receiving 50 per cent. of the quantity applied for in respect of the later fruits.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

August 21st, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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 spot market is firm and again dearer. Yellow crystallised, 82s. to 87s. 6d.; white crystallised, 100s.; syrups and muscovados, 70s. to 74s., duty paid.

Privately imported sugars continue to meet with a ready sale at enhanced values.

The West India sugar statistics in London for week ending August 9th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	27,279	18,105	47,345	
Deliveries	24,374	24,073	45,301	
Stock	9,097	5,019	10,059	

New York prices: 96° Cuba Centrifugals, 5.88c., c. and f. New York, as against 4.985c. last year; 96° Centrifugals, non-privileged c.i.f., 5.64c., as against 4.749c.

RUM. There is no change to report. High prices are asked in Jamaica for 1920 rums, but buyers here are not interested.

The stocks in London on August 9th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	6,205	4,915	8,383	
Demerara	14,342	6,283	10,452	
Total of all kinds	25,629	15,768	31,300	

COCOA. Latest quotations:—

	1919	Controlled Price.
	123/-	1918
Trinidad, middling red	124/- to 125/-	89/-
„ good middling red	126/- to 128/-	90/-
„ fine to superior	116/-	80/- to 82/-
Grenada, fair	126/-	85/-
„ fine	115/-	78/- to 80/-
Jamaica, fair	125/-	85/-
„ fine	115/- to 127/6	79/- to 85/-
St. Lucia, ordinary to fine	115/- to 124/-	80/- to 85/-
St. Vincent, ordinary to fine	115/- to 123/-	78/- to 85/-
Dominica, ordinary to fine		

The stocks in London on August 9th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	37,638	9,066	28,182	
Grenada	17,519	14,105	29,563	
Total of all kinds	151,525	114,634	276,536	

ARROWROOT. A little doing in lower qualities; otherwise no change.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, steady at 11s. 6d. per lb.; distilled, quiet at 4s. per lb. Lime-juice: Raw, 2s. 9d. and 3s.; no business reported.

Orange Oil: Sweet and bitter, 8s. per lb.; in good demand.

COPRA. The market has been quiet during the last week. F.m.s. West India, £60 c.i.f. London; £65 c.i.f. Marseilles.

COTTON. Imports of West Indian in the thirty weeks ending July 24th, 6,617 bales.

SPICES. Pimento still very quiet. "Retail" transactions at 5½d. per lb. Jamaica Ginger in slow demand at unchanged rates—say, 85s. to 120s. per cwt.

BALATA. The market continues dull and inactive. W.I. sheet, forward quoted 3s. 11d. c.i.f., spot 4s. 1½d. and 4s. 2d.

HONEY. Very quiet, and buyers holding off. Next auctions August 28th.

OIL. Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, report: "Oil produced during July, 15,350 tons."

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. A. L. Inniss
H.E. Sir W. L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G.	Mr. N. Scott Johnstone
Mr. L. G. Alston	Mr. Llewellyn Jones
Mr. R. Arthur	Mr. L. Keir
Mr. E. I. Baeza	Mr. A. H. Kirby
Mr. A. E. Bell	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, O.B.E.
H.E. Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.	Mr. John Macdonald
Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E.	Mrs. McEwen
Mr. G. P. Branch	Mr. W. McMillan
Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C.	Mr. T. M. Marshall
H.E. Sir G. J. Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	Mr. A. J. Mascall
H.E. Sir W. Collett, K.C.M.G.	Mr. J. Miller
Mr. Altamont Da Costa, M.B.E., Strand Palace Hotel, Strand, W.C.	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
Mr. W. W. Craib	Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C.
Mr. Robert Craig	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., 37, Henderson Street, Edinburgh.
Hon. S. Cuthbert	H. E. Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G.
Mr. F. J. Dean	Mrs. Rapsay
Hon. D. S. de Freitas	Mr. T. G. Rose
Mr. H. G. de Lissar	Mr. P. W. Sangster
Mr. P. de Verteuil	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. G. P. Dewar	Mr. J. B. D. Sellier
Mr. G. C. du Boulay	Hon. Denis Slyne, C.B.E.
Mr. W. P. Ebbels	Rev. W. R. Symons
Mr. F. Evans	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Hon. H. Fergusson, I.S.O.	Mr. Edgar Tripp, 27, Craven Hill Gardens, Lancaster Gate, W.
Dr. J. Foreman	Hon. W. A. S. Vickers
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. Cyril Warren
Mr. Hammond, c/o Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.	Mr. Athelstan Watson
Mr. C. C. Henriques	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
Mr. C. V. C. Horne	Mr. A. J. Webb, 3, Ridgeway Place, Wimbledon.
Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson	Mr. J. H. Wilkinson
	Mr. W. Wooliscroft.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.		PRICES.
		Aug. 19th.
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	74-76
3½ %	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-43	71-76xd.
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	80-82
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	63-65
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80-82
3 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	84-86
4 %	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	71-73
3½ %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	66-68
3 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	75-75
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	79-81xd.
4 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63-65
8 %	The Colonial Bank	7½-8½
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	170-160
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures...	82-84
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures...	87-89
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	½-5
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97½-102½
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	9/3
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	1½-1½
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields...	55/0
—	Trinidad Dominion 10/-	8/3
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	60/0
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	40-45
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	99-104
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	61-66
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	65-70
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	1½-1½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	7-7½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " " 2nd	6½-6½
5 ½	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	92-94

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

British Guiana Colonisation.

THE official visit of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation was brought to a close on August 29th by a banquet given in honour of the delegates by the West India Committee. The HON. A. B. BROWN, the doyen of the visitors, the REV. ERIC ROBERTSON, and MR. J. MACFARLANE CURRY sailed for Demerara on September 2nd, and they will be followed shortly by the other delegates, with the exception of DR. W. H. WHARTON, MR. J. A. LUCKHOE, and MR. ABDOL RAYMAN, who, according to present arrangements, will proceed to India in the autumn to endeavour to carry to a successful conclusion the good work of educating Indian opinion regarding the amenities of British Guiana, which they have so assiduously conducted during their stay in London, where they were privileged to meet the members of the Indian Parliamentary Committee. The HON. E. G. WOOLFORD, the HON. F. DIAS, and MR. ABDOL RAYMAN were, we regret to state, prevented through ill-health from attending the banquet, and MR. EWING CHOW was out of London, but the other delegates were all present, and received a cordial welcome from a representative gathering of the members of the West India Committee. The keynote of the speeches was the cordial relationship now so firmly established between the West India Committee and the delegates, many of whom seemed surprised to learn of

the multifarious activities of that body in the interests of the West Indies as a whole. That is all to the good, and augurs well for the future, and it will remain for the Committee vigorously to push forward the objects which these distinguished visitors have had in view—namely, the development of our great colony on the mainland of South America. We must not anticipate the report on the proceedings of the deputation, which will, no doubt, be presented to the Legislature of British Guiana by that capable draftsman DR. J. J. NUNAN, who was justly complimented upon being the prime mover in bringing all classes in the colony together over the matter of colonisation. It is understood, however, that the delegates are well satisfied at the progress which they have made towards the solution of a problem which has racked the brains of successive generations of colonists from the days of SIR WALTER RALEGH. They have interviewed several important groups of capitalists, and will return home satisfied that, when population can be found, ample British capital will be forthcoming to develop the hinterland of their colony. We wish them God-speed!

Imperial Preference at Last.

IMPERIAL Preference is at last an accomplished fact. As from midnight on August 31st, British sugar, molasses, cocoa and coffee, the principal staples of our West Indian colonies, have been admitted into the United Kingdom at a reduction of one-sixth off the duty paid on similar articles coming from foreign countries, while in the case of rum preference is accorded to the British product by means of an extra duty on foreign spirits. As we were able authoritatively to foreshadow, the preference also applies to the above-named commodities of British origin when taken out of bond. The West Indies have waited so long for these concessions that it is not surprising that they should appear as yet hardly to realise their full significance, and that they should be already expressing doubts as to whether the preference will be really lasting. We do not share these fears. It is inconceivable that the people of this country will protest against a reduction of duties, which is what the present measure of preference amounts to, and it is perfectly certain that there is not a remote possibility of the articles on which preference is now being given being restored to the free list in view of the fact that for many years to come the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be at his wits' end to make revenue

balance expenditure. But it will none the less be "up to" the West Indies themselves to help to secure continuity of policy in this connection, and this they can best do by offering substantial reciprocal tariff advantages to the Mother Country. Once an extended import and export trade with the Mother Country is established, labour in this country will realise that it will be to their own advantage, no less than to that of the Dominions and colonies, to maintain the system of preference. We are glad, therefore, to learn that Jamaica is already proposing to fall into line with the other West Indian colonies in establishing a British preferential tariff, and that the other islands and British Guiana are considering the desirability of widening the present basis of preference. Meanwhile it must be remembered that Imperial preference alone will not necessarily prove the salvation of our industries. It will still be open to the foreigner to undercut the preference by dumping his produce in the United Kingdom below the cost of production. It is therefore imperative that Imperial preference be accompanied by anti-dumping legislation, and it is gratifying to learn from the Prime Minister's recent statement that this is to be introduced at an early date. It is most unlikely that the sugar-producing countries of Europe will be in a position to export sugar to any extent for several years to come, but none the less we must be prepared for any such contingency.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have come to an agreement with the makers of sulphate of ammonia with regard to the maximum prices to be charged for this fertiliser for home agricultural use, for delivery in the eight months October, 1919-May, 1920. These prices are appreciably higher than those ruling during last season, owing to the fact that the Government subsidy given to makers during the war has now been withdrawn. The agreed maximum prices are fixed on a commercial basis which has to cover the substantial increases which have occurred since last year in the cost of coal, wages, and raw materials. The Board consider that these prices are not more than are necessary to secure to the manufacturers a reasonable trade profit.

The agreed maximum prices for sale in lots of not less than 2 tons for delivery by rail or water to purchaser's nearest railway station or wharf in Great Britain, less a trade discount to agricultural merchants, dealers, and co-operative societies, are as follows:—

Month of Delivery.	Price per ton in bags, net cash.		
	£	s.	d.
October, 1919	20	10	0
November	20	15	0
December	21	0	0
January, 1920	21	7	6
February	21	15	0
March, April, and May	22	0	0

In the case of deliveries to Ireland, Isle of Man, or Channel Islands, the above prices include delivery f.o.b. port in Great Britain. Farmers should place their orders without delay with their usual dealer or co-operative society. Manure mixers, merchants, dealers, and co-operative societies should send their orders to the Sulphate of Ammonia Association, 84, Horseferry-road, S.W. 1.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"PLAY wi' puppy, puppy lick yo' face."

* * *

THE Colonial Bank has opened branches at Coomassie, Gold Coast, and Victoria in the Cameroons.

* * *

A GATESHEAD miner, charged with attempted suicide, admitted that he drank twenty-four glasses of rum in an hour.

* * *

SIR WILLIAM ALLARDYCE, Governor of the Bahamas, was granted an audience by the King at Balmoral Castle on August 24th.

* * *

CAPT. HERBERT BRYAN, Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who has been on active service for the last four years, has now returned to Kingston, and is administering the government of the island.

* * *

MR. F. H. COLLIER, formerly Chief Justice of St. Lucia, has been appointed Secretary to the Ministry of Food, with the Parliamentary Department of which he has been associated since its inception.

* * *

THE Incogniti, who are sending a cricket team to Philadelphia, have been unable to accept the invitation of the Jamaica Cricket Club for the extension of the tour to Jamaica as, the XI. being made up of Service men who will only get six weeks' leave, the requisite time is not available.

* * *

THE marriage took place on August 9th of Miss Daisy Duff Field, third daughter of the late Dr. Field, of British Guiana, and Mrs. Field, of 4, Brent-villas, Hendon, and niece of the Hon. Robert Duff, late Emigration Agent of British Guiana, to Lieutenant Franz de Backer, Belgian Army.

* * *

SIR WILLIAM GOODE, known to a wide circle of West Indians as the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club, continues to do remarkably good work for the Supreme Economic Council. Particular tribute is paid to his services by Mr. Hoover in an interview published in the *Times* of August 25th. Speaking of Sir William and his allied directors, he said: "In normal times the services of these gentlemen would stand out with great vividness; but with the overwhelming problems facing Europe many distinguished services are unduly obscured."

* * *

It has been related in the CIRCULAR how, soon after the outbreak of war, some young men in Barbados who had been experimenting with telegraphy as a hobby erected an efficient wireless station in the island, for which they were deservedly mentioned in despatches. A similar case of self-help is now reported from British Guiana. There being no searchlight in the colony, Mr. E. C. Buck, Director of Public Works, flung himself into the breach—so to speak—and with the help of Mr. H. G. Spain, the Government electrician, successfully manufactured one with a 24-in. diameter and an effective range of 3 miles, which rendered admirable service at Fort William Frederick.

* * *

ONE of the most interested members of the audience on the occasion of the exhibition of British Guiana films in London recently was Dr. José Santiago Rodriguez, a distinguished Venezuelan lawyer, who is visiting London on a special mission on behalf of the Government of Venezuela with the object of reviving commercial relations between his country and the United Kingdom. The opportunity of his visit is, it is understood, being taken

to discuss the much-debated 30 per cent. surtax, and Mr. Edgar Tripp kindly represented the West India Committee at a recent meeting arranged by the London Chamber of Commerce, at which this matter, among others, was raised.

JUDGING from numerous inquiries which are already being received by the West India Committee from prospective visitors to the Caribbean, the forthcoming West Indian tourist season should be a very busy one if the shipping companies are in a position to provide the necessary accommodation for travellers in search of health and pleasure. A large influx of visitors from the United States is expected in the Bahamas and Jamaica, and it is reported that American capitalists propose to open a large hotel on Cat Island, which will be reached by a service of speedy motor boats from the coast of Florida. This is not without significance, having regard to the fact that there is no "prohibition" in the Bahamas!

THERE is a great opening for enterprise and capital in the direction of the opening of hotels on really modern lines in the British West Indies. The existing hotels are few and far between, and can be counted on the fingers. Many of the islands have none whatever, with the result that only those tourists armed with introductions to residents would dream of staying longer than they could help. The boarding-houses, generally speaking, are years behind the times, and their bathing and sanitary arrangements simply abominable. What the islands need is a man like the late Mr. Flagler, who established the modern caravanserais in Florida and the Bahamas.

MR. W. GORDON GORDON, of Port of Spain, who is at present enjoying a holiday in Scotland, has given £5,000 to the Anglican Church in Trinidad, to be invested in 4 per cent. Government Bonds, and to form a perpetual trust fund, of which £1,000 is to establish a Home in All Saints' Parish, Newtown, for poor widows with families, and aged and disabled women. Half the annual income is to be paid the rector of All Saints for keeping clean and in good repair the marble font in memory of his wife, Gertrude Gordon; one-fourth the annual income to be paid to support the Daily Meal Society; and the remaining one-fourth to be devoted to the Clergy Pension Fund.

In last CIRCULAR it was mentioned that, after deducting the postage of this publication, there only remained 17s. 9d. for general purposes of the West India Committee. It may be added that, owing to the devaluation of currency, or reduced purchasing value—whatever one may like to call it—that 17s. 9d. is only equal to about 12s. before the war. This makes it more imperative than ever that subscriptions should be paid punctually, and the Hon. Treasurer feels sure that their appeal to members to help them in this connection will not be in vain! It only remains to advise those few still in arrears that subscriptions can be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or of the Royal Bank of Canada.

THE banana industry of Fiji has hitherto been carried on by the natives. It is now, says the *Times Trade Supplement* proposed to place it on a sound basis, and Europeans interested in the sugar and coconut industries have prepared a scheme for making the banana plantations more profitable to the natives directly, and indirectly of greater benefit to Fiji as a whole. The banana crop is bought by Australia and New Zealand. Some 70,000 to 80,000 bunches are exported monthly in a good year. The natives grow the bananas near their huts, and there are no extensive blocks. In accordance with the scheme

already referred to, under European supervision large tracts of land are being brought under systematic cultivation, and within a short time the export trade in bananas from Fiji will be most important. Unfortunately, the Fijians, who number about 100,000, are not much inclined to follow regular employment on plantations, and as Indian immigration has been stopped the question of labour is acute.

WE much regret to announce the accidental death of Flying-Lieut. H. S. Morris whilst practising landings near Marlow on Thursday, the 14th ult. An additional sad feature of his death was the fact that he had just completed, with great skill and forethought, all arrangements for what would have been an epoch-making aerial event—the flight from England by seaplane to the Fiji Islands, to take place early in September. In this flight Lord Milner and the Colonial and Air Ministries were much interested, and from it much commercial and military advantage to the Empire was anticipated. The Napier Company had shown their interest, too, by providing him with a Napier Lion engine. His scheme was to open up Imperial, and, in particular, local, aerial communication in the British Western Pacific. The distance of the contemplated flight was about 14,000 miles, via India, Burma, Malay Peninsula, and Australia to Suva, Fiji.

LIEUT. MORRIS, like so many aerial pioneers, was quite young, being only twenty-eight years of age. He was born in Australia, and went later with his family to South Africa, where his father and relatives are living, and held important public appointments. After a brilliant university career he came to England and entered the Civil Service. He devoted much time to the study of Oriental languages and of primitive races. During the early part of the war he was retained at Woolwich Arsenal, where he worked as an analytical chemist, and discovered the smoke bomb which was acquired by Messrs. Brock & Co. He then accepted a post in Fiji, becoming District Commissioner and Private Secretary and A.D.C. to Sir Bickham Escott, the Governor. He later came to England, joined the Royal Air Force, and obtained a commission. A man with imagination and enthusiasm for Empire problems, of great energy and technical knowledge, he soon concentrated his mind on his schemes for his proposed important flight to the Pacific, now, alas! not to be carried out by him. He married, in 1915, Miss Sylvia Harford, of Grenada, B.W.I., by whom he had two children.

A MILITARY funeral took place on the 20th from Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Vincent de Paul, Maida-vale, W. Among those present were Mrs. Kernahan, sister-in-law, Mr. Alfred Morris, cousin, Flying-Lieut. Hill, R.A.F. (who was to have been his companion in the proposed flight to Fiji), representing the Commanding Officer of the 29th Training Squadron, Netheravon, Mr. J. de la Motte, Drs. Durrant and Hatton, and Mrs. Seaton Browne. Among the clergy were Fathers Magrath, McCabe, and Walsley, O.P., Sir Bickham Escott and Sir Everard Thurn sent letters of appreciation of his brilliant services and qualities, and expressed regret for their inability to attend owing to reasons of health.

THE attention of members is called to the fact that, by virtue of the rules of the West India Committee, sanctioned by the Privy Council, the subscriptions of candidates elected during the last three months of the current year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1921. If each member at present on the list would introduce at least one candidate, the Committee would be greatly strengthened, and it would be possible to extend further the size and scope of the CIRCULAR.

BRITISH GUIANA COLONISATION.

A West India Committee Dinner.

Sir Wilfred Collet and the members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation were entertained at a farewell banquet by the West India Committee in the Venetian Room at the Holborn Restaurant on August 29th. In the absence of the Chairman in the North, Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter, Deputy Chairman, presided, and, in spite of the holiday season keeping many members out of town, there was a full attendance to do honour to the distinguished guests, the company including :-

Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., Sir W. Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G., Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., Sir Edward Davson, Sir Charles Davson, Messrs. A. P. G. Austin, Harry Bamford, M.P.S., E. Hyslop Bell, Major J. R. Boose, C.M.G., V.D., Mr. R. V. Butt, Hon. F. N. Browne, K.C., Messrs. Evan Campbell, J. Macfarlane Corry, Captain K. Trenchard Cox, M.B.E., Messrs. Paul Cressall, E. R.



A TRIUMPHAL ARCH IN GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETURN OF A LOCAL CONTINGENT.

Darnley, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, Mr. H. F. Devitt, Major G. Disney, Hon. J. A. Duclos, Messrs. George Farmer, B. H. Gainfort, J. J. Glover, D. Haes, C. Broughton Hamilton, C.M.G., C. Handley-Page, C.B.E., A. J. Hirsch, F. G. Jemmett, J. R. Luckhoo, Major Maitland, Messrs. J. Z. Mayhew, D. A. McKinnon, E. L. Neynse, Dr. J. J. Nunan, LL.B., Messrs. L. Oliver, Guy Oliver, A. C. O'Dowd, C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., F. Perry, H. F. Previté, J. D. Race, Joseph Rippon, O.B.E., Rev. Eric Robertson, Messrs. Otto Rochs, Otto Rochs, junr., Dr. José S. Rodriguez, Messrs. J. Q. Rowelt, Parblu Sawh, E. Salmon, G. S. Seton-Browne, R. W. Smith, Louis Souchon, J. J. Stalberg, Edgar Tripp, G. C. Vasmer, E. Alford Wallace, Dr. W. H. Wharton, L.R.C.P., Mr. W. H. Wharton, junr., Lieut. L. R. Wheeler, Dr. W. J. Winckler, Messrs. C. Guy Wyatt, and Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G.

The Rev. Eric Robertson said grace, and, after the usual loyal toast, Mr. Trotter, rising to propose "The British Guiana Colonisation Deputation," coupled with the names of Sir Wilfred Collet and the Members, said that the objects of their mission were now well known. These were, briefly, to secure

population for British Guiana on a colonisation basis. The deputation, including as it did representatives of all races, with the solitary exception of indigenous Indians, was the most important one that had ever come from British Guiana. Their movements had been chronicled in the Press; they had waited on Lord Milner and Lord Sinha, and had had the opportunity of a conference with Dr. Louis Sambon, that eminent authority on the all-important question of sanitation; and they had, he believed, also had some practical experience of aviation, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Handley-Page, who he was glad to see present.

With regard to the all-important question of colonisation, he understood that some members of the deputation were to visit India—a very wise decision. While not losing sight of the possibility of securing the resumption of Indian immigration, they had not overlooked other possible sources of supply, one of the most promising of which would seem to be our West Indian colonies. British Guiana should, under the new conditions now prevailing, be able to offer attractions equal, if not superior, to those offered by Cuba, and he would welcome any sign that the stream of emigrants from Jamaica and the northern islands was being diverted to British Guiana, and their population retained as citizens of the Empire. Liberia, British West Africa and China had also been considered.

He had read with interest certain comparisons of acreage and population which Colonel Amery had recently made. A still more striking comparison could be made between British Guiana and Southern Nigeria. While Nigeria, with 78,000 square miles, had a population of 8,000,000, British Guiana, with 90,000 square miles, had only about 300,000 inhabitants.

He welcomed the deputation very cordially, and assured them that in their efforts they could count on the fullest support of the West India Committee. They were assisting not only British Guiana, but also the West Indies as a whole, for the increase in exports and imports would bring improved shipping facilities from which the islands would benefit.

With regard to India, he could not help feeling that the antagonism in that great country to emigration was due to a misapprehension of the true position, and that when it was fully realised that their people had in British Guiana equality of opportunity in the fullest sense in political, social, and commercial life, combined with complete religious freedom, their objections would fade away.

He would like the members of the deputation to realise that the West India Committee was not the antiquated institution for the relief of absentee proprietors which it was sometimes supposed to be, but an up-to-date organisation with a more than up-to-date secretary—an organisation of business men with the one object of promoting the interests of the West India Colonies, and giving assistance in all matters affecting their interests. As a proof of their modernism he might mention that they were shortly opening a fund with the view to increasing their efficiency. Those who had visited the Committee Rooms would have noticed that congestion could exist without strikes. More accommodation was required, and also assistance for the secretary, who, he hoped might be relieved of some of his arduous duties, and might visit the West Indies. In conclusion, he

referred again to the pleasure which it gave the Committee to entertain so many distinguished visitors from British Guiana.

Sir Wilfred Collett, in response, said he would like to reiterate that British Guiana was as big in area as Great Britain. There would be no difficulty in finding room for 15,000,000 people, and at present the population was only a little over 300,000. There was enough land there, if only they had the people, to supply all the sugar required here, and it would be a good thing to get sugar exclusively from British sources. He expressed his thanks to the West India Committee for what they had done during the last three years on behalf of West Indian contingents. He did not think everybody realised the value of that assistance—the amount of trouble taken, and the amount of common sense the Committee were able to instil into people who, in some respects, seemed to be deficient. (Laughter.) One result of the visit of the Deputation would be to remove some false impressions on the other side of the Atlantic with regard to the Committee. He believed the result would be even more co-operation than in the past. (Cheers.)

Mr. Numan also thanked the Committee for the way it had received the Deputation, and said he believed it would lead to a new era of understanding. They could not have done much in London without the Committee. He paid a warm tribute to the Secretary, who had assisted them in every possible way, and said the Deputation were very grateful to him for what he had done. (Cheers.)

The Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C., said it was exceedingly kind of the West India Committee to make the arrangements for them which had been made, and for Mr. Aspinall to meet them at the station and welcome them here. When they left British Guiana they knew their task was a great and onerous one, but they had at their backs an overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of British Guiana, who felt the time had come to take a step forward in developing the resources of the country. He was pleased to say that, owing to the able way in which Mr. Numan had placed their case before Lord Milner and Lord Sinha, they had received sympathy and co-operation from the Colonial and India Offices. He felt they had taken one step forward, but there still remained plenty to be done. The work of the Deputation was drawing to a close, but the West India Committee would carry on to a successful conclusion what remained to be done. (Cheers.) Acting on advice from the Colonial and India Offices, the Indian section would proceed to carry on propaganda in India, and they hoped it would meet with success. They should not give all their attention to the East Indian side of the question. There were other races which should be got for labour in Demerara, and he hoped other sources would be drawn on for this purpose. References had been made to African labour, and he thought the West India Committee might also take up the subject of Chinese labour. The time had come when all employers must understand that there must be continual sympathy between them and their labourers. (Cheers.)

Dr. Wharton, on behalf of the East Indian section, also paid a warm tribute to Mr. Aspinall, who, he said, in every movement of the Deputation had proved a friend. They had been advised to go to India by the India Office, and they intended to embrace the opportunity of going to see their fatherland. He was a native of British Guiana, and some of them had never set foot in India. Now they would go and prove to their countrymen that British Guiana was one of the few places in which there was no prejudice, and where every man stood on an equal footing and received equal rights of citizenship—political and otherwise. He hoped they would be able to induce many of their fellow countrymen to join their forces, which already numbered 140,000 out of a population of 300,000, and that they would be

able to form a colony of Indians. The value of the Indian labourer was well known in the colony. He had proved himself to be the agriculturist of the country. He did not say this in any disparagement of the descendants of Africans, who had done yeoman service, too. It was their desire and aim, with the co-operation of the West India Committee and the help of the Governor, to convince their friends in India that British Guiana was not such a bad place as it was thought to be years ago when they had the indentured system. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Eric Robertson caused some amusement by expressing how his opinion of the members of the West India Committee had changed when he met them, and how he had come to appreciate the aims and objects of the Committee. He felt he would be wanting in his duty to his country and people to-day if he did not throw in his lot with them. He believed if ever there was an Association which strove to bring all races and parts of the colonies together it was the West India Committee. (Cheers.) He was looking forward to the time when they would all be found working together for the development of their country. When their people knew of the generous way the Committee had met them they would pay their tribute of gratitude to the Committee. (Cheers.)

Mr. A. B. Brown said if something could be done to get more labour of a desirable nature into British Guiana it would be a very good thing indeed. They wanted labourers. It was difficult to understand why a colony of so much promise, with such good prospects, and so rich in possibilities had lagged behind for nearly three-quarters of a century. It was not that the colony was unfertile—there was no more fertile land in South America. It was not because access to the interior was difficult. There were waterways and facilities for getting up country. They had boundless forest land, and they believed if it was worked economically it would prove a very good asset. Their savannah lands could be used for cattle, and they believed millions could be reared and the flesh and leather exported. It had always been a puzzle why Jamaica and Barbados had forged ahead and British Guiana had lagged behind. Perhaps the reason was the way in which the colony had come into the hands of Great Britain. It had been ceded by the Dutch, and for a long time it had a Dutch atmosphere. Now by the energy of the Attorney-General Dutch law had been swept away. But for his energy, too, the Deputation would never have reached Great Britain. He hoped the Attorney-General, the West India Committee, and their worthy Governor would all see that the colony of British Guiana, which had been lagging for nearly three-quarters of a century, had taken a move in the right direction. (Cheers.)

Mr. Edgar Tripp then proposed the health of the Venezuelan Commissioner. The gathering seemed to him like a family party, and he was glad to find Dr. Rodriguez included. Trinidad was more closely associated with Venezuela than any other part of his Majesty's Dominions, and he believed that as soon as a certain little obstacle was removed trade between those countries, which was already large, would expand greatly.

Dr. Rodriguez having replied, Sir Francis Watts, in proposing the health of "The Chairman," said that whilst they must increase the population of British Guiana from without because its nucleus was relatively small, they must also increase it from within by persistent efforts to make the colony thoroughly healthy. From what they knew of tropical diseases and life in the tropics, they knew British Guiana could be made as healthy as any place in his Majesty's Dominions. The large population of Barbados, which was the envy of British Guiana, was chiefly due to the fact that it had no malaria. British Guiana should not only be developed in the interest of the colony, but in the in-

terest of the Mother Country, which sadly wanted its products. That afternoon he wanted a cup of tea, and when it was brought he asked for sugar. Was he offered such sugar as British Guiana supplied? No; a miserable little tablet of saccharine. (Laughter.) Was that a proper thing in the heart of this great Empire? The Empire had suffered and was paying heavily now for neglecting its sugar supplies, and by developing the resources of British Guiana they would assist the Empire also. (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and the Chairman, in reply, said they offered the Deputation their fullest sympathy and help. They were looking forward to that closer bond between British Guiana and the Committee which more than one speaker had referred to. They felt that as a great representative business body they could help the colony, and they meant to help and to increase their help. They hoped to receive the support of overseas representatives and bodies, and they believed between them they would materially assist in developing the enormous resources of British Guiana. They wished the Deputation success, and in the old familiar words he would say, "We are happy to meet and sorry to part, and we shall be happy to meet again." (Loud cheers.)

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Coronado* from Garston Docks, Liverpool, August 18th:—

Mr. M. Abolin	Mr. P. C. Hutchison	Miss M. E. Ratcliff
Mr. E. Aisup	Mr. S. M. Jacobsen	Mr. J. Riley
Mr. C. Anderson	Mr. J. Lintott	Mr. A. V. Roberts
Mr. L. Bedinger	Mrs. Lintott	Mr. A. B. Robertson
Mrs. Bedinger	Miss D. M. Lintott	Mrs. Robertson
Miss Bedinger	Miss F. A. Lintott	Mr. R. J. Robertson
Mr. E. M. Boardman	Miss L. M. Lindo	Mr. C. Robertson
Mr. D. G. Boldarenko	Mr. N. Macbeth	Mr. R. C. Rosser
Mr. W. Brown	Mr. J. R. Macdonald	Mr. R. Shore
Mrs. M. A. Buckley	Mr. C. E. Mackenzie	Mrs. A. E. Shore
Mr. S. C. Burke	Mrs. Mackenzie	Miss G. M. F. Shore
Mrs. Burke	Mr. R. H. Miller	Mr. H. L. Small
Miss M. C. Burke	Mrs. Miller	Mr. R. Southgate
Master M. A. G. Burke	Mr. R. J. Mitchell	Mrs. Southgate
Mr. E. P. Chamberlin	Mr. W. Morrison	Master B. A. Southgate
Mrs. Chamberlin	Mr. F. Owen	Mr. M. C. Steedman
Master J. P. Chamberlin	Mr. G. Pearson	Mrs. E. Stillwell
Miss L. E. Doney	Miss C. Pearson	Miss Stillwell
Mr. J. M. Farmer	Mr. H. V. Quick	Mr. W. Taylor
Mr. J. H. Fergusson	Mr. J. Ratcliff	Mr. G. Vasschenko
Mr. T. Gibben	Mrs. Radcliff	Mr. J. Watson
Miss G. G. Gould	Mr. E. M. Ratcliff	Mr. A. D. Williamson
Miss K. J. Howson	Miss D. E. Ratcliff	Mr. R. B. Wilson
Mr. J. B. Hutchison	Master R. Ratcliff	Mr. C. C. Wilson

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Patuca* for Kingston, Jamaica, from Garston Docks, Liverpool, August 25th:—

Miss R. M. Bayly	Mr. C. P. Hale	Mr. W. Riley
Mrs. Bayly	Mr. & Mrs. C. Hayter	Mr. E. Rohrmoser
Mr. H. Beckwith	Mr. A. Helmy	Mr. P. H. Sargent
Mr. J. W. Benson	Mr. & Mrs. P. Holst	Mrs. J. G. E. Sargent
Mr. J. Bond	Miss Holst	Mr. F. G. Slabber
Mr. R. S. Burke	Master H. G. E. Holst	Mr. David Spoerri
Miss P. Castillo	Mr. A. G. Jardine	Mr. & Mrs. Stockwell
Mr. P. Chisholm	Miss S. M. Jensen	Miss M. Stockwell
Lieut. W. D. Clarke	Mr. & Mrs. Lyall	Mr. & Mrs. N. Tarr
Mr. W. E. Courian	Mr. J. D. Mills	Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Thurlow
Mr. A. A. Dear	Mr. A. MacLaurin	Mr. M. V. Townsend
Major I. Dundas	Major A. L. Oke	Mr. J. R. Tracey
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Forbes	Mr. P. E. Owles	Mr. P. Trask
Miss W. Gordon	Mr. H. L. Rhys	

The engagement is announced of Lieut. Rupert C. Otway, Royal Engineers, son of the late Thomas J. Otway and Mrs. Otway, of Grenada, B.W.I., to Jessamy Iris, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walker, of Normanstead, Henley-on-Thames.

MEMBERSHIP of the West India Committee is confined by the Royal Charter to British subjects. Any member may propose or second candidates, whose names should be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

The Commissioners of Customs and Excise issued the following notice on August 21st on the subject of Imperial Preference, which came into force on September 1st:—

Under the Finance Act, 1919, the preferential rates of Customs duties in favour of Empire products will operate, except in the case of tea, as from September 1st. Preference on tea came into force on June 2nd. The preferential rates are applicable to almost all goods subject to Customs duties which are shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to have been consigned from, and grown, produced, or manufactured in the British Empire. The goods which come within the scope of preferential treatment, together with the preferential rates of duty, are:—

Tea, Cocoa, Coffee, Chicory, Currants, Dried or Preserved Fruit, Sugar, Glucose, Molasses, Saccharin, Motor Spirit, Tobacco.—Five-sixths of the full rate.

Motor Cars, Musical Instruments, Clocks, Watches, &c., Cinematography Films.—Two-thirds of the full rate.

Wine. N.e. 30 deg. of pf. spirit—Sixty per cent. of the full rate.

Ex. 30 deg. of pf. spirit—Sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. of the full rate.

Additional duty on sparkling wine in bottle.—Seventy per cent. of the full rate of the additional duty.

Additional duty on still wine in bottle.—Fifty per cent. of the full rate of the additional duty.

Spirits.—Preference in the case of spirits is to be given by way of an increase in the duties on non-Empire spirits as from September 1st. The preferential rates will be equivalent to the full rates as chargeable under the Finance Act, 1919, up to that date, and the duties on non-Empire spirits will then be increased by 4s. per gallon on perfumed spirits, by 3s. 4d. per gallon on liqueurs, &c., and non-tested spirits, and 2s. 6d. per proof gallon on all other descriptions of spirits.

Definition of "British Empire."

The expression "British Empire" for the purpose of Preference includes at present the self-governing Dominions, the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, India, and the Channel Islands. Territories which in future may come under his Majesty's protection, or in respect of which a mandate of the League of Nations is exercised by the Government of any part of his Majesty's Dominions, may be included by Order in Council.

The preferential rates may be claimed for Empire products which are delivered for home consumption, whether from bonded stocks or on importation, on and after September 1st.

In the case of goods which are imported on and after September 1st, the preferential rate of duty should be claimed by the importer at the time of making entry. He should be prepared to substantiate the declaration on the entry that the goods were consigned from a part of the British Empire by the production of the bill of lading, supplier's invoice, or in any other way, if called upon to do so by the Customs officers.

As regards origin, the importer will normally be required to produce a certificate from the British oversea manufacturer (in the case of manufactured articles) or the grower, producer, or supplier (in the case of growth or produce), supplemented, if that person is not the exporter, by an additional certificate from the latter. In the case of manufactured tobacco, refined sugar, syrup, molasses, and other products of the refining of raw sugar, a further certificate of Empire-produced raw material must be given by the refiner or manufacturer, also supplemented in cases where

he is not the exporter, by the additional certificate from the latter.

If the Collector of Customs is satisfied by the production of the certificate or certificates, he will forthwith admit the goods to entry as entitled to the preferential rate. If, however, he is for any reason doubtful as to whether the goods are in fact entitled to the preferential rate, he will call for production of invoices or other such further evidence as he may require, and, if he considers it necessary, will submit the question to the Board of Customs and Excise. Meanwhile, unless he has any reason to suspect an attempt at fraud, he will allow delivery of the goods on payment of the full rate of duty, subject to adjustment if and when he is satisfied that the preferential rate is applicable. Similarly in the case of goods intended for warehousing the Collector will allow the goods to be deposited in warehouse, a note being made in the books that, pending satisfactory proof of Empire origin, they are only to be delivered at the full rate of duty.

Manufactured Goods.

In the case of manufactured goods, preferential duties are claimable only if a prescribed proportion of the factory or works cost to the manufacturer of each finished article ready for export to the United Kingdom is due to labour within the British Empire. The proportion for the present has been fixed by the Board of Trade at 25 per cent. for all manufactured goods, with the exception of manufactured tobacco, refined sugar, syrup, molasses, and other products of the refining of raw sugar.

In the case of these articles, the proportion has been fixed at 5 per cent., but the preferential rate can only be claimed in respect of such proportion of the finished article as can be shown to correspond to the proportion of Empire-grown dutiable material used in its manufacture. This limitation may also be extended by the Board of Trade to other articles which are found to a considerable extent to be manufactured in the Empire from materials which are not produced in the Empire.

The dutiable articles which for the purpose of charging the preferential rate are considered as manufactured articles are:—

Refined sugar, manufactured goods containing sugar or cocoa, manufactured goods containing spirits—e.g., pomades, varnishes, dyes, &c.—glucose, syrup, molasses, and other extracts of sugar, saccharin, manufactured tobacco, cinematograph films, motor cars, parts, accessories, &c., musical instruments, parts, accessories, &c., clocks, watches, &c.

All other goods will be regarded as growth or produce. The term "refined sugar" means sugar which has passed through a refinery.

Goods in Bond.

As regards goods already in bond before September 1st, or which left the point of origin before public intimation was made of the requirement of certificates of origin, no hard-and-fast rule can be laid down. In the case of bonded goods the Board of Customs and Excise will to a great extent rely on the particulars of consignment and origin as recorded in the official account, and so far as is practicable they will apply the same test to blends of Empire and non-Empire goods. In the case of such blends duty will be charged at preferential rates on the proportion of Empire goods shown to be contained therein. In the case of imports which left the point of origin before the requirement of a certificate of origin was known the Collector will be prepared to consider invoices, bills of lading, &c., and any other evidence which the importer may be able to produce. It must, however, be borne in mind that the onus of proof in all cases rests by law with the importer.

A more detailed statement will shortly be published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, and will be available in pamphlet form at all Customs Houses and Offices of Collectors of Customs and Excise in the United Kingdom. Arrangements are being made for distribution overseas.

Parcel Post Arrangements.

In the case of post parcels arriving from a part of the Empire, if the contents are not merchandise for sale and do not exceed £10 in value, the following short form of certificate will, in the absence of ground for suspicion, be accepted as satisfactory evidence of origin for charging the preferential rate of duty:—

The contents of this package are not merchandise for sale, and every dutiable article herein is the growth or produce, or, if a manufactured article, is to the extent of at least one-fourth of its present value *bonâ fide* the manufacture of (Empire country of origin).

All other post parcels will be subject to the ordinary rules of evidence of origin applicable to merchandise generally as set out in the earlier part of this notice.

Appended to the notice are various forms of certificates. On the back of one of them a certificate of origin for goods in respect of which a reduction of duty is claimed, is the following regulation:—

In calculating the proportion of value which is the result of labour within the British Empire there may be included under the head of labour the cost to the manufacturer of any materials of purely Empire origin entering into the composition of the article (including the interior packing), the cost of manufacture, including wages, proportion of fuel, supervision, and other factory expenses, and the cost of the labour of packing for retail sale.

The total membership of the West India Committee to-day is 1,880. With the help of members it is hoped to raise it to at least 2,000 before the close of the year.

COLONEL AMERY was reported in last issue to have said that British Guiana had only 19 miles of railways. The figure should have been 79 miles—a small enough mileage in all conscience considering the size of the colony!

THE British Guiana Colonisation Delegates, on bringing their official visit to a close, have presented to Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., a handsome piece of plate in recognition of his services as their Hon. Secretary. It is understood that a section of the deputation will proceed to India in the autumn to discuss the possibility of the resumption of emigration on a free basis to British Guiana.

THE Government has recently acquired from Germany a quantity of potash salts in exchange for food, and arrangements have been made for the distribution of about 40,000 tons for agricultural purposes. The sale will be undertaken by the British Potash Company, Limited, 49, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C. 4, under the direction of an official committee to be called the Potash Distribution Committee, on which the Board of Trade and the Departments of Agriculture for England, Scotland and Ireland will be represented, together with representatives of trade interests. The following maximum selling prices per ton for lots of not less than 4 tons have been arranged: Potash salts, 30 per cent. K_2O , £12 10s.; muriate of potash, 80 per cent. KCl , £20 12s. 6d.; sulphate of potash, 90 per cent. K_2SO_4 , £23 2s. 6d. Special terms are being offered to the trade, and fixed prices are suggested for small quantities sold by merchants.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Some further extracts from the valuable report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry are given below:—

SIERRA LEONE.

The quantity of sugar consumed in Sierra Leone in 1913 was 624 tons imported from the United Kingdom, Germany, and U.S. America. It consisted of granulated, moist, brown, cube or loaf. All the low-lying lands, not swamps, and alluvial soils are admirably adapted for the cultivation of sugar-cane, the estimated area being from 4,000—7,000 square miles. Labour is scarce, the population being about 48 to the square mile, but this difficulty could be overcome.

The Agricultural Department is competent to advise on the production of cane, and the technical side of the industry from a chemical standpoint, as one of the officers had two years' experience in connection with the sugar industry as a chemist attached to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies.

GAMBIA.

The average annual consumption of sugar in the years 1912-14 inclusive was 350 tons, imported from France, Germany, United Kingdom, and America.

Sugar-cane could not be grown without irrigation, owing to the long drought, and the swampy lands are unsuitable for it.

NIGERIA.

The imports of sugar into the Protectorate for the three years prior to the war were—1911, 1,050 tons; 1912, 1,350 tons; and 1913, 1,950 tons.

Granulated sugar is now imported, but almost all the imports before the war were beet sugar in cubes. There is a prejudice against brown sugar amongst the natives. Large quantities of honey are used by them in place of sugar.

The cultivation of sugar-cane is impracticable in the Northern Provinces without the aid of irrigation, but where natural facilities for irrigation exist, such as a perennial stream, or spring, the cultivation of sugar-cane is practised throughout the country up to an altitude of 2,500 ft. The native cane is of moderate height and thickness. The juice appears to be rich in sugar, but has not been subjected to analysis.

The only chance of success in the cultivation of cane would be in the river flats of the Niger or Benue. Here suitable sites for very large plantations could no doubt be found. Irrigation would have to be employed. The supply of fuel, either wood or local coal, would not be a difficult matter, and there is also a plentiful supply of unskilled labour.

No draught animals could be kept, as they would be susceptible to disease, but conditions appear to be favourable for steam traction, which, on a large scale, would probably prove far more economical.

In the event of preferential treatment being given to Colonial cane-sugar, the possibilities of Nigeria as a source of supply are well worthy of the most careful inquiry. In the Southern Provinces there are vast areas of land in the vicinity of rivers and creeks admirably adapted for sugar-growing under irrigation. The people in all these areas are engaged in the palm oil and kernel industry, and it is therefore doubtful whether labourers would be obtainable in large numbers.

SEYCHELLES.

No sugar is at present cultivated in these islands, but the consumption in the year preceding the war was about 340 tons. The inhabitants have been accustomed to white sugar for nearly a century. A small quantity of

sugar is used for bacca adulteration (a fermented beverage for local use), and also to make sweets.

Including the marshes, which would have to be drained, and the steep hillsides which are not too much worn out by erosion, there are in the Mahe group about 5,000 acres, mostly of the second-class soil, which could be put under cultivation. There would be no difficulty about transport and labour, but much depends on the goodwill of the inhabitants, among whom the land is extremely subdivided. As the cultivation of sugar-cane is well known to most of them, they would soon supply, say in about three years, the requirements of a small factory.

Sugar was manufactured in the colony about fifty years ago, but it appears that a rum distillery was attached to each factory, and unavoidable difficulties arose with the fiscal authorities. Owing to this, and the lack of technical assistance, the distillery had to close.

At present 50 acres of sugar-cane are grown for the manufacture of bacca. Canes grow well in the colony, especially in the marshy land, but the soil is rocky, and an average of 5—10 tons per acre only is obtained.

The climate is very suitable.

At the Botanical Station there is a small laboratory at which the chemical control of a sugar-house can be learnt so long as the curator-in-charge is a sugar chemist.

AMERICA.

BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The agricultural industries of these valuable and productive islands were allowed to languish up to about twenty years ago, and had it not been for the timely aid of the British Government, who recognised the position at the time just referred to, disaster would have overtaken them.

Each local Government maintains a local Department of Agriculture. In October, 1898, the Imperial Government established an Imperial Department of Agriculture, which acts in an advisory capacity on agricultural matters to all the Governments of the West Indies, and exercises a detailed supervision in respect of certain of them which do not possess the full complement of scientific officers. The headquarters is in Barbados.

During the first ten years of the existence of the Imperial Department of Agriculture very large financial assistance was given to each of the West Indian Colonies in order to enable them to develop and carry on the work of the local Departments of Agriculture under the supervision of Sir Francis Watts, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Government gave £250,000 for the relief of the sugar industry during the period immediately preceding the coming into effect of the Brussels Convention. A portion of this grant was used to encourage the formation of a pioneer sugar factory in Antigua, and as the outcome of this Gunthorpe's Sugar Factory was erected and operated on co-operative lines; this was the means of solving many of the problems incident to central factory working. As a direct consequence of the successful working of this factory a similar factory was shortly afterwards established at St. Kitts, and the central factory movement in Barbados and Trinidad was greatly stimulated.

The following is a general outline of the position of the West Indian Islands as regards sugar production: Barbados, with an area of about 166 sq. miles, mainly depends on the sugar industry, and produced in 1917-18 65,000 tons, whilst the following crop is estimated at 80,000 tons. Trinidad, with an area of 1,974 sq. miles, and Tobago, with an area of 114 sq. miles, produce sugar and cacao. The production of sugar is some 50,000 tons per annum. Of the Leeward Islands, Antigua has an area of 108 sq. miles, and produces from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of sugar annually. St. Kitts

has an area of 68 sq. miles. The chief industries are sugar and cotton. It produces from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of sugar per annum. Nevis, with an area of 50 sq. miles, produces for the most part cotton, with only a small quantity of sugar. Montserrat has an area of 32 sq. miles. It produces very little sugar, the chief industries being cotton and limes. Dominica has an area of 291 sq. miles, and does not produce any appreciable quantity of sugar, the cultivation of limes being an important industry. The Virgin Islands belonging to Great Britain have an area of 58 sq. miles, but no sugar is produced. Of the Windward Islands, St. Lucia has an area of 233 sq. miles. Its main industries are cacao and limes. About 6,000 tons of sugar are produced annually. St. Vincent has an area of about 150 sq. miles. The main industries are cotton, arrowroot, cacao, and a small quantity of sugar—about 500 tons annually. Grenada and the Grenadines occupy about 133 sq. miles. The chief industries are cacao, rubber, cotton, and coffee. Sugar production is quite a minor industry. Jamaica is the largest of the British West Indian islands, having an area of 4,450 sq. miles. The principal industries are rum, bananas, coconuts, cacao, coffee, and pimento. The amount of sugar produced varies from 30,000 to 40,000 tons per annum.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The area under sugar-cane is between 55,000 and 60,000 acres. The average production and consumption of sugar in the colony for the five years 1912-16 was:—Production, 52,361 tons; consumption, 8,551 tons. The principal exports were to the United Kingdom, British North America, and the United States. The description of sugar exported was chiefly vacuum pan with a smaller quantity of Muscovado. Some refined sugar was also exported. An average of 475 tons of refined sugar was imported during the five years 1912-16, and also a small quantity of raw sugar. This sugar came principally from the United Kingdom, British Guiana, United States, Holland, and up to 1914 from Germany.

The yield of sugar-cane on the estates is from 12-25 tons per acre, whilst from farmers the yield is 8-12 tons per acre. It takes from 10-17 tons of cane to produce a ton of sugar according to the efficiency of the factory, the quality of the juice, &c. The canes contain from 9-16 per cent. of sucrose. There are no refineries or other trades using sugar in the colony. The lower classes of the population prefer Muscovado sugar, but the vacuum pan (96 crystals and yellow crystals) is generally used. A comparatively small quantity of refined sugar is consumed in the colony.

There are no scientific establishments for technical training in connection with the sugar industry available in the colony; but some interesting results have been published by the local Department of Agriculture on the cultivation of seedling canes. Plots of more than 1 acre to one-tenth of an acre have been sown, and comparisons made against Bourbon cane with the new varieties from seedlings, the plant canes and first ratoons and in one series also the second ratoons, being tested. Nearly all the new varieties show an increased yield of sugar over Bourbon cane, whilst in not a few cases the improvement is more than 1 ton per acre. An influential committee presided over by Professor Carmody, Director of Agriculture, has reported on the possible extension of the sugar industry in the colony. They draw attention to the substitution of canes by other more profitable crops—*e.g.*, coconuts, and to a less extent, cacao. They refer to the attention that is being paid to the selection of cane plants, and to improved methods of cultivation. They are of opinion, however, that no material extension of the sugar industry is to be expected under present conditions, and that a continuation of immigration on the scale of the last few years is necessary for the maintenance of the normal output. To increase

the working capacity of factories, and to provide additional encouragement to farmers, fresh capital is necessary, and this would not be forthcoming without a guarantee that prices of sugar would be higher than during recent years. These conclusions were arrived at, however, before the British Government granted colonial preference.

(To be continued.)

TRADE WITH EUROPE.

The Board of Trade announced on August 21st that an office would shortly be opened for furnishing sterling credits in accordance with the scheme for assisting the exportation of goods to certain disorganised parts of Europe, which was referred to by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons last Monday.

The credits will be based on bills drawn in this country by the seller of the goods and accepted by the buyer, and will be subject

- (a) To the deposit with an approved bank in the country of purchase of currency to an amount required by the office, or
- (b) To a guarantee of currency of a required amount by an approved bank, or
- (c) To arrangements for the handing over of produce of the buying country, or
- (d) To the deposit of securities with the approved bank or the office under the scheme.

The office will fix periodically the amount of currency required to be deposited per £100 sterling, and will have power to vary its charges according to the nature of each transaction. The credits will continue for such periods as the office may determine, but the maximum period will be three years. The charges for each period of six months will be on a rising scale in order to induce early liquidation.

The office will be entitled (a) to take over and liquidate collateral pledges, (b) to have recourse against the acceptor of the bill for any deficiency, and (c) to have recourse against the guarantor.

The credits furnished will not, as a rule, exceed 80 per cent. of the prime cost of the goods sold, plus freight and insurance. In special cases the amount may be increased, but in no case will it exceed the prime cost plus freight and insurance. If the proceeds of the bill are less than the prime cost, plus freight, plus insurance, the loss represented by the difference will be divided between the office and the drawer of the bill in the proportion of four-fifths to one-fifth. In each case the charge made by the office is included.

Business will be taken only through banks and on the reports of banks, and the aggregate amount of credit to be granted will not exceed £26,000,000.

The area and classes of goods to which the scheme relates will be settled from time to time by the Government, but credits will not be furnished either for the export of raw material or for the sale of stocks held by Government Departments.

Rat destruction is a national need. It is more—it is an international necessity, for the increasing number of rats is fast becoming a world menace. These words occur in an important statement made by the Society for the Destruction of Agricultural and other Pests.

JAMAICA'S COFFEE INDUSTRY.

By W. H. LANDALE.

The coffee industry of Jamaica, though a small item in a "Land of Samples," is not without interest. Its principal branch—in the Blue Mountains—has the distinction of producing the finest and highest priced grade of coffee in the world, which all goes to London and Liverpool, and is used almost exclusively for blending purposes in the English home trade.

Coffee was probably grown in the St. Andrew Hills at an early date in the island's history, but it seems to have been introduced as a serious industry by the French refugees from Santo Domingo at the time of the Revolution. It must have made rapid progress, for it reached its highest point in the early years of the nineteenth century, the maximum export figure being 27,362,742 lb., in 1814. In 1815 the industry suffered a staggering blow in the terrible flood and storm of that year which destroyed nearly all the "works" in the hills, wiped out great areas of cultivation, opening great gullies and starting landslips which have continued, more or less, ever since. The factories were rebuilt on higher ground, and the industry continued on a considerable though diminishing scale till the abolition of slavery, and the gradual exhaustion of all but the best lands, together with the rise of coffee production on a much larger scale in other countries, combined to reduce it to comparative insignificance about the middle, or latter half, of the century. It is now practically confined to a few surviving estates, or groups of estates, in the Blue Mountains—a considerable "settler" or peasant cultivation in the same districts at lower altitudes, and it forms an important item in the "mixed" cultivation carried on by the peasantry in all the higher lands of the central and southern parishes—say, about 1,000 ft. elevation.

There were formerly many coffee estates in the Manchester and St. Elizabeth Mountains, Munro College, one of the chief boys' schools in the island, being an old one. The quality of the bulk of it is "medium to good," the finest qualities—the genuine "Blue Mountain"—being only the product of the estates, and the settlers' coffee purchased, cured, manufactured and shipped by them with their own, all grown at from 2,000 ft. to 1,000 ft. elevation. The proper curing and preparation of high-grade coffee for market on which, to a very great degree, the price depends, is a lengthy and highly specialised process, and can only be done by those having the necessary knowledge, experience and outfit. Much harm has been done in the past to this and most other industries in the island by the Government's short-sighted policy in the matter of produce buying. For the sake of a little ready revenue in the shape of 40s. licences, it has encouraged the operations of a totally irresponsible class of produce dealers, who ruin the quality of everything they handle, and very materially lower the gross export value of the industry, as well as depriving the agricultural population of the money that would be spent among them by the proper handling of the product. This

has been recognised of late through the efforts of members of the Agricultural Society, and some improvement is hoped for from new legislation shortly to be put in force.

The past fifteen years or so has, perhaps, been the worst period of depression in the history of the industry. A depressed market, the hurricane of 1903, the flood of 1909 (a repetition of that of 1815), and a continuous period of disaster between 1912 and 1917, when four hurricanes and the worst drought on record followed each other in a five-year spell, war conditions, increased freight charges and other expenses, culminating in the recent embargo imposed by the United Kingdom, combined to produce a situation, the gloom of which was only relieved last year by the shipment of the accumulated crops under licence, and their ultimate sale at unprecedented prices. The world's record of 1906s. per cwt. was, indeed, reached by one estate; but such figures are, of course, temporary, though there is good reason to hope for good prices for some time to come; and Imperial Preference should materially help us, especially against our only serious rival in quality, Costa Rica.

Coffee was, perhaps, the last of the island's industries to benefit by the war, early conditions tending rather to depress than enhance values. In common with all other industries, it is now feeling the scarcity of labour, and has to pay considerably higher rates for what labour it can get. No appreciable development is to be looked for from the estates generally, whatever may be done by individuals here and there, both land and labour being strictly limited. Such development as is possible must be sought along the line of increased "settler" cultivation, assisted by a wise and helpful system of buying and handling the produce for export, in which certain estates favourably situated can co-operate to their own advantage and that of the industry generally. The difficulties in the way are (1) scarcity of labour generally, caused by depression, emigration, and the tendency of the younger generation to despise a country life and the quiet pursuits of agriculture, and (2) the scarcity of men of all classes who really know anything about the industry and its local conditions, scarcely anyone having come into it in the last twenty years. It is to be hoped that the raising and prospect of maintenance of values may to some extent overcome these difficulties and lead to a revival.

Efforts have been made from time to time to obtain a footing for the product in America and Canada, which it might be thought would offer a ready market for a "de luxe" article of such quality, but without success. America seems to have no use for a really high-grade coffee in such very limited quantities, and does not understand (or did not till the recent rise in value) paying anything more than 16c. a lb. for any coffee. This is of no use to us, as we produce a fancy article under fancy conditions, and with a very small output per acre, and must get a special price for it to live. If we were on a larger scale, it is possible that Uncle Sam might be interested, and the industry would benefit by an alternative market, though we have no reason to be dissatisfied with our English market.

NATURE NOTES.

The ultra-violet rays of light appear to have an important effect on plant life. Experiments have been made in growing sugar-canes in ordinary sunlight and in sunlight deprived of the violet rays. Those grown in ordinary sunlight had 30 per cent. more sugar than the others. More ultra-violet rays were added to the sunlight, and the sugar was increased by a further 8 per cent.

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Vanilla has been for some years an important export from Tahiti. The local Chamber of Agriculture has decided to establish a model vanillery. The objects of this institution are to study the cultivation of the vine, the fertilisation of the flowers, the management of the vanilla fruit, researches as to the best method of curing, and the supply of cuttings to planters for propagation.

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Among agents used for clarification of limed sugar juice is phosphoric acid. It has been proposed to use also phosphoric acid and soluble phosphates and acid phosphates of the alkalis and alkaline earths, and of aluminium. The *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale* reports that one of these compounds—phosphogelose—has come into use in sugar factories near Bahia. It is said to be a mixture of calcium phosphate and certain silicates. The clarification is rapid and complete, and the filtration easy. The scums form an excellent manure.

* * *

Electricity is still a subject of experiment as a factor in the cultivation of agricultural crops. Great developments are hoped for in the near future. The latest experiment is as to the effect of electrically treating seed wheat before sowing. Two adjoining plots in Kent were sown with wheat last November. The seed sown on one plot was electrically treated, the other not. The plots have lately been examined by an expert committee. A marked difference was noticeable. The wheat grown from the electrified seed was much more vigorous in growth and habit, and looked likely to give a yield of at least 20 per cent. higher than that of the untreated seed.

* * *

The depressing effects of hot weather are aggravated by an increase of humidity, and lessened by movement of the air. The temperature recorded by the ordinary thermometer is not necessarily the sensible temperature felt by the human body. The reading of the wet-bulb thermometer is, perhaps, the best measure available of the sensible temperature. A bottle of water, for example, covered with a wet cloth, is cooled down because the moisture in the cloth evaporates. The process of evaporation withdraws heat from the bottle—that is, the water becomes cooler. If the bottle is hung up in a draught of air, the damp air round the bottle is removed more quickly, the evaporation becomes more rapid, and the water becomes still cooler. But if the atmosphere is saturated with moisture, and there is no movement of the air, it cannot take up more moisture from the wet cloth, and there is no cooling effect. The wet-bulb thermometer records the amount of cooling. The perspiring human body, however, experiences also a depressing physiological effect. This cannot be measured, so the wet-bulb thermometer remains the best measure of what is felt. The temperature of a place with high humidity may be 84 deg. Fahr., while the wet bulb records 79 deg. Fahr., whereas the temperature of another place may be 104 deg. Fahr., while the wet bulb registers only 72 deg. Fahr. The latter place may, in comparison with the former, feel cool and pleasant.

* * *

The *Agricultural Bulletin of the F. Malay States* discusses supplies of rice. The primary requisites for rice

cultivation on a large scale are suitable land, seasons, and climate. If it is to pay, it is essential to have either (1) a large and uneducated peasant population, with no alternative occupation—i.e., plenty of cheap labour—or (2) scientific methods, a high grade of rice, intensive cultivation, and agricultural machinery. The real governing factor is the local value of the rice producible in terms of the local labour market. In Australia, for example, despite heavy crops, an unlimited area of suitable land, a heavy protective tariff, and a State bounty on all rice produced, the cultivation of rice is almost extinct. Even with rice at 2d. per lb., the profit on a rice crop is small compared to that obtainable by employing the labour in other cultivation. No country with other resources available should attempt to produce rice as a source of wealth or for the export trade. The proportion of its rice consumption that a rice-eating country should produce instead of importing depends entirely on the economic relation of the local value of labour to that of the rice producible.

* * *

Sir F. Watts addressed a meeting lately of the Council of the British Empire Sugar Research Association on the subject of research, with special reference to sugar. In all industrial enterprises, he said, research was of the greatest importance. There was a tendency to replace abstract research by technological studies. Investigation was needed on many points in the growing of cane and beet, in the processes of manufacture of sugar and refining, and also in connection with sugar machinery. There were also many unexplained factors connected with sugar in subsidiary industries—such as jam-making, confectionery, chocolate-making, brewing, aerated-water manufacture, biscuit-making. These problems required investigation. The technical side of research would probably be dealt with first. It was to be hoped, however, that the association would also branch out into unexplored fields. Education should be kept apart from research. Teachers should include research in their work to inspire them with enthusiasm; but research workers should not be obliged to dissipate their energies in teaching. It was not necessary at first to found a large central research institution, with laboratories, &c. It was preferable to begin by deciding on the problems to be attacked first. Competent men should then be sent to deal with the problems in particular localities as required. This was the plan adopted for research in cotton growing. An expert was at work in the West Indies in connection with his department. He had already shown how the crop could be increased by 20 per cent.

* * *

The Sundew is one of the best known of the insectivorous or carnivorous plants. It is found in spongy bogs or heaths in the British Isles. In such situations it has plenty of moisture. But it cannot get the nitrogen, which is so necessary for living beings, and which is available to plants rooting in soil. However, there are compensations for every ill. Nature has provided each of its five or six small round leaves with a couple of hundred tentacles, with which it seizes any small fly that touches one or two of them. The enlarged tip of each tentacle is covered with a drop of a glittering, transparent, gummy secretion. This entangles the fly, just as the glue-like mud of Flanders held back our soldiers in their attempts to advance. As soon as the tentacles are touched, they begin to bend towards the centre of the leaf. They carry their struggling prey onwards, causing the fly to touch the heads of other tentacles. As each is touched, it joins in the rolling movement to the centre. The neighbouring tentacles, even without being touched, join in the scam. The insect becomes covered with the gummy secretion, and is drowned by it in a few minutes without possibility of escape. The secretion contains a digestive property which attacks the nitrogenous sub-

stances of the insect's body and renders them soluble. As digestion goes on, the nourishment is absorbed by the tentacles, and eventually reaches the leaves. When absorption is complete, the tentacles recurve outwards and the leaf resumes its normal innocent appearance.

HOMeward MAILS.

ST. KITTS.—

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, July 28th.—The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Limited, closed its 1919 crop on the 7th inst. with a total of 8,814 tons crystals made from 81,078 tons canes, giving an average of 9.19 tons of canes taken to the ton of sugar. There is a further drop in the sucrose content of the canes this year to 12.1, against 13.01 in 1918. The canes were late in ripening this year, and the exceptionally heavy rainfall experienced in April gave the later canes a spring which detracted from the sucrose content during the last few weeks of the crop. Unfortunately, the company have yet to reap a consistently fair crop from its total contract acreage; this year the North Side Estates have reaped good crops, averaging over 20 tons cane per acre all round, but the Basseterre Valley Estates and those to Leeward were too badly hit by drought to make a recovery, and with a few exceptions their crops were light. July has been a good growing month to date, seasonable, with frequent light showers, and while it is too early to forecast, the general appearance of the young canes to the present is most hopeful for 1920. The early planted cotton generally looks well, and picking will soon be general. An important Medical Ordinance, repealing the existing Ordinances, was passed by the Legislative Council on the 24th inst. This Ordinance provides for the free treatment of the disease commonly called yaws by injections of kharsavan to all children of the labouring class up to and including the age of seventeen years—above seventeen years labourers applying for treatment are to pay a fee of 5s. for the same, the Government paying the medical officer a further sum of 5s. per injection, the Government providing the drug. The Bill also provides that all labourers suffering from syphilis over the age of seventeen years shall on application be treated by injections of kharsavan for a fee not exceeding 15s. for the first injection, and not exceeding 10s. for each subsequent injection—one half of such fees to be paid by the Government. A proposal from the unofficial side of the House that free medical attendance to the children of labourers should be extended from the age of nine years to twelve years—the compulsory school age—was promised the consideration of the Government. It is to be hoped that under the provisions of this Ordinance the above-mentioned diseases will be to a great extent eradicated from the Presidency.

ST. LUCIA.—A New Victory Tax.

MR. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, July 23rd.—Peace Thanksgivng Services were held in all the churches throughout the colony on Sunday, July 6th. Unfortunately, the weather was stormy, and this interfered somewhat with the processions. King's weather prevailed on Saturday, July 19th, the day set aside for Peace celebrations. Each town and village appointed its own committee, and carried out a programme of festivities. These consisted of treats for the school children, distributions of money to the poor, horse races, flat races, boat races, and other amusements. A most enjoyable day was spent throughout the island.

Dr. Alan Kidd, the popular medical officer in charge of the Victoria Hospital, has left for England on a well-earned holiday. Captain Bradshaw, R.N.R., Officer-in-Charge Naval Intelligence Department in Castries, has been recalled by the Admiralty. Rev. C. Downie, Rector

of Holy Trinity Church, left by the Canadian mail on July 21st for St. Vincent, where he has been appointed to succeed the late Venerable Archdeacon Turpin. The Rev. R. J. Laurie, who comes from Barbados, succeeds Mr. Downie at Holy Trinity Church. The assistant curate, Rev. Moore, arrived from Barbados a few weeks ago. H.M. Transport *Oriana* arrived here on July 19th from Le Havre, bringing three hospital cases. Owing to a temporary shortage of coal in Barbados, the number of steamers calling at Port Castries during the month was substantially increased. Unfortunately for us, this shortage did not last long enough. The Postal War Tax Stamp Ordinance, which required the affixing of a special 1d. stamp to all letters and parcels posted within the colony to any part of the British Empire outside the colony, has been repealed, and all War Tax stamps were withdrawn from sale on June 30th. It is probable that a special 6d. Victory postal stamp will be issued in the near future. The rate of postage from St. Lucia to the U.S.A. was, on July 1st, reduced from 2½d. to 1d. per ounce. His Honour A. De Freitas, Chief Justice of St. Vincent, has been appointed Chief Justice of St. Lucia.

The weather for the period January 1st to June 30th has been exceptionally dry, the actual recorded rainfall being 10 in. below that for the same period of the previous year, and 5 in. under the average for the last twenty-nine years. Heavy showers have fallen during the last fortnight, and the dry spell appears to be over. Good prices are being realised in the London market for St. Lucia concentrated lime-juice. Ready sales have been made on the basis of £42 10s. per standard pipe. The local green lime industry is gradually extending. The careful way in which this local industry is being handled continues to attract buyers in the United States. Orders have recently been received from the most prominent buyers in the States, who inform us that they previously obtained the whole of their supply from Dominica. The news that our former Administrator, his Honour Wm. Douglas Young, C.M.G., had been appointed a Knight of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was received with pleasure by his friends in this colony.

ST. VINCENT.—Mr. Kernahan Selling Out.

MR. W. N. SANDS, July 21st.—We have had good rains, and planters have been able to resume agricultural operations under very favourable conditions. The young cotton is growing well, and with cultivation and suitable manuring it should make rapid progress. It is likely that sugar-cane plantings will be extended as a result of the favourable outlook for syrup or fancy molasses. It is to be hoped, however, that every effort will be made to improve machinery and methods. With existing mills and appliances manufacturing losses in different directions are considerable. The local sugar industry is capable of development, and if this is carried out along improved lines it would indirectly give some relief to the unsatisfactory position in regard to arrowroot. The first peace celebration took place on Saturday, the 19th, when the chief attractions were a series of bonfires at night on the hills and mountains. The estates of Peters Hope and Mount Wynne have been sold by Mrs. J. B. Kernahan to Mr. Clarence Ince, of Barbados. It is the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Kernahan to dispose of all property they hold locally and to take up their residence in Trinidad.

TOBAGO.—Coconuts Doing Well.

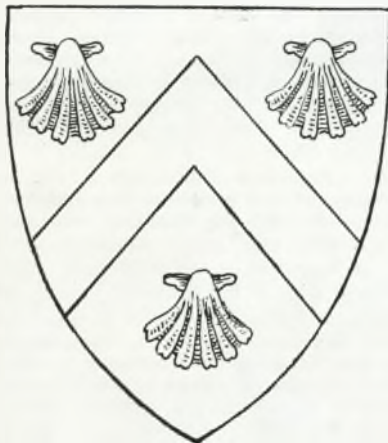
MR. ROBT. S. REED, August 5th.—Throughout July we had regular showers, and the prospects of the cacao crop are very satisfactory. Although cacao is as yet the premier industry in Tobago, interest is now more centred in the coconut fields at Leeward, which are producing big crops of nuts, and the *Belize* carries a few hundred bags every trip.

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

III.—Sir Charles Lyttelton.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

Charles Lyttelton was a younger son of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, first Baronet of Frankley, in Worcestershire, who fought and suffered as a Royalist. He was descended from Thomas Westcote, of Westcote, near Barnstaple, who married Elizabeth Littleton, the sole heiress of Thomas de Littleton, of Frankley, Esquire of the body to Richard II., Henry IV., and Henry V. She had covenanted with her husband that their eldest son, born in 1402, who afterwards became Sir Thomas Lyttelton, the celebrated judge and legal author, should bear the name of



SIR CHARLES LYTTELTON'S ARMS.

Littleton, which he did, and assumed his mother's Arms instead of his father's, though the rest of the family retained that of Westcote—argent a bend cotisé sable within a bordure engrailed gules bezantée.

Charles Lyttelton was born in 1620, and, while still a boy, took arms and was in Colchester during the siege in 1648. After its surrender he escaped to France, and was soon after appointed cupbearer to Charles II. He returned to England about 1659, and took part in Sir George Booth's Cheshire rising, when he was made prisoner. Being set at liberty, he joined Charles in Holland, and was employed in the secret negotiations with the King's friends in

England. After the Restoration he was appointed, in 1661, Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica; in the following year he accompanied Lord Windsor to that island as Chancellor, being knighted shortly before he started. In September he was sworn Keeper of the Great Seal. His brother, Constantine Lyttelton, was made a J.P., and sworn of the Council; he was also made captain in his brother's regiment, but he died soon afterwards.

On Windsor's departure in October, 1662, after ten weeks' government, Lyttelton succeeded him as Deputy-Governor. Some months before he started Lyttelton had married Catherine, daughter of Sir William Fairfax, of Steeton, in Yorkshire, who had previously been married to Sir Martin Lister, son of Sir William Lister, of Thornton, also in Yorkshire. In September, 1662, she wrote in bad spirits to Lord Hatton that she was "very weak." Her husband also was "very ill, but I hope the worst is past with him." She found Spanish Town very pleasantly situated, but "our greatest want is good company." On January 11th, 1662, Lyttelton wrote to Hatton: "My poor wife has bine, as it were by miracle, raised to life twice with Sir W. Rawleigh's cordiall when given over by her phizitians and all her friends, and is now, thanke God, in a probable way to recover." But on January 26th she died, the infant following her on February 1st. They both lie buried in Spanish Town Cathedral. On February 26th he wrote home to Hatton, with reference to the loss of his wife, "yourself and mee, having both lost a friend." He says that he has much reason to hate "somebody that I have bine necessitated (I confess basely enough) to acknowledge to the world myself most obliged," and was "one I was forced to depend on" on account of "unheard-of pride and inhumane discourtesy to a lady of her merit," and he adds that, "had this mischiefe and inconvenience bine prevented, she might at this day have bine a healthful and truly a happy woman."

We have learnt that Lord Windsor felt that Sir Charles Lyttelton had taken offence for some unknown cause, and it would seem that Lord Windsor's treatment of his wife may have been that cause.

Poor Lady Lyttelton's Jamaica experience can have been anything but a happy one. On arriving with her few-days-old baby, she must have found conditions of life in the recently acquired colony anything but congenial to an English cultured lady. Beside her maid she probably saw few white female faces—a few planters' wives and their maids.

In February, 1663, Lyttelton issued a proclamation to the effect that the Maroons who had surrendered, or should surrender within fourteen days, should have patents of land and liberties and privileges as Englishmen; and land was given out to them. Juan de Bolas, sometimes called Luyola, chief among them, was made colonel of a black regiment of militia. Lyttelton confirmed to the officers of the late army the cocoa-walks which had been given to them. Planting and pen-keeping was persevered in with success. The cost of tame hog was fixed at 6d. per lb.; by October of the

following year it had become so plentiful that it fell to 2d. per lb.

In June a short-lived British settlement was set up at Little Goave, in Hispaniola.

In August Lyttelton represented that he had been left to act as Governor without salary; that the expenses of his table were heavy, and the perquisites of office small; and he begged that he might pay himself, out of the prize money, £1,000 per annum, which was granted. By October he had received the King's commands not to continue to try to trade with the Spaniards by force. He, at that time, asked that he might demit office. The port at Cagua was three parts finished, but would need £2,000 to finish it. It was a time of success for the buccaneers, and Port Royal grew rich.

In November the council gave orders for writs to be drawn up for electing an assembly of twenty persons by the precincts, eleven to be an "authentic Assembly."

This, the first, Assembly met at St. Jago de la Vega on January 20th. It consisted of twenty members, representing thirteen districts. Cagua (Port Royal) sent three; Yakallah (Yellowes), St. Jago, Old Harbour, Guanaboa (St. John's), and Liguania two each; and Angells, Seven Plantations, Withywood (Vere), Morant, Dry River, Port Morant and the North Side one each, all of whom were present. It sat till February 12th, and passed forty-five laws dealing with all subjects that then seemed to demand attention—the dividing of the island into parishes and precincts; the regulating of hunting and planting, for preventing idling and drinking and cursing; for the maintenance of ministers and of courts of justice, and all that pertains thereto. After passing forty-five laws the Assembly parted "with all kindness and feasting."

On February 13th, 1664, the King issued a warrant for Sir Thomas Modyford to be appointed Governor of Jamaica, and in March he sent Lyttelton leave to return home.

Lyttelton sailed for England on May 2nd, 1664, in the *St. John's Head*, and Colonel Thomas Lynch, President of the Council, assumed command. Lyttelton thus did not receive the letter sent to him from Barbados by the new Governor, Sir Thomas Modyford, by his Deputy-General, Colonel Edward Morgan, who only took command on May 21st.

During his term of office Lyttelton complained of the insolences of the Spaniards and of the French at Tortugas and Hispaniola; but the King did not encourage reprisals, except by men-of-war, as, whatever the results, they would tend to weaken the island and distract the attention of the planters from planting. He repaired the one church at Spanish Town spared by the soldiery—the present cathedral.

Lynch wrote home that, under Lyttelton's administration, "the people have become obedient and industrious. They have many hopeful plantations if supplied with negroes, but the inhabitants do not number more than 5,000 at the most. Good store of provisions, and not one person sick in the whole island." Lyttelton himself said: "The people are generally easy to be governed, yet rather by persuasion than severity." He pointed out the great

strategic value of the island, as between the east-end and Hispaniola all the Spanish trade from Santa Domingo, Porto Rico and Caracas to Havana had to pass, and between Cuba and Cape Catoche, where the British men-of-war plied, was the passage for the galleons from Peru to their rendezvous at Havana, previous to their departure for Spain. On his return he proposed to the King that His Majesty should settle a plantation—"a great sugar work"—in the island, at a cost of about £4,000, as it would be an encouragement to the planters. Cocoa-walks could be planted to advantage, and with these could be combined indigo and tobacco.

In November, 1664, he was made major, and in the following July lieutenant-colonel of the Lord Admiral's regiment—the precursor of the Royal Marines. He was later Governor of Harwich and Landguard Fort, and afterwards of Sheerness. He resigned all his appointments on the Revolution on account of the oaths.

In October, 1682, Lyttelton wrote to Lord Hatton: "I have had a very sore losse at Jamaica, my good friend Mr. Long being dead, it having broke all my designs of settling a plantation there, for Sir T. Lynch advises mee to withdraw ye little stock I have sent thither in order to it, and I have accordingly desired him to make retournes of it as he can. I had a fair prospect, as I thought, of making a provision for my younger children from thence; but now they must depend upon Providence, which will be more sure." Lynch was then Governor of Jamaica. The Long referred to was Samuel Long, Secretary to the Commissioners appointed by Cromwell for the attack on the West Indies; he was later Speaker of the Assembly and Chief Justice, but is best known for his successful vindication of the political rights of the colony when they were assailed by the Earl of Carlisle. Lyttelton finally rose to the rank of a brigadier-general under James II., and sat in the Parliament of 1685 for Bewdley, Worcestershire. His second wife was Anne, daughter of Thomas Temple, of Frankton in Warwickshire, eldest sister of the fourth wife of Sir Nicholas Lawes, Governor of Jamaica, and maid of honour to the Duchess of York. By her Lyttelton had a large family. She is one of the characters in Grammont's "Memoirs," wherein she figures as a dupe in a silly intrigue with Rochester. Lyttelton also appears in the same pages with the epithet of "serieux." Evelyn calls him "an honest gentleman and souldier."

His friendship with Hatton, begun in youth, was only ended by death. He was a most diligent correspondent. His letters—some of which are reprinted in *Correspondence of the Family of Hatton*, edited by Sir Edward Maunde Thompson in 1878—fill three thick volumes. From Lord Browncker, with whom he had established a friendship at the siege of Colchester forty years before, Lyttelton received the house and estate of Sheene, near Richmond, in 1688. Here Evelyn visited him.

On the death of his brother, the second baronet, in 1693, Lyttelton succeeded to the baronetcy and the estates. He removed to Hagley, in Staffordshire, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died there in May, 1716, at the advanced age of eighty-six.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The committee appointed in Trinidad to inquire into the prevalence of this terrible scourge and to recommend measures for its control has now presented a unanimous report. Much of it is necessarily highly technical, but the findings must make it clear to even the most ignorant layman how far-reaching the effects of venereal disease are, checking, as it does, the increase of population and bringing in its wake untold misery and suffering. The committee, whose investigations appear to have been very thorough, comprised Dr. A. de Verteuil, Dr. E. Prada, Dr. S. M. Laurence, Dr. E. N. Darwent, Dr. C. F. Lassalle, Dr. George H. Masson, Mr. R. Scheult and Mr. E. A. Turpin, with Mr. Ernest Ross as Secretary.

Their recommendations, which, it is hoped, will be adopted not only in Trinidad but, *mutatis mutandis*, throughout the West Indies, may be summarised as follows—

1. The systematic education of the public as to the nature and perils of venereal diseases by the Government as well as by voluntary organisations formed for the purpose of preventing these diseases.
2. The provision by the Government, free of cost to the public, of the most modern means for the early diagnosis of venereal diseases.
3. The provision by the Government of suitable literature on the question of venereal diseases and their prevention to all medical practitioners in and out of the Government medical service for distribution to patients suffering from venereal diseases.
4. The establishment by the Government of special evening clinics at the Colonial Hospitals in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, and in other populous centres, on the lines adopted in Jamaica, for the gratuitous treatment of venereal diseases by the most modern methods.
5. The rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Summary Convictions (Offences) Ordinance relating to women who loiter on the streets and solicit passengers for immoral purposes, and the appointment of police-women to prevent this form of traffic.
6. Compulsory medical treatment during the period of their incarceration of women found, after conviction for the offences referred to in the next preceding recommendation, to be suffering from venereal disease, and their further detention in hospital if, on the expiration of their sentence, they are still uncured and in a condition dangerous to the public health; other infected prisoners to be treated during incarceration and, if necessary, encouraged after liberation to attend regularly at the nearest health office or hospital to complete their cure.
7. The introduction of legislation for preventing the treatment of venereal diseases otherwise than by registered medical practitioners.
8. The addition of ophthalmia neonatorum to the list of infectious diseases notifiable under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, 1915.
9. The provision by the Government in constabulary barracks and similar establishments, and compelling the provision by employers on estates and other labour centres, of facilities for obtaining calomel ointment and permanganate of potassium, free of charge, for use in anti-venereal prophylaxis.
10. The Government to request the Medical Board to include in the regulations issued for the observance of midwives (1) the taking of all necessary prophylactic measures against ophthalmia neonatorum when attending on a parturient case, (2) the obligatory duty of

summoning a medical practitioner immediately in every case of ophthalmia neonatorum.

11. The Board to be further requested to urge upon medical practitioners the importance of including, when possible, the cause of death on certificates of death issued by them in respect of still-born children.

Dealing with this unsavoury subject generally, the committee state there are many aspects of this important social problem of the suppression of venereal disease—such as the absence of compulsory education, alcoholism, overcrowding, and the pernicious barrack system of housing, the defective control and supervision of popular dancing halls, saloons and hotels of evil repute, and other conditions of environment favourable to the spread of venereal diseases—which could not be considered without unduly increasing the bulk of the report; but they hope that enough has been stated to enlighten the public as to the grave nature of these diseases, their widespread distribution in the colony, their disabling effects on present and future wage-earners, their hindrance to the natural and effective increase of the population by reason of the sterility and the enormous wastage of child life for which they are responsible, the appalling suffering and mortality directly and indirectly caused by them, and the heavy loss in productive power which the colony as a whole suffers in consequence of all these things. With this knowledge at hand, supplemented in the near future by information to be spread in the manner recommended in the report, the committee hope that a new and wiser public opinion will be created regarding the dangers of venereal disease and the responsibility of public bodies as well as of individuals for suppressing this great and increasing menace to the health and fitness of the population.

The committee trust that the clergy, the medical fraternity, and members of the teaching profession will unite in a common effort to spread the gospel of clean living—of *mens sana in corpore sano*—using their unexcelled opportunities for uplifting the standard of individual conduct in the community. Children attending the primary and secondary schools of the colony should not be left in ignorance of the moral and physical dangers of impurity. Care should be taken to instruct them in these matters with tact and good judgment, either individually or collectively, in classes, as the circumstances of each school may warrant, and every endeavour should be made to instil into their minds a lofty conception of the sanctity of their bodies, especially—as the Royal Commissioners on Venereal Disease have wisely expressed it—“during the critical years of adolescence, when the combination of impulse and inexperience may lead to the most harmful results.” With regard to the recommendations for making bacteriological examinations of suspected specimens free to the public in order to assist the early diagnosis of venereal diseases, and for the establishment of special clinics for the treatment of these diseases by the most modern means, the committee express the hope that no consideration of economy—which, in a matter so vital to the well-being and development of the colony would, indeed, be false economy—will deter the Government from taking the necessary action with the least possible delay.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6842 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

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

September 4th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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 death is reported from New York of Mr. E. S. Keeley, Secretary of the International Sugar Committee, and its successor, the United States Equalisation Board.

Market steady, but quiet. Business has been done in crystallised West India up to 90s., and Muscovados up to 76s., landed terms. The demand is very limited.

The British Government have purchased 175,000 tons Mauritius crystals (the bulk of that crop) at an average price of 50s. per cwt., f.o.b.

Writing from Cuba, under date August 4th, Mr. Himely reported receipts for whole island 3,561,257 tons, compared with 3,095,891 tons same date 1918, and exports 2,466,881 tons, as against 2,370,231 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London for week ending August 23rd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	34,416	20,669	59,396	
Deliveries	28,444	25,535	50,390	"
Stock	12,164	6,121	17,021	"

RUM. A considerable quantity of Jamaicas, which recently arrived in London and Liverpool, have been sold on the basis of 9s. 1½d. per gallon, landed terms for ordinary qualities. It is, however, becoming more and more difficult to make sales.

The stocks in London on August 23rd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	6,684	4,886	8,905	
Demerara	14,280	6,943	10,392	"
Total of all kinds	26,168	16,344	31,446	"

COCOA. The market remains quiet, and there is little change of prices from those quoted in last CIRCULAR. A fair business has been done for Plantation Trinidad.

The stocks in London on August 23rd were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	40,265	7,722	28,624	
Grenada	17,049	12,328	30,539	"
Total of all kinds	151,336	103,326	275,600	"

COFFEE. The demand for export continues, and values for all available parcels are fully maintained. Imports to United Kingdom from British West Indies to July 31st, 23,108 cwt. as against 2,240 cwt. in 1918.

ARROWROOT. Market continues quiet, with a few sales at 6d.-7½d. for common to fine. Quotations unchanged.

BALATA is quoted at 4s. 4d. The market for W.I. Sheet is strong, as there are no available supplies.

COPRA. Market steady. Value f.m.s. West Indian £58 c.i.f. London, £61 c.i.f. Marseilles.

HONEY. At the last auctions there was scarcely any demand. Few sales at from 70s. to 80s. for Jamaica; other descriptions nominal 60s. to 70s. per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled and Hand-pressed, neglected; sellers at 4s. and 11s. 6d. respec-

tively. Lime-juice: Raw, very slow of sale; holders ask 2s. 6d. and 3s. for ordinary to fair.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet, firm; value 8s. Bitter, nominal.

SPICES. Market dull; no change from late low quotations for nutmegs and mace. Of Pimento there are sellers at 5½d. per lb. on the spot.

RUBBER. Plantation has been firmer, and good business reported. Crepe, 2s. 1½d. spot; sheet, 2s. 0½d.

COTTON. The market has been moderately active. Quotations of most descriptions show an advance.

BIRTH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

KIRBY.—On August 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Kirby (Nigeria), at 2 Morton-road, Exmouth, a son.

DEATH.

DALTON.—On the 13th August, at 97 Fellows-road, S. Hampstead, Edward Henry Goring Dalton, late Registrar-General of British Guiana, aged 79.

OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	London	Catalina	Sept. 10
West Indies	Glasgow	Crown of Granada	Sept. 10
B'dos, and T'dad	Liverpool	Antillian	Sept. 13
Jamaica	Liverpool	Manzanares	Sept. 13
West Indies	London	Sargasso	Sept. 17
Jamaica	Liverpool	Bayano	Sept. 22
West Indies	London	Quillota	Sept. 26
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	Oct. 3
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	Oct. 17

The above dates are only approximate.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.		PRICES.
		Sept. 1st.
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	74-76
3½ %	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	71-76
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	80-82
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	63-65
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80-82
3 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	83-85
4 %	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	71-73
3½ %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	66-68
3 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	73-75
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	79-81
4 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63-65
8 %	The Colonial Bank	7½-8½
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	177-182
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures... ..	82-84
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures... ..	87-89
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	1½
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97½-102½
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	9/3
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	23 0
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields... ..	83 0
—	Trinidad Dominion 10	7 6
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	65 0
1 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	40-45
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	99-104
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4½ Ex. Pref.	61-66
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	60-65
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	1½-1½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	7-7½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd "	6½-6½
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	92-94

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The Development of Trinidad.

FOLLOWING the adoption of a resolution by the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago on November 2nd, 1917, a committee was appointed by the Governor to consider and report upon the improvement of coastal and internal communications, and the development of the resources of the colony, with a view to outlining a policy to be proceeded with as soon as might be financially possible after the conclusion of the war. The preliminary report of this committee, which is now before us, has been favourably received in Trinidad, though in Tobago its findings in respect of the steamer service have caused some disappointment. It will be recalled that this service, which is conducted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company under contract, was carried on by two steamers—the *Barima* and the *Belize*—each of about 1,000 tons register, for an annual subsidy of £7,250, until March, 1916, when the *Barima* was withdrawn for war purposes. The steamer *Belize* now carries on the service for a subsidy of £3,625. This vessel proceeds round Trinidad and round Tobago in alternate weeks. In one week she visits the north coast ports of Trinidad, and goes thence to Scarborough and round Tobago, returning by the same route. In the other week she goes round Trinidad by the southern and eastern ports, and thence to Scarborough and back, calling at the north coast ports

of Trinidad *en route*. It being regarded as unlikely that the company will be disposed to renew the contract when it expires in 1923, their agent having represented that it is being run at a loss, in spite of an all-round increase in freight rates sanctioned in 1917, the committee recommend that the "round Trinidad" service be altogether dispensed with, and that the south and east coast ports of Trinidad be linked up with the Government railway by motor lorries, which would, they believe, meet all requirements. They suggest that Tobago and the north coast ports, from which heavy cargo could not be economically brought to Port of Spain by road, might be served by a steamer of 500 tons, to be built for, and run by, the Government. The Tobago planters, who do not appear to have been represented on the committee, naturally urged in their evidence that the accommodation provided should be in no respect inferior to that available in the *Belize*. This was, however, found to be in excess of requirements, and they will therefore have to derive what comfort they can from the fact that the committee realise that a single 500-ton steamer will not meet the needs of Tobago and the northern coast in 1923, by which year the exports from Tobago will have materially increased, though they think it best to begin with one steamer (which will cost about £3,067, and an annual expenditure of £10,000) until experience is gained. Further consolation will be derived from the expression of the committee's belief that when the trade grows in importance coconuts will be shipped from Tobago direct to Europe and America without transshipment at Port of Spain. It will be a proud day for Tobago when that comes about. The committee also voice the hope that eventually a steamer may run between Balandra and Scarborough—a distance of thirty-five miles only, while the distance from Port of Spain to Scarborough is seventy-three miles—when the railway is extended from Sangre Grande to the east coast. This brings us to the committee's recommendations with regard to railway construction, which are very far-reaching and comprehensive, and will, if adopted, as we hope they may be, round off the railway system of the colony. Briefly, they advocate the construction of extensions in the following order: (1) Sangre Grande to Balandra; (2) Siparia to Los Bajos; (3) Tabaquite to Mayaro; (4) Rio Claro to Guayaguayare; and (5) Debé to Moruga. The advantages to be derived from these extensions are well set out in the report, extracts from which are given elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. Almost as important to any country as the

extension of railways is the construction of roads to act as feeders to the lines, and in this connection the committee recommend the adoption of a main road scheme, submitted by MR. ARCHIBALD G. BELL, Director of Public Works, the execution of which they think, however, should only be settled up to the end of the year 1922. When the road scheme of 1910 was adopted it was assumed that it would be completed in five years from April 1st, 1911; but the outbreak of war upset its finances, and in the circumstances it is well that a fresh start should be made with a clean sheet. Owing to the abnormal conditions now prevailing, only an approximate estimate of the capital expenditure required for the execution of the works and services now contemplated can be given. The committee place it at £1,772,283, bringing the total expenditure in view—if, as is expected, a harbour improvement scheme costing £500,000 is adopted—to £2,272,283. The present is not a favourable time for raising so large a loan, and the committee have wisely set out the order in which they think the various works should be undertaken. On the basis of a three years' campaign, at a cost of £50,000 per annum, the curtailment of the railway programme to the duplication of the line between Port of Spain and St. Joseph, and the extension from Sangre Grande to Balandra, will reduce the outlay to £982,371, this figure including £500,000 for harbour works. On December 31st last the total Public Debt of the colony was £1,749,753, excluding £400,000 advanced by the Government, and with the present loans yielding 5½ per cent., it is obvious that the present is not a favourable moment for raising a large loan, and it is probable, therefore, that the expenditure will require further modification. This could, we venture to think, best be effected by the elimination of the proposed harbour works. The local Chamber of Commerce and the principal shipping companies have shown very determined opposition to the construction of deep-water wharves at Port of Spain, and it is doubtful whether, if the use of the facilities proposed were made optional, as they must be, the companies would avail themselves of them. In the circumstances, it is clear that the financial success of the harbour scheme is by no means assured, and in the circumstances the Government would, we venture to think, be well advised to defer its adoption until the support of the commercial community and shipping companies is secured. Meanwhile, we hope that the actual programme of the committee in respect of steamer and motor lorry services and railway extension will be vigorously carried out.

Malaria in England.

IT has always been assumed that malaria, which was once rife in England, died out as a result of the drainage of the fens and low country generally. That this alone was not entirely responsible is proved by the fact that the *Anopheles maculipennis*—the mosquito known to be the carrier of malaria—has persisted in England, and that in certain areas it still, indeed, abounds. The mosquito is innocuous *per se*, but, given individuals suffering from malaria to feed upon, it may become infected, and pass the disease on to man. Mercifully for us

in England, a temperature exceeding 70 deg. to 80 deg. Fahr. is also necessary, and if this is not attainable, as in winter and so many English summers, no widespread outbreak of malaria can occur. Herein lies the difference in respect to malaria infection between tropical and temperate climes. In the tropics conditions favourable to the spread of malaria are always present. In the temperate zone, on the other hand, they are only present during really hot summers, which, unfortunately, are rare in this country. It is safe then to assume that our comparative immunity from malaria has been mainly due to climatic conditions. Isolated cases have from time to time been recorded, but they have generally been traced to people coming from the tropics with malarial infections in their blood, and such cases have always occurred in the hottest part of the summer. Recently the return of large numbers of soldiers suffering from malaria from Salonika, Africa, Mesopotamia, and other places where the disease prevails has furnished the *Anopheles* with a ready source of infection, and as the weather has been suitable there has been a recrudescence of indigenous malaria in this country, several hundred cases having been recorded. In a population of 40,000,000 this is not, however, regarded as a very serious matter, and as the hot season—if one can call it that—is only brief, it is unlikely to spread to any extent. This, and this only, is the reason why the authorities do not propose to go to the expense of conducting any large or widespread campaign against the *Anopheles* mosquito in England. It is believed that with the approach of winter the outbreak will die down, and that all that is required is for cases to be notified, moved, if possible, to some region free from *Anopheles*, and there suitably treated with quinine. The position in the tropics is, however, altogether different. There the malaria-infected individual, the *Anopheles*, and the suitable temperature are always present, and the infection consequently goes on, year in and year out. It is therefore imperative that a ceaseless war should be waged against the disease, and experience has definitely proved that the best means of doing this is by the conduct of rigorous anti-mosquito measures—such as the destruction of the breeding-grounds within the neighbourhood of human habitations, screening, &c. We have endeavoured to show that, where the incidence of malaria is concerned, there is no analogy between England and the tropics, and we trust that the recent decision not to conduct a general campaign against the mosquito will not lead to any relaxation in the efforts which are being successfully waged throughout the West Indies to combat this pest which is the *flans*, if not the *arigo*, of so much suffering.

The *Times* correspondent in Montevideo, under date September 14th, says that British merchants are loudly complaining of the irregular and backward arrival of mails, which is ascribed to the British postal authorities neglecting to dispatch them by all available steamers, and that the British Chambers of Commerce in the River Plate are formulating a reiterated protest against this delay, which is highly detrimental to British trade interests.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE French newspaper *L'Avenir* is offering as bait for subscribers 10 lb. of sugar for a year at cost price.

* * *

DEFERRED telegrams, including deferred money orders, are now accepted by the Post Office for despatch "via Imperial" to Bermuda, the British West Indies, and British Guiana.

* * *

MR. JOHN BARCLAY, the energetic Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Association, after taking a cure at Harrogate, is now at Weymouth, where he expects to remain until he returns to Jamaica on the 29th.

* * *

MAJOR SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, R.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, returns to Port of Spain by the *Quillota* at the end of the month, and Mr. T. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E., the newly appointed Colonial Secretary of the colony, will be a passenger in the same steamer.

* * *

THE services of Sister Catherine Benn, who, during the war, was in charge of the Windsor-street Auxiliary Military Hospital, Liverpool, where many wounded and sick men of the British West Indies Regiment were stationed, have, we are glad to notice, been recognised by the award of the Second-class Royal Red Cross.

* * *

SIR DUNCAN BAILLIE, who succeeded Mr. Sandbach Parker as Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation in December last, died, we regret to state, on August 30th. Sir Duncan, who had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service, was, up to the time of his death, taking an active part in bringing about the amalgamation of the Organisation with the Federation of British Industries.

* * *

ALL remaining details of the British West Indies Regiment in Italy and France left Havre for the West Indies in H.M. Transport *Orea*. The small number of men in Egypt, Mesopotamia and elsewhere will, it is understood, be sent to Winchester for repatriation by the earliest possible opportunity. The Regimental Paymaster and Officer Commanding Records should by now be in Jamaica, where they will remain until all the accounts, &c., are settled.

* * *

SIR WILFRED COLLET and SIR FREDERIC HODGSON were among the guests at a dinner at Claridge's on September 4th, at which Mr. Elliott Alves was presented with a service of plate by the Minister of Venezuela on behalf of the residents in that country in recognition of his work there. It will be recalled that Mr. Alves is connected with the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, and that he holds an oil-prospecting licence over a large area of territory in the north-west district of British Guiana.

* * *

THE largest operation yet conducted in the Panama Canal was the passage of thirty-three vessels of the Pacific Fleet of the United States, which was successfully accomplished on July 24th and 25th last. The total length of the ships was 13,409 ft., while their aggregate displacement was 265,000 tons. The dreadnought *Mississippi*—624 ft. long and 97 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in the beam—negotiated the canal in 10 hours 46 minutes, 3 hours 43 minutes of which were spent in the locks. The destroyers were handled in groups, with a canal pilot in charge of three destroyers, and in the passage through the locks six of these 310-ft. vessels were placed in one chamber together, in two ranks of three each, lashed together. The other ships were handled individually, with a canal pilot on each.

LIEUT.-COLONEL IVAN DAWSON represented the West India Committee at a meeting held at the Air Ministry on September 8th to consider the question of the disposal and utilisation of the Government's surplus airships. General Seely, who presided, explained that, consequent on the decision of the Government to suspend its orders, a number of airships of the R 34 type, as well as coastal patrol vessels (familiarly known as "Blimps"), had become available for commercial use, and that the Government would be prepared to aid in the initiation of any approved enterprise by which the airships might be acquired and their use continued. Purchasers at the present time would be in a position to secure equipment of all kinds at advantageous prices, as the Government realised their limited market and the expediency of effecting immediate sales. Aerodromes and sheds would also be available either for purchase or hire.

* * *

GENERAL SEELY, in view of the magnitude of the operations indicated by the discussion, suggested the advisability of a single concern being formed to comprise any of the existing large interests who were prepared to give it their support. Sir Trevor Dawson intimated that Messrs. Vickers would be prepared to subscribe to such a scheme, and, with the acquiescence of other prominent commercial representatives, it was arranged to form a committee to discuss proposals in detail. General Seely declared that he had the assurance of Lord Inverforth that no "red tape" should be allowed to interfere with the negotiations in connection with the transfer of Government equipment.

* * *

BLADDER-WORT (species of *Utricularia*) are insectivorous plants. The species described by Darwin (*U. vulgaris*) is found in pools and ditches in north temperate countries. The whole plant, with the exception of the flowers, is submerged. The leaves are finely divided, and bear small bladders, whence the common name. The bladders have trap-door entrances, which open only inwards. When the trap-door is touched by a minute water animal curiosity is rewarded by the door opening, and entrance is gained. But the door has an elastic lunge, and closes. The little organism is trapped and dies. The products of decay are absorbed by the walls of the bladder, and in this way the plant is supplied with nitrogenous food. There are several species in the West Indies. Some live in water, like *U. vulgaris*, without roots; others have roots on which are the bladders. These last live amongst wet mosses on trees, or in muddy places.

* * *

LORD FISHER is still affectionately remembered in the West Indies, which he frequently visited when he was Commander-in-Chief on the North American West Indies Station from 1897 to 1899 in the *Hennan*—the predecessor of the battleship of the same name which took the Prince of Wales to Canada, and will shortly be in West Indian waters. His popularity waned somewhat when he insisted on withdrawing our ships from the West Indies and other outlying parts of the Empire in 1905-6 and concentrating them in the North Sea; but no one will now venture to question the soundness of his policy of training the fleet on its battle-ground. Indeed, it is not too much to say that if he had not persisted in this we would almost certainly have been caught napping and the war would probably have had a very different termination. This is all modestly explained in the delightfully breezy but all too short series of articles which Lord Fisher is contributing to the *Times*. What should specially please West Indian readers is his implicit faith in oil as the fuel of the future, which he emphasises in the instalment of his article published on September 12th, in which he refers specifically to Trinidad.

THE WEST INDIAN CABLE SYSTEM.

Denunciation by a Governor.

It is not surprising to learn that our friends in the West Indies are becoming exasperated by the constant breakdowns and general inefficiency of the West Indian cable system. The matter was raised in the Combined Court in British Guiana on July 28th.

Mr. Cecil Clementi, the Acting Governor of British Guiana, replying to complaints made by Mr. Brassington and Mr. Santos as to the irregularity of the cable service, agreed that the position was exceedingly unsatisfactory. The service had been unsatisfactory for more than a year past, and the Government had not been idle in the matter. For the sixth or seventh time the cable between Georgetown and Trinidad was broken; the cable between St. Lucia and Jamaica was also broken, and, as if to add to the difficulty of the situation, the wireless at Tobago was also out of order. The only means at present of communicating with Trinidad was by wireless to Port of Spain—always an unsatisfactory mode, as it has to be done in the daylight hours. The Government had written to the Secretary of State pointing out the situation many months ago, and urging that the company be pressed to put down new lines; but even the accomplishment of this would not have raised the situation, as the cable between St. Lucia and Jamaica was now giving trouble. The best thing that could be done would be to obtain a new British cable between St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Bermuda, in which case there would be an all-British cable communication. At the present time all cables had to pass through foreign stations, the only all-British line being by wireless. The matter was again represented to the cable company, but the matter would only be adjusted by the Secretary of State exercising great pressure on the headquarters of the company. The matter had given him much anxiety. Some time ago a telegram to the Secretary of State was two months in transmission.

The Acting Governor, in the course of his speech, referred to the succinct statement of the present position in his report on the condition of British Guiana during the Great War, and in the chief local problems awaiting solution. An extended reference to this valuable compilation will be made in a future CIRCULAR. Meanwhile, the paragraphs relating to the question of telegraphic communication which should prove of general interest are given below:—

"All the rights and privileges granted to the International Ocean Telegraph Company by Ordinance No. 3 of 1869, to land, construct and maintain telegraphs in this colony, were transferred by Ordinance No. 2 of 1870 to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, who then laid a single cable connecting Georgetown with Trinidad, and to whom, as from the year 1873, a subsidy of \$14,400 a year was paid by this Government. But in 1891, consequent on frequent interruptions in cable communication, which gave much cause for complaint, the company laid a second cable between Georgetown and Trinidad; and, in view of their having done so, the subsidy was increased to \$21,600 per annum for a period of ten years. The increased subsidy was paid up to the year 1904, when

it was withdrawn; and thereafter the original sum of \$14,400 a year was again paid as subsidy.

"In 1907, however, there was renewed complaint owing to frequent breaks in the cable between British Guiana and Trinidad, and the company offered to instal a wireless station at Georgetown, in order to provide adequate facilities for telegraphic communication with Port of Spain. No additional subsidy was required, but the colony granted the necessary site at Georgetown for a wireless station, while the company paid all the expenses both of installation and of maintenance. A licence to establish, maintain and work apparatus for wireless telegraphy was accordingly granted to the company on December 24th, 1908, and was made terminable on six months' notice in writing by either side. It continued in force until August 19th, 1915, when, consequent on the installation of an Imperial wireless station in this colony, the company's wireless station was dismantled and closed. Cable communication to and from British Guiana is now carried on by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company under an agreement dated August 10th, 1914. This agreement came into force on October 1st, 1914, and is for a period of ten years. It reduced the rates payable for telegrams passing over the company's system, but the subsidy paid by this Government is still \$14,400 per annum. Arrangements have also been made whereby, in the event of a break in the cable, unofficial as well as official messages are transmitted to Trinidad by the Imperial Wireless Station. These messages are handed in at the office of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company in the usual way, and then passed over to the Wireless Station for transmission. Similarly, unofficial messages received by the Wireless Station are handed over to the company for delivery.

"Cablegrams sent by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company from Georgetown, if destined for the United Kingdom, pass through the colonies of Trinidad, Grenada and St. Lucia, then across to St. Croix, one of the Virgin Islands of the United States of America, and through Puerto Rico, also a dependency of the United States of America, to Jamaica. From Jamaica two routes are possible. Messages not specially marked "*via* Bermuda" are sent across the Island of Cuba to Key West in Florida, thence overland to New York, and are finally transmitted by cable from New York *via* Halifax to England. On the other hand, messages marked "*via* Bermuda" are handed over by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company in Jamaica to the Direct West India Cable Company, who forward them to Bermuda, whence they are transmitted by the Halifax Bermuda Cable Company to Halifax and thence to England. There is no all-British cable communication between Georgetown and London; but wireless telegraph messages can be transmitted from the colony to England by means of stations which are exclusively British.

"It is much to be hoped that his Majesty's Government will arrange for all-British cable communication from British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands to the United Kingdom. This can be easily done by laying a cable between St. Lucia and Jamaica, or better still between St. Kitts and Bermuda, which is almost the same distance. Moreover, the cable between Georgetown and Trinidad is old and very defective. It was broken and interrupted for fourteen days in 1914, for fifty-one days in 1915, for nineteen days in 1916, for three days in 1917, and for 123 days in 1918. Clearly this cable should be replaced by a new one as soon as possible."

MEMBERSHIP of the West India Committee is confined by the Royal Charter to British subjects. Any member may propose or second candidates, whose names should be sent to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

TRINIDAD DEVELOPMENT.

A Preliminary Report has been issued by the committee appointed by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago at the instance of the Legislative Council in 1917 to report on the improvement of the communications of the colony and the development of its resources. The committee, whose recommendations are unanimous, comprised the Governor as Chairman, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Director of Public Works, the General Manager of the Railways, the Hon. Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., the Hon. W. G. Kay, the Hon. H. McLelland, Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E., Mr. A. V. Stollmeyer, and Mr. A. W. Ibbett, M.A.I.M.E., with Mr. F. W. Ulrich as Secretary.

Their principal recommendations may be summarised as follows:—

That from 1923, when the present contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company comes to an end, the Government should undertake the establishment and maintenance of the Tobago and coastal steamer service; that steps be taken to ascertain at what cost and within what time a ship of 500 tons to 600 tons gross register, with an open deck with awnings or chairs and benches, a saloon for the passengers, and ample accommodation for deck passengers and cargo can be procured.

That approximate estimates should be prepared for the provision of a breakwater and steamer jetty at Balandra Bay, the extension of the jetty at Scarborough so as to enable the coastal steamer to lie alongside, and the building of jetties for lighters at Roxborough, Milford and Toco.

That the main road scheme, as set out by the Director of Public Works in an appendix, be adopted, but that the detail of its execution be for the present settled only up to the end of the year 1922.

That the main line of the railway be doubled between Port of Spain and St. Joseph, and that the following railway extensions be made in the order given: Sangre Grande-Balandra; Siparia-Los Bajos; Tabaquite-Mayaro; Rio Claro-Guayaguayare; and Debé-Moruga.

That motor lorry services be established as follows: Balandra Bay to Sangre Grande Railway Station; Manzanilla to Sangre Grande Railway Station; Mayaro to Rio Claro Railway Station; Moruga to Penal Railway Station; and Erin to Siparia Railway Station.

That the following extensions of the railway telephone system be made: Princes Town-Moruga; Sangre Grande-Toco; Rio Claro-Mayaro; Sangre Grande-Manzanilla. In Tobago—(a) Scarborough-Milford; (b) Roxborough-Parlatuvier.

Owing to the abnormal conditions now existing, only an approximate estimate of the capital expenditure required for the execution of those works and services can be given. It is as follows:—

Steamer of 500 to 600 tons for coastal service	£30,000
Improvement of loading facilities at coastal steamer depots (say)	60,000
Road scheme and extensions of road scheme (to be proceeded with by annual instalments of £50,000)	676,512

Extensions of railway system—	
(a) Doubling line Port of Spain-St. Joseph	£45,000
(b) Extensions—	
Sangre Grande-Balandra	183,000
Siparia-Los Bajos	122,000
Tabaquite-Mayaro	252,000
Rio Claro-Guayaguayare	200,000
Debé-Moruga	190,000
Motor lorry services	10,271
Telegraph and telephone communications	3,500
Total	£1,772,283

Under their terms of reference the committee were requested to advise as to the order in which such works as they may recommend should be proceeded with. The question of harbour improvement works was not included in their reference. The various proposals that have been under discussion of recent years have been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has referred them, together with the question of after-war steamship communications between the United Kingdom and the West Indies, to a committee which he has convened to consider those matters. The committee understand, however, that they are requested, in advising as to the order in which such works as they may recommend should be proceeded with, to assign a place in the order of precedence to the proposed harbour improvement works.

Until a decision has been arrived at as to whether the harbour scheme adopted is to provide for the improvement of Port of Spain as a lighterage port, or for the construction of deep-water quays, no estimate of the cost of the works can be put forward. For the purposes of this report, however, and in order to enable them to estimate approximately the capital expenditure involved in their proposals, the committee have assumed that a harbour improvement scheme costing a sum not exceeding £500,000 may be adopted. The approximate estimated capital cost of the harbour works, and of the works and services recommended in their report, amounts, therefore, to £2,272,283.

The committee recommend provisionally that the following works should be undertaken in the order named as soon as conditions are favourable to the raising of a loan for that purpose:—

Establishment of motor lorry services in connection with the railway	£10,271
Doubling of railway, Port of Spain to St. Joseph	45,000
Extension of the telephone communications	3,500
Road Scheme—three years' programme at a rate of £50,000 per annum	150,000
Purchase of steamer for coastal service	30,000
Improvement of loading facilities at coastal steamer depots	60,000
Harbour works	500,000
Sangre Grande-Balandra Railway extension	183,600
Total	£982,371

In conclusion, the committee point out that when the completion of the topographical survey of Trinidad enables them to deal comprehensively with the important and urgent question of the provision of adequate supplies of water to towns and villages, it is probable that they will recommend that water supply schemes should be given precedence over some of the works enumerated in the above list.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Some further extracts from the valuable report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry are given below:—

BARBADOS.

About 80,000 acres is under sugar-cane in this island, and about 5,000 tons of sugar are consumed annually. The canes contain about 14 per cent. of sugar, and the yield per acre averages 1·4 tons. The average exportation of sugar for the three years 1913-16 was 38,236 tons. There were also exported 9,017,358 gallons of molasses. In 1917 the exports were 34,770 tons of sugar crystals, 17,190 tons of Muscovado sugar, and 9,400,196 gallons of molasses. The exports were to Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Newfoundland, Bermuda, British West Indies, Holland, British Guiana, Bahamas, Denmark, and Brazil.

At the Department of Agriculture a large number of new varieties of canes are raised from seed, and their cultivation is carried out in comparison with the standard canes, until it is ascertained whether they are better than those under cultivation. Experiments are also conducted to ascertain the manurial requirement of the sugar-canes. These have been instituted twenty-five years. Practically all the land suitable for cane cultivation is used for that purpose. It is worthy of note that owing to the population of Barbados being about 1.124 persons to the sq. mile, the cost of all labour is lower than in most of the British West Indian Colonies.

LEeward ISLANDS.

These include Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands. The total area under sugar cultivation in 1916 in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat amounted to 32,200 acres, Antigua heading the list with 16,000 acres, about 10,000 of which were reaped. The exports from these islands in 1916 were 26,993 tons of crystals, and 8,058 tons of Muscovado. The estimated annual consumption in these islands was 1,550 tons.

The average yield of cane in Antigua and St. Kitts may be taken as 20 tons per acre, and in Nevis as 10 tons per acre. The sugar in the cane averages 13-14 per cent. A certain quantity of sugar is imported from the United States of America. Dominica and the Virgin Islands produce very little sugar, and no returns are available.

WINDWARD ISLANDS.

The Windward Islands include St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada. The islands are mountainous and of volcanic origin, and quite recently there has been a violent eruption in St. Vincent. The climate is damp and hot, and the rainfall amounts to 80-100 in. The islands not only suffer from volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, but also from hurricanes. The hurricane of 1897 and the eruption of 1902 destroyed much of the land under cultivation of sugar in St. Vincent, and since that time the sugar production has practically ceased.

The chief sugar-producing island is St. Lucia. The average exports from this island during the six years 1910-16 inclusive were 4,526 tons, whilst the consumption of sugar in the island may be estimated at 1,300 tons.

The exports of sugar from St. Vincent show a steady increase in output in 1917-1918, but it is doubtful whether this will be maintained, owing to the attention being given to cotton. The sugar exported in 1916 was twice the amount of 1915. The average for the two years 1916 and 1917 was 544 tons. We have no information as to where this sugar was sent. The average

annual consumption may be estimated at 1,200 tons. Grenada produces about 450 tons of sugar annually, and its consumption is 1,575 tons. A certain quantity of sugar is imported from Barbados, Trinidad, and St. Vincent, as well as refined sugar from the United States of America and the United Kingdom. There are about 6,000 acres which might be made available for sugar growing.

JAMAICA.

The production of sugar in this island is subject to fluctuations. In 1892 it was 23,654 tons; in 1901, 16,083 tons; and in 1911, 19,414 tons. The present acreage under sugar-cane in 1916 was 33,830 acres, of which 10,107 acres of cane were grown by small settlers, who make a crude description of molasses sugar for local consumption, no return being made of the quantity; 21,620 acres on the estates making sugar by steam, water, or cattle power are returned as in cane for the crop completed on August 31st, 1916. The quantity of sugar produced was 32,196 tons, and of rum 18,406 gallons.

Plants maturing in fifteen months yield 30-40 tons of cane according to weather, efficiency, &c. The percentage of sugar in the canes is only available on two estates in the district of Vere, when the percentage of sugar in the crops for 1910, 1911 and 1917 was between 13 and 14. The present yield of sugar is 1·45 tons per acre, and 85 gallons of rum. There are no refineries or other trades employing sugar in the island. The Agricultural Department gives a course in distilling occasionally, and the head of this department is a chemist, besides which a mycologist and an entomologist are employed, whose services are at the disposal of the public advice. There are about 117,700 acres adjacent to the railway line, or to river navigable by boats, or within 3 to 8 miles of shipping ports, which should be available for extension of the sugar industry. The land, however, is in private ownership, and it would no doubt take some time to induce the owners to invest in machinery and plant canes.

There are a great number of labourers scattered over the country whose time is only partially occupied in casual labour or growing their own foodstuffs. Three new sugar factories have been provided for in St. Catherine, and many projects for sugar developments are being actively considered as soon as machinery is again procurable.

BAHAMA ISLANDS.

These islands are not suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane, as the soil is not rich enough. About 900 tons of sugar were imported in 1913, mostly from the United Kingdom and United States.

BERMUDA.

The average annual consumption for the three years 1911-13 inclusive was 859 tons, imported from the following countries:—United States, 588 tons; West Indies, 214 tons; and the United Kingdom, 57 tons. There is no sugar industry in Bermuda, and there is no land suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

About 600 acres are at present under cane, producing about 600 tons annually, nearly all of which is consumed locally. About 50 tons of Muscovado and centrifugal sugar were exported annually before the war. The land is unfertilised, unploughed, and practically uncultivated, and the canes are allowed to ratoon for about ten to twenty years before being replanted. Before the war refined and unrefined sugar came from the United States, and a small quantity from the United Kingdom. Since the war imports are mostly from Guatemala. We have no information regarding the consumption of sugar in this colony.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The estimated area under sugar-cane is 78,000 acres, with a production of 120,000 tons of sugar per annum,

the consumption being 8,500 tons. The annual pre-war exports for the seven years 1907-13 were 99,412 tons of sugar, 3,258,200 proof gallons of rum, 180,000 gallons of molasses, and 7,820 tons of molasses as cattle food.

The yield of cane is 10 to 60 tons per acre according to the soil, variety, and seasons, with a content of sugar of 10-14 per cent. The sugar required by the general public is white, yellow, vacuum pan sugar, and syrup sugar from yellow crystals. A small quantity of white refined sugar is imported from Canada and the United States. No scientific establishments are so far available for technical training in connection with the sugar industry, but the larger and more efficient sugar plantations are themselves under technical control.

Given an ample supply of labour, and of manure, efficient tillage, and economical scientific manufacture, the production of the sugar estates might be increased to 250,000 tons of sugar per annum. There are at least 450,000 acres of land suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane in districts in which it has been grown, whilst nearly 1,000,000 acres of land are available in the north-western sections of the colony, where sugar-cane cultivation has hitherto not been attempted. The land is very fertile, and very favourable meteorological conditions exist; but there are difficulties in regard to labour supply, and the mechanical tillage, owing to the nature and lay of the soils, and heavy costs of draining the land.

(To be continued.)

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. W. Abbott	Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson
H.E. Sir W. L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. L. Inniss
Mr. L. G. Alston	Mr. N. Scott Johnstone
Mr. Tom Archer	Mr. Llewellyn Jones
Mr. A. L. Arrindell	Mr. L. Keir
Mr. R. Arthur	Mr. A. H. Kirby
Mr. Harry Bamford	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, O.B.E.
Hon. A. G. Bell C.M.G.	Hon. S. W. Knaggs C.M.G.
Mr. A. B. Bell	Mr. J. A. Luckhoo
H.E. Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.	Mr. John Macdonald
Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E.	Mr. N. D. Maidman
Capt. W. Bowring, R.A.F.	Mr. C. H. Malone
Mr. T. Boyd	Lt-Col. O. H. E. Marecaux
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. T. M. Marshall
Dr. J. F. E. Bridger	Mr. A. J. Mascall
Mr. G. S. Browne	Mrs. McEwen
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. J. Miller
Prof. P. Carmody	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. W. S. Mitchell
H.E. Sir G. J. Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	Mr. J. T. Moir
Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M.	Mr. J. Morrison
H.E. Sir W. Collett, K.C.M.G.	Mr. L. F. Nourse
Mr. W. W. Craib	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
Mr. Robert Craig	Hon. J. J. Nunan, K.C.
Mr. J. Cunningham	Mr. T. B. Oliphant
Hon. S. Cuthbert	Hon. J. H. Phillipps
Mr. P. J. Dean	H. E. Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G.
Hon. D. S. de Freitas	Mrs. Rapsey
Mr. M. J. de Freitas	Mr. Abdul Rayman
Mr. W. de Gale	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. P. de Verteuil	Hon. Sir R. B. Roden
Mr. G. P. Dewar	Mr. T. G. Rose
Mr. G. C. du Boulay	Mr. G. E. Sealy
Mr. W. P. Ebbels	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. F. Evans	Mr. J. B. D. Sellier
Mr. G. Farmer	Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne
Hon. H. Fergusson, I.S.O.	Mr. W. C. Shettle
Dr. J. Foreman	Hon. Denis Slyne, C.B.E.
Mr. J. J. Gibson	Rev. W. R. Symons
Mr. Robt. Gill	Major W. H. A. Thorne
Hon. G. A. Goodman	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Hon. W. A. S. Vickers
Hon. E. G. Graham	Mr. Cyril Warren
Mr. J. Hamilton	Mr. Athelstan Watson
Mrs. E. Haynes	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
Mr. C. C. Henriques	Mr. H. P. Wildy
Mr. C. V. C. Horne	Mr. W. Woolcraft.
Mr. W. R. Durie, c.o. West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., 37, Henderson Street, Edinburgh.
Mr. A. T. Hammond, c.o. Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.	Mr. A. J. Webb, 3, Ridgeway Place, Wimbledon, S.W.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP.

An Interesting Function.

Mr. Edgar Tripp was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon held on September 10th. Mr. H. F. Previté presided, and in proposing Mr. Tripp's health said that the members were glad to have the opportunity of showing the appreciation of all that their guest had done for Trinidad and the British West Indies. Mr. Tripp had been secretary of the Agricultural Society from its inception during the Governorship of Sir Napier Broome, and he had been for many years Hon. Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Since 1893 he had been Commercial Agent of the Government of Canada. It would be recalled that Mr. Tripp had been almost entirely responsible for the successful arrangements for the celebration of the centenary of the colony in 1897, and the wonder was how, with his multifarious activities in the public interest, he found time to conduct the business of his own firm. Only recently he had added to those activities by accepting the position of Hon. Secretary to the Associated Chambers of Commerce, which was no sinecure. All would wish him God-speed on his return to Trinidad. (Cheers.)

Mr. Tripp, responding, said how pleased he was to be back in England after an absence of twenty-one years, and to find so many old friends. At the same time he was looking forward to returning to Trinidad, and had that day signed on as super-cargo, or in some such capacity, on board a certain steamer at Poplar with his messmates, who seemed to be a very jolly lot, and whose acquaintance he was looking forward to resuming. (Laughter.) Referring to the Chairman's remarks regarding his fortnightly letters from Trinidad published in the CIRCULAR, he admitted that it was rather remarkable, but a very pleasant fact, that, though the personal element had been introduced into his correspondence, personalities, during all the years in which he had been hon. correspondent to the West India Committee, had been avoided. This he attributed, in a great measure, to the blue pencil of the Editor! With regard to the West Indies generally, it was good to know that the winter of their discontent had passed, and that the day of their prosperity was already dawning. When first he went out to Trinidad the island was prosperous, but to the man of perception signs were not lacking that it was then already going down-hill. That great statesman Mr. Joseph Chamberlain altered all that, and, thanks in great measure to him, the West Indies were coming into their own again. He hoped that the local Governments would prove that they were able to deal with prosperity as they coped with adversity. (Hear, hear.) Among the great problems before the West Indies at the present time—in common with most of the British colonies—were those of immigration and labour, and he believed that it should be possible to offer sufficient inducements in the British West Indies to induce prospective emigrants to remain under the British Flag. He was certain that, other conditions being equal, those of African descent would greatly prefer to remain under the Union Jack than to leave for foreign countries whose condition and form of government were probably not so stable. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to learn that there was a probability of the Secretary of the West India Committee visiting the colonies in the near future with the view of expanding the scope of the work of that body, with which he was glad to be so intimately associated. He thought that the moment was suitable for this, having regard to the opportunity that it would afford the relations and friends of so many of the Trinidad boys who had been at the front of expressing their gratitude to the West Indian Contingent Committee and to its Hon. Secretary for all that they had done on their behalf. In conclusion he said that his regret at

leaving so many good friends in the old country was tempered by the pleasure he felt at the prospect of returning to his adopted home. One heard of the call of the East. The call of the West was equally strong, and if he had his life to live again he would, without hesitation, select Trinidad as his place of residence and work. (Applause.)

Commander W. H. Coombs, R.N., having proposed the toast of the Chairman, which was cordially honoured, and Mr. Previte having briefly replied, the company adjourned to the Club Room.

Among those present were Mr. H. F. Previte, Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D., Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, M.A., Mr. Edgar Tripp, Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Commander Coombs, R.N., Sir Edward Davson, Sir William Goode, K.B.E., Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. Hugh A. P. Cotton, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. E. J. Bacza, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. Paul Cressall, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. R. A. J. Goode, C.B.E., Captain G. B. Mason, R.A.M.C., Mr. Peter Abel, Mr. George Parrott, Mr. James Miller, Mr. P. N. Fraser, Mr. H. Bruce Austin, Mr. N. A. Haynes, Mr. T. Boyd, and Mr. Laurence Keir.

THE FUTURE OF JAMAICA.

Mr. Herbert G. de Lisser, the Editor of the *Jamaica Gleaner* and Secretary of that very live body the Jamaica Imperial Association, has been a welcome visitor to London during the past month.

To a representative of the CIRCULAR shortly after his arrival he spoke with enthusiasm of the progress made by his Association, which he attributed, in great measure, to the energy and enterprise of its founder and Chairman, Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Throughout Jamaica the decision of the Mother Country to give a preference in the duties on many of the products of her colonies had caused general satisfaction, and, provided steamer facilities were made available, would undoubtedly be followed by trade developments, and it was probable that Jamaica would give a reciprocal preference, this matter already being under consideration.

Asked for his views as to the proposed political union of Canada and the West Indies, Mr. de Lisser said:—

"It is quite true that the West Indies desire close and cordial relations with the Dominion, but political union is another matter altogether.

"In Jamaica the question has been discussed at the instance of Mr. H. J. Crowe, of Newfoundland, who is the father and promoter of the confederation idea. Only one man of any outstanding position and personality in Jamaica has definitely advocated that the island should throw in its lot with the Dominion; the greater number of our influential men are opposed to any such movement; the rest regard the proposal as academic. The views of the masses of the Jamaica people—our working classes—must, of course, be considered in such a connection; their decision would have the greatest weight—it is their attitude that will ultimately determine the destinies of the island. But they have certainly not spoken in favour of political union with Canada. Only in June last a branch of the Jamaica League, which is an organisation representing the working people of Jamaica, passed a resolution in favour of closer commercial relations with Canada, but against political connection. Most Jamaicans, in fact, understand that the island would not be admitted into the Dominion as a self-governing

province, and but few of them can see the political advantage of ceasing to be a colony of Great Britain in order to become a Canadian colony.

"But we are told that the economic benefits of political union with Canada would be great. That is an assertion, and very little or no proof has been advanced in support of that assertion. It must not be imagined that Jamaica has not gone very thoroughly into this aspect of the proposition. When Mr. Crowe was in the island about three months ago the Jamaica Imperial Association arranged two meetings at which Mr. Crowe might express his views and explain fully the economic and other advantages of a union between Jamaica and Canada, and that gentleman took advantage of this opportunity afforded him. What he said practically amounted to this: 'Canada will give you a good steamship service and will purchase a large quantity of your products from you. She will also see to it that the American Government shall treat you fairly, for she will be prepared to enter into a tariff war with America on your behalf.' Recent telegrams from Washington, however, indicate that the Republican Party of America, who are now in the majority in Congress, view with perfect equanimity anything like tariff reprisals on Canada's part; it is said that they are preparing to heighten the existing American tariff wall against Canadian products! Besides, with the North-Western Canadian farmers clamouring for free or freer trade with the United States, and with the people of Quebec indifferent to anything save what closely concerns Quebec and the direct welfare of the French Canadians, is there any solid reason for supposing that the Dominion would enter into a commercial war with America for the sake of its colony of Jamaica? A Conservative Government might desire to do so; can we possibly believe that a Liberal Administration would embark upon such a fight? Remember, whatever might be the Canadian tariff against American imports would be the Jamaica tariff also in the event of political connection. A large quantity of American goods would thus be shut out of the Jamaica market; and though it is quite true that America wants our bananas, the American politicians would almost certainly desire to retaliate on us if we struck at American trade. Now Canada cannot take one-fourth of the fruit which Jamaica can produce in a normal year; and though there is a developing fruit market in Europe, yet proximity to the States and increasing steamship communication with that country inevitably render it the best market for Jamaica bananas. As for our other products, Canada takes and can take comparatively little of them. She can purchase all the sugar at present produced in the West Indies, but nothing like what they should be producing a few years hence. And there is no great market in Canada for West Indian coffee and cocoa—two industries of considerable importance.

"It may be said that there would still be the British market available to the British West Indies. Quite true; but that we have now, and, with Imperial Preference, we hope for a great development of trade with the Mother Country. To ensure that trade I am certain the West Indies will not hesitate to give a substantial preference to British goods in their markets, even though that must mean differentiation against certain classes of American exports. But a preference to Great Britain would not shut American exports out of British West Indian markets to the extent which political union with Canada would bring about. It is my belief that Jamaica for one can develop a considerable trade with Great Britain, and still purchase largely from, and therefore sell largely to the United States of America. But with the Canadian tariff wall erected round about Jamaica very different conditions would come into existence, with somewhat disastrous results for Jamaica.

"I may say here that the whole question of Jamaica's

economic position and future trade relations is now being very earnestly considered by the Jamaica Imperial Association, at the head of which is Mr. A. W. Farquharson—a man whose pre-eminent ability and patriotism, and whose wide knowledge of Jamaican conditions are recognised by every Jamaican and by the Government of Jamaica also. He was probably the first man in the colony who was approached on the question of political union between Jamaica and Canada, and his verdict in favour of such a union would have carried the greatest weight. It was he who at one of the Association's public meetings, called to discuss this question, moved the resolution which instead of declaring for political union with Canada merely appointed a committee to deal with the suggestion. With a sure political instinct he had rightly interpreted the colony's feeling against any precipitate action tending towards the severing of the existing direct connection between Jamaica and the Mother Country—especially as the economic and commercial benefits of political union with Canada were highly dubious, to say the least of it. And there, so far as Jamaica is concerned, the matter rests at present. I venture further to predict that Jamaica will not send a deputation to Ottawa to ask for admission into the Dominion of Canada."

OBITUARY.

MR. AUDLEY C. MILES.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Audley C. Miles, which took place at his residence, Burtonhill House, Malmesbury, on September 7th.

Mr. Audley Miles was a nephew of the late Mr. Thomas Daniel Hill, and a partner in his uncle's firm, which was for so many years prominently connected with the British West Indies, and especially Barbados. Mr. Miles was a Director of the St. Thomas Dock Engineering and Coal Company, Limited, and a member of the West India Committee.

MR. GEORGE S. HUDSON.

We regret to state that Mr. George S. Hudson died at Errard Estate, Dennery, St. Lucia, on August 30th, at the age of fifty-six.

Mr. Hudson, who was born in England, went out to St. Lucia about twenty years ago to take up the duties of clerk to the firm of Messrs. Barnard Peter & Co. He left this firm to start a wine business of his own, and later gave this up to manage the Errard estate, which is partly owned by his wife. He was for some years attached to the local Department of Agriculture as agricultural instructor. He represented St. Lucia at agricultural conferences held in Trinidad and Barbados. As a member of the Legislative Council he took a keen and active interest in all public matters. He deserved much credit for the push and energy he put into the questions of obtaining a water supply for Dennery, and the linking up of that town with Castries by a good driving road. The former scheme he saw successfully completed, and had he lived a few more months he would have seen the realisation of a driving road from Dennery to Castries. Mr. Hudson was for some years Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee, and represented St. Lucia at the first conference of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies. He was an enthusiast on the subject of Federation, and founded a league with the object of bringing about the political union of the West Indian colonies, in which he took a deep interest until his activities were cut short by ill-health.

A WEST INDIAN Y.M.C.A.

At the invitation of Sir Leslie Probyn, Governor of Jamaica, a meeting was held in the Langham Hotel, London, on September 1st, to consider the question of establishing the Young Men's Christian Association in the British West Indies, in affiliation with the English National Council. Sir Leslie Probyn presided, and there were also present Sir Syney H. Olivier, Hon. J. H. Phillips (Jamaica), Mr. H. G. de Lisser (Editor *Gleaner*, Jamaica), Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne (Grenada), Mr. A. J. Webb (Jamaica), Rev. J. Aubrey Price (England), Mr. O. H. McCowen (Y.M.C.A.), Mr. J. J. Virgo (Y.M.C.A.), Mr. R. D. Pringle (Y.M.C.A.), and Mr. R. J. M. Lewin, who has since left for Jamaica.

The Chairman said he had discussed the proposal in London with leading men from Jamaica—especially the Hon. J. H. Phillips and Mr. Houghton-James—and they were unanimous in believing that great good would be done by the establishment of the Y.M.C.A. in the British West Indies. Speaking unofficially, he hoped the Legislative Council would support the movement. Sir Sydney Olivier was of opinion that an organisation with a prestige and experience like the Y.M.C.A. would be most useful. Others present supported the scheme, and the following resolution was moved by the Hon. J. H. Phillips, seconded by Mr. H. J. Webb, and carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of persons interested in the welfare of the British West Indies has heard with pleasure that the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. has determined to extend its work, on its well-known non-sectarian and non-political lines, to the West Indies, and cordially expresses its full sympathy with this intention, and pledges itself to further the enterprise to the best of its ability. The meeting recommends this scheme for the welfare of the colonies' youths and young men to all interested, and trusts and believes that the financial assistance necessary to its success will be readily furnished by the B.W.I."

It was decided to appeal to people interested in the British West Indies for funds to enable the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s to send out two workers to Jamaica, to begin operations when, in consultation with the Governor and others on the spot, a definite scheme has been adopted. (One of these workers—Mr. Lewin, of Jamaica—will sail next week to work in that colony; the other—an experienced officer of the council—hopes to follow in October to survey the whole field of the British West Indies.) The following committee was appointed to issue the appeal for funds in Britain, and to further the enterprise generally: Sir Sydney Olivier, Mr. Algernon Aspinall, Mr. O. H. McCowen, Mr. J. J. Virgo, and Mr. R. D. Pringle.

MR. G. RUSSELL GARNETT, who for many years represented Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. in Demerara, has now left that colony for good, to the great regret of his many friends there. He returned to England by the *Sargasso*, and will in future be associated with the firm's London office. Mr. Garnett for the last three years was a member of the Executive Council of British Guiana, and was a past-president of the Chamber of Commerce, which he represented at the first Conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in 1917.

NATURE NOTES.

Ever since the appearance of Darwin's book on the action of earth-worms, it has been recognised that worms play a very important part in agriculture. They break up decaying vegetable matter, aerate the soil, and contribute materially to the nitrogenous contents of the humus in which they live, toil and die. Mr. Hilderic Friend appeals in the pages of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* to those who are interested in the soil to send him living specimens of worms. He desires especially such kinds as are suspected of being injurious to plants or are of rare occurrence, and he adds that specimens should be sent in soil in boxes not perforated.

* * *

If an infertile soil can be rendered fertile by the addition of lime, the infertility is commonly said to be due to "soil acidity." It has been shown in a paper on "Soil Science," reported in the *Experiment Station Record*, that there are many factors involved in causing this condition in soils, the presence of real acids being only one of them. The authors of the paper describe a method for measuring acidity in soils by the power of the soil to invert the sucrose in 50 c.c. of a solution of cane-sugar to which has been added from 5 to 10 gm. of the soil.

* * *

The inversion of sugar by soil without undergoing any change itself is an example of catalytic action which is so common in Nature. Another instance is the well-known one of platinum. If platinum be finely divided—i.e., in the form known as platinum black—it will set fire to a mixture of coal-gas and air. If it is more finely divided still, it assumes the condition known as colloidal platinum, and it is then capable of setting up many other chemical changes without itself being changed. An example of such chemical change is the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen.

* * *

Mosquitoes pass their preliminary stages in water. The application of oil to the water prevents the larvae coming to the surface to breathe, and exterminates them. The usual method of applying oil to water is by means of a drip-can. A much more effective plan says the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, is to mix the oil with sawdust in the proportion of 2½ gallons of oil to the bushel of sawdust, and then scatter the mixture broadcast over the surface of the water. This plan ensures even distribution of a thin pellicle of oil on the water. It has been found most efficacious in the treatment of rice fields, and has no bad effect on the crop.

* * *

Forage plants are important in the West Indies, especially such as can be grown in odd corners of estates. The *Agricultural News* directs attention to two forage plants, natives of Brazil, which might be introduced and grown in this way. Both are near relatives of the egg-plant, and one, *Solanum grandiflorum*, is much like it, but grows to 8 ft. or 10 ft. high on very poor clay soil. According to an analysis made by the United States Department of Agriculture it contains nearly 20 per cent. protein. It is much relished by cattle. The other plant, *Solanum bullatum*, contains even more protein—20.88 per cent. Horses and cattle are exceedingly fond of eating the leaves. It is a shrub growing to a height of 15 ft. to 20 ft. If grown as a forage plant it would probably be advisable to treat it as an annual, cutting the stalks down before they become too hard and woody, and allowing it to rot.

* * *

The value of a mulch of grass was demonstrated in the West Indies many years ago. The *Report on the*

Department of Science and Agriculture, British Guiana, for 1917, by Prof. Harrison, points out the value of rice-straw for mulching. He has experimented with it for some years with satisfactory results. The benefits derived from its use are due to three causes: First, it acts as a manure, adding to the soil nitrogen, phosphoric acid, lime and potash; secondly, it prevents the growth of weeds, especially grasses; thirdly, it adds to the soil a large amount of woody fibre which only decomposes with difficulty. The effect of this addition to the soil is to alter for the better the character of the heavy clay. It gradually renders the surface soil lighter and less tenacious, and therefore more permeable by air. When sulphate of ammonia was so scarce owing to the war, the rice-straw mulch was recommended as a substitute. But it should be borne in mind that the full advantage of mulching with rice-straw will not become apparent until repeated over several crops.

* * *

In the last number of the CIRCULAR a note was inserted showing how movement of air, causing increased evaporation, helped to reduce the effect of a high temperature. A homely illustration was given of a bottle of water wrapped in a wet cloth. Another illustration of the power of evaporation to lower temperature occurred in the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* some two years ago. An iceless refrigerator, which keeps food 6 to 10 deg. below the shade temperature is often likely to be useful. To construct it, take a number of shelves about 18 in. square, and fit them into four upright legs. The topmost shelf should be fixed at the top of the legs. The sides are formed of flannel, or flannelette cloth, completely covering them. The cloth should reach the ground, and be about 9 in. higher than the top shelf. The refrigerator stands in a zinc tub half filled with water. A pudding-pan is placed on the topmost shelf, also containing water, into which the top 9 in. of the cloth dip. An upward and downward stream of water is set up, and rapid evaporation takes place. If the refrigerator can be kept where there is a current of air, evaporation is increased, and still further reduces the temperature. Care must be taken to keep the receptacles well supplied with water.

* * *

Kapok, the silky hairs from the pods of the silk cotton tree, as is well known, supplies the material used for giving buoyancy to life-saving waistcoats and bells. But it was not known till lately that it was used experimentally to float the nets used in the English Channel to catch submarines. Admiral Sir R. Bacon, in his "History of the Dover Patrol," published in the *Daily Telegraph*, states that the nets were made of thin galvanised steel wire, the size of the mesh being from 10 ft. to 12 ft. Each net was 100 yds. long, and the patterns varied in depth from 30 ft. to 120 ft. Methods had to be devised whereby the nets could be drifted in a desired position, but would also, instead of being torn, envelop an enmeshed submarine, indicate on the surface its position, and travel through the water with it until a favourable opportunity occurred to destroy it. The first problem was to float the nets. At first this was effected by kapok. Sir R. Bacon says of this material that it has great properties of buoyancy for periods of many hours, or even days if treated with reasonable care. The method of employing kapok was to stuff a light canvas hose about 3 in. in diameter with it. The hose was then secured along the head of the net. But the incessant handling of the nets in the storm-tossed waters of the Channel led to the kapok becoming saturated and losing its buoyancy. The problem for the anti-submarine nets was at length solved by the use of hollow glass balls inserted in net bags made of coarse twine. In the calm waters of the Caribbean Sea it may be quite possible to use kapok in a similar manner for fishing-nets, and for use in the sponge industry.

CACAO EXPERIMENTS.

"Recent Experimental Work on Cacao" was the subject of a paper read recently by Mr. W. G. Freeman, F.L.S., Acting Director of Agriculture, before the members of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago. He challenged the criticism that scientists were not qualified by practical experience to give advice on planting matters, and in support of his contention that they were he summarised the work of the Government's River Estate as performed by the Scientists of Department. Purchased in 1897 by the Government for £4,619 1s. 4½d., a further sum of £1,300 was paid for the surrender of the lease in 1903-4, making it roughly £6,000. In 1908 the crop was 182 bags of 165. In 1918 it was 1,010 bags, and from January to July this year it had already produced 997 bags, and with present prospects they hoped to make 1,200 or 1,300 bags. In addition, they had 80 acres planted in young timber (mahogany and cedar), 50 acres under limes, and 20 acres in coffee, and a large area of original timber. The estate was paying its own way, and had paid back to the Government its original cost on its own work and development. It was worth at present £30,000, and had, in addition, about £6,000 cash in the bank; so that if the estate was sold now, the general revenue would benefit by some £36,000 as a result of the working of the estate by the Scientists—the people who, according to Mr. Lovelace, had never planted a cacao tree, and who were too foolish to put into practice what they have learnt. (Laughter.)

Two important points in production—quantity and quality—were treated differently in different places. As to the position in Trinidad, he could not do better than refer them to the paper which had appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, by Mr. A. W. Knapp, entitled "Cacao Production, and What the Manufacturer Wants," from which it would be seen that the quality question was no easy matter to deal with. With regard to increase in the quantity of cacao per acre, that had been for some years the principal objection of experimental work in the colony. The yield per acre on large estates was dependent on two factors—the number of trees per acre and bearing capacity, and the agricultural treatment the trees received. As to the number of trees per acre, experiments had been conducted at River Estate to ascertain whether planting trees 12 ft. by 12 ft., which was generally accepted in the colony, was after all the best. In 1912 four blocks were laid out respectively at 12 ft. by 12 ft., 14 ft. by 14 ft., 16 ft. by 16 ft., and 18 ft. by 18 ft., and when the trees shall have been in bearing very useful information could be got. Three more acres had been put in to test the Grenada method with shade. The whole comprised 7 acres, ranging from trees planted at 6 ft. by 6 ft. to 18 ft. by 18 ft., or 1,210 trees per acre down to 134 per acre. They would at once appreciate the enormous difference in yield which would have to be got from the more widely planted trees.

Considerable time had been devoted at River Estate in order to ascertain whether it was practicable to get a heavier yield from cacao trees than existed at present. A tree which produced only twelve pods per year was earning no profit to the estate, as it was just paying for its place on the soil, and cost the owner something to keep it there. Taking twelve pods of cacao to the pound weight, which was valued at 6d. on the average of \$13.20 per fanega, they would set a gross return of £7 10s.

per acre, which just covered expenses. Another point was whether cacao trees varied in natural yield, whether it was due to soil, seasons, or other external causes. In connection with experiments carried out at River Estate in that direction, there was a general advance up to a higher level of productiveness. Manure did not necessarily convert a poor tree into a very good bearing one. There was another view sometimes put forward—viz., that it was a matter of seasons. People—and often some experienced ones—argued that a tree which bore heavily one year did not bear the next year. From experiment the evidence was more the other way, but there was no general rule to make of that. If that was a factor, they had quite enough records of experiments to claim that trees had been divided into heavy, medium and poor bearing. The alternative was whether they could make use of grafting or budding for new cultivations or to remedy old ones. As a matter of general principle, it was better to save up seeds of good selection from heavy-bearing trees of good type. Experiments in the line of budding and grafting were now coming into bearing, and would soon begin to give definite results, which must be of interest to those forming new cacao estates.

He did not wish the department to be understood as advocating the use of budded plants on a large scale until they had definite results, which they hoped would be of advantage; but until one knew, he preferred not to prophesy. From the point of view of the planter who already had most of his area in bearing trees, could he do anything to improve it? An alarming proportion of trees in the colony produced less than twelve pods a year. At River Estate, in a plot of 2,000 trees, they had got rid of all such trees, and replaced them with budded plants. They had endeavoured to get chupons from the base of the cut trees by grafting or budding on to them a tree of good type. So that there was a possibility that they might be able to apply budding to poor-bearing trees on an existing estate, which would be work of great importance to the colony. It was very encouraging to find in a recent report that the budding of citrus fruit had been conducted in California along the same lines as cacao was budded in Trinidad. In California they had the advantage of knowing what they in Trinidad did not when they started. California had been budding for years, whereas Trinidad only started in 1914. As a result, in California some 40,000 undesirable trees had been got rid of, and not a single failure had been observed in transmitting the character of the failing trees by means of the substituted budding. He did not see why things could not be carried out with equal success in Trinidad as regards cacao budding. With respect to the shade and no-shade experiments recently the no-shade plot was giving a heavier return than the shaded.

Personally, he was not prepared to advocate the extensive use of artificial manures. They could get as much as they could out of pen manure, and if the money was spent on forking and tilling he thought they would get very much more satisfactory results. The old view that the soil was deficient in some particular chemical constituent, and all one had to do was to supply that in the shape of artificial manure and good results would follow, was not held now as it used to be. That was the view of the chemists themselves. Tillage and the application of organic manures were factors from which he expected to see most beneficial results, and these were things within the reach of every planter. In the West Indies Trinidad took a very considerable place in the cacao market, and it was a matter of very much importance that they should improve their knowledge of cacao cultivation. Trinidad produced about two-thirds or four-fifths of all the cacao produced in the West Indies—about one-fifth of the total production in the British Empire, and about one-twelfth of the world's production; so that it was necessary that they should maintain the good name Trinidad had in the past.

OUR GLORIOUS DEAD.

Unsatisfactory reports having been received as to the condition of the cemetery at Taranto, in which some three hundred men of the British West Indies Regiment are buried, the West Indian Contingent Committee immediately took the matter up with the Imperial War Graves Commission and the Base Commandant, to whom they forwarded £50 towards the maintenance of the graveyard. The Commission at once caused an inquiry to be made into the matter, and have reported that the cemetery "is now in a very neat and tidy condition." The permanent construction of the cemetery in accordance with the architect's design has not yet been put in hand by the Commission, but it is hoped that the work will not be long delayed.

It is admitted that the cemetery was untidy for a short time whilst an extension was being made which



SOME B.W.I. GRAVES IN THE CEMETERY AT TARANTO.

involved the destruction of a wall, but all is reported to be in order. The graves are marked with temporary wooden crosses pending the erection of the more permanent headstones, and there is a neat and regular mound of earth planted with flowers over each. At the instance of the Senior Chaplain the mortuary has been fitted up as a chapel, with a neat altar, for which the Sisters from the British hospital supply fresh flowers. The Graves Commission properly regard themselves as responsible for this cemetery as well as for all others in which our gallant dead lie, and have accordingly returned their contribution to the West Indian Contingent Committee, whose timely intervention will no doubt be appreciated by relatives and friends of the fallen.

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS.—2,000 Labourers for Cuba.

Cablegrams from Barbados report that good rains have fallen; but a continuance of seasonable weather will be needed to make anything like a crop next year. The *Barbados Advocate* of August 5th reports that the drought was not fully broken up in July as had been eagerly hoped would be the case. There were long dry days in between, and the rains throughout were sufficiently heavy to soak the long-parched earth. Still, the canes showed some signs of recovery, though they were mere thin stalks with few blades. There was not yet any bodying out, and half crop was said to be the most that could be hoped for.

A Mr. Nolasco had arrived from Cuba to recruit 2,000 labourers for the Chaparra estates there. Commenting on this the *Advocate* says:—"A very large number of returned soldiers of the Barbados Contingent of the British West Indies Regiment is said to be anxious to emigrate with this agent. These men have not in many cases fallen back easily into employment. This is not to be wondered at. The drought has reduced the demand for field labour, and will prevent any increase and demand arising during the next reaping season, either in the field, factory, or the handling of the sugar packages in the city. Emigration offers them the best prospect. It is understood that an effort is to be made to recruit labourers at Barbados for Demerara. If what is so glibly stated as to what the ordinary labourer in the British Guiana cane fields can earn is one-fifth true, there should be no difficulty in getting from Barbados the full quota of immigrants which the numerous Commissions from that colony has gone to England to obtain permission from the Secretary of State to recruit abroad."

Mr. Stephen Stewart Phillips has been appointed Auditor-General.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Visit of an Aviator.

Mr. J. C. McCowan.—Mr. C. Martin Sperry has been elected President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce in succession to Mr. Paul Cressall. Mr. Strang has been re-elected chairman of the Sugar Planters Association, with Messrs. Paul Cressall, A. E. Bratt, C. Farnar, R. E. Brassington, A. E. Craig, and J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., members of the Council. The Hon. G. Russell Garnett and Mrs. Garnett returned to England by the *Sargasso*. Captain P. E. F. Cassell, M.C., has returned to the colony. Among recent visitors have been Major C. Murray Pickthorn, who has been actively canvassing the possibilities of aviation in the colony. The death occurred on July 22nd of Dr. A. E. Matthey, late Government Medical Officer.

Our peace celebrations have been concluded. Public holidays were given on July 19th and 21st, and on the nights of those days the principal places in the town were illuminated. Georgetown has also been decorated during the time with flags, &c. A parade of the local forces took place on the morning of the 19th, races at the Belair Park in the afternoon, and there was a fete in the Promenade Gardens and a dance at the Park Hotel that evening. On the 21st a parade of school children took place at the Law Courts in the morning, and the Deputy Mayor held a reception at the Promenade Gardens in the afternoon. A ball is being given at Government House this evening, and there will be an "At Home" at the Georgetown Club on the evening of the 1st prox. Celebrations have also taken place in various parts of the colony.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—Rioting in Belize.

We regret to learn that there was serious rioting in Belize on July 22nd. The windows of many business premises were smashed and there was much looting. The residence of the Hon. S. Wolffsohn, M.L.C., was wrecked inside and out, and the general damage was

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West Indies Britain and America.

WITH economy as his text, LORD ROTHERMERE, in the *Sunday Pictorial* of September 14th, made a proposal so astounding that if it were not in black-and-white it would be incredible. "I suggest," he wrote in italics, "that we should endeavour to dispose of the Bermudas, the Bahamas, and some of the West Indian islands, but not Jamaica, Barbados, or Trinidad, to the United States. We might even offer to cede British Guiana or British Honduras." If, in the days when Imperialism was at its lowest ebb in this country, dismemberment in any shape or form was treated with contempt, there is no likelihood that, when the unity of the Empire has been reconsecrated in unparalleled sacrifice and suffering, it will receive serious consideration now. But that a public man, who has been a Member of the Cabinet, should advocate it seems to show how little practical Imperialism is understood in England. That the West Indies of all British colonies should have been singled out for what amounts to an insult is particularly odious, for not only did they play a great part in the long conflict for British ideals, which ended at Waterloo, but, impoverished as they were by British free trade, they poured out their treasure and sent of their best to fight in the late war. The *Financier*, which took up the matter warmly, is to be congratulated on its patriotic attitude, and for opening its columns to West Indian protests, particularly to the

spirited views of "Imperialist." After referring to the splendid record of West Indian troops, he indignantly asks: "Are British colonies to be sold over the heads of the people—the KING's loyal subjects—to lessen the financial responsibilities of Britain?" and answers his own question in an emphatic No. Whatever plans for economy may be entertained by Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, they will not include base barter of our Imperial heritage. Neither he nor any other British Minister would dare to suggest it. If the knowledge of our people might be wanting in such a matter, their instinct would be sound. But it is not only the high ideals of the British Commonwealth that LORD ROTHERMERE ignores, but practical considerations. Apparently he will deny to his fellow-subjects in the West Indies the right of self-determination, which was adopted as of universal application at the Peace Conference. If he is not merely a survival of the Dark Ages of Imperialism, speaking for himself as such, any attempt made to give effect to his proposals would create serious trouble. If, on the other hand, they should be modified so as to provide for a plebiscite, the vote against dismemberment would be overwhelming. The West Indies did not, for half a century, bear the economic depression which brought them almost to the verge of ruin—due to the Mother Country's neglect—and turn a deaf ear to the siren song of American union, to listen to it now that a more prosperous era is opening up to them within the Empire. Then there is Canada to consider in this connection. She has always shown a practical and intelligent interest in the West Indies because, under the Imperial group system, they are geographically in her sphere of influence, and because she looks to them as her natural reservoir of tropical produce. As for the strategical aspect of the question, from the point of view of the Empire as a whole it is opposed to cession. The Bermudas and the Windward and Leeward Islands are links in the chain of Britain's world defence which could not be sacrificed so lightly. Finally, the West Indies have an honourable and a constructive proposal to make in reply to the reactionary, material, and short-sighted policy of LORD ROTHERMERE. Why should they be asked to sacrifice themselves by dismemberment, even to lighten the financial liabilities of the Mother Country, when they can help her to discharge them so much more effectively by the maintenance of the Imperial connection? The United States is a notoriously hard bargainer, and would not be likely to offer such a large sum for the West Indian territories LORD ROTHERMERE proposes to sell as would make a difference in British indebtedness

worth the sacrifice. But if the West Indies—the chief tropical possessions of the Crown—were developed with British capital to the same degree as South American States, they would constitute such valuable assets in permanency as to render substantial aid to the Motherland in liquidating her enormous financial obligations. British Guiana alone could send her all the sugar and timber she requires, besides large supplies of valuable minerals. If LORD ROTHERMERE would take the same interest in the West Indies that he does in Newfoundland, he would find it a surer road to economy than a panic cession to the United States. But as the heads of the Colonial Office are practical and enlightened statesmen, and the Government pledged to constructive measures for promoting Imperial unity, a policy that would outrage every great principle for which we fought in the war has no chance of being even considered.

Sugar Cultivation in India.

THE appointment by the Indian Government of the Royal Commission to visit India and to investigate and report upon the prospects of the sugar industry of that country is the natural sequel to the increased attention which has been drawn to the economic position of the Empire in respect of sugar as a result of the war. India has always occupied an anomalous position with regard to sugar production. With apparently boundless facilities as to soil, climate and population for production on an immense scale, India imported no fewer than 800,000 of the 3,000,000 tons of sugar which she consumed in the last pre-war year. When, however, the economic conditions of the country as regards agriculture in general, and sugar cultivation in particular, are considered, it will be realised that the question of the development of the Indian sugar industry is by no means so easy a matter as it would appear to be at first sight. To begin with, the bulk of the sugar produced is cultivated and manufactured by peasant proprietors, with the consequence that the question of land conditions comes in. The Indian ryot owns a small parcel of land which has descended from father to son from time immemorial. He cultivates it in the same primitive manner as his forebears did before him—excellently according to his lights, but none the less calling for improvement and a severance from tradition before it could be adapted to modern sugar production. The ryot is more often than not in the clutches of the village moneylender, a position which considerably complicates the problem of the establishment of a cane-farming system in connection with a modern central factory. Again, all his temperamental inclinations are in the direction of independence. He likes to cultivate his own canes and to manufacture his own sugar by the primitive methods of a century ago. His tastes for sugar are also conservative. The varieties which he turns out are either "ghur"—a species of concrete formed by the evaporation of white juice—or "raab," in which the concentrated syrup is allowed to crystallise and drain, as in Muscovado sugar manufacture, the better qualities being whitened by the percolation of water through the sugar in the draining pots.

These are the two kinds of sugar which are preferred by the bulk of the people of India to refined, perhaps because they lend themselves to the manufacture of the sweetmeats in which the Indian delights. It will be readily understood that with these conditions prevailing the problem of the development of the industry on modern lines will be no easy one to solve. At present the production of India is about 1 ton to the acre under cane. If this were raised to 2 tons—a moderate modern yield—India would not only produce sufficient sugar for her own requirements, but would also have a surplus for exportation. This is no doubt what the Indian Government has in view in appointing this important Royal Commission. To bring it about the ryot would have to be educated in modern methods of agriculture, in the systematisation essential to the satisfactory working of a central sugar factory, and freed from the hands of the usurer. Again, the cane-growing would have to be concentrated in areas from which the canes could be readily transported to the factory, and, further, the population educated up to the consumption of factory sugar in the place of the more toothsome products of the older processes. There is also the important question of land tenure to be considered. These are a few of the difficulties which the Royal Commission will have to face; but no doubt they will be overcome in time. Progress has already been made by the Indian Government, which has been successfully conducting experiments with seedling canes, the results of which are likely to prove of great value in increasing the yield of sugar. They have also done a considerable amount of work among the better class of peasant proprietor in the direction of improvement of manufacture; and this all points to a break from the traditions of the past. If the future of the Indian sugar industry can be predicted, it will probably take two directions—one towards the establishment of central factories, where the field conditions are favourable and where refining and plantation white sugar can be turned out, and the other where small plants on existing sugar-growing areas can be erected to produce raw sugar to take the place of ghur and raab. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that there will be a substantial development of the sugar industry as a result of the war.

WEST INDIAN AGRICULTURE.

Public Lecture by Sir Francis Watts.

Under the auspices of the Overseas Settlement Committee and the West India Committee a public meeting will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 8 p.m., on October 8th, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., presiding, when Sir Francis Watts, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, will deliver a lecture entitled "Agriculture in the West Indies: Its Possibilities and Prospects." At the close of the lecture Sir Francis will answer any questions which may be put to him by members of the audience. Tickets may be obtained, free of charge, on application to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"LITTLE water kill big fire."

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FREDERICK ROBB, recently of the Eastern Command, and Colonel H. A. Barclay, A.D.C. to the King, are among those who contemplate visiting the West Indies in the winter.

SERGEANT and Acting Company-Sergeant-Major F. H. E. McDonald (1719), British West Indies Regiment, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of valuable services in Mesopotamia.

MR. N. C. C. HENRIQUES, the well-known manufacturers' representative, of Jamaica and Demerara, has arrived in London, and hopes during his visit to interest British firms in the West Indian trade, and thus to combat American influence.

THE present is a particularly favourable moment for joining the West India Committee. By virtue of Rule III., subscriptions from new members elected during October, November and December will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1921.

THE Nourse Line announce that their s.s. *Stulej* will load in December-January next for Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, and Cuban main ports. The rates of freight for rice and dholl to British ports is 110s., and for gunnies 120s. to British ports and 160s. to Cuba.

IN the article published on June 26th regarding the presentation of a silver rose-bowl and gramophone to H.M.S. *Trinidad*, it should have been stated that the presentation fund was organised by the *Trinidad Guardian*, whose patriotic action in the matter is worthy of all commendation.

A RIDICULOUS rumour that an entire cargo of bananas had been jettisoned in order to keep up prices has been traced to the fact that, when the *Marathon*, with 2,979 crates of Canaries—the fruit and not the birds—was beached after collision with another vessel, 500 crates had to be sacrificed.

THE punctual payment of subscriptions is essential to the efficient maintenance of such bodies as the West India Committee, and it is hoped, therefore, that those few members who have not yet remitted their subscriptions will do so immediately. A reminder has been sent to each of those in arrears.

CAPTAIN HANCOCK, formerly A.D.C. to Mr. Best when Governor of the Leeward Islands, and lately Staff Officer in Barbados, has been appointed Governor of Glendairy Prison in that island. Captain Hancock, who had the misfortune to lose a leg whilst on active service during the war, has recently been in hospital there for the removal of a part of the stump.

MR. DUGALD MCPHAIL, formerly of British Guiana, has been appointed field manager of the Ingenio Angelina, San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo. The general manager of the estate, Mr. T. J. Steel, was once engineer at the Diamond, Demerara. Mr. McPhail will have as his next-door neighbour another former Guiana colonist in the person of Mr. Frank Garnett, of El Porvenir.

MAJOR J. A. BURDON, Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, who, since his return to England recently, has been at a nursing home at 16, Fitzroy-square, having had to undergo a slight operation, is, we are glad to learn, making rapid progress towards recovery. Mrs. Burdon has now completed her MSS. of a work on St. Kitts, which will form a valuable addition to West Indian literature.

WE learn that Sir John Chancellor is not leaving in the *Quillota* after all. Mr. Best will therefore presumably assume the administration of the government of Trinidad and Tobago on his arrival. Sir Wilfred Collet, who is a passenger to British Guiana by the *Quillota*, has devoted much of his holiday to work on behalf of the colony under his sway, and there was scarcely a meeting held in connection with the Colonisation Deputation which he did not attend.

MR. LUKE M. HILL, M.I.C.E., who is too rarely seen in London nowadays, arrived in town on September 23rd, and attended an important conference at the Crown Agents' Offices on the subject of sewage disposal in Georgetown, Demerara. The Hon. E. G. Woolford, Mayor of Georgetown, and Mr. K. J. S. Harris, the engineer of that city, were present, and Mr. Howard Humphreys, an expert recommended by the Crown Agents, was taken into consultation.

"SMOKING Jamaicans instead of Havanas will help to forge another link in the chain of Imperial unity," writes Mr. Clifford Sadler in the *Daily Express* of September 10th. "Although Jamaica's product is known and appreciated by a fairly large circle on this side of the Atlantic, it is not generally known that its leaf is produced from Cuban seed in a similar soil and practically the same climate; that it is cultivated and cured largely by Cubans, and within a couple of hundred miles of the district growing the tobacco used in the most-prized Havanas."

THE cacao industry of Sierra Leone formed the subject of remarks by Mr. Robert Miller at a dinner given recently in Liverpool to the Governor of that colony. Unfortunately, he said, the local Government have not recognised that in cacao they are up against the Gold Coast quality, which is so much sought after in this country and elsewhere. "So long as the natives in Sherbro and in Nigeria make up their minds for unfermented cacao they cannot do the best with their produce. We in Liverpool have been urging during the past year or two the great importance of technical education, and we want the natives to realise that they must prepare the produce which will satisfy the requirements of this country, America, and the Continent of Europe, and if they do so the reward is sure to come in better prices."

MR. E. GOULBURN SINCKLER, Police Magistrate of District "E" in Barbados, has been promoted by the Governor to be manager of the Savings Bank in that island. Mr. Sinckler will this year have completed forty-five years' service as a colonial civil servant in the Colonial Secretary's Office, Government House, the Court of Appeal, and on every magisterial bench except that of District "C." He compiled the valuable *Barbados Handbook*, the annual publication of which will, we hope, be resumed now that the war is over, and drafted the local committee's report on "Historic Sites and Monuments," prepared at the suggestion of the West India Committee, and presented to Parliament. He did much for the Tercentenary Celebrations in 1905, and suggested the issue of the Nelson centenary stamp. All his friends will be pleased that Mr. Sinckler's public services have been recognised by well-deserved promotion.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on September 18th the twenty-two candidates whose names are given below were elected to membership of the West India Committee. It will be noted that they include several members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation. The total number of new members admitted this year is now 163, and it is hoped that, in view especially of the fact that the subscription of candidates elected during the next three months will, when paid, not be renewable until 1921, it will be far greater before the close of the year.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Dalton & Co., Ltd. (Trinidad)	Hon. A. H. Wight. Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E.
Mr. F. L. Clarke (Jamaica)	Mr. L. de Mercado. Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett.
The Triumph Sugar Co., Ltd. (British Guiana)	Hon. A. P. Sherlock. Mr. A. J. McConnell.
The Enmore Estates, Ltd. (British Guiana)	Hon. A. P. Sherlock. Mr. A. J. McConnell.
Pln. Tuschen de Vrienden, Ltd. (British Guiana)	Hon. A. P. Sherlock. Mr. A. J. McConnell.
The Ressenouvenir Estates, Ltd. (British Guiana)	Hon. A. P. Sherlock. Mr. A. J. McConnell.
Mr. D. E. Headley (British Guiana)	Mr. M. P. Camacho. Mr. Parbhu Sawh.
Mr. F. E. Dixon (Jamaica)	Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Mr. H. T. Van Laun	Messrs. Paines & Reid. Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E.
Mr. M. J. de Freitas (British Guiana)	Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Sir Edward Davson.
Mr. W. Wharton, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (B. Guiana)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. A. Johnston (Trinidad)	Mr. W. Gordon Gordon. Mr. W. Hadden.
Mr. J. A. Luckhoo (British Guiana)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. Abdool Rayman (British Guiana)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. R. P. Sawh (British Guiana)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
The B.G. Farmers' Conference (British Guiana)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Rev. E. R. O. Robertson (British Guiana)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Capt. G. Disney	Major J. Disney. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. P. E. Whiting	Mr. W. D. Hoare. Mr. E. Paice.
Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C.	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
The Manager, Perseverance Estate (Trinidad)	Messrs. Alston, Arbuthnot & Harrisons, Ltd. Mr. P. S. M. Arbuthnot.
2/Lt. A. G. Eckel (Trinidad)	Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.

The actual total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,376. For the benefit of new readers it may be mentioned that the objects of the Association, as laid down in the Royal Charter granted to it by King Edward VII. on August 4th, 1904, is by united action to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade, and thus increase the general welfare of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. Only British subjects are eligible for membership, particulars of which will be found above the first leading article.

WEST INDIANS FOR GUIANA.**Migration of Labour Suggested.**

A White Paper has been presented to the Combined Court of British Guiana, comprising correspondence between the Government of that Colony and the Colonial Secretaries of the neighbouring colonies on the subject of immigration from the West Indian Islands into British Guiana.

At the request of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, the Colonial Secretary of British Guiana wrote to the various West Indian Governments to inquire whether their Governments would permit the recruitment of agricultural labour in their islands, and, if so, to what extent, intimating that preference would be given to persons willing to settle in British Guiana, and that special facilities for obtaining land would be given to such settlers. He further stated that if emigration were allowed, it was proposed to send agents to the islands before whom the proposed immigrants would record and sign their agreements, and that the actual work of recruiting would be done by other local agents specially licensed by the Government of the colony in which the labourers were recruited. He added that a form of contract was being prepared, which would have a schedule of maximum and minimum rates of wages, which would enable the men to earn at least \$1 per day.

It was not to be expected that the various Governments approached would view with equanimity the possibility of their agricultural labour being tempted to migrate to other fields, and with the exception of one from Barbados not a favourable reply was received. The Government of that island replied that no objection would be taken to the recruiting of labourers in that colony for British Guiana, and in forwarding a despatch to this effect to Lord Milner, Mr. Cecil Clementi, the Acting Governor of British Guiana, wrote: "It must be borne in mind that the total population of Barbados at the end of last year was only 191,664 souls, and that it would therefore be impossible to obtain from Barbados a supply of labour sufficient for the needs of this colony." This is admittedly the case if the requirements of the hinterland are borne in mind; but recruitment in Barbados should go some way towards relieving the situation on the coast lands of British Guiana, in view particularly of the fact that all that the Colonisation Deputation is asking for is 5,000 adults per year for five years. It must, too, be remembered that upwards of 40,000 labourers were recruited in the West Indies for work on the Panama Canal, that thousands are leaving Jamaica every year for Cuba, and that only recently it was reported that an agent was in Barbados recruiting labour for Cuba.

In the circumstances there would appear to be no reason to alter the view already enunciated in the CIRCULAR, that if sufficiently attractive inducements are offered, labour will be attracted from the islands to British Guiana, though this will not obviate the need of immigration from India on a large scale. Particularly significant in this connection is a despatch from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Cuba, who was also approached by the Acting Governor of

British Guiana: "That there is absolutely no prospect of such labour being obtained from Cuba, where the shortage of labour is also a very serious problem. I have forwarded copy of your above-mentioned despatch to His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Port-au-Prince and Santo Domingo, and asked them to reply to Your Excellency direct. The island of Hayti is one of the sources from which a good deal of labour is obtained for Cuba, and I think that this island will be a very serious competitor for British Guiana in this matter, inasmuch as the average wages to be earned in Cuba are from three to five times as high as the rates mentioned in the contract enclosed in your above-mentioned despatch."

In this connection it should be mentioned that Mr. R. Strang, manager of Pln. Uitylugt, who recently visited Cuba to report upon the conditions prevailing there, states most emphatically that \$1 in British Guiana is worth three times as much as a dollar in Cuba. The wages offered to the 2,000 labourers who it was hoped to recruit in Barbados for the Chaparra factory in Cuba was:—

Day's work: For work in the factory and yard, \$1.60 per day. For work in the field, \$1.80 to \$2.50 per day.

Task work: For cutting canes, \$1 to \$1.50 for 2,500 lb., payable in American money, or its equivalent in the coinage of Cuba.

The above was offered for a twelve months' contract, with six working days weekly, and repatriation by the employer at the end of one year. Apart from the question of the relative purchasing power of the dollar in British Guiana and Cuba, Mr. Strang contends that the general conditions in Cuba are less pleasant for the labourer than those prevailing in British Guiana. In an interview published in the *Argosy* mail edition of August 30th he states that to reach the Chaparra Estate means twenty-four hours' journey from Havana by train, six hours' of which are spent on a private line belonging to the company which owns the estates. "Any labourer going to the estates would be absolutely shut off from the outside world. He cannot leave unless he travels over the company's line. There are no roads, and, in addition to the Government Police Force, the estates maintained their own armed policemen, who patrol the roads to deal with cane fires. He met a man and a woman some distance from the estate at a place named Holguin. The man was a Jamaican, and the woman a native of St. Kitts. They were held up at that very spot for four days, and could not get away either to the estate or in any other direction. You hardly hear English spoken on the estates, except amongst the members of the staff. The language spoken everywhere is Spanish." He adds, however, that there were excellent stores on the estates, where foodstuffs and articles of clothing could be got as cheaply and often cheaper than in Havana.

OWING to the railway strike, which began at midnight on Friday, September 26th, and the consequent dislocation of business, it has been necessary to reduce the size of the present CIRCULAR, and to hold over to next issue a report of Sir Daniel Morris' address to the Botanical Section of the British Association.

THE EMPIRE'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Scheme for Scientific Investigation.

Sugar producers and proprietors in and connected with the West Indies would be well advised, in their own interests, to get into touch with the British Empire Sugar Research Association, the formation of which was announced in a recent CIRCULAR. The aim of this Association, which owes its origin to the British Empire Producers Organisation, is to establish, in co-operation with the Government Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, an Empire scheme for the scientific investigation, either by its own officers or by universities, technical schools, and other institutions, of the problems arising in the sugar industry, and to encourage and improve the technical education of persons who are or may be engaged in the industry. The offices are at 62, Oxford-street, W., and the secretary, Mr. W. H. Giffard. For convenience of administration, the Association has been incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, but its functions will be purely co-operative—that is to say, it will not be conducted with the idea of dividing profits other than those which its members will undoubtedly derive from the research work to be undertaken.

The Government has, through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, agreed to make a considerable contribution towards the sum required to place the new Association on a sound footing. The Advisory Council of the department have promised that if the work is planned on a sufficiently large scale, and if £5,000 per annum for five years is raised from the trade, they will recommend that grants from the Government Funds should be made of the same amount for the same period, with a promise of further financial assistance if further sums are raised.

A survey is being made of the field of research, which is likely to be beneficial to the industry, and it is hoped that members of the Association will be willing to assist in the framing of a thoroughly comprehensive scheme by making suggestions relating to that part of the industry with which they are intimately acquainted. In the first instance, the whole of the research undertaken will be carried out in existing institutions—such as universities, scientific departments and technical colleges in the United Kingdom and the Overseas Empire—and it will be necessary to enter into agreement with the bodies controlling these institutions for the use of laboratories, and the services of skilled scientific investigators. Power is, however, taken for the establishment of a Central Sugar Research Institution if and when it becomes necessary; such institution would contain well-equipped biological, physical and chemical laboratories, as well as a complete miniature manufacturing plant.

It is intended to make arrangements with mills, factories and refineries for carrying out any experiments on a manufacturing scale which may become necessary. It is also proposed to establish a Bureau of Information for the sugar and allied trades' industries, to which any member of the Association can apply for assistance in the technical and other

difficulties which he may encounter in his business. Besides the scheme of co-operative research for the common good of members of the Association, it is proposed to make provision for carrying on investigations at the request of individual members, at their own cost and for their own benefit. In such cases the work will be done under the supervision and control of the director, and fees will be charged to cover the cost of the investigation.

Sir George Beilby is president of the new Association, and the vice-presidents are Lord Bledisloe of Lydney, Sir Daniel Morris, Sir Edward Rosling, Professor E. J. Russell, Professor W. Bateson, Professor J. Bretland Farmer, and Mr. Edward Saunders, while the council includes Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, and Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and represents every branch of the sugar industry.

COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

A despatch on the subject of scientific research and the formation of a Colonial Research Committee was addressed by Lord Milner to the officers administering the Government of the various colonies of the Empire on June 11th. For the information of those who have not yet had the opportunity of reading that important document, and for reference by those who have, the full text of it is given below:—

Downing-street,
June 11th, 1919.

SIR.—At the close of the prolonged struggle of the last four years, and having regard to the depletion of raw materials which has been caused, and to the vast financial responsibilities which have been left behind, it is evidently more than ever necessary that the economic resources of the Empire in general should be developed to the uttermost, and I wish to suggest to you that the time is particularly opportune for a review of the activities carried on by or on behalf of your Government in scientific research and economic exploration, and for consideration of all promising schemes, either for new work of this description or for adding to the efficiency or widening the scope of work already in progress.

2. Apart from activities of a primarily scientific nature, such as research in oceanography and meteorology, the field to be reviewed may be very wide, and should not be regarded as entirely economic in character. The main portion of the possible field of research may broadly be divided into enquiries relating to sources of mechanical power, agriculture and forestry, geology and minerals, and marine products. In most of these provinces the desirable enquiries may be classified, it is true, without any precise line of demarcation, into enquiries directed to an economic or other practical end which is in sight from the first, and enquiries where the practical aim, though real, is less immediately obvious. I am decidedly of opinion that the latter class of enquiries ought by no means to be neglected, and that if they are well chosen it may be expected that in the long run they will be even more fruitful in results of practical value than enquiries of the former class. The latter class of enquiry, however, demands a scientific staff with higher qualifications, and can scarcely be attacked effectually by a small colony acting by itself. In such cases possible combination with other colonies similarly situated should be considered.

3. It is becoming more and more clear that there is scarcely any industry which can develop or even maintain its position without the aid of scientific research, and that it is sound policy that such research should

be liberally provided for in the budgets of the firms engaged, although it is frequently necessary that those firms should combine to finance a central research association, or at least closely co-operate in research work in order to cover the whole ground and avoid overlapping. With some assistance from the Imperial Treasury a good deal is being done in this country on these voluntary lines. There will no doubt be certain Colonial firms who can best participate by contributing to the research associations of their industries in this country. But the usual method in the Colonies is for research to be carried on by the scientific departments of the Government, and financed out of the ordinary revenue and out of taxes on particular industries, while a subsidiary, but important, method is that of contribution to institutions for research and the like, usually situated for convenience in this country, some official, such as the Bureau of Entomology and the new Bureau of Mycology, and some unofficial, such as the research associations referred to above, which are organised under the auspices of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

4. Broadly, I would ask you to consider the position of any important industries in the colony, on whose behalf no research work is at present carried on, and whether this state of affairs does not call for action on the part of the Colonial Government. I would particularly direct your attention to those raw materials required for Imperial trade or defence which are produced within the Empire either in inadequate quantities or not at all, such as flax, hemp, medium stapled cotton, the lighter timbers, ores of aluminium and copper, phosphate rock, potash, and mineral oil. The question of the possible establishment or extension of fishing industries for export is also worth attention.

Bauxite Deposits in Guiana.

5. The Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy after the War drew special attention to this question of raw materials in paragraph 122 of their final report [Cd. 9035]. Much of the existing deficiency can be supplied by the tropical Colonies and Protectorates if their great potential resources are adequately developed, and one of the most sure and speedy agents in such development is undoubtedly scientific investigation. The war has furnished a striking instance of the correctness of this view. One of the conspicuous examples of material produced to an insufficient extent within the Empire, to which the Committee called attention, was bauxite, the ore of aluminium. At the present time this country is almost entirely dependent on foreign sources of supply, and there is reason to apprehend that these will remain both costly and insufficient. Aluminium is essential to a number of British industries, and the position would be serious if alternative sources of supply had not been found within the Empire. The scientific investigations of the Director of the Geological Survey of the Gold Coast have recently resulted in the discovery of a very large deposit of the mineral in that colony, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made which will enable it to be worked on a paying basis. Valuable deposits of bauxite have also been found in British Guiana, and are now being developed. Other deposits in the same colony are now under investigation. If these enterprises are successful, the position of the British industries in question will be greatly strengthened.

This is a solitary instance, but it is typical, and could, if necessary, be supported by others drawn from different parts of the Empire. There can indeed be no doubt that a sound and adequate scheme of scientific investigation would be of the utmost value in developing the resources of the colonies.

6. Another example of the need of research is furnished by the destructive agencies of various kinds, such as animal and plant diseases, insect-pests, &c., which are responsible at the present time for an enormous

amount of damage in the colonies. Such damage can literally be assessed in millions of pounds. Valuable work in this sphere has already been done and continues to be done in many parts of the Empire, but there is undoubtedly great scope for extended research. Such work is likely to prove exceptionally fruitful, since many of these destructive agencies are widely distributed, and scientific discoveries which have been made in one colony can often be utilised elsewhere. The scale on which this destruction takes place is well illustrated by a recent despatch from the Acting Governor of the East Africa Protectorate reporting that "more scientific and progressive methods must be adopted in dealing with stock diseases in native reserves if the future welfare of the stock industry is to be secured. It would be difficult to estimate the annual loss from the ravages of stock diseases in native reserves, but if it were placed at the low estimate of 12 per cent. it would easily represent a sum of approximately one million pounds per annum."

Imperial Aid Offered.

7. In Colonies and Protectorates whose financial resources are on a smaller scale than in the one under your Government, there has hitherto often been great difficulty in finding the means to carry out investigations in themselves very desirable. I am glad to be able to inform you that, for the benefit mainly of such Colonies and Protectorates, I have obtained the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to the provision of a liberal grant of £20,000 a year from the estimates of the United Kingdom for 1919-20 and the four following years, to be expended in stimulating scientific research with a view to developing the economic resources of the Colonies and Protectorates. This grant, if it is duly voted, will be administered by a small Committee, to be known as the Colonial Research Committee, which will work in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, the Universities, particularly those of industrial districts, and other existing institutions. In the first instance the members of the Committee will be Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.P. (Chairman), two Assistant Under Secretaries of State for the Colonies, and Sir Frank Heath, the Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The grant, liberal though it is, is evidently insufficient for a large number of researches, and the Committee will have to content itself with selecting for investigation a few of the most promising of the subjects which may be brought to its notice. It may sometimes be the case that a research may be required which would be chiefly in the collective interests of the Empire or in the interests of some part of it other than the part in which the research would be carried out. If it were convenient that such a research should be undertaken by a Colonial Government, the fact that that Government is prosperous would not debar it from participating in the grant.

8. To the whole question of research and investigation raised by this despatch I attach the greatest possible importance, and I trust that you will give it your personal consideration, in consultation with your scientific and economic officers and with suitable members of the unofficial community, and that you will then furnish me with a brief review of the present position of affairs, and with an account of the further steps which in your judgment should be taken in the near future.

It may be mentioned that, as far as the West Indies are concerned, advantage has already been taken of the Government's offer. Following the representations made by Sir William Allardyce, Governor of the Bahamas, the Colonial Research Committee has appointed Mr. L. R. Crawshaw, M.A., Research Officer, to investigate the sponge industry in those colonies.

NATURE NOTES.

Liquid manure of horses and cattle contains nearly all the potash and a great deal of the nitrogen which passes through the bodies of animals. These important plant foods are in solution ready for the immediate use of plants. The value of 1,000 gallons is equal to about 100 lb. of sulphate of ammonia and 3 cwt. of kainit. The *Journal of the Board of Agriculture*, London, gives practical suggestions for the construction of liquid manure tanks, and notes as to method of distribution over land, and of dilution advisable for use with growing crops. At present there is a lamentable waste of liquid manure in the West Indies due to ignorance of its value. Planters would find it profitable to conserve it in future.

* * *

During the war the whole Empire sent their fighting men to the front, while those who remained, both men and women, worked their hardest to keep things going. When it was seen that there would be a shortage of food all over the world, and imports would fall off, steps were taken to encourage the production of local foodstuffs. In St. Lucia, for instance, according to the report on the Government Ground Provisions Department by Mr. A. J. Brooks, this important end was attained. No fewer than 300,000 lb. of the people's produce were purchased by the Government and re-tailed as required. The average monthly sale was 17,500 lb. Various institutions, such as the hospital and the gaol, took produce at the rate of over 5,000 lb. per month. The *Voice of St. Lucia* says that "this report shows that this very necessary enterprise undertaken at a very critical time was far from being the dead loss that one might perhaps have expected."

* * *

The usual objection to making silage is the cost of erecting silos. An example of an inexpensive method of making silage is given in the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture*, London. A pit is made 4 ft. deep, 25 yds. long, and about 5 yds. wide. The sides have a slight slope, which prevents access of air and allows for shrinkage of the silage. The pit, when quite full, holds the produce of 50 acres of lucerne, or sufficient to keep 100 cows for six months. The size of the pit can therefore be regulated to the number of cows. The loads are at first tipped at each end. Then the horses draw succeeding loads towards the centre over what has been thrown in. Carting continues till the heap stands about 12 ft. above the level of the ground, or as high as it can be made without rendering it impossible for the horses to draw up the loads. The sides and ends are then cut square, and the whole is topped up and roofed with earth by hand. If the silo is made on heavy land, drainage should be provided to take away all the surface and underground water.

* * *

A short description in pamphlet form of the Hereford breed of cattle has lately been published. It claims—and it appears that the claim is substantiated—that the Hereford breed is the premier beef breed of the world. From time immemorial Herefordshire has been famous for the size, hardiness, and general excellence of its cattle. Formerly they were noted as draught cattle; but about the close of the eighteenth century, with the increasing population, it was found more profitable to breed for the butcher than for draught purposes. The breeders selected animals which showed hardiness of constitution combined with ability to put on flesh at an early age, exercising the greatest care as to pedigree in the mating. The characteristics of the breed have been carefully maintained and developed. The result is that no breed can be marketed as prime beef in so short a time and at so low a cost. Hereford cattle have always been bred and reared under perfectly natural conditions. This treatment has the effect of

keeping the cattle healthy and making them extremely hardy. No other breed is so immune from tuberculosis. Herefords will live and get fat where most other breeds will die.

* * *

They are essentially a beef breed, but when bred for the purpose they prove excellent milkers, the percentage of butter fat being exceptionally high. The practice has been to let the calves run with their dams until they are weaned. Their wonderful condition is ample proof of the quantity and quality of the milk. Hereford cows are good mothers, rearing their calves well, and at the same time maintaining their own condition. They have exceptionally long lives as breeders. Dropping their first calf usually at about three years of age, they continue breeding up to fourteen and fifteen years. The Hereford bull is the most prepotent sire of all races of cattle. He invariably transmits his own qualities. The use of a Hereford bull ensures a high percentage in the calf crop, and an immediate grading up of the stock. No breed has extended more widely than the Hereford. In the United States the introduction of the Hereford revolutionised the beef cattle industry. In South America the breed has become famous. In sub-tropical regions of both North and South America it does well, while the climate is decidedly against Shorthorns. In Jamaica they are well known on Colonel Malcolm's estates. In the trying climate of Australia, they succeed better than any other breed. Similar experience is reported from Africa, Japan, Fiji, and Canada.

* * *

The United States uses more than a million tons of potash as a fertiliser, nearly all of which used to be imported. Even some years before 1914 it was determined to seek her own home supplies. The Geological Survey and the Bureau of Soils were granted funds for investigations. Such progress has been made, according to the *Economist*, that it is expected that within a few years the United States will be independent of foreign potash. The vast deposits of seaweed (kelp) along the Pacific coast was first examined. Works are now established in California to deal with it. The kelp is fermented and yields not only potash but acetone, iodine, and other products. Another source of potash is found in the flue gases of blast furnaces and in the dust of cement kilns. The potash is separated out and collected by means of an apparatus known as the Cottrell electrical precipitator. Many iron ores contain about 3 per cent. of potash, and it is said that if all the blast furnaces in the United States installed this process over a million tons of potash could be obtained from this source alone. Another source of potash is the salt lakes. One of these—Searles lake in California—consists of a vast mass of salt crystals, 12 sq. miles in area and 70 ft. deep, all the water having evaporated. The Trona Corporation works built on it is said to be producing about 4,500 tons of crude potash salts per month, and by the beginning of 1920 it is hoped also to turn out about 50 tons of borax per day.

* * *

The President of the British Association, Hon. Charles Parsons, had much to say in his address of "Science and the War." He showed how British scientific men in collaboration with those of the allied nations had eventually produced better war material, chemicals, and apparatus of all kinds for vanquishing the enemy and saving our own men than had been devised by the enemy. Perhaps the most interesting development during the war has been the extensive application of sound-listening devices for detecting and localising the enemy. Looking forward to the future, the fuel resources of the world must in time come to an end. The capital needed to produce electrical power from coal is less than half the amount required for water power. Harnessing water power, however, is being taken in hand, as the running costs are much less than

those in respect of coal. Latent molecular and atomic energy as a source of power has been foreshadowed. But failing new and unexpected discoveries in science in this way, the great position of Britain cannot be maintained indefinitely. However, as an alternative, power may be obtained by boring into the earth. In Italy boreholes have been sunk at Lardarello. Large volumes of high-pressure steam are discharged. This steam is being utilised to generate about 10,000-horse power by turbines. A similar project is on foot at Solfatara, near Naples, to supply power to the great works in the district. Sinking a borehole to a depth of 12 miles was suggested in 1904. This could be done for little more than the cost of one day of the war to Great Britain alone. The expense seems trivial as compared with the knowledge that might be gained. In volcanic regions and wherever hot springs issue from the earth, power may be obtained by shallow shafts as indicated in Italy. Probably in such regions a very large amount of power may be obtained by boring.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Some further extracts from the valuable report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry are given below:—

CANADA.

The total refined sugar consumed in Canada during 1916 was 258,711 tons, made mostly from imported raw sugar, including 4,464 tons imported as such. The exports of sugar are very variable. In 1915 they amounted to 5·6 tons, in 1916 to 280·93 tons, and in 1917 to 2,579·83 tons.

The imports also vary very much—thus:—

Refined Sugar, and Sugar above No. 16 Dutch Standard in colour:

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British Empire...	8,421	4,251	2,248	903	962
Foreign countries	506	44	163	28	253

Sugar of lower quality, including drainings and concrete.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British Empire...	130,156	111,761	166,177	140,569	201,637
Foreign countries	124,693	182,176	126,078	125,889	124,900

The home production of Canada is from sugar beet, and there is a large amount of land suitable for its extension. The quantities of refined sugar manufactured from Canadian grown beets during the five years 1911-15 inclusive were as follows:—1911, 9,522 tons; 1912, 11,996 tons; 1913, 11,673 tons; 1914, 13,979 tons; 1915, 17,641 tons.

The public of Canada demand principally granulated sugar in normal times, but since the war yellow sugar has been used. The confectioners and biscuit manufacturers use granulated and yellow sugar, and chocolate and cocoa manufacturers use granulated only. Syrup and molasses blenders use raw cane sugar, and molasses, also refiners' syrups and black strap.

There are no special technical schools for instruction in the sugar industry, but technical instruction of a general character may be obtained from several technical schools, and chemical and engineering departments of the Canadian Universities. In regard to possible extension, we have been informed that the labour conditions are uncertain at the present time, and before any capital investment can be warranted, careful preparation of a well organised field co-operation will be necessary.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The pre-war consumption of sugar in Newfoundland was an average of 5,920 tons per annum. It consisted chiefly of white granulated and cube sugar from the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. Brown

sugar was also imported from the West Indies. The local consumption is not sufficient to warrant refineries being established. The climate prevents the growth of sugar-cane or sugar-beet.

POLYNESIA.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

The area devoted to the cultivation of sugar-cane in Australia is a narrow strip of land along the eastern coast of Queensland, with the three northern counties of New South Wales. Queensland is the largest sugar-producing State in the Commonwealth. In the year 1912 Queensland had 141,652 acres under cane, the yield from 78,142 acres crushed being 994,212 tons, equal to 12.72 tons per acre, whilst the quantity of sugar produced was 113,060 tons, equal to 1.45 tons per acre. In the same year New South Wales harvested 6,137 acres of cane, out of a total area of 14,283 acres, the yield of cane being 140,014 tons, equal to 22.81 tons per acre. The sugar content of the cane averaged 16.723 tons, equal to 2.72 tons per acre. It should be pointed out that as the sugar-cane requires eighteen months to mature, the total area under cane for any one year really includes the cane for two successive harvest seasons. Beet is cultivated in Victoria, the area under this crop in 1912 being 752 acres, which yielded 3,974 tons of roots, equal to 5.3 tons per acre, and 477 tons of sugar, equal to 0.64 tons per acre. The average consumption of sugar per head of population in Australia is estimated at 127.6 lb. for the decade 1905-1915.

QUEENSLAND.

According to information we have received, the average yield of sugar-cane is 12.2 tons per acre, and the yield of sugar 1.45 tons per acre. There are in Queensland two sugar refineries employing 423 hands, one juice mill employing 55 hands, and 43 sugar mules employing 4,165 hands. There are two experimental stations at Mackay and Bundaberg, whilst experimental plots have been established in various cane-growing centres. Some 30 cwt. of cane-sugar was imported from Java, Mauritius, and Fiji in 1915.

That there is still room for further expansion in Queensland in regard to sugar growing is conclusively demonstrated by the fact that there is not enough sugar produced in the Commonwealth to satisfy local requirements. In 1900 black labour was abolished, and in order to encourage the employment of white labour, the Federal Parliament passed legislation providing for the payment of bounty on a sliding scale on all cane grown by white labour. An import duty was also imposed on all foreign sugar brought into the Commonwealth. The excise and bounty were abolished in 1913.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The total area under harvested cane in 1916 was 6,030 acres, and the quantity of sugar produced was 19,148 tons, equal to 3.18 tons per acre. The only portion of the State suitable for the growth of sugar-cane is the coastal areas from the Clarence river northward, and during recent years the area devoted to it for sugar purposes has contracted considerably. This has been brought about chiefly by labour troubles, and dissatisfaction with the prices paid for cane. On the Tweed river the banana is ousting the cane on the hills, the cost of carriage to the deep-water frontage, in conjunction with the cutters' demands, rendering profitable production of sugar-cane impracticable.

VICTORIA.

The annual consumption of sugar in the State is approximately 75,000 to 80,000 tons, and the major portion is obtained from Queensland and some of the Pacific islands. About 1,200 acres under beet in 1916-17 produced 1,650 tons of sugar, equal to 1.375 tons per acre. There is more than sufficient land in Victoria to render the State self-supporting as regards sugar by increasing the area under beet, and we assume that

with further development Victoria could become a sugar-exporting State.

The environment of the one beet sugar factory has not been ideal, and only in recent years has sufficient beet become available to run it at a profit. The industry has not yet become sufficiently well established to command appreciation, but a promising interest is now developing favourably.

(To be concluded.)

VENEZUELA AND TRINIDAD.

Opportunity was taken of the visit to London of Dr. José Santiago Rodríguez, the Venezuelan Commissioner, to raise the question of the surtax of 30 per cent. imposed by Venezuela upon all imports into that country from the British West Indies. Mr. Edgar Tripp kindly represented the West India Committee at a meeting held at the London Chamber of Commerce on August 22nd to hear an address by Dr. Rodríguez on questions affecting future economic relations between Venezuela and the United Kingdom, when Mr. H. L. Symonds presided, and the Minister of Venezuela was among those present.

Dr. Rodríguez, having been introduced by the chairman, delivered an interesting and eloquent address, in the course of which, after referring to the old friendship between the two countries having its origin in the assistance of the British Legion during the successful struggle of Venezuela for independence, he dwelt on the immense agricultural, mineral and other resources of the Republic, of its recent progress, and of the possibilities and advantages offered for capital and enterprise.

At the conclusion of the address Mr. Tripp, who also represented the West Indian Associated Chamber, was called upon to speak, and expressed the pleasure it gave him to endorse all that Dr. Rodríguez had said in regard to the practically boundless resources of his country, which he had in no way exaggerated. He added that, so far as Trinidad was concerned as the principal colony interested, and generally in respect of the other British possessions in the West Indies, anything that made for the progress and prosperity of Venezuela would be heartily welcomed, and could only result to the benefit also of those possessions. At the same time, without wishing to raise a discordant note, he thought it necessary to point out that since 1882 the Government of Venezuela had imposed, and continued to impose to this day, a surtax of 30 per cent. duty on all goods imported from the British West Indies—an impost which had tended greatly to reduce the volume of trade, and had proved, he ventured to submit, as detrimental to Venezuela as to the countries against which it was imposed. While neither the West India Committee nor the Associated Chamber would think for one moment of attempting to dictate to the Venezuelan Government anything affecting the fiscal policy of the Republic, he respectfully intimated that they could hardly be expected to view with favour or to support any "reciprocal arrangement" such as Dr. Rodríguez proposed, "to bring the commercial men of the two countries—the United Kingdom and Venezuela—together," which did not include the abrogation of the additional impost levied against the West Indies.

A discussion on this subject and on the address generally followed, in which special reference was made to the financial stability and national credit of Venezuela, and after an able summing up by the chairman, a vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Rodríguez, who, in his reply, promised that what had been said as to the 30 per cent. extra duty would be duly communicated to his Government, by whom it would be most carefully considered.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

BRITISH GUIANA.—“Scandalous” Cable Situation.

Mr. J. C. McCOWAN, August 18th.—Good forcing weather is being experienced, heavy showers falling at intervals, with hot sunshine in between. It is reported that Major C. May, who has been acting since the departure of Colonel Clarke, has been appointed Inspector-General of Police here. The Hon. A. P. Sherlock returned to the colony from England by the s.s. *Spheroid* on the 16th inst. I regret to advise the death of Mr. J. S. Beckwith, manager of Plantation “Haags Bosche,” on the 13th instant, at the Public Hospital, at the age of sixty-six. He was buried at sea on the following day. Many years ago Mr. Beckwith was a familiar figure in racing circles, and very popular as the owner of the horse “Adonis,” at the D’Urban meetings.

A leading article in the *Argosy* of the 6th is devoted to “the scandalous situation” resulting from the fresh breakdown of telegraphic communication. A cablegram recently took twenty-one days in reaching its destination from New York! Mr. C. E. Collier, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Collier, was married to Miss N. M. Baverstock, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Baverstock, on the 6th inst., while on the 13th inst. Captain R. A. Hoban, late of the B.W.I.R., was married to Miss Ivy Davis.

Another record half-year has been completed by the Demerara Life. Mr. T. T. Smellie, who succeeded Mr. A. P. Sherlock as chairman of the company, had a most satisfactory statement to submit to the shareholders at the annual meeting on the 12th inst. New business in the last five years almost totalled \$2,000,000, or approximately that of the two preceding quinquennial periods together. Captain J. M. Reid gave the following statement of the rice position to the *Argosy* on August 13th: “Permits were issued in March last for the exportation of 30,000 bags. Many persons who were in possession of permits were not able to obtain a market abroad for the rice, and consequently could not export, and then the Government allowed exports to proceed for those merchants who were able to obtain a market until the exports reached the total quantity of 30,000 bags. There are certain people who still hold permits to export rice, the number of bags in those permits aggregating 8,000. By the notice recently published in the official *Gazette* the Government notified holders of those permits that they would not be valid after the 1st September next, as it is considered that the present stocks of rice are just sufficient to supply the local needs of the colony until the new crop is reaped. The policy of the Government as regards exports of the forthcoming crop is still under consideration.”

TRINIDAD.—Arrival of Colonists from Barbados.

A further detachment of soldiers of the B.W.I.R. reached Port of Spain on August 22nd, and received a cordial welcome from the Acting Governor and the Mayor of Port of Spain, who addressed them on behalf of the people, who assembled in great numbers in the streets through which the men marched. *Eliza Comes to Stay* was successfully produced by the Trinidad Dramatic Club on August 22nd. Dr. E. P. Minett, passing through the island on his return to British Guiana, stated that the Royal Sanitary Institute had requested him to organise a scheme to establish a uniform and co-operative system of public sanitary services throughout the West Indies.

One hundred and eight Barbadians reached the island on August 20th, under contract to work for an enterprising sugar company in the Naparima district. The

Trinidad Guardian gives an entertaining account of the arrival of these colonists, who came in for a good deal of chaff. Says our contemporary: “The hubbub was kept up by the crowds until the strangers moved out of the railway station, all sorts of tantalising epithets being flung at the Barbadians. The imputations were hotly denounced by them, but among the lot was a Peter, who thought it advisable to conceal his connection with that colony. On being chaffed by a Trinidadian that they had brought his countrymen here like cargo, he stoutly denied being a Barbadian. For this disloyal act one of his countrymen—a caustic-tongued individual—turned upon him with an outburst of wrath, which he expressed in most fearful threats of boycotting him. The labourers were recruited in Barbados by a driver . . . named George Moore. When the whole lot had landed, they were lined up in double file, and marched off under the railway cacao shed. Here Moore distributed cigarettes to them, and his charges became somewhat refractory. Turning to a young man among the crowd, he said: ‘Lok hair, young man, stan’ in loin; doan mek ma handle you ruff.’ On hearing this expression from Moore, the women and a few of their male companions replied in chorus: ‘But here he, neh, tawking ’bout handling ruff. Nigger man, you en know that all a we wud hole you and beat you in —!’ This remark created considerable amusement among the onlookers, especially some juveniles, whose hearty laughter seemed to have aroused the ire of a railway constable. He turned upon the boys, and ordered them to leave. The youngsters, in scampering off, flung the taunt at the constable: ‘O, he is a bajan too, oui.’”

Civil servants are petitioning for an increase of their war bonus to 25 per cent. Dr. K. S. Wise, the new Surgeon-General, is rapidly acquainting himself with the conditions prevailing in the island by visits to the various hospitals.

ST. VINCENT.—Sea Island Cotton.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, August 30th.—The month has proved a very wet one, and we have had about 20 in. of rain. Between the 22nd and 27th over 10 in. were measured. Some damage has been done to lands, roads and crops by water. Fine weather has supervened, and, except in cases where plants have been uprooted, permanent damage will not be extensive. Recent letters from the British Cotton Growing Association indicate a complete change for the better in the Sea Island cotton situation as far as we are concerned. At the planting season very unsatisfactory reports on market prospects were in circulation. In the writer’s opinion this important West Indian industry requires stabilising in the interest of both growers and spinners. With the advent of the boll weevil in South Carolina it would appear that there are now no insuperable difficulties in the way of its accomplishment; further, the industry has been established for nearly twenty years, so that there is a long record of experiment, development and experience to work on. The opinion is often expressed that some other country at present not growing it will be able to produce fine Sea Island cotton in competition with West Indian, and, of course, this possibility will have to be taken into consideration; but even so, it would not affect the situation for some time.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society considered the shipping situation on the 23rd instant, with particular reference to the fact that higher freight rates were charged St. Vincent than other colonies. With the removal of local tonnage dues, it was the opinion that the extra charges were quite uncalled for, besides being a handicap to local commerce. It was decided to make representations on the subject.

TURKS ISLANDS.—Peace Celebrations.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The Peace celebrations in the dependency of the Turks and Caicos

Islands were joined in enthusiastically by one and all. At Grand Turk, on the 19th July, there was a parade of the various friendly societies, associations and school children on the parade ground, where speeches were made by the Commissioner, members of the Legislative Board and clergy. Kipling's Recessional Hymn, "Lest We Forget," and the National Anthem were sung by the whole assembly, accompanied by the band, after which a procession was formed, and all marched to the beach, where a salute of twenty-one guns was fired. In the evening there was a chain of bonfires throughout the dependency, and a display of fireworks at the various settlements. On Monday, 21st July, there was a public luncheon, which was attended by several hundred, who partook of the fare. Tuesday was set apart as Children's Day, and sports followed a luncheon on the parade ground. The bonfires at Lorimers and Bottle Creek were especially good, and could be seen for miles. At each of the settlements a free luncheon was provided for the inhabitants; at Lorimers 708 partook of it. At Salt Cay a regatta was held, and brought forth a good number of entrants. The Government have received the hearty thanks of the people from all quarters, and Government officers report the entire success of the various programmes. The societies deserve praise for the neatness of their regalia and general appearance. Everywhere was gaily decorated. Business suspended in all quarters, and the whole populace seem to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Mr. W. Abbott | Mr. C. C. Henriques |
| H.E. Sir W. L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G. | Mr. C. V. C. Horne |
| Mr. A. L. Arrindell | Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson |
| Mr. R. Arthur | Mr. A. L. Inmiss |
| Mr. J. P. Bain | Mr. Llewellyn Jones |
| Mr. Harry Bamford | Mr. L. Keir |
| Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G. | Mr. A. H. Kirby |
| Mr. A. B. Bell | Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G. |
| H.E. Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G. | Hon. J. Challenger Lynch, O.B.E. |
| Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E. | Mr. J. A. Luckhoo |
| Capt. W. Bowring, R.A.F. | Mr. T. B. Macaulay |
| Mr. T. Boyd | Mr. N. D. Maidman |
| Mr. G. F. Branch | Mr. C. H. Maloué |
| Dr. J. F. E. Bridger | Mr. T. M. Marshall |
| Mr. J. H. L. Burgess | Mr. A. J. Mascall |
| Mr. A. Cameron | Mrs. McEwen |
| Prof. P. Carmody | Mr. W. H. L. M. dford, M.C. |
| H.E. Sir G. J. Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O. | Mr. J. Miller |
| Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M. | Mr. T. Elton Miller |
| H.E. Sir W. Collett, K.C.M.G. | Mr. E. Morris |
| Mr. J. Connell | Mr. J. Morrison |
| Mr. A. P. Cowley, M.B.E. | Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A. |
| Mr. W. W. Craib | Hon. J. J. Numan, K.C. |
| Mr. Robert Craig | Mr. P. H. Oliphant |
| Mr. J. Cunningham | Mr. T. W. O'Neal |
| Mr. A. H. DaCosta | H.E. Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G. |
| Hon. S. Cuthbert | Mr. Abdool Rayman |
| Mr. A. Cory Davies | Hon. Sir R. B. Roden |
| Mr. P. J. Dean | Mr. T. G. Rose |
| Hon. D. S. de Freitas | Mr. Parbhū Sawh |
| Mr. M. J. de Freitas | Mr. G. E. Sealy |
| Mr. P. de Verteuil | Mrs. A. S. Sealy |
| Mr. G. C. du Boulay | Mr. J. B. D. Sellier |
| Mr. W. P. Ebbels | Mr. W. C. Shettle |
| Mr. F. Evans | Mr. G. C. Skinner |
| Mr. G. Farmer | Lieut. E. V. Solomon, R.A.F. |
| Hon. H. Ferguson | Rev. W. R. Symons |
| Mr. W. C. Fishlock | Major W. H. G. Thorne |
| Dr. J. Foreman | Mr. Thos. Thornton |
| Mr. J. J. Gilson | Hon. W. A. S. Vickers |
| Hon. G. A. Goodman | Mr. Cyril Warren |
| Mr. W. Gordon Gordon | Mr. Athelstan Watson |
| Hon. E. G. Grabham | Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G. |
| Mrs. E. Haynes | Dr. W. Hewley Wharton, D.R.C.P. |
| Mr. N. C. Henriques | Mr. E. G. Woolford |
| | Mr. W. Wooliscroft. |

- Mr. W. R. Durie, c.o. West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
- Mr. A. T. Hammond, c.o. Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd, Manchester.
- Mr. N. Scott Johnston, 26, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W. 2.

- Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett, c.o. Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co., 7, Mining Lane, E.C. 3.
- Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., c.o. Henderson, 37, Arden Street, Edinburgh.
- Hon. J. H. Philipps, 33, Oxford Terrace, Paddington.
- Mr. L. Richard Wheeler, 69, Torrington Square, W.C.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Arrivals per s.s. *Quillota*, at London, September 18th:—

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|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. G. H. Adams | Miss E. Gordon | Miss H. C. Morgan |
| Mrs. M. A. Andrews | Miss E. M. Harford | Miss T. A. Mycock |
| Mr. J. P. Bain | Mr. A. A. Havers | Miss M. Norris |
| Mr. W. H. Blackie | Miss M. Henderson | Mr. T. O'Neal |
| Mr. R. N. Blanc | Mr. F. B. Henderson | Mrs. C. O'Neal |
| Miss A. Borman | Mrs. G. V. Henderson | Mrs. A. M. O'Reilly |
| Miss D. Borman | Master T. B. Henderson | Miss P. O'Reilly |
| Mr. C. G. Bushe | Miss J. Henderson | Mrs. A. Paddenbury |
| Mr. J. H. L. Burgess | Mr. S. H. Hooton | Master E. Paddenbury |
| Mr. E. B. Cipriani | Miss E. M. Hopkinson | Master C. Paddenbury and nurse |
| Miss C. Cipriani | Miss E. S. Jones | Mr. L. G. Permuy |
| Mr. A. B. Cipriani | Mr. J. J. Johnson | Mr. W. C. Pearce |
| Mrs. C. Cipriani | Mr. R. Lange | Mr. A. Rae |
| Master C. C. Cipriani | Mr. S. O. Laurence | Mr. W. W. Reece |
| Mr. J. C. Collins | Mr. W. A. Lea | Mr. L. B. Reeves |
| Mrs. J. B. Collins | Mrs. M. E. Lea | Miss S. V. Sargeant (Nurse) |
| Miss B. Collins | Master C. B. Lea | Mr. C. C. Skeete |
| Mr. J. Connell | Mr. P. Maincot | Mr. G. C. Skinner |
| Mrs. E. G. Copeland | Mr. L. Mamcot | Mr. L. L. Symonds |
| Mr. J. H. Copland | Miss E. Maillard | Mrs. F. C. Shrewsbury |
| Mr. H. L. Copland | Mrs. A. Maillard | Miss D. Shrewsbury |
| Mr. A. P. Cowley | Mr. J. C. McCall | Miss M. Shrewsbury |
| Mrs. J. A. Cowley | Mrs. J. McCall | Master E. V. Stillman |
| Mr. V. X. D'Abadie | Mr. H. M. McClean | Mr. E. C. Stroud |
| Mr. L. J. Devaux | Mr. W. Mearns | Mr. F. Uher |
| Miss A. Eastgate | Mr. W. H. Medford | Mr. G. H. Williams |
| Miss L. de Freitas | Mrs. E. S. Morris | Miss E. Wishart |
| Mr. M. Fung-Kee-Fung | Miss M. Morris | |
| Mrs. M. Gordon | Mrs. A. B. Morgan | |

Advance list of passengers per s.s. *Quillota*, sailing October 1st:—

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr. Henry Alston | Mr. A. R. Freak ey | Miss A. M. Sealy |
| Mr. Louis Alston | Mr. H. J. J. Freeman | Mr. & Mrs. G. S. Seton-Browne |
| Mr. A. P. C. Austin | Miss A. de Freitas | Captain C. C. Sherlock |
| Hon. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E. | Mrs. M. A. Gay | Mr. & Mrs. B. G. Sherry |
| Misses Biddick | Misses Gay | Miss Sherry |
| Cpt. E. H. Brocksopp | Mr. A. T. Hammond | Hon. & Mrs. Denis Slyne, C.B.E. |
| Lady Chancellor | Mr. K. J. S. Harris | Misses Slyne |
| Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow | Mr. Cyril Hobson | Mrs. Straghan |
| Mr. J. L. Ewing Chow | Mr. D. Houghton | Miss Straghan |
| Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G. | Mr. A. Houghton | Captain H. W. Turner |
| Mr. D. D. Dickson | Mr. T. W. Milling | Mr. & Mrs. Paul de Verteuil |
| Mrs. J. R. Falconer | Mr. & Mrs. R. O'Neale | Miss Wilson |
| Misses Falconer | Mrs. L. E. Quiller | |
| Mr. A. H. Flint | Mr. H. G. Root | |
| | Mr. & Mrs. C. Samuels | |

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Bayano* from Liverpool, September 22nd:—

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. T. N. Aguilar | Mr. L. G. Huntley | Mr. O. H. Rose |
| Dr. D. C. Alexander | Miss M. H. Hunter | Mrs. O. H. Rose |
| Mrs. S. Anderson | Mr. P. Haughton James | Lt.-Col. J. Rubie |
| Miss B. Carter | Mrs. P. Haughton James | Mr. A. G. Rutter |
| Miss A. B. Chadler | Mr. S. M. Haughton James | Miss M. Schor |
| Miss A. F. Cran | Mr. S. M. Haughton James | Mr. J. R. Smith |
| Miss A. M. Cooke | Mr. E. P. Haughton James | Mrs. J. R. Smith |
| Mr. M. H. Currie | Rev. A. E. Jones | Miss M. Smith |
| Mr. C. Curwen | Mrs. A. E. Jones | Mrs. E. S. Smith |
| Mrs. C. Curwen | Lt.-Col. H. W. Joynt | Mrs. S. E. Snyder |
| Mr. A. M. Davis | Miss G. P. Joynt | Miss E. O. Snyder |
| Mrs. A. M. Davis | Miss E. W. Joynt | Mr. G. W. Stabler |
| Mr. G. P. Dewar | Miss E. M. Kimber | Rev. G. Stone |
| Mrs. G. P. Dewar | Mr. H. W. Knox | Mrs. G. Stone |
| Miss Ellerby | Major H. Loraine | Miss H. K. Sutton |
| Miss M. E. S. Farewell | Mrs. H. Loraine | Mr. W. Chevallier Syer |
| Mr. W. N. C. Farquharson | Dr. N. P. Macphail | Mrs. W. Chevallier Syer |
| Mr. G. W. Fitzherbert | Miss K. Mais | Capt. J. C. Tremayne |
| Mr. E. H. P. Greaves | Mr. R. Meiggs | Mr. A. L. Vaughan |
| Dr. C. E. Harvey | Mr. F. D. Mills | Mrs. A. L. Vaughan |
| Mrs. C. E. Harvey | Mr. B. S. Morrell | Mrs. P. Ward |
| Master C. Harvey | Mr. W. Murphy | Mrs. J. Watson |
| Mrs. M. E. Hawes | Mr. A. Pawsey | Mr. A. J. Webb |
| Mr. W. G. Hendriks | Mr. Tie Ten Quee | Mr. T. Wightman |
| Mr. John W. Hill | | Mrs. T. Wightman. |

ALL interested in the welfare of the British West Indies should purchase the *Financier* of September 22nd, which contains a spirited reply to Lord Rothermere's monstrous proposal that certain of their colonies should be handed over to the United States.

ENCLOSED in the present CIRCULAR will be found a form of application for membership of the West India Committee. The recipient, if a British subject and not yet a member, is invited to use it himself. If he is already a member, he is requested to pass it forward to some friend likely to be interested.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

October 2nd, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

New York prices:—

96° Cuba Centrifugals, c. and f. ...	588c.
Porto Rico, St. roix, &c. ...	728c.
Centrifugals, non-privileged, c.i.f. ...	561c.

In the United Kingdom the Royal Commission, which purchased the Mauritius crop for 49s., 50s. and 51s., is open to receive offers of West India 96° new crop, and would favour a combined offer of a large quantity at one price.

The railway strike, which began at midnight on Friday, September 26th, throughout the country, has been followed by the resumption of strict rationing, the sugar ration being reduced to 6 oz. per week. General satisfaction is expressed at the firm attitude adopted by the Government in the present emergency, and public opinion is profoundly moved against the action of the strike leaders, which is regarded as quite unjustified. The Government has called for an immediate return of all stocks of sugar of over 10 tons.

The Czarnikow-Rionda Company say that it is reported that Cuba has sold a fair quantity of the new crop at 6.50c. per lb. f.o.b., equal to, say, 8c. per lb., duty paid, and planters are said to be holding out for 7c.

Europe continues to import sugar, and is unlikely to become an exporter again for some time to come. Latest returns regarding the German sugar industry, published by Mr. Truman G. Palmer in his admirable Loose Leaf Service, show a production of 1,726,483 tons (of 2,000 lb.) of sugar in 1917-18, as compared with 2,885,752 tons in the pre-war year, when the record crop was reaped. Eliminating the drought year of 1911-12, and the war years 1915-17, when even smaller crops were reaped to 1917-18, the crop was the smallest since 1893-4. Last year 312 factories were in operation, as against 341 in the pre-war year. The consumption of sugar, which amounted to 1,585,296 tons in the pre-war year and rose to 2,497,444 tons in 1914-15, was 1,748,385 tons in 1917-18.

The West India sugar statistics in London on September 20th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	41,766	28,496	62,176	
Deliveries	34,542	28,264	59,690	
Stock	13,416	11,219	10,501	

RUM. The market is quiet, but steady. We quote 9s. per gallon as value of 1919 distillation Jamaica. Good ordinary home-trade market.

The stocks in London on September 20th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	7,809	4,709	9,175	
Demerara	14,403	8,030	10,081	
Total of all kinds ...	27,354	17,816	30,405	

COCOA. The stocks in London on September 20th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	36,485	6,096	26,412	
Grenada	16,653	10,407	27,735	
Total of all kinds ...	135,017	136,685	270,731	

ARROWROOT. No change.

BALATA. W.I. Sheet, forward quoted 4s. c.i.f. near shipments Oct.-Nov., 3s. 11d. c.i.f., spot 4s. 4d. landed done.

COPRA. Business suspended owing to the railway strike. Prices are nominal—£56 to £57 c.i.f. London.

HONEY. Very quiet demand at auction, and scarcely anything sold. Prices unchanged. We quote Jamaica 67s. 6d. to 90s. per cwt. Foreign sorts neglected.

SPICES. Nutmegs: W.I. rather dearer. Mace: Steady. Pimento: More inquiry; a good business on the spot at 5½d. per lb.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. TRIPP'S RECENT SPEECH.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—In responding to the kind toast of my health at the lunch in the West India Club yesterday I inadvertently omitted reference to a subject to which I had specially intended to allude—viz., the formation and activities of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies under the tactful and able presidency of Sir Edward Davson. I cannot help thinking that the example of the benefits resulting from the association of commercial interests must bring home even to those who have previously doubted the far greater benefit to be derived from the association of all the islands and British Guiana as one of the Dominions of the Empire.

Our hope of the West Indies resuming their place among the more valuable possessions of the Crown might then be realised.

Yours faithfully,

EDGAR TRIPP.

September 11, 1919.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.			PRICES.
			Sept. 29th.
4 %	Antigua ...	4 % Redeemable 1919-44 ...	74-76
3½ %	Barbados ...	3½ % Redeemable 1925-42 ...	71-76
4 %	British Guiana ...	4 % Redeemable 1935 ...	80-82
3 %	British Guiana ...	3 % Redeemable 1923-45 ...	63-65
4 %	Grenada ...	4 % Redeemable 1917-42 ...	80-82
3 %	Jamaica ...	4 % Redeemable 1934 ...	82-84
4 %	Jamaica ...	3½ % Redeemable 1919-49 ...	70-72
3½ %	Jamaica ...	3 % Redeemable 1922-44 ...	66-68
3 %	St. Lucia ...	4 % Redeemable 1919-41 ...	73-75
4 %	Trinidad ...	4 % Redeemable 1917-42 ...	79-81
4 %	Trinidad ...	3 % Redeemable 1922-44 ...	63-65
10 %	The Colonial Bank ...		72-84
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...		190-200
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...		82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures ...		82-85
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures ...		87-89
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...		100-105
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures ...		9/3
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. ...		14-15
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares) ...		97/6
	Trinidad Central Oilfields ...		7/3
	Trinidad Dominion 10% ...		71/3
	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1) ...		
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ...		40-45
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref. ...		98-103
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref. ...		58-63
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures ...		60-65
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The West India Committee Circular

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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 ls., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West Indies and the Oil Boom.

SENSATIONAL is an epithet which can fitly be applied to the recent rise in the quotations of the shares of oil companies. For some weeks past an oil boom has been in progress on the Stock Exchange, and he would be a daring prophet who would venture to say that the end of it is yet in sight. The public is awakening to an appreciation of the importance of petroleum products to the national life, and the value of oil is being established on an entirely new basis. Imagination, aroused by Lord FISHER's breezy but most emphatic expression of belief in the future of oil and the internal combustion engine, has been stimulated by the lesson of the recent railway strike, which proved that oil-propelled motor lorries have rendered us independent of steam-driven locomotives in an emergency. As a result, oil shares, which suffered a slight set-back for economic reasons at the outbreak of the recent labour troubles, have since forged ahead again, and "blazing" markets have been the order of the day. As was to be expected, the shares of companies operating in Trinidad have participated in the general enhancement of values. Thus, Trinidad Centrals, which at the close of the year stood at 33s., are now quoted at 6, and Trinidad Oilfields have risen in the same period from 10s. 3d. to 28s., while Trinidad

Leaseholds, quoted 3½ at the beginning of last month, are now changing hands at 4. Equally striking has been the rise in the St. Madeleine Sugar Company's shares, which have advanced to 100s., largely, as we understand, on the strength of the value of the company's oil rights. But the St. Madeleine is a sugar-producing concern, and an enhanced price for its shares is to a great extent justified by its prospects in this connection alone, to say nothing of what may accrue to it from oil. Of the other Trinidad companies only one has so far paid a dividend, and though the outlook is very favourable, and more will probably enter the dividend-paying stage next year, the prospects for some time ahead would appear to be discounted by such a premium as £5 for a £1 share, which is the equivalent to a dividend of 500 per cent. Still, it must be borne in mind that the position of the Trinidad oil industry is eminently sound. Most, if not all, the "wild cats" have been eliminated, and the prospects before investors, as distinct from speculators, are decidedly good. With a boom in oil in progress, it is not to be wondered at that the possibilities of new sources of production are being eagerly canvassed, and we learn that Mr. ELLIOT ALVES, not discouraged by his earlier failure to find petroleum there, has sent another mission to Guiana, and that he proposes to redouble his efforts to "strike oil" in the "Magnificent Province." We wish him well in his venture, and if pluck and enterprise go for anything he deserves to succeed! From Barbados again comes the news that a Bill granting a concession to the British Union Oil Company for the establishment of an oil-fuel station at Needham's Point has become law, and that that concern, which has an authorised capital of £6,000,000, of which £700,515 is paid up, proposes immediately to prospect for oil in the island. The directors of the company include LORD INVERFORTH, SIR THOMAS ROYDEN and LORD PIRRIE—names to conjure with in the world of commerce and finance. The presence of oil in Barbados has been recognised from the earliest days of English settlement in the island. Its presence is indicated by the so-called Boiling Spring, near Turner's Hall Wood in St. Andrew's, which is really an emanation of carburetted hydrogen gas in a puddle of water, and by the local deposits of manjack, or glance pitch. SIR ROBERT SCHOMBURGK, in his "History of Barbados," published in 1848, makes several references to the occurrence of petroleum in that island, based on the investigations of Dr. DAVY, and mentions the interesting fact

that "Barbados green tar, or petroleum," had been used with success in cases of leprosy. Twenty years ago, and at intervals thereafter, Mr. ARTHUR PONSONBY, like another pioneer, MAJOR RANDOLPH RUST, in Trinidad, never wavered in his belief in the possibility of establishing a petroleum industry in Barbados, and made vigorous efforts to win oil, but his efforts were hampered through lack of capital and the difficulty experienced in securing prospecting rights over the numerous estates. Both difficulties have now been overcome. The provision of ample capital is assured, and most of the estates' proprietors have now entered into agreements with the British Union Company's tactful representative, COLONEL YATES. The question as to whether oil can be produced in paying quantities in Barbados would therefore appear at last to be within reasonable distance of solution. But why stop at Barbados? Why, for example, should not an attempt be made to find oil in Antigua, the geological conditions of part of which island resemble those prevailing in Barbados? Why, again, should not Jamaica be prospected for oil? It is difficult to believe that Trinidad, of all the West Indian islands, is the only one favoured in respect of oil deposits when we know that one and all the islands are the summits of the Caribbean Andes—a range of submerged mountains which connected North with South America in bygone days, when the Isthmus of Panama was represented only by a group of islands. The position is pregnant with possibilities, and the present oil boom will be a matter for satisfaction even to those who may not be "bulls" or shareholders if it leads to a still closer investigation of the Empire's oil resources, which are already engaging attention as we enter the age of oil.

The West Indian Cable System.

SUFFERERS from the shortcomings of the existing West Indian cable system will be glad to learn that the West India Committee has recently forwarded forcible representations to the Colonial Office on the subject. It is not too much to say that no colonies under a foreign flag are so badly equipped with cable communications as the West Indian colonies under the Union Jack, and if our possessions in and adjoining the Caribbean belonged to a foreign Power we should say that a lack of colonising capacity was the cause. The question has been raised in two quarters lately—the Combined Court in British Guiana and the meetings of the British Association. In the one case dissatisfaction with the existing service was expressed by some of those who suffer from its inefficiency, in the other by SIR CHARLES BRIGHT, well known as a leading expert on the subject in this country. Both urge the same solution of the trouble—the construction of an "all-British" system. If before 1914 the need was imperative, it is much more so now owing to the enormous congestion of the world's cable traffic due to the war. The result is delay in the transit of messages of days, weeks, or, as MR. CECIL CLEMENTI, the Acting Governor of British Guiana, complains in one case, of two months. When the situation is further com-

plicated by constant breakdowns and general inefficiency, the irritation in the West Indies is comprehensible, particularly as they see no sign of energy in the repair of existing lines or of initiative in laying new ones. It is a reflection on our capacity as a commercial people that we are so slow in perceiving that cheap and rapid communication overseas is as necessary as cheap and rapid communication at home. If faulty in either case, trade suffers. What the West Indies want is a cable linking up St. Lucia and Jamaica, or, better still, Barbados or St. Kitts and Bermuda, either of which would give them a service free from foreign control, and direct communication with England. But while we talk of "all-British" cables, the United States acts in the construction of "all-American" cables, linking up the whole of the Western Continent, and the policy will be extended overseas. Not only that, but she has secured landing rights in the British West Indies without equivalent. With the stimulus of competition so keen and well-directed, and increasing pressure from the West Indies, the inertia and adverse influences which have for so long postponed British cable enterprise in this part of the world should soon be overcome. Indirectly, there are signs that things are moving. For instance, the inauguration of Imperial Preference surely implies, ultimately at any rate, effective communications; otherwise its operation will be handicapped, as they are interdependent. One has merely to remember that the cable facilities in the West Indies, inadequate as they were five years ago, are more inadequate still now, to realise the urgency of the situation. Not only does the restoration of West Indian prosperity on its old foundation depend upon the initiation of a new and vigorous policy in the development of communications, but the perpetuation of the ties which have been strengthened during the past five years of common endeavour and common sacrifice; for this great end cannot be served without a well-informed and highly-organised Press. But with inadequate cable facilities and ruinous charges it is seriously handicapped. In truth, most great questions in the West Indies depend for their solution mainly on the creation of an effective cable system under Imperial control.

The actual total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,876. For the benefit of new readers it may be mentioned that the objects of the Association, as laid down in the Royal Charter granted to it by King Edward VII. on August 4th, 1904, is by united action to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade, and thus increase the general welfare of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. Only British subjects are eligible for membership, particulars of which will be found above the first leading article. It should be noted that the subscriptions of new members elected during the last three months of the year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1921. The present, therefore, is a very suitable moment for seeking membership.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN cloud come, sun no set."

* * *

LIEUT.-COLONEL IVAN B. DAVSON, who leaves for British Guiana at the end of the month, has been awarded the O.B.E. (military division) for his services at the Air Ministry during the war.

* * *

AIR-COMMODORE CHARLTON, C.M.G., D.S.O., who narrowly escaped losing his life in the American trans-continental air race, was A.D.C. to Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, late Governor of the Leeward Islands.

* * *

The British Guiana Delegation will leave for India at the end of the month, Dr. J. J. Numan, K.C., and Mr. T. Greenwood, who will represent the West India Committee, sailing on October 24th by the Bibby Line s.s. *Leicestershire*, and Dr. W. H. Wharton, Mr. J. A. Luckhoo and Mr. Parbhu Sawh in the P. & O. s.s. *Egypt* a few days later.

* * *

DR. ARTHUR E. SHIPLEY, Sc.D., F.R.S., Chairman of the West Indian Agricultural College Committee, to the appointment of which reference is made on another page, is a distinguished scientist, who on more than one occasion has assisted the West Indies with advice on entomological matters. Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, he was until recently Vice-Chancellor of the University.

* * *

MR. W. P. MICHELIN, Barrister-at-Law, of the Middle Temple, and recently Police Magistrate and Coroner of Gibraltar, leaves for Dominica in the *Santillo* to take up the appointment of second Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, in succession to Mr. Rowan Hamilton, who has resigned. Some years ago Mr. Michelin was in the Judicial Service in Jamaica, and he will therefore be no stranger to the West Indies.

* * *

WITH a population of 3,050,000, Finland consumed 45,392 tons of sugar, or 32.81 lb. per head, in 1910-11—a typical pre-war year—all of which was imported. Owing to the difficulty which they have experienced in obtaining supplies, the Finns now propose to produce their own sugar, and the local co-operative societies and others have subscribed the capital for the erection, at a cost of £39,000, of a new sugar-beet factory at Salo, which is already nearing completion.

* * *

MACHINERY worth £70,000, made in Saxony, is being installed, and operations will begin this autumn. The total cost of the plant will be nearly £232,000, and the enterprise has the support of the Finnish authorities to the extent that all capital is guaranteed to revert to the promoters at the end of three years. The company contemplates the erection of several other factories, one of which—at Tavastehus—will be finished, and the machinery ready to be placed, in the fall of 1920. It will be approximately the same size as the factory at Salo, using 300 tons of beets, and producing about 35 tons of sugar daily.

* * *

DR. J. A. FOREMAN, who has recently retired from the medical service of the Leeward Islands, has been granted a pension in recognition of his work. For thirty years Dr. Foreman was medical officer in St. Kitts, latterly at Sandy Point. By the judicious use of Kharsivan—the English preparation which has taken the place of the German Salvarsan, and is now used throughout the West Indies—he practically rid his district of that dis-

treasing disease known as yaws (*frambesia*) before his departure. He used the injection intra-muscularly on every infected child whom he could find with most successful results.

* * *

SEVERAL increases in taxation are reported from Jamaica. Foremost among these is a surtax of 37½ per cent. upon imported wines and spirits. Export duties have been imposed as follows: Coconuts, 2s. per 1,000; hides, dry and salted, 4s. on green and wet salted, 2s. per 100 lb., and logwood extracts, liquid and solid, £10 on every ton of solid logwood extract. An innovation is a package-tax of 1s., imposed under Law 9 of 1919, on every package other than those containing kerosene or condensed milk brought into the island for inland use from overseas. Unmanufactured iron, coal, salt, spades, shovels and forks, cutlasses, and factory and agricultural machinery for improving the manufacture of exports from local produce are free. Lumber pays 2s. per 1,000 ft., shingles 1s. per 1,000.

* * *

THE British Sugar Beet Growers' Society state that in the coming factory season in Germany there will be about fifty fewer raw sugar factories in operation than in 1913. The area under sugar beet is said to have declined by about 19.4 per cent., the weight and sugar content of the crops being also seriously below the average. In France the damage has been on a much larger scale. Before the war there were 250 factories turning out 1,000,000 tons of sugar annually. Of this about three-quarters were consumed in France, the remaining quarter being exported. The invaders destroyed 150 factories, and to-day the production is less than 150,000 tons per annum. The world's supply has fallen greatly below the demand, and will apparently continue to fall. The society therefore point out that it is urgently necessary that England should produce, as well as consume, sugar, and no longer be, as she was before the war, wholly dependent upon imported supplies.

* * *

DR. H. A. MOODY, a worthy son of Jamaica, who has recently been visiting the island, had, according to our valued contemporary the *Jamaica Times*, some trenchant remarks to make about the future at a meeting at the North-street Church in Kingston. There were, he said, four ideas about the future possession of the island—namely, that Canada should take control, that America should, that there should be a Dominion of the British West Indies, and that the island should remain under the control of the Mother Country. He had not found that the Canadian idea had any place in men's minds there, nor did it commend itself to him. He was decidedly and absolutely opposed to the suggestion of American possession. America might, indeed, develop Jamaica, but would she develop Jamaicans? Financially they might benefit, but that by itself was very little. He did not consider that the time was ripe for federation. It was, he concluded, better for the island to remain as it was directly under England, and it was for Jamaicans to make the island better known.

MARRIAGES.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

FRERE-HARRISON.—On September 11th, at St. Sidwell's Church, Georgetown, British Guiana, by the Rev. J. W. Papworth, Chaplain of H.M.P. Settlement, Harold Arthur Frere, of Roydon Hall, Diss, Norfolk, England, to Mary Elvira Carter (Vira), only daughter of Professor J. B. Harrison, M.A., C.M.G., and Mrs. Harrison, of Georgetown, Demerara.

MORIARTY-FULLER.—On October 4th, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, by the Rev. William C. Roberts, Denis Moriarty, Lieut., Indian Army, to Jocelyn Maraval, youngest daughter of the late F. J. Fuller, Trinidad, B.W.I.

PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Lord Milner Appoints Committee.

At the invitation of Lord Milner a committee is sitting at the Colonial Office to consider whether it is advisable to found an Agricultural College in the West Indies, and, if in its opinion the answer to this question is in the affirmative, to make recommendations in regard to the situation, constitution, management, scope, finance, staff, buildings, and any other matters requiring to be considered in connection with the foundation of such a college. This committee comprises: Dr. A. E. Shipley, Sc.D., M.A., F.R.S., Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, who has been appointed Chairman; Lieut.-Colonel Sir D. Prain, C.M.G., C.I.E., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Deputy-Chairman; Sir Norman Lamont, Bart.; Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies; Sir Henry Frank Heath, K.C.B., Secretary to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Captain A. W. Hill, Sc.D., F.L.S., Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Dr. J. B. Farmer, D.Sc., M.A., F.R.S., Professor of Botany, Imperial College of Science and Technology; Dr. C. A. Barber, Sc.D., C.I.E.; The Hon. Gidcon Murray, M.P.; Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman of the West India Committee; Mr. H. A. Trotter, Deputy Chairman; Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P.; Mr. G. Moody Stuart; Sir Edward Dawson; Mr. E. A. de Pass; Mr. J. W. McConnell, of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee; Mr. W. H. Hinbury, representing the British Cotton Growing Association; and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., who has been appointed Secretary.

It is particularly gratifying to learn that the question of the establishment of an Agricultural College in the British West Indies is at last emerging from the stage of discussion, and it is hoped that the movement now set on foot will be warmly supported throughout those colonies.

What America is Doing.

In this connection the United States have set a notable example to the older countries having possessions in the West Indies. One of the first movements initiated in Porto Rico under the new American administration in 1898 was the co-ordination and improvement of the public schools in the island under a Commissioner of Education. The schools were very soon established on a permanent and homogeneous basis, and there then arose a demand for an educational institution to carry the work further. To meet this the University of Porto Rico was established by a law approved by the Legislature of Porto Rico on March 12th, 1903.

At the beginning this University comprised two divisions—the Normal School and the Agricultural Department. The latter, in 1911-12, was expanded into a College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, which is situated at Mayaguez, as an integral part of the University of Porto Rico, whose headquarters are at Rio Piedras. Here students can take diplomas

and degrees of Bachelor of Science in agriculture, general science, engineering, &c.

The course of study was at first based upon the natural limitations of the public schools, and consisted of four years with an additional year of sub-collegiate work. In 1914 the high school diploma was required for admission to collegiate rank, and at the same time the sub-collegiate course was extended to three years, with the common school diploma as requisite to admission. In 1916 four units of high school work were required for admission to the sub-collegiate course, which was reduced to two years.

The college has a farm of 100 acres, of which some twenty-five are in coffee, fifteen in grass, and the rest mainly in woodland and pasture, with 300 orange trees and 200 grape-fruit trees besides nurseries of cacao. Laboratories, equipped with modern apparatus chosen for practical work, are provided for chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, dairy, electrical engineering, vegetable pathology, soils, hydraulics, testing of materials, and farm mechanics.

The Curriculum.

The teaching includes courses on agricultural engineering, agronomy—including the study of soils and fertilisers, animal husbandry, biology, botany, chemistry, horticulture, &c. &c. To give instruction in these and kindred subjects there are eighteen professors and assistant professors and six instructors. The following estimate of cost of a year's attendance is about the average—

Tuition	...	...	...	...	...	Gratis
Medical fee	...	...	...	...	...	\$1.50
Laboratory fees	...	...	...	...	...	3.00
Books	...	...	...	...	...	15.00
Board—nine months at \$22	...	...	...	...	...	198.00
One uniform	...	...	...	...	...	10.00
Total expenses	...	...	...	...	...	\$227.50

Some idea of the nature of the instruction given may be gauged from the following syllabus relating to sugar and tropical crops—

Sugar Chemistry.—A general study of the carbohydrates, having special stress on the chemistry of the sugars, methods of obtaining, composition and methods of analysis.

Sugar Technical Analysis.—A comparative study of the different methods of sugar analysis at present in use; processes of manufacture, detailed study of the polariscope; sugar-house calculations.

Sugar-cane Culture.—The management of the sugar-cane plantation from the agricultural standpoint, different varieties of sugar-cane, the soils and climatic conditions best adapted for each, seeding, planting, cultivation, harvesting, fertilisation, crop rotation, practical problems.

Sugar-house Machinery.—The manufacture of sugar from the engineering standpoint; description and mode of operation of sugar-house machinery, the mills, evaporation and vacuum pans; considerations of economy, representative problems.

A series of lectures are given on the staple crops of the tropics, such as sugar-cane, cotton, rice, coconut, cacao, tobacco, rubbers, coffee, cinchona, banana, tea, citrus fruits, pineapple, corn, mango, and vanilla. Additional lectures relating to other fibre, fruits, medicinal plants, spices, forage, and green manure crops are also included in the course, combined with assigned readings and field demonstrations.

The endowment and income of the University and

Agricultural College is derived from the following sources—

1.—*The University Fund.*—The sources of this fund are as follows: (a) All escheated inheritances in Porto Rico; (b) 50 per cent. of all fines imposed by the courts of Porto Rico, which are paid into the Insular Treasury, except those imposed for cruelty to animals; and (c) royalties from all franchises or public rights. This fund is available for the current expenses of the University, the repair of buildings, and general expenses of operation.

2.—*The Permanent University Fund.*—25 per cent. of all proceeds from the sale of public lands in Porto Rico is set aside for this fund; 75 per cent. of the income from investments of this fund is available for the payment of current expenses, the purchase of equipment, or the construction of buildings. The remaining 25 per cent. must be reinvested in reliable securities.

3.—*The Morrill Fund.*—The University receives annually the sum of \$50,000 under a Federal Act providing for the maintenance of colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts.

4.—A variable amount appropriated annually by the Legislature of Porto Rico.

5.—Tuition, matriculation, laboratory, and miscellaneous fees.

EXPERIMENT WORK IN GUIANA.

It is gratifying to know that those connected with the sugar industry of British Guiana are fully alive to its possibilities and to the needs of its scientific development. As evidence of this it may be stated that it is proposed to establish immediately a Sugar Experiment Station in the colony under a Board of Directors, with Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Director of Science and Agriculture, as Chairman, who will be assisted by a prominent agriculturist, with extensive knowledge of sugar experiment work.

The movement, first discussed in 1912, was revived towards the close of last year, when the matter was warmly taken up by the Sugar Planters' Association, whose members recognised that, owing to the conditions of cultivation in British Guiana differing so materially from those in the islands, it was essential that the colony should have its own station. To this end the Association will be incorporated as a company, and an ordinance has been passed by the local Legislature with a view to legally constituting the experiment station. The Board of Management will comprise six members, appointed annually by the Association, and a central station with sufficient land for practical sugar-cane cultivation, is to be established at Georgetown with subsidiary stations in various parts of the colony. It is hoped that the central station will eventually be fully equipped with laboratories, instruments, machinery, and all apparatus necessary for conducting sugar-cane experiments, and for coping with any possible cane disease.

For the establishment and maintenance of the station a fund is to be raised, called the Sugar Planters' Experiment Station Fund, the Sugar Planters' Association being empowered for this purpose to assess annually, before the 30th September, a rate not exceeding \$1 per acre upon all plantations and lands under sugar-cane cultivation.

A LECTURE ON THE WEST INDIES.

It is to be feared that many of those who attended the meeting held under the auspices of the Overseas Club and the West India Committee at Caxton Hall on October 8th must have come away somewhat disappointed. They had hoped to hear from Sir Francis Watts some particulars as to the opportunities afforded by the West Indies to settlers and capitalists, with special reference to openings for ex-soldiers, for the dissemination of information on that subject was understood to be the motif of the meeting. But scarcely a word of encouragement was given, and it was difficult to repress a smile when, at the close of the lecture, the Chairman, having invited questions of the audience, announced that the first one handed up was: "Will the lecturer kindly say what openings there are for settlers and capitalists in the West Indies?"

Though, however, he failed, until questioned, to give enlightenment on this point, the lecturer gave a discursive, entertaining, and, on the whole, accurate account of the various industries of the West Indian islands. His remarks on the health of the islands were forcible and to the point. He showed that, owing to the absence of malaria, Barbados was the only island in the group whose population showed an increase, and he strongly supported the suggestion made by Dr. Louis Sambon that the other islands should be taken one by one and rendered free from malaria by completely stamping out the *anopheles* mosquito.

Sir Owen Philipps, who introduced the lecturer, was far more optimistic, and spoke of the boundless resources of British Guiana. He mentioned, however, that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, of which he was Chairman, had lost no less than £1,000,000 in twenty years on the West, which prompted Mr. Sandbach Parker to say that he hoped that the company would soon resume giving its bounty to the West Indian colonies. Sir Owen also warmly repudiated Lord Rothermere's suggestion that certain of the islands should be handed to the United States in part liquidation of Great Britain's debt.

Colonel Amery, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, warmly eulogised the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which, he said, was started by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, whose name, as usual, was received with cheers. He proceeded to refer to the advantages which he hoped the West Indies would derive from Imperial Preference, which had been arrived at, not by increasing the duties on food, but by reducing them, and he called attention to the fact that the West Indies produced every one of the products on which preference was now given, including even tea, which was produced, to a small extent, in Jamaica.

MR. T. H. MACDERMOT, Editor of the *Jamaica Times*, writes: "Is there any reader of the CIRCULAR who could help me in the following matter? I want to determine whether there exists anywhere an authentic portrait of Francis Williams, the negro poet of Jamaica (18th century). If so, where is this portrait to be found?"

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

An Address by Sir Daniel Morris.

Sir Daniel Morris, in his address as President of the Botanical Section of the British Association at Bournemouth, made copious reference to the West Indies, where he spent so many years as Commissioner of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Touching on the literature of the year, he mentioned the progress being made with the *Flora of Jamaica*, and reminded, no doubt, of that part of the Empire by the publicity given to the visit of the Colonisation Deputation, he said:—

I would mention that British Guiana, with an area equal to that of Great Britain, on the mainland of South America, is full of interest; but its rich and abundant flora, extending from an extensive coast line to the high lands of the interior, with the Kaieteur falls and the remarkable Roraima Mountain rising to over 8,000 ft., is little known to the world at large. There is also the fertile and easily accessible island of Trinidad, at the mouth of the Orinoco, which has been a British colony for more than a hundred years. Although the necessary material is conveniently at hand in the local herbaria, brought together with great care during the last thirty years, neither of these portions of the Empire has as yet published a handy working flora from which their special botanical and economical resources might be ascertained. In these days a systematic exploration of our tropical possessions and the publication of the results in an accessible form should serve as the first step in their fuller development.

Dealing with the department which he himself organised, he went on:—

In recent times one of the most important steps taken in this connection was the establishment, on the recommendation of a Royal Commission appointed by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, of an Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies. The provision for the upkeep of the Department, approved by Parliament, was at the rate of £17,400 per annum. From the first special efforts were made to bring the resources of science to bear on all matters relating to the welfare of the colonies concerned. The laboratories and the headquarters of the Department were established at Barbados, together with a staff of University men with special qualifications for research. The latter carried on their work in co-operation with officers of a like standing at British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica. When fully organised the Department made grants for teaching science at colleges and secondary schools, and for the maintenance of agricultural schools, botanic gardens, and experiment stations. Special attention was devoted to research work in raising new varieties of sugar-canes and other plants, in the investigation of diseases affecting crops, and the general amelioration of the conditions under which they were grown. Further, by means of an efficient staff of travelling agricultural instructors and an abundant supply of literature the Department was brought into intimate touch with all classes of the community. At the end of ten years of strenuous effort it was noticeable, owing to the expansion and improvement of old industries and the introduction of new industries, the general conditions in the West Indies were greatly improved. This may be illustrated by the fact that the public revenue of the colonies had increased from £2,546,724 in 1894 to £3,914,434 in 1911, while the total trade during the same period had increased from £16,270,474 to £26,949,086. There was thus an increase of 65 per cent. in the total revenue and of 60·5 per cent. in the total trade. In reviewing the situation in the West Indies, as the result of the activities of the Imperial Depart-

ment of Agriculture and those associated with it, the late Prime Minister said "the work of the Department was universally and gratefully acknowledged by the planters to be largely responsible for the improved state of affairs in all branches of agriculture, and he believed—and he spoke with some experience—it would be difficult to find a case in which any analogous experiment made by the Home Government had attained such speedy and satisfactory results."

A gratifying proof of the value of the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies was the formation of several departments on similar lines, first at Pusa in India in 1902, and subsequently in all the tropical colonies in the New and Old World. Further, twenty competent officers trained in the West Indies are now in charge of Departments of Agriculture in Ceylon, Mauritius, Federated Malay States, Fiji, and on the staffs of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in India and the several colonies in East and West Africa. Another interesting feature of West Indian progress was the wider appreciation of improved methods of cultivation and the value of science by members of the planting community. For instance, in 1898 the aggregate amount voted by the local legislatures for staffs, laboratories, and botanic and experiment stations was at the rate of £14,000 per annum. Apart from the funds of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, it is probable that, directly or indirectly, the total amount contributed locally for scientific services is now not less than £60,000 per annum. It is also to be noted that during approximately the same period the number of scientific and technical officers had increased from 67 to 142. This, however, is not confined to the West Indies, for in a list published annually at Kew the number of scientific officers attached to botanical establishments in various parts of the Empire had increased from 122 in 1892 to 332 in 1918.

There can be no doubt that not only in the West Indies but in all parts of the Empire "enlightenment as to the objects, methods, and conditions of scientific research is proceeding at a rapid rate." A review of the circumstances relating to all the Overseas Dominions would be a task entirely beyond my province. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the progress made is in connection with the application of the laws of heredity to the improvement of such highly important crops as sugar, wheat, and cotton. The problems associated with these involve both scientific and economic considerations. As regards the scientific side, it is fortunate that with the beginning of the twentieth century came the discovery of Mendel's facts and the stimulating energy of the genetic school which has brought us an entirely new point of view in regard to the improvement of field crops.

Seedling Canes.

Passing on to sugar-cane experiments, Sir Daniel said:—

Great importance is attached to the improvement of the sugar-cane, as the prosperity of many of our possessions depends upon it. Further, the requirements of this country approach something like two million tons per annum. The sugar-cane, although its origin is unknown, has been cultivated in tropical and subtropical countries from remote ages. Up to a recent date its propagation was purely vegetative, as it was supposed to have lost the power of producing mature seed. Occasionally by bud variation a new cane was obtained possessing special merit. For instance, at Barbados in 1903 a "sport" cane cultivated under normal conditions yielded at the rate of 8,070 lb. of sugar per acre as compared with 6,228 lb. yielded by the original cane. In Java, where the white Cheribon was practically the only kind grown, a red cane suddenly appeared. This was carefully multiplied by cuttings until a large area was planted, with the result

that a greater tonnage of canes was raised per acre and the juice was richer.

Sugar-cane seedlings were observed at Barbados in 1858, but it was only in 1888 that Bovell and Harrison were in a position to utilise the discovery and obtain thousands of self-grown seedlings for experiment purposes. Similar seedlings were also available in Java about the same time. As about this period the standard canes in sugar-growing countries were showing signs of being severely attacked by disease the discovery of seedlings was a fortunate circumstance. In fact, in some cases it may be regarded as having probably saved the industry. A careful examination of the floral characters of the best varieties of sugar-canes disclosed the fact that in some cases the ovary was normal while the stamens were infertile. Advantage was taken of this circumstance to secure cross fertilisation by planting selected canes of each type in alternate rows. By this and other means, skillfully devised, several varieties of sugar-canes of great merit were raised.

The possibility of breeding sugar-canes by cross fertilisation under control on Mendelian lines has so far not proved practicable, partly on account of the enormous number of florets in the panicles and their microscopic character, but chiefly owing to the difficulty of manipulation in the field. Lewton Brain and Stockdale made careful experiments in 1903 and 1905, but the results in both cases were disappointing. In spite of this a large number of seedling canes have been raised in cases where the seed-bearing parent only was known. In others neither parent was known. The results, on the whole, have not been unsatisfactory. Seedling canes in many cases have taken the place of the older varieties, while larger returns per acre have been obtained. Further, owing to careful selection there has been a marked diminution in the losses from the attacks of insect and fungoid pests.

In British Guiana it is reported that in the crop of 1918 seedling canes occupied 83 per cent. of the total areas under canes. Similar results have been obtained at Barbados, where Bovell has continued since 1888 in raising canes of great merit; also in the Leeward Islands, and more or less in Trinidad and Jamaica. The best of the West Indian seedlings have been widely distributed to other countries. The general policy adopted by Harrison in British Guiana as the result of over thirty years' experience in cane selection is briefly summarised as follows:—"We raise as many seedlings as we can from varieties of proved vegetative vigour and select from those having both well-marked vegetative vigour and relatively high saccharine content." He adds: "The characteristics of seedling canes are not fixed, and in many instances characteristics which in the earlier years promised to make a cane of high quality, both in the factory and field, were the first to fail." Harrison's experience suggests a special line of research—viz., to ascertain the cause of the increase in vegetative vigour and yield that follows a first cross, only to disappear in later stages.

(To be concluded.)

OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
West Indies	London	<i>Arzila</i>	Oct. 20
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camilo</i>	Oct. 20
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Manzanares</i>	Oct. 25
West Indies	London	<i>Quilpue</i>	Oct. 28
West Indies	London	<i>Spheroid</i>	Oct. 31
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Nevisian</i>	Oct. 31
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Bayano</i>	Nov. 3
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Navarre</i>	Nov. 3
Demerara	Amsterdam	<i>Cryssen</i>	Nov. 7
B'dos, and T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Novian</i>	Nov. 8
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	Nov. 14
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	Nov. 28

The above dates are only approximate.

THE PROSPECTS OF ANTIGUA.

Interview with Mr. A. P. Cowley, M.B.E.

Mr. A. P. Cowley has arrived in England, where he hopes to enjoy a few months' holiday after eight years—he was last over at the Coronation—strenuous work in Antigua, the island of his adoption and residence. Mr. Cowley first went out to the West Indies as a boy forty years ago to "try his luck," and began his planting career on Carlisle's, one of the estates of Messrs. Manning & Anderson. Now he is attorney for the sugar estates of Mr. J. W. A. Maginley and Messrs. Lee Spooner & Co., and Chairman of the local Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Onion and Cotton Growers' Associations, and honorary correspondent to the West India Committee. He resides at "Lavingtons," formerly the estate of Sir Ralph Payne, Lord Lavington, Governor from 1771 to 1775, and again from 1801 to 1808, whose tomb he discovered in a tangle of bush and undergrowth on Carlisle's estate shortly after his arrival in Antigua. To a representative of the Circular Mr. Cowley was recently kind enough to give his views regarding the changes in the island since he first took up his residence there, and the prospects of the future.

"To begin with, I might mention," he said, "that my first voyage to Antigua lasted no fewer than seven weeks, and when I add that I suffered from mal-de-mer for forty-nine successive days, you will realise that it was no joke. I sailed in an old-time barque—the *Night Watch*—belonging to the owners of the estate to which I was going; but our means of communication—in which there is still much need for development—have improved greatly since then, though it took me one month and four days to reach England this time!

"Sugar then, as now, was our staple, but the conditions of manufacture have undergone a marked change, the small windmill and most of the steam factories having given place to the two centrals of Gunthorpe's and Belvidere, which are still extending their tentacles in the shape of light railways for taking off the canes from outlying estates. The Antigua Sugar Factory Company also contemplate a very large extension of their present factory. With a substantial preference in the duty in the United Kingdom and the prospects of an increased preference in Canada, the future of this industry appears very bright."

"By the way, what about this talk of federation with Canada?" asked our representative.

Lord Rothermere's "Monstrous Suggestion."

"In Antigua," replied Mr. Cowley, "such a policy would find no serious supporters, and as for Lord Rothermere's monstrous suggestion as to the transfer of the island, among others, to the United States—" Here we must draw a veil over Mr. Cowley's lurid comments.

"Reverting to the question of federation with Canada," continued Mr. Cowley, "I should like to mention that there are two gentlemen who have been very active with their propaganda in this connection—one strongly advocating political and the other commercial union. Both disclaim any official connection with the Canadian Government, though both freely use the names of high-placed officials as saying this or that in favour of the different schemes which they advocate. To me it seems that the Canadians are strong enough to place their cards on the table and say, 'We can and will do this or that for you if you are willing to come and join us.' Give us something to discuss—not in an unofficial way, as is being done with the suggestion that we should beg for

admission into the great Dominion. We must go very slowly. First must come the federation of the West Indies themselves. Once that is established, a powerful body can treat with the Dominion."

"One used to hear a great deal about the merits of Antigua pines. Are they still cultivated?"

"Not to any extent. Owing to the lack of shipping facilities, the industry has dropped out, and the pines grown are diseased, though they still have the finest flavour of any grown; but no doubt the disease could be overcome if the fruit could be marketed."

Germans and Germinating Onions.

"What subsidiary industries are there, then?"

"Those of cotton and onions are the most promising. To both the co-operative principle has been successfully applied. The Sea Island cotton industry is now firmly established, and onion cultivation is also progressing rapidly. Only two large growers remain outside the Onion Growers' Association, which handles, grades and markets the onions on a co-operative basis. Our seed comes from Teneriffe, and to show how evil can come out of good, it may be of interest to your readers to learn that, being by force of circumstance compelled to store our seeds, we discovered, thanks to Mr. T. Jackson, the Curator of our Botanic Department, that by drying it over unslaked lime we could preserve its germinating powers. This discovery is of immense value, as it will enable us to raise our onions when we like, and our aim is to market them in the United States in January and February before the Bermuda onions come along."

"And the war?"

"Ah!" said Mr. Cowley, "I am glad to have the opportunity of testifying to my admiration of the loyalty and patriotism which prompted so many of all classes of our people in Antigua to volunteer for service overseas with the British West Indies and other regiments. Few had ever been across the Atlantic. None knew what lay before them, and I feel that they cannot receive too much praise for their patriotism, which should be an object-lesson to those who remained at home to reap benefits to which they were not entitled. Many, alas! of those who went overseas will never return; but I hope that those who have regained their native shores will not forget the responsibility which rests upon them to maintain the honour and traditions of the British West Indies Regiment, and to teach those who remained behind the larger issues of life and duty to King and to the country of their residence."

Mr. Cowley modestly omitted to refer to his own war services, which took the form of active work for the British Red Cross, for which he was awarded the "M.B.E."

THE FLY MENACE.

As a disease carrier the common or garden house-fly would appear to be as great a menace as our old enemies the *anopheles* and *stegomyia* mosquito. The danger of these tiresome insects, which are bred and born in dung-heaps and filth of every description, is clearly demonstrated by a striking series of models at the Natural History Museum. The life history of the fly, from the larva in stable manure to the eggs of the next generation, are shown in juxtaposition to the full-blown insects, regurgitating on an otherwise tempting looking plate of ham, roll, and jug of milk. *Mutatis mutandis* the career of various kinds of mosquitos are similarly shown. These models tell their story in a far more convincing manner than pamphlets, &c., and it would be a good

idea if replicas of them could be placed in every public library (for example) throughout the West Indies.

To revert to the fly. It is interesting to note from a recent issue of the *Times* that a report on bacillary dysentery in Macedonia, which has just been presented to the Medical Research Committee by Colonel Leonard Dudgeon, shows how prominent a part the fly plays in the spread of infection in this disease.

The report is based on careful experiments which were carried out by Captain J. F. Taylor under three heads: (1) A comparison of the number of flies present at different seasons in a certain area, with the proportional incidence of bacillary dysentery arising in that area; (2) experiments to show that a fly, when deliberately infected with a bacillus of the dysentery group, is able to carry that bacillus, and to infect suitable media with it; (3) experiments to show that flies in their natural state were carrying dysentery bacilli.

The first line of research resulted in a remarkable graph showing that in April, May and June, when the fly prevalence was at a height, the dysentery prevalence rose also to a height. This occurred again in September and October, both fly and dysentery prevalence rising steeply.

The experiments to show that the fly can carry the infection proved that the insect can, indeed, become the vehicle of both Flexner and Shiga bacilli. The flies were caught in sterile dishes, and put into specially constructed cages. Food was passed in to them in a watch-glass. It was found that they tended to die unless the atmosphere was kept moist. The food consisted of milk cultures of dysentery bacilli (Flexner and Shiga), or other material known to contain these organisms. The flies so fed were examined in various ways. Some were allowed to walk over the culture plate; others were killed and the legs alone used; in some excreta was examined.

The following is a summary of the results:—

FLEXNER BACILLUS EXPERIMENT.

Interval between feeding and culture of bacilli.	No. of flies fed and examined.	No of flies from which bacilli were cultivated.
Less than 24 hours	142	60
24 hours ...	63	13
More than 24 hours	68	7

SHIGA BACILLUS EXPERIMENT.

Less than 24 hours	14	6
24 hours ...	15	1
More than 24 hours	15	0

If we add some other experiments we find that a grand total of 382 flies was examined, and of these seventy-nine gave positive results. It is concluded that the fly is capable of carrying both types of dysentery bacilli, and that the prospect of recovering the infecting organism from the fly diminishes very markedly at and after twenty-four hours from the time of infection. This latter point is new, and therefore deserves further consideration. Finally, it was found that flies living under natural conditions were carrying dysentery bacilli. These flies were caught in various parts of the hospitals, wards, kitchens, and latrines.

These experiments have great value at a moment when bacillary dysentery carriers are known to be present in this country. They suggest, too, that the claim often made that infantile diarrhoea is a fly-borne disease may be only too well founded. In any case, the duty of fly destruction is plain.

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Some further extracts from the valuable report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry are given below:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The pre-war consumption of sugar is unknown. No sugar is produced in the State, but the sources of supply are chiefly from other Australian States. The climate is unsuitable for sugar cultivation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The consumption of sugar for the year ended June 30th, 1918, was 12,400 tons of cane-sugar, derived chiefly from Queensland, New South Wales, and Fiji. Sugar beet could be grown in the South-West Division over a large area, but economic conditions do not permit it to be cultivated with profit to the grower, the chief of these being the cost of labour.

TASMANIA.

No sugar is produced in Tasmania, but there are large areas over which beet can be grown. The present supply is derived principally from Queensland and New South Wales.

NEW ZEALAND.

The consumption of sugar in New Zealand for the year 1915 was 66,545 tons. Raw sugar is imported from Fiji, whilst practically all the refined sugar comes from Australia. There is one sugar refinery requiring raw sugar, whilst there are numerous jam, biscuit, and confectionery works and breweries requiring refined sugar. No coloured labour is available. This has, up to the present, prevented the establishment of a sugar industry.

Fiji.

This group of islands, with an area of about 7,068 sq. miles, has 50,000 acres devoted to sugar-cane cultivation. The annual production of raw sugar varies from 85,000 to 120,000 tons. The consumption of sugar in Fiji is estimated at 2,000 tons per annum. The raw sugar exported to New Zealand and Australia in 1913 was 95,000 tons, and in 1914, 92,000 tons. The average yield of sugar-cane is 18 tons per acre, and the average sugar extracted from the cane is 2.25 tons per acre. There are no refineries in Fiji, nor are there any other trades employing sugar. There are no scientific establishments in Fiji available for technical training in connection with the sugar industry, but the largest sugar-producing company has facilities for training its own employees.

As regards the area of land suitable for the extension of the sugar industry, there are 39,000 acres in nine different localities, varying from 1,000-acre to 12,000-acre blocks, which could be made available if land could be obtained from Fijian claimants. Light railways are required for the transport of the crop to the mill. The position of the labour supply is not very favourable; indentured labour from India, formerly the only labour supply for all cane estates, has been abolished, and no adequate arrangements have been made for replacing it. The freights to and from the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand are very high.

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

The consumption of sugar is about 80 tons annually, and consists of refined white sugar for Europeans and coarse brown sugar for the native. The sugar is imported from New Zealand and Australia. About 100,000 acres on the island of Guadalcanal could be used for sugar-cane cultivation, but most of the other islands are too mountainous. Approximately, altogether 120,000 to 130,000 acres should be available. It would be necessary to erect mills, tramways, bridges, wharves, &c., and the clearing of the land, which would be costly, would have to be undertaken. The scarcity of the labour supply, and the prevailing high freights, would act adversely on the establishment of a sugar industry. On the other hand, the compactness of the flat lands on Guadalcanal and their large area would be much in its favour.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.

No canes are grown at the present time in these islands. It is considered that the poor soil of these coral atolls would be unsuitable. Sugar is imported from Australia and America, white sugar being used by Europeans and brown sugar by the natives. The annual consumption is about 550 tons.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

The directors have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year to June 30th, subject to tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. A year ago 4 per cent. was paid. The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th last show a gross profit of £193,255 6s. 8d. Expenses in London and at branches and agencies absorbed £125,818 2s. 6d., leaving a net profit of £67,437 4s. 2d., as compared with £64,488 18s. 3d. at the same date in 1918. Out of the balance the directors recommend that there be written off Bank Premises Account £20,000, and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., less income-tax, for the half-year (£41,773 19s.), leaving £31,342 18s. 1d. to be carried forward. The court have appointed Sir Herbert Hambling a director.

The Direct West India Cable Company, Limited.

The directors, in their report for the year ended June 30th, 1919 (which was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on September 18th), stated that the net result of the year's working was a balance of £14,073 14s. 10d., as compared with £15,225 8s. 6d. 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 £11,373 14s. 10d. to be carried forward. The balance to credit of revenue account, which was last year £84,146 7s. 8d., has been debited with £1,350 applied to dividend and with £25 expended in repairs, and credited with £11,373 14s. 10d. surplus revenue of the past year, and it now stands at £94,145 2s. 6d., subject to excess profits duty. The Company's cables have worked efficiently during the year, but the insulation of the Bermuda-Turks Islands section remains low.

NATURE NOTES.

The sugar factory which is being established in St. Catherine, Jamaica, will have a capacity of 15,000 tons of sugar per annum, and will start working next crop. It is proposed also to establish a central sugar factory on a co-operative basis in St. Thomas, Jamaica, with a possible output of 12,000 tons of sugar. A similar factory is hoped for in Portland, if landowners will guarantee 6,000 acres of cane.

* * *

The "Uba cane from Africa" has been proved, says the Jamaica Agricultural Department, to be of surprisingly good quality. Estate trials are strongly recommended. At 6½ months this cane, grown on very poor land, gave a yield of 33 tons of cane per acre. At 11 months the canes contained 16 per cent. of sugar and 14 per cent. of fibre, giving a juice of 19.8 Brix and 88 purity. Where megass for fuel is a serious problem, it is said that this cane may prove superior to ordinary canes.

* * *

The "banana fig," or "evaporated banana," should be encouraged, according to the Jamaica Agricultural Department, as an industry. Small bunches not suitable for export can be utilised. Inferior soil, only capable of producing small bunches, can yet be profitably planted in bananas. Situations too far from a port for exporting bananas in bunches can be planted for producing banana figs. An excellent product can be made from the dwarf "Chinese" or "Canary Islands" banana. This species of banana is stated to be immune to the Panama disease, and can therefore be successfully grown on infected land. It is extremely resistant to wind, and will flourish in situations where the common banana would be blown down.

* * *

It is proposed to hold an Imperial Botanical Congress in London in August or September, 1920, with special reference to the practical applications of botany. It is hoped that a representative gathering of botanists from different parts of the Empire may be arranged. Subjects for discussion already suggested are: (a) The improvement of facilities within the tropics for training botanists for special research in diseases due to fungi and bacteria; (b) the utility of research associations for bringing together botanists and those engaged in undertakings in which botany plays a part; (c) the desirability of urging upon the Governments of our overseas dominions and colonies the importance of instituting a botanical survey of their areas in so far as this has not already been done; (d) the co-ordination of research work in the various parts of the Empire. Suggestions of subjects for discussion are invited, and should be sent to the honorary secretary, Dr. Rendle, F.R.S., British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell-road, London, S.W. 7.

* * *

"Agricultural Credit Societies" is the title of an address delivered by Mr. Freeman, Acting Director of Agriculture at San Fernando, Trinidad, to some 500 cane farmers. He said that the principal object of these societies was to help them to borrow money at reasonable rates of interest. Their development in the district was largely due to the personal interest of Mr. Moody Stuart. He had helped to put cane farming on a better basis in this and other ways, including the introduction of a sliding scale for their canes. Altogether there are twelve societies in Trinidad and six in Tobago at present, and no doubt they will increase and flourish. All officers and committee men give their services free. Mr. Freeman gave some sound advice: Admit as members only people of good character; attend all general meetings, so as to understand what the committee is doing and what sums the society is borrowing, for the members are all personally liable for repayment; select good men for

the committee, for they lend the borrowed money, for which all are responsible; see that loans are used for the purposes stated; and be prompt in repayment.

* * *

At the commemoration of the centenary of James Watt Sir Oliver Lodge referred to the process of exhaustion of our present means of obtaining energy for work, and directed attention to the utilisation of alternative supplies. He said that there was an immense store of energy in the properties of matter which was at present inaccessible. The energy that he spoke of was atomic energy. We are hardly at the beginning of the utilisation of this power, the secret of which was given away by the discovery of radio-activity. Radium appeared to give off energy continually without being consumed, but it did disappear as energy was given off, though the disappearance was exceedingly slow. The energy, however, was not under control. If we could make the atoms fly off when we wanted, there would be available a source of energy which would put everything else into the background. Sir Oliver believes we are on the verge of beginning to utilise a very minute fraction of the energy contained in matter. It is this energy which has made wireless telephony possible.

* * *

Venus' fly-trap (*Dionaea muscipula*) is an insectivorous plant only native in Carolina. It is, however, cultivated on account of the interest attaching to it. It is a stemless plant, the leaves rising up direct from the roots. The leaves are of a peculiar structure. The stalk is 2 in. to 4 in. long, broadly flattened, and becoming gradually wider from below upwards. The leaf proper at the end of the flattened stalk consists of two semicircular lobes. The lobes are hinged in the middle of the leaf, and fold together like two leaves of a book. Round the margins of the lobes there are slender spines so placed at an angle that when the lobes close together the spines interlock. They thus prevent the escape of any fly which ventures to go too near the lobes. The stimulus which causes the lobes to fold together is situated in three upright hairs on each lobe. If even only one of these hairs is touched by a fly, the lobes at once close on it and trap it. The first movement is quite sudden on the instant of touching the hair. The fly is gradually crushed between the two lobes. A digestive fluid is poured out from glands near the middle of each lobe. The body of the fly is digested, rendered soluble, and absorbed. Two or three flies are as much as the plant can digest.

* * *

A modest Id. will purchase one of the illustrated publications of the British Museum (Natural History Branch) at South Kensington on the house-fly as a danger to health. A glass case in the hall of the museum is arranged with life-like models to impress on visitors the dangerous character of the common house-fly. A heap of kitchen refuse lies at one end, in which are the whitish eggs of the house-fly, also the maggots, and the chrysalis cases. At the other end is a tray of cold lunch—slices of ham, bread, fruit, and milk, all with house-flies on them, illustrating the danger of flies as carriers of the germs of typhoid, dysentery, cholera, &c. There are also much-enlarged models of the fly, maggot and chrysalis, and natural-size models of other flies which resemble the house-fly. One of these latter is a blood-sucking fly, recognised by its piercing proboscis being always visible even when at rest. A house-fly lays from 120 to 150 eggs at one time, and may deposit five or six such batches of eggs during its life. The rate of development varies according to the temperature and character of the food. In the British Islands, in very hot weather, the progeny of a house-fly may be laying eggs about three weeks after the eggs from which they themselves developed were deposited. No system of sanitary control can be regarded as efficient which allows flies to have access to material containing the germs of disease.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

BAHAMAS.—Pioneers in Aviation.

A correspondent writes: The Bahamas bid fair to be the first of the West Indian colonies in the field with a mail and passenger air service. Major H. H. Kitchener, R.A.F., who, with Majors Hemming and Piethorne, has visited Barbados, Trinidad and Bermuda recently on behalf of Messrs. A. V. Roe & Co., with the view of linking up the West Indies by air, is now in Nassau, where his proposals to establish an air service between that port and Florida, and between the Bahama islands as well, have been sympathetically received by the Development Board and the community in general. "The Bahamas and West Atlantic Avro Company, Limited," has been formed, with Major Kitchener as managing director, and it is a foregone conclusion that the proposed subsidy of £3,000 per annum will be voted by the Legislature, and that a service to Florida (daily during the winter season and bi-weekly for the rest of the year) will be inaugurated in January next. The trip to the Florida coast will only occupy about two hours, and mails and passengers from the Bahamas will thus be enabled to reach New York in about thirty-six hours and London within a week, whenever a connection with a liner of the speed of the *Mauretania* is possible.

The business community is greatly alarmed at the recent decision of the Royal Bank of Canada to advance the rate of exchange between Nassau and the United States from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 per cent., and to restore the London selling rate to par. It appears that the present situation has been brought about by the importation of British Treasury notes, which was done in the first instance in 1916, at the suggestion of the Government, when the note issue of the Bank of Nassau was found to be inadequate to meet the needs of the community, but which, unfortunately, has been continued lately by a few speculators who did not consider the ultimate result. The consequent loss to the Royal Bank of Canada has been so heavy that they found that no other course was open to them but to follow the example of Bermuda and Jamaica in fixing the rate of exchange so as to make the importation of "Bradburys" unprofitable. A suggested solution of the difficulty is that the Legislature should take action and prohibit the importation of these notes altogether as, unless this is done or some other remedy found, the outlook for the colony is a very serious one.

TURKS ISLANDS.—Labourers Seek Work.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The East Caicos Fibre Company are permanently closing down the fibre plantation at Jacksonville, East Caicos. Materials and machinery are being brought to Grand Turk; much of the materials are being sold by auction. The closing down of this Company will be a blow for the Lorimer district, hundreds of men and women having found employment with the Company for a number of years. Unfortunately, there is no other enterprise that is likely to start and offer employment to the vast number, who will be thrown on their own resources. The closing down of the Company will be felt throughout the whole of the dependency, it having been the means of putting a large amount of money in circulation. The Conch shell industry is living up, and large quantities are being prepared for shipment. A good consignment of sisal has been shipped to the United States during the month. The sponge industry is very quiet. The drought still continues, and is causing grave anxiety. Water is becoming very scarce. Outside of the one or two heavy squalls,

which one could hardly notice a few minutes afterwards, the ground being so full of heat, there has been no rain. It is to be hoped we may get the season's rain in September.

As stated in previous reports, permission has been given to ship the cotton products of the dependency by way of Jamaica for England. The Jamaica Government were eventually unable to see their way to grant permission for our cotton seed to be sent there for transportation to Liverpool. With that, the British Embassy at Washington has kindly used his influence on our behalf, and permission has now been granted by the United States authorities to send our cotton products to either New York or Boston for transportation to the old country. The hospital is still full, and many are on the waiting-list. Dr. Puritan, who is at present acting Medical Officer, has performed a great number of operations, all of which so far have been successful. The institution is certainly filling a long-felt want.

JAMAICA. Rapidly Rising Prosperity.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—It is anticipated that the taxable value of property in Jamaica will be increased by fully £1,000,000 as a result of the revaluation of holdings this year. In 1911, when the last general revaluation was made, the increase in taxable value was £600,063 net, and the value of land in the island has gone up enormously in the past three years, particularly in connection with the sugar industry revival; so that an extra £1,000,000 in taxable value on the coming tabulation is not considered an unreasonable estimate. Eight years ago the taxable value of property in Jamaica was £9,811,882. Official statistics show that during the year 1918 Jamaica's exports amounted to £2,549,465. Against this exports for the past six months—January to June this year—amount to no less than £2,522,593, almost as much as that for the whole of last year. The values of these exports for the whole of 1918 and six months in 1919 were:—

	Whole of 1918.	Six mths. of 1919.
Cocoa	£75,242	£179,088
Coffee	42,446	225,380
Bananas	44,095	472,459
Coconuts	73,155	112,181
Logwood extract	132,740	153,750
Pimento	26,635	44,913
Rum	31,477	507,584
Sugar	325,075	577,571

These figures show a remarkable development of Jamaica's trade, and with no adverse conditions arising between now and the end of the present financial year, the island's position should be extremely healthy, and the Government will have a very substantial surplus.

It is understood that negotiations are proceeding in England for the purchase of Constant Spring Hotel. Mr. Mowry, resident manager of the Myrtle Bank Hotel (now owned by the United Fruit Company), returned from the United States on the 31st, and foreshadows expansion in hotel accommodation in anticipation of a good tourist trade this season. Myrtle Bank is to be considerably enlarged, and the Titchfield Hotel, at Port Antonio, reopened on December 1st.

It is understood that the United Fruit Company have decided to carry out further improvements on their various farms in Jamaica for the benefit of their labourers. Besides proper housing accommodation, the company has established dispensaries and hospitals in order that prompt medical assistance might always be available for their employees, and now it is learned that they are going to plant ground provisions on each farm, which will be sold to the labourers resident on the farms at cost price, and cattle will also be slaughtered by them in order that beef be sold to them at 6d. per lb. These

improvements are being carried out with a view of getting strong, healthy labourers—men who will be able to work better in the fields, and give far better and more satisfactory results than can be obtained from sickly and ill-fed labourers. The United Fruit Company have resumed their coastal trips, which were abandoned during the war.

The banana output from Jamaica this year has been keeping up splendidly to the total estimated some time ago, and if nothing serious happens for the remainder of the year there is every reason to believe that not only the total of 10,000,000 bunches will be reached, but it might be surpassed. So far, about 6,000,000 bunches have been shipped, and, provided no hurricane intervenes between this and the end of the year, another 4,000,000 bunches will have been shipped. The quality of the fruit has maintained a splendid average, and by the last few English boats an excellent grade of fruit was to be seen going aboard. Since the entry in the trade of the Jamaica Shipping Company (the new fruit company) prices have been fluctuating, and planters or producers not bound by contracts have been benefiting as a result. £15 per 100 stems is now being paid, and the opinion is expressed that there is likely to be a steady rise in the price of bananas until it reaches £30 per 100 stems. Thus the fruit business gives a rather promising outlook for the growers and shippers alike.

A movement is on foot to start a central sugar factory in St. James. The scheme is yet in its embryonic state, but it is confidently expected that it will materialise. Some of the leading planters of the parish are interesting themselves in the project, including the Hon. F. M. Kerr Jarrett, the owner of Catherine Hall Estate, who is a well-known sugar planter, and one who is very much interested in the progress of St. James.

A syndicate, the principal members of which are Messrs. C. M. da Costa, A. Wellesley Bourke and Pedor Machado, have purchased Albion Sugar Estate, in the parish of St. Thomas, and hereafter the estate will be run on the most up-to-date lines. The machinery will be improved, and generally arrangements will be made to increase the output of sugar and rum. Mr. A. H. Ritchie, the Government entomologist, who has resigned his position with the Government, has been appointed general manager of the estate. Details in connection with the St. Thomas central factory have all been worked out, and it is expected that the Sugar Board will be set up in the course of a very short time. It will consist of experienced planters, and will be under Government control. It is proposed to put up a 5,000-ton factory that will be capable of improvement and to cope with the output of canes, not only in St. Thomas, but also in a portion of East Portland, where cane will replace a large portion of coconuts.

The Anglo-American Brewing Company, Limited, has been formed in Kingston for the purpose of manufacturing on a large scale Lager beer, equal to that obtained from the United States. The United States having adopted national prohibition on the 1st of July last, the directors feel, with the closing down of American breweries, that an unexceptional opportunity has arrived for the erection of a modern and well-equipped brewery in this city to handle local business, and for a large export trade. The promoters of the Company are Messrs. Eugene Desnoes, T. H. Geddes, H. Macaulay Orrett, E. H. Sanguinetti, C. M. da Costa, and S. C. Lindo, with Mr. H. C. Wilson as acting secretary. The capital of the Company is £15,000, divided in 15,000 shares at £1 each.

The Secretary of State has sanctioned the expenditure of £40,000 from loan on certain work to be undertaken on roads in thirteen parishes by returned men of the B.W.I.R. A further sum of £10,000 has been allowed for the opening up of Crown lands.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Lieut. Maurice Hughes.

Lieut. Maurice Hughes, late of the 13th Yorkshire Regiment, succumbed in Kingstown, St. Vincent, on August 1st, to an aneurism contracted on active service. Son of the late John J. Augustus Hughes, for some years magistrate of the Leeward District, "Maurice" was a well-known local cricketer. Educated in St. Vincent, he entered the local Civil Service, and gave up his appointment as Revenue Officer to answer the call of King and Country. Having been a sergeant in the St. Vincent Volunteers, he had no difficulty in obtaining a commission. After serving for some time in the trenches, he was badly gassed, and contracted the complaint from which he died. Gifted with indomitable pluck and unquenchable high spirits, he never lost heart, though he knew that his case was incurable, and insisted upon returning to his island home, though he was quite unable to walk for more than a few yards at a time. "Maurice" Hughes was laid to rest with the full military honours which he so well deserved in the churchyard of St. George's Cathedral.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. W. Abbott	Mrs. E. P. Hutchison
H.E. Sir W. L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. L. Inuiss
Mr. A. L. Arrindell	Mr. Dlewelyn Jones
Mr. B. Arthu	Mr. L. Keir
Mr. J. P. Bai	Mr. A. H. Kirby
Mr. Harry Bamford	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, O.B.E.
Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G.	Mr. J. A. Luckhoo
Mr. A. B. Bell	Mr. T. B. Macau ay
Capt. W. Bowring, R.A.F.	Mr. N. D. Madman
Mr. T. Boyd	Mr. C. H. Malone
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. T. M. Marshall
Dr. J. F. E. Bridger	Mr. A. J. Mascall
His Hon. Major J. A. Bardon, C.M.G.	Mrs. McEwen
Mr. J. H. L. Borgeis	Mr. W. H. L. Medford, M.C.
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. J. Miller
H.E. Sir G. J. Chaucellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M.	Mr. E. Morris
Mr. J. Connell	Mr. J. Morrison
Mr. A. P. Cow ey, M.B.E.	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
Mr. Robert Craig	Hon. J. J. Nunau, K.C.
Mr. A. H. DaCosta	Mr. F. B. Oliphaut
Hon. S. Cutbber	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. A. Cory Davies	H.E. Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G.
Mr. P. J. Dean	Mr. Abdool Rayman
Hon. D. S. de Freitas	His Hon. Sir R. B. Roden
Mr. M. J. de Freitas	Mr. T. G. Rose
Mr. G. C. du Boulay	Mr. Parbhoo Sawh
Mr. W. P. Ebbels	Mr. G. E. Sealy
Mr. F. Evans	Mrs. A. S. Sealy
Mr. G. Farmer	Mr. J. B. D. Sellier
Hon. H. Ferguson	Mr. W. C. Shettle
Mr. J. J. Gibson	Mr. G. C. Smauer
Hon. G. A. Goodman	Lieut. E. V. Solomon, R.A.F.
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Major W. H. G. Thorne
Hon. E. G. Grabham	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. W. A. S. Vickers
Mr. N. Henriques	Mr. Cyril Warren
Mr. C. C. Henriques	Mr. Athelstan Watson
Mr. C. V. C. Horne	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
	Dr. W. He vley Wharton, L.B.C.P.
	Mr. W. Woolcroft.
Mr. W. R. Durie, c.o. West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., c.o. Henderson, 37, Arden Street, Edinburgh.
Mr. N. Scott Johnston, 26, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, S.W. 2.	
Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett, c.o. Messrs. Thomson Haakey & Co., 7, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3.	Mr. L. Richard Wheeler, 69, Torrington Square, W.C.

An endeavour is to be made to recruit labourers for British Guiana in Haiti.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

THE CABLE BREAKDOWN.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per R.M.S. *Coronado* from Liverpool, September 29th—

Mr. & Mrs. T. Alexander	Miss O. M. Drew	The Ven. Archdeacon Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Baasch	Mrs. E. M. Edwards	Miss H. M. Jesty
Miss C. E. Barbour	Mr. W. G. Eggons	Mrs. E. Johnston
Mr. E. Bazini	Mrs. D. Emmott	Miss R. A. Johnston
Capt. D. M. Beresford	Mrs. F. Farquharson	Mr. H. King
Mr. E. St. John Branch	Miss M. Farquharson	Mr. A. H. Marshall
Mrs. M. E. F. Brown	Mr. G. D. Few	Mr. & Mrs. V. A. Michelin
Mrs. E. A. Brown	Miss E. R. Fotheringham	Mr. W. A. Moore
Mrs. A. M. Barnett Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Grace	Mrs. A. E. A. Pethybridge
Mrs. M. K. Capstick	Mr. D. S. Gray	Rev. A. Leslie Rose
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Cargill	Mr. & Mrs. G. K. Greig	Miss Selwyn
Master M. Cargill	Mrs. C. M. Harding	Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Smith
Miss E. Clarke	Mrs. F. E. Heap	Miss M. E. Taylor
Miss J. K. Crookston	Mr. J. C. T. Hemmann	Mrs. M. Thompson
Mr. J. Crookston	Mr. & Mrs. B. Hepworth	Miss E. M. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. O. Crowden	Master J. A. Hepworth	Mrs. H. Trench
Mrs. G. H. Deerr	Miss M. J. Hepworth	
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Drew		
Miss M. M. Drew		

Sailings per s.s. *Patuca* from Avonmouth, on Oct. 6th:—

Dr. T. M. Bartlett	Miss I. M. Fisher	Miss R. E. Parris
Mrs. T. M. Bartlett	Mr. J. J. Galloway	Mrs. K. L. Pearson
Mr. S. Bateman	Mr. M. V. Grant	Miss K. E. F. Pearson
Mrs. S. Bateman	Mr. H. Hamilton	Master R. L. P. Pearson
Mr. C. Bracht	Mrs. H. Hamilton	Hon. J. H. Phillips
Mr. Bridge	Miss D. M. Hamilton	Mrs. J. H. Phillips
Brig-Gen B. A. Carruthers	Miss M. Hope	Mr. L. P. Purton
Mrs. R. A. Carruthers	Mr. F. H. Hudson	Mr. J. L. G. Sharpe
Mr. R. Cook	Mr. G. Ithier	Mrs. S. N. Sharpe
Mrs. M. Cousins	Mr. C. G. Macgregor	Master J. Sharpe
Miss E. I. Dawson	Mrs. M. J. Macgregor	Miss K. Sharpe
Miss R. A. M. F. Dawson	Miss N. E. Macgregor	Mrs. M. C. Stirling
Miss E. M. F. Dawson	Miss H. I. Macpherson	Miss M. E. Stirling
Miss H. G. F. Dawson	Mr. J. May	Capt. F. J. Watson Taylor
Miss K. F. Dawson	Miss A. May	Mrs. F. E. Taylor
Mr. Ellershaw	Miss E. C. May	Mrs. J. C. Orr
Mr. J. W. Fletcher	Mr. A. E. Mitchell	
	Mr. R. S. Parris	

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings per s.s. *Quillota* from London, October 1st:—

Dr. Henry Alston	Mr. A. E. Freakley	Mr & Mrs A. Pantin and infant
Mr. Louis Alston	Mr. H. J. J. Freeman	Mrs. L. J. Quiller
Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Anguste	Miss A. de Freitas	Lt. W. St. C. Robinson
Mr. A. P. G. Austin	Mrs. M. A. Gay	Mr H. G. Root
Mr. E. I. Baeza	Miss D. Gay	Mr & Mrs. C. A. Sannuella
Mr. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G. C.B.E.	Miss P. M. Gay	Mr & Mrs. Seaton-Browne
Major & Mrs T. E. R. Branch	Mr. L. B. I. Hamilton	Captain C. C. Sherlock, M.C.
Miss M. W. Branch	Mr. A. T. Hammond	Mr. P. G. Sherry
Miss M. H. Branch	Mr. K. J. S. Harris	Mr. & Mrs. D. Slyne
Mr. S. Branch	Mr. Chas. Heathcote	Miss M. K. E. Slyne
Master C. Branch	Mrs. K. Hickling	Miss M. Slyne
Capt. E. H. Brocksopp	Mr. C. Hobson	Lt H. M. Shingleton Smith
Miss E. S. Buck	Mr. A. Houghton	Mrs. Straghan
Dr. R. Carter	Mr. D. Houghton	Miss R. Straghan
Mrs. K. F. Cavanaugh and infant	Mr. R. Humphrey	Captain H. W. Turner
Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow	Mr. O. H. Lee	Mr. Paul de Verteuil
Mr. J. L. Ewing Chow	Mr. W. G. Madd	Mrs. de Verteuil
Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G.	Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Malene	Mr. William Warren
Mr. & Mrs. P. Dumoret	Dr. T. R. Marshall	Miss M. Wilson
Mr. A. H. Flint	Capt E. F. Massiah	
Mr. Edgar T. Flood	Mr. P. W. Milling	
	Mr. & Mrs. R. D. O'Neale	
	Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly	
	Miss M. Prada	

Advance list per s.s. *Arzila*, sailing about Oct. 18th:—

Mr. & Mrs. John Adamson & infant	Master D. B. Harrel	Mr. & Mrs. E. Graham Pilgrim
Sir Henry and Lady Alcazar	Master H. T. Harrel	Mrs. A. Rapsey
Rev. & Mrs. E. Barton	Mr. & Mrs. Hamlyn Hoadley	Miss Rapsey
Lt. Col. J. B. Davson	Miss Hoadley	Miss Rapsey
Mr. W. D. Dickson	Mrs. M. E. Hoadley	Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Rodrigues
Mr. Gibson	Miss M. K. Hobson	Mr. J. Rodrigues, Junr.
Mr. M. Gonsalves	Mrs. Macpherson	Miss Rodrigues
Dr. & Mrs. Gordon and infant	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Mac-call	Dr. E. A. Turpin
Mrs. K. Greg	Miss E. G. Nicholls	Miss H. Woelworth
Mrs. E. P. Harrel	Miss M. C. Parsons	Miss Minnie Welseley

Advance list per s.s. *Quilpué*, sailing about Oct. 28th:—

Mr. E. L. Burtonsław	Mrs. Haynes	Mrs. McDonald
Mr. J. L. W. Cathcart	Mr. Arthur Hombersley	Mr. J. G. McIntosh
Miss A. C. Dalgetty	Mrs. Hombersley	Mrs. McIntosh
Miss P. A. Dalgetty	Miss Marjorie Hombersley	Miss McIntosh
Miss G. Ferreira	Mr. C. V. C. Horne	Miss Flo. Monteil
Mrs. A. E. Glendinning	Mrs. A. W. Ibbett	Mr. B. Murray
Mr. Manuel Gomes	Miss T. Johnson	Mr. James Smith
Mrs. Gomes	Miss J. F. Maccall	Mrs. F. J. W. Unwin
Miss Emily Gomes	Miss P. F. Maccall	Miss M. B. Unwin
Mr. Alvaro Gomes	Mr. J. McCunn	Miss A. H. Unwin
Miss M. Hamel-Smith	Mrs. McCunn	Mr. Harold Wright
Col. A. Haynes	Lt. R. E. W. McDonald	Mrs. Wright
Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes		

In January last the West India Committee made representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as to the desirability of securing improvements in West Indian telegraphic communication by extending all British cables from Bermuda to Barbados, and the development of intercolonial communication. They have now been informed that their letter has been referred to the Inter-departmental Committee sitting to consider the question of Imperial cable communication, and in reply to a suggestion made by Lord Milner, that if the Committee wished to add anything to their previous letter they would do so in writing, they have sent in the following letter:—

September 30th, 1919.

SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 24778/1919, of August 6th, from which the Executive of the West India Committee have noted with satisfaction that their letter of January 1st last on the subject of the West Indian telegraphic system has been communicated to the Committee now sitting to consider the question of Imperial telegraphic communication.

2. With reference to Viscount Milner's suggestion that, in the event of the West India Committee desiring to add anything to their previous letter they should do so in writing, we beg to point out that since their earlier representations were submitted the difficulties of telegraphic communication in and between the British West Indian colonies have been accentuated to such a degree that merchants are constantly complaining of the grave inconvenience and losses which they are sustaining through the constant breakdown of the cables and delays in handling messages.

3. We further wish to call attention to the fact that scarcely a message from the West Indies is delivered in which one or more words are not mutilated, thus necessitating further delay while the mutilated words are being repeated.

4. In connection with this question generally, we venture to hope that the attention of the Committee on Imperial Telegraphic Communication may be called to the statement of His Excellency the Hon. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., Acting Governor of British Guiana, in his recent report on the condition of British Guiana during the Great War, in which the position as it affects that colony is fully set out. A copy of this statement, republished in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of September 18th, is appended.

5. In conclusion, we beg to emphasise the suggestions for the amelioration of the present state of affairs, which have already been made by the West India Committee, on the basis of the extension of the British cable from Bermuda to Barbados, and the further development of inter-colonial wireless communication.

We have the honour, &c.,

R. RUTHERFORD, Chairman,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office, Downing-street, S.W. 1.

THE Bishop of Jamaica will give an address on Church work in that island at the Church House, Westminster, on Monday afternoon, October 20th, on behalf of the Church Aid Association in England.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

October 16th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

	a.	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.

New York prices:—

96° Cuba Centrifugals, c. and f.	588c.
Porto Rico, St. Croix, &c.	728c.
Centrifugals, non-privileged, c.i.f.	564c.

Although there has been, and still is, a good demand for white sugars at about 100s. per cwt., duty paid, landed terms, yellow crystallised has been neglected. Sellers asking 85s. The general tendency of the market remains firm.

In the United Kingdom the railway strike was settled on October 5th, and the emergency rationing has already been relaxed in consequence. The market was unaffected by transport difficulties, and the continued demand for home consumption and export have led to firmness. Considerable sales of 96° sugar to the Royal Commission are reported at 38s. 6d.

The offices of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply have been transferred to 3, Grosvenor-gardens, S.W. 1. Mr. J. J. Runge, who has been manager (in which capacity he has done excellent work) since August, 1914, will now also fill the position of Secretary.

The West India sugar statistics in London on October 4th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	41,858	28,906	66,610	
Deliveries	38,327	29,193	62,705	
Stock	9,723	10,700	11,920	

RUM. There is no change to report. Jamaica, home trade quality, 1919 crop, is worth 9s. per liquid gallon.

The stocks in London on October 4th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns
Jamaica	8,051	4,653	8,926	
Demerara	14,359	7,938	9,300	
Total of all kinds	28,201	18,337	28,844	

COCOA. The market is steady with a fair amount of business passing. At auction on the 7th inst. 8,461 bags of Trinidad were offered, a small number being sold at 125s. to 126s., while a good part of 1,819 bags of Grenada's fetched 118s. to 126s.

The stocks in London on October 4th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	35,212	6,913	26,231	
Grenada	16,723	9,086	26,893	
Total of all kinds	129,616	152,425	263,983	

COTTON. Imports of West Indian in the forty weeks ending October 2nd, 7,217 bales.

OIL. Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, report "Oil produced September, 15,084 tons."

COPRA. The market continues very dull, with very little disposition on the part of crushers to operate. We quote West India £55 per ton, c.i.f. London.

HONEY. Steady, but in very limited demand. Jamaica, 72s. 6d. to 90s., according to quality and colour.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil: Handpressed**, nothing doing; sellers at 11s. 6d. per lb.; **distilled**, extremely slow; sellers at 3s. 9d. per lb. **Lime-juice: Raw**, quiet; value, 2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. for fair to good.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet: Scarce; value 9s. per lb. Bitter: No inquiry.

SPICES. Both W.I. nutmegs and mace are rather dearer. **Nutmegs**, 80's 1s. 4d., 110's 1s. 1d.; wormy, 10d. to 11d.; broken, 5½d. per lb. **Mace**, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. for fair to good; 1s. 5d. for red. **Pimento**, more active at 5½d. on the spot.

ARROWROOT. No change.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE B.W.I.R. AND THE WAR.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I shall be grateful if you will allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to inform those interested in the British West Indies Regiment that I am in touch with a publisher as to bringing out a book dealing with the B.W.I.R. and the war.

As neither Mr. Aspinall nor I know of any work yet published, or even contemplated, on this subject in England, I hope to make my narrative less of the personal memoir of the 1st Batt. I had first intended, and more of a general sketch of what the B.W.I.R. and the B.W.I. generally did in the war, and might have done, and of the difficulties the corps had to contend against.

So I should be very grateful if C.O.'s and other officers, and others connected with the regiment, would care to send me suitable information on the doings of the B.W.I.R., especially in theatres of war other than Egypt and Palestine, or statistics, records of decorations, casualties, &c., and interesting incidents; also information about the general contributions the islands made in gifts of money, fruit, &c., and the services of West Indians in other regiments, the Navy, and the Air Force would be valuable.

Yours, &c.,

L. RICHMOND WHEELER.

Royal Colonial Institute,
Northumberland-avenue, S.W. 1.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Dividend.		PRICES.
		Oct. 13th.
4 %	Antigua ... 1 % Redeemable 1919-44	74-76
3½ %	Barbados ... 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	71-76
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	50-82
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	63-65
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80-82
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	82-84
3½ %	Jamaica ... 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	70-72
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	66-68
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-41	73-75
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	79-81
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63-65
10 %	The Colonial Bank	8-8½
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	190-195
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82-85
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ Debentures	82-85
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	87-89
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	1-2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	100-105
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	9-3
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	11
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields	7/3
—	Trinidad Dominion 10	3
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	3
1 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	40-45
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	98-103
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	58-63
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	60-65
9d	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	11-13
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	71-72
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd "	63-64
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	92-94

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The Future of the West India Committee.

WHEN in 1904 KING EDWARD was graciously pleased to grant a Royal Charter to the West India Committee it was realised that this ancient but very active corporation was entering upon a new phase of its existence. From being the "rope of sand" which it had been for fully two and a-half centuries, it now became a legal entity empowered to hold real and personal property. It was, in a word, placed on a more substantial footing, and its permanency, which, prior to reorganisation six years previously, had been somewhat seriously imperilled, became assured. The Committee had recently emerged victorious from its long-drawn-out campaign against the foreign bounty system, the suppression of which, largely due to its efforts under the chairmanship of the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, afterwards first President, paved the way for the era of prosperity which dawned for the West Indies at the beginning of the twentieth century. New premises were secured which, compared with the single and singularly depressing room in Billiter-square from which it now migrated, were at the

time regarded as commodious and likely to meet the requirements of the Committee for many a year to come. But the Executive had not envisaged the rapid increase of membership which was to follow the appreciation of the value of the work which they were undertaking for the good of the British West Indies as a whole. From about 200—the figure at which it stood twenty years ago—the membership has risen to 1,870, and it becomes very apparent to every visitor to the West India Committee Rooms that the Committee has completely outgrown its present accommodation, and that the need for a move to more commodious premises has become very pressing. Apart from improved offices for the staff, a reference library—which, as far as West Indian matters are concerned, it is hoped to make the most complete in London—a lecture-room and a new writing-room for members are greatly needed. In order to provide for these, and for much-needed assistance for the Secretary, who unaided can hardly be expected to cope with all the many new problems affecting the welfare of the West Indies which are constantly cropping up, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman have issued an appeal for contributions towards a Special Fund of at least £20,000, the interest on which will enable these objects to be carried out. During the past quarter of a century the West India Committee have raised many emergency and relief funds, notably the Montserrat Fund of 1897, the Jamaica Hurricane Fund of 1903, and the Codrington College Sustentation Fund of 1899. They have, too, been the means of initiating several, and have actively supported all, of the Mansion House Funds necessitated by the hurricanes of 1898 and 1899, the St. Vincent eruption of 1902, and the Jamaica earthquake of 1907, and by their representations to the Government they were largely instrumental in securing the grants-in-aid which followed those catastrophes. They also secured for the West Indies—as documentary evidence can prove—the £250,000 grant-in-aid voted by the Imperial Parliament to the West Indies in 1902 in circumstances which will be familiar to our readers.

More recently they organised the appeal for funds which enabled the West Indian Contingent Committee to carry out its charitable object successfully as it has done. These circumstances should, we venture to think, justify the various West Indian Governments making grants towards the West India Committee's endowment fund—the precedent for which exists in the support which they similarly afforded to the Anti-Bounty League in the nineties. They will, we hope, also prompt the various Agricultural and Commercial Societies in the West Indies and the communities generally to respond to the appeal now issued. The members of the Executive and companies with which they are associated have already contributed over £5,750 towards the desired sum, in spite of the disabilities to which they are subject through the income-tax, super-tax, and excess profits duty, and it is hoped that those in the West Indies who are not subject to such taxation will also generously support the Special Fund which we commend to their favourable consideration.

Some Neglected Resources.

DURING the recent visit of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation to London much stress was laid, at interviews with prominent capitalists, on the possible utilisation of water-power in British Guiana. With coal, as it now is, at almost prohibitive prices, the question is becoming more and more important. It was taken up prominently by SIR WILFRED COLLET some months ago, and experts were appointed to investigate the potentialities of the colony in respect of hydraulic power. Their report is now eagerly awaited, and we have every reason to believe that it will prove to be favourable. At present water is running out to sea which could easily generate electric power, work the existing railways and sugar factories, could supply a railway to Manaos and its branch lines, and could cut, haul and saw hundreds of millions of feet of lumber, thus giving employment to an immense population. By their utilisation as water-power the cataracts which have hitherto postponed the exploration and development of the interior by making navigation of the great rivers so difficult from some 60 or 70 miles inland, might thus be turned into a valuable source of wealth. In Jamaica the value of water-power has been appreciated, and every visitor to the island must have seen the flumes and dams on the Rio Cobre, whose water generates the tramway system of Kingston. Our other West Indian islands are, unfortunately, not so favoured in respect of water power, their rivers, in most cases, being usually dry when they are not, on the other hand, for brief spaces of time raging torrents. There are, however, other resources which are neglected, and we are glad to learn in this connection that MR. ALEX. DUCKHAM, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has called the attention of the Trinidad Government to the desirability of conserving the vast quantities of gas which

emanates from the oil wells of the island. We are informed that many new wells give from some 40,000 to 100,000 cubic feet of gas daily, while in some cases the yield may be often nearer 500,000 cubic feet for a time. Now, inasmuch as about 40,000 cubic feet of gas are equal to 1 ton of oil in calorific value, the daily gas yield from a well may well equal in heat value to 1, 2, or even 12 tons of oil. At present the oilfields themselves use as much gas as they can for fuel purposes, but the excess over their requirements is allowed to vanish into thin air. Would it not be worth while for the local Government to erect gasometers for the collection of this gas, and to lay pipe-lines from them to San Fernando and Port of Spain, where the gas could be used for lighting, cooking stoves, boiler plants, gas engines, &c.? Oil companies, as a rule, are too busy winning oil to pay attention to the use of gas for public utility purposes, and it would appear to rest with the Government or local authorities to arrange for the transmission of gas to points of consumption. Once a system of collecting lines and pump station have been installed, new fields can always be tapped, and we feel, therefore, that MR. DUCKHAM's suggestions are worthy of most careful consideration.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Important Developments Projected.

The following letter, signed by Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. H. A. Trotter, was addressed to every member of the West India Committee on October 28th:

DEAR SIR,—Now that the work of the Contingent Committee, which has absorbed so much of the time and energy of our staff during the last four years, is drawing to a close, the moment is, we venture to think, opportune for considering the future of the West India Committee.

During recent years the scope and also, we believe, the usefulness of the work of the Committee have greatly expanded, and it is our aim to increase them still further.

Whilst the war was in progress the Committee dealt successfully with many problems affecting materially the prosperity of the staple industries of the British West Indies, and since the cessation of hostilities effect has been given to the policy of Imperial Preference, the adoption of which they have so consistently advocated for many years.

Now that Peace has been signed it is certain that many important matters will call for the attention of the Committee in connection with the work of reconstruction, and it will be our endeavour to secure continuity of policy in respect of the preferential treatment of West Indian products in the markets of the United Kingdom.

In order that this work may be effectively carried out, it is essential that assistance should be found for the Secretary, and that more commodious and convenient premises should be acquired.

During the last twenty years the membership of the Committee has increased from 300 to 1,870, and it is no longer within the powers of the Secretary adequately to carry out the policy of the Executive, besides interviewing visitors, compiling and editing the fortnightly CIRCULAR, and attending to the hundred and one details of the management of the affairs of the Committee, without further assistance. The need for securing more

suitable offices must be obvious to every visitor to the Committee Rooms.

In the circumstances it has been decided to raise a Special Fund of at least £20,000 to enable these objects to be carried out.

During the past twenty years the West India Committee has raised and actively supported many funds for the direct benefit of the West Indian colonies, but has never appealed for special contributions for its own organisation. It is hoped, therefore, that this appeal may meet with a generous response, so that the West India Committee, which is the oldest, but by no means the least active, colonial body in the United Kingdom, may be placed on a more substantial and satisfactory footing.

Contributions may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3, and it is proposed to publish the full list of subscribers in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR from time to time.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"ALLIGATOR lay egg, but him no fowl."

* * *

THE importation of alcohol into French West Africa has been totally prohibited as from October 1st.

* * *

THE Government have announced their decision not to pay royalties on the oil discovered in Derbyshire.

* * *

MR. C. H. RICKMAN, who retired from the position of a Special Commissioner of Income-tax in March last, has accepted the invitation of the Government of Jamaica to place his services at their disposal for a period of two years to advise and assist in connection with the introduction of an income-tax in the colony. Mr. Rickman is leaving for Jamaica by s.s. *Coronado* on November 10th.

* * *

THE British Sugar Refiners' Association has been incorporated as a company limited by guarantee with permission to omit the word "limited" from its title. Its objects are "to promote and protect the commercial interests of British sugar refiners, and to define trade usages, customs, &c." The committee comprises Mr. E. Tate, Sir Robert P. Lyle, Mr. L. A. Martin, of London, Mr. J. Fairrie, of Liverpool, and Mr. R. Kerr, of Glasgow.

* * *

THE number of inquiries recently received by the West India Committee clearly indicates a marked revival of interest in the West Indies as a winter resort. Unfortunately, it is to be feared that, owing to lack of passenger accommodation, many intending tourists will be shut out. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that winter cruises from New York to the West Indies are to be resumed by the White Star Line, and that the first cruise will be undertaken by the *Majestic* early in the new year.

* * *

A SETTLER who intends to take up the cultivation of cacao, limes, oranges, or similar permanent crops in St. Lucia should, says an official leaflet supplied to the West India Committee for distribution, preferably have for a cultivation of 50 to 100 acres a capital of about £2,000 to £3,000, though small beginnings may be made with less. With such a sum it would be necessary to proceed cautiously and to study economy until his plantations begin to give some return. With a large capital, say £3,000 to £5,000, estates with bearing cacao or

limes capable of improvement and extension, would probably prove a better investment than the opening up of new land only. A well-managed cacao or lime estate may be expected to give an average net return of at least 10 to 15 per cent. on the capital invested.

* * *

ALL previous records for a single cane-sugar factory have been beaten by the Central Delicias, in the Oriente province in Cuba, which, in the season just ended, turned out over 100,000 tons (of 2,240 lb.) of sugar. It will be unnecessary to remind readers of the CIRCULAR that this remarkable figure exceeds the average annual output of the whole of Barbados by 30,000 to 40,000 tons, and is within about 20,000 tons of the entire yield of all the factories in Demerara. To put it in another way, the Central Delicias could take off in a single season the present annual crops of Jamaica and Trinidad combined.

* * *

THE Council of the Jamaica Imperial Association, at a meeting held on August 20th, passed the following resolution: "That, in view of the vital importance of encouraging the growth of agriculture in the West Indies on scientific lines, the Jamaica Imperial Association strongly recommends to His Majesty's Government that there should be a continuance on a liberal scale of the Imperial Grant made to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies; that a copy of this resolution should be forwarded to the West India Committee, with a request that they will use every effort to advance the views above indicated."

* * *

WE extend our rather belated, but none the less sincere, congratulations to our valued contemporary the *International Sugar Journal* upon the attainment of its jubilee in August last. Born at Manchester on August 2nd, 1869, as the *Sugar Cane*, it is now published in London. The West India Committee is fortunate in possessing an almost complete set of this journal, and glancing over numbers at random one is struck by the high quality of the matter throughout. Originally the journal was devoted to the interests of the sugar-cane industry only, but with the rapid development of beet the proprietors, being gifted with imagination, wisely extended the scope of the periodical to include that industry, about which those connected with cane-sugar were anxious for information no less than those immediately concerned with it. This necessitated the change of name. Under the guidance of Mr. Norman Rodger, the present most capable editor, the *International Sugar Journal* has increased in stature and in favour of sugar-men all the world over.

* * *

SIR FRANCIS WATTS, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, who leaves for Barbados in the *Spheroid* tomorrow, anticipated the advice of Mr. Lloyd George that during their holidays Ministers and heads of departments should keep in close touch with their offices in these exceptional times. Throughout his short holiday he has been actively engaged on the business concerning the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the proposed Tropical Agricultural College, which has taken up much of his time. Speaking of the work of the department and of its head, Colonel Amery, M.P., recently said: "I do not think there is anybody who is connected with the West Indies in particular, or indeed with the development of the British Empire as a whole, who does not recognise the great debt of gratitude which we all owe Mr. Chamberlain for starting the Imperial Department of Agriculture, to Sir Daniel Morris, the first head of the department, and to Sir Francis Watts for the long years of valuable work that he has given to the department. We hope that he may be able to continue his valuable work for many years to come." This sentiment we cordially endorse.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. Clementi's Valuable Report.

The "Report on the Condition of the Colony of British Guiana during the Great European War, and on the Chief Local Problems awaiting Solution," compiled by Mr. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of our South American Colony, and recently presented to the Combined Court, is quite the most complete and informative publication regarding British Guiana which has been issued in recent years, if, indeed, ever. Covering 135 foolscap pages, it forms a complete epitome of all that the most meticulous investigator could wish to learn regarding the "Magnificent Province."

Within the compass of the CIRCULAR it is not possible to do more than touch very briefly on the facts and figures in this valuable document. Reviewing the question of population, Mr. Clementi lays stress on the fact that, despite artificial additions by immigration, the increase in the total population during the past five years was only at the rate of 4 per mille per annum, and he rightly concludes that a sound solution of the immigration problem is vital to the future development of the colony, and that no effort should be spared to lay truly and well the basis of a colonisation scheme. A preliminary step in this direction has been the inauguration of the Colonisation Fund.

"Few," he writes, "will be disposed to deny that in a colony which is as extensive as the combined area of England, Scotland and Wales, but which has a population less than that of Hertfordshire, and in which the cultivated area is about one-fifth the size of Kent, a sound scheme of colonisation is essential to progress and development. Few, again, will deny that a tropical colony which desires by means of immigration to increase the number of its effective colonists from 303,519 to several million souls must look for immigrants to tropical countries—such as India and China, where the population is reckoned in hundreds of millions, and where rapid procreation results periodically in extreme economic pressure on the inhabitants. But indentured immigration to British Guiana in the past, both from India and from China, failed as a colonisation scheme, because it was neither initiated, nor yet pursued, in the interests of colonisation. The planters needed adult male labourers, and were therefore indifferent to the low percentage of females introduced. The labour required by the sugar estates fluctuated; the planters did not therefore trouble to maintain the steady annual demand which might have served to accustom the minds of the labouring classes in India and South China to the idea of emigrating to British Guiana. Above all, the necessity of establishing cheap, regular and direct lines of communication between this colony on one hand and India and China on the other was entirely ignored. Contract emigration is an inversion of the process of Nature, for it means that by a purely artificial organisation the surplus labour of one country is exported to another country. It does not establish any commercial or other intercourse between the two countries, least of all when the countries are on opposite sides of the globe. The natural process demands, in the first place, facility of transit between the countries concerned. Facility of transit brings with it commerce, and spreads in each country knowledge of the other. The law of supply and demand then takes effect, and the country which has an excessive population supplies the demand of the sparsely populated country as naturally

and as inevitably as, when a connecting channel has been cut, the overflow of water from a higher level gravitates to a lower level. The tide of emigration, once set flowing, both countries benefit—the one because emigration makes the struggle for existence less severe, the other because immigration peoples the land, thereby making progress and development possible."

He next deals with public health and sanitation, and the disclosures he makes in this connection form a startling indictment of successive administrations, the system of sewage disposal in Georgetown, for example, being described by Dr. K. S. Wise as "a disgusting anachronism" and "a continuous and serious menace of the health of the city," this authority further declaring that "the city veritably floats on sewage," in truth a disgraceful state of affairs which it is to be hoped will be remedied as the outcome of the recent conference in London on this subject, to which reference was made in a recent CIRCULAR. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Clementi apprehends a serious depletion in the medical service, it being probable that out of a total medical staff of thirty-six the services of no fewer than thirty-three doctors will have been lost in a decade owing to transfers and retirements.

If Mr. Clementi fearlessly discloses the skeletons in the cupboards, he also honestly refers to such improvements as have been and are to be effected—notably in connection with the development of artesian wells, towards which Mr. E. C. Buck is doing so much.

Lines of Communication.

Lines of communication are next dealt with—

"Seeing that this empty land cannot be peopled adequately except by immigration, it is very important that communication with the outside world should be speedy, cheap and regular. But how stands the case? British Guiana is bounded on three sides by three different countries—Venezuela, Brazil, and Dutch Guiana—and on one side by the Atlantic Ocean; yet to this day there is no overland line of communication between this colony and any of its three neighbours on the South American Continent, nor is there water-borne communication save with Dutch Guiana. Passengers and goods bound for Dutch Guiana can travel by Dutch Government steamers from Georgetown to Nickerie and Paramaribo, and until the year 1916 Messrs. Sproston, Limited, of Georgetown, maintained a steamer service, now discontinued, between Georgetown, Nickerie and Paramaribo. But passengers and goods bound from Georgetown for either Venezuela or Brazil must tranship at Trinidad or at Barbados."

Passing over the importance of improving Georgetown Harbour, on which Mr. Clementi lays much stress, we come to his views regarding the hinterland railway question:—

"It is an astonishing fact that, although the frontier of British Guiana marches for 435 miles with that of Venezuela, for 762 miles with that of Brazil, and for 440 miles with that of Dutch Guiana, not a single cart-road or railroad crosses at any point these 1,637 miles of land frontier. Nor is this due to any natural obstacles. On the contrary, Nature herself has made an avenue of approach by means of the Cuyuni river from Venezuela into the heart of British Guiana, and nowhere is the watershed between the Amazon and the northern coast of South America so low as in British Guiana, where the water-parting between the savannahs of the Rupununi, a tributary of the Essequibo river, and the Takutu,

a tributary of the Amazon, is only 400 ft. above sea-level. West of the Rupununi there is no outlet to the northern coast except through difficult and mountainous country. Thus Nature herself has made the Rupununi savannahs a highway between British Guiana and Brazil. Moreover, as the port of Georgetown, even in its present condition, is the best and safest harbour between the estuaries of the Amazon and the Orinoco, and as a line between Buenos Aires and Georgetown over 40 deg. of latitude runs due north and south, both cities lying close to the 58th degree of west longitude, with the large port of Manaus 908 miles up the Amazon almost directly between them, Nature herself seems to have destined Georgetown to be one of the Atlantic terminal points in that gigantic railroad system which, without doubt, will one day traverse the centre of the South American continent from the estuary of the Rio de la Plata to the Isthmus of Panama, and pass on to connect in Mexico with the railways of the North American continent."

A layman would be inclined to ask whether Americans would not prefer a direct railroad through Central America as the most effective means of linking North with South America, but Mr. Clementi's views must carry weight. He continues:—

"Why has nothing so far been done to exploit these great natural advantages? The answer is lack of population and lack of funds. Governor Sir Walter Egerton, who had a thorough appreciation of the possibilities of the situation, undertook in 1913 a journey from Georgetown to the Rupununi savannahs, accompanied by Mr. E. M. Bland, a railway engineer, and on his return he recommended, in a despatch dated the 5th January, 1914, the construction of a railway from Georgetown to San Laurenço, a point on the Takutu river where it forms the frontier between British Guiana and Brazil. Mr. Bland estimated the length of such a railway to be 345 miles, and its cost, including a large bridge over the Essequibo river, to be \$6,240,000. The annual working expenses he calculated to be \$960 a mile, or \$331,200 per annum, and the revenue, five years after the opening of the line to traffic, would, he believed, be \$240,000 per annum. Sir Walter, however, realised that an enterprise of this magnitude could not be initiated by the colony single-handed, and he asked for the assistance of His Majesty's Government. Mr. L. V. Harcourt replied in a despatch, dated the 21st April, 1914, that Mr. Bland had probably underestimated the cost of labour for constructing the railway; that Parliament would be unlikely to take the unprecedented course either of making a loan of indefinite duration for the construction of the railway, or of annually supplementing a deficiency of revenue deliberately incurred by a self-supporting community for a purpose in which the inhabitants of the United Kingdom were only remotely interested; and that the Secretary of State must be in a position to exercise, in the last resort, complete control over the raising and spending of the colonial revenues, as well as over all legislation, before he could take the responsibility of submitting to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury any proposal for a loan to the colony. This stipulated change in the constitution, which is the condition upon which any further discussion of the possibility of Imperial assistance must proceed, had not been definitely accepted by the colony when in August, 1914, the European war broke out, and the railway project was, for the time being, laid aside."

(To be continued.)

Of 158 commercial ships which passed through the Panama Canal in July—the latest month for which statistics are available—60 were British and 74 American. As the Canal was not opened until after the outbreak of war, neither the German nor the Austrian flag have yet been seen in it.

WEST INDIAN SHIPPING.

Departmental Committee's Report.

As we go to press we learn that the Report of the West Indian Shipping Committee, which was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in September, 1918, has been presented to Parliament. The full summary of this important document will be published in next CIRCULAR. Meanwhile it must suffice to state that the principal recommendations are:—

(a) That a direct mail and passenger service, with a fixed time-table, should be established as soon as possible, and be maintained between the United Kingdom and the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana.

(b) That tenders should be called for within a year's time for both a three-weekly and a fortnightly service, and that the Governments concerned should then decide what service they can initiate; that the only adequate service would be one providing for steamers sailing fortnightly, and carrying not less than 120 first-class passengers.

(c) That in the meantime no subsidised service should be maintained with the United Kingdom.

(d) That every effort should be made to open up and develop the colony of British Guiana.

(e) That Trinidad is, on the whole, the most convenient port of transshipment for any branch services.

(f) That, if possible, a joint policy should be adopted by the British and Canadian Governments, so as to allow of a continuous service, by way of the West Indies, between Canada and the United Kingdom.

(g) That, if direct communication between Jamaica and the United Kingdom can be secured by the diversion of some service proceeding through the Panama Canal, a small subsidy would be worth paying for the purpose of securing such communication.

(h) That every support should be accorded to such efforts as the Canadian Government may make to open up or maintain steamship communication between the Dominion and Bermuda, the Bahama Islands, Jamaica, and British Honduras.

(i) That no attempt can at present be made with advantage by the Governments concerned to institute air services at their own expense, but that any experiments undertaken by private enterprise should be watched with a view to gaining experience.

(j) That such action as is practicable should be taken upon our suggestions in regard to the French surtax and the Venezuelan surtax.

(k) That any means possible should be taken in order to improve the accommodation on board ship for the labourers who travel locally between the islands.

The personnel of the Committee was as follows: Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P. (Chairman); Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., and Mr. E. R. Darnley, Colonial Office; Captain Alan Hotham, R.N., C.M.G., Admiralty; Mr. H. F. Carlill, Board of Trade; Commander E. L. Ashley Foakes, R.N., O.B.E., General Post Office; Mr. E. Baynes, Ministry of Shipping; Mr. W. S. Glenny, O.B.E., Department of Overseas Trade; Sir M. Cameron, K.C.M.G., Crown Agents; Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. A. Trotter and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., the West India Committee; Sir Owen Phillips, G.C.M.G., M.P.; Mr. J. H. Scrutton; Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G.; Sir R. S. Johnstone; and Mr. R. A. Wiseman, Secretary.

EXPERIMENTS are being conducted by the Japanese Government to determine the effect of saccharine on the public health. For sixteen years the importation of that drug into Japan has been prohibited.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

The Sea Island Cotton Revival.

Some further extracts from Sir Daniel Morris's valuable address to the Botanical Section of the British Association at their recent meeting:—

The most valuable of all cottons is that known as "Sea Island" cotton owing to its introduction and successful cultivation on the coastal areas in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. With regard to this, it is interesting to learn that in recent years Sea Island cotton has been introduced back again to the West Indies, which was probably its original home.

This was effected by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies in 1902, when a pure strain of seed raised from plants immune to wilt disease was obtained in quantity from James Island. This insured that the industry from the first was placed on a firm basis, and with the hearty co-operation of the planters an important West Indian cotton industry was successfully established. For some years the West Indian cotton has obtained a higher price than the corresponding grades of cotton from the Sea Islands themselves. The fine spinners in Lancashire are now practically independent for their supplies of this cotton from the United States. Further, it is no improbable, owing to the serious attacks of the Mexican boll weevil on cotton plants in South Carolina and Georgia, the West Indies may become the only source of supply of fine Sea Island cotton. To enable the cotton industry to be established in the West Indies it was necessary from the first to ascertain the best type of cotton to grow in each island, how to plant and cultivate it, how to protect it from insect and fungus trouble, and how to maintain or improve the quality and quantity of the lint produced. The results so far obtained may be realised from the fact that the value of the exports of Sea Island cotton from the West Indies in recent years has reached a total of two millions sterling. The general conditions in the West Indian islands, owing to their small size and comparative isolation, should enable them to maintain a high purity of cotton. In Egypt and other cotton-growing countries with continuous areas contamination by natural crossing leads to rapid deterioration of pure strains so that a system of continued seed renewal is necessary. Harland, whose services in the West Indies have been provided by a grant from the Imperial Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has in hand important investigations with the view of placing the work of cotton selection and breeding on scientific lines.

He has shown that the yield of lint per acre depends on a number of factors of a morphological and physiological character. In a general way it may be said that the yield is dependent on the climatic conditions, so an effort is being made to produce varieties which will interact with the environment conditions to the best advantage. Although Harland's work so far is of a preliminary character, he is able to suggest the conclusion that following certain lines of selection and breeding, and bearing in mind the relative importance of lint index and lint percentage, it is possible to isolate a strain of Sea Island cotton with a weight of lint per boll 31 per cent. greater than that of the ordinary sorts in cultivation.

Considerable losses occur in some seasons from the attacks of insect and fungous pests. In some instances the internal boll disease is very destructive. This is due to the puncture of the young bolls by cotton stainers (*Dysdercus*) and green bug (*Nezara*), and the infection of the punctured locks or bolls by certain specific fungi.

The green bug is naturally controlled by egg parasites, but the cotton stainers are subject to little or no control. In St. Vincent highly successful results have followed

the systematic cutting out, over the whole island, of two species of trees (sea-side mahoe and the silk cotton) on the fruits of which the cotton stainers breed during the period between the cotton crops. The investigation of the internal boll disease has entailed wide research, and illustrates the great complexity of problems in tropical plant pathology, as also the need of correlation and the combination of knowledge obtained by simultaneous action from several points of view.

A point of scientific interest is the inheritance of immunity in cotton from the attacks of the leaf-blister mite (*Eriophyes gossypii*). Harland believes he has obtained this by crossing an immune type of native cotton with a susceptible type of Southern Cross Upland cotton. In the F₂ generation all the plants breed true to immunity. This is important from an economic point of view, for it may lead to the possibility of the production of an immune strain of Sea Island.

Cacao on the Gold Coast.

Probably the most remarkable instance on record of the successful combination of science and enterprise in the Tropics is the establishment of a cacao-growing industry in the colony of the Gold Coast, West Africa. Thirty years ago no cacao of any kind was produced on the Coast. Owing, however, to the foresight of the then Governor (Sir William Bradford Griffith), who sought the powerful aid of Kew, cacao growing was started in a small way among the negro peasantry, with eventually extraordinary results. After selecting the locality for the experiments, seeds and plants were obtained through Kew, and a trained man was placed in charge. The first exports in 1891 amounted to a value of £4 only. So rapid was the development of the industry that ten years later the exports reached a value of £43,000. By this time both the people and the Government had begun to realise the possibilities of the situation, and systematic steps were taken to organise under scientific control a staff of travelling agricultural instructors to advise and assist the cultivators in dealing with fungoid and insect pests and improve the quality of the produce. In 1911 the exports had increased nearly fourfold, and reached a total value of £1,613,000, while in 1916, what may possibly be regarded as the maximum exports, were of the value of £3,847,720.

It should be borne in mind that this Gold Coast cacao industry—now one of the largest in the world—has been called into being and developed entirely by the agency of unskilled negro labour, and on small plots from one to five or ten acres in extent. The controlling factors were, first, the selection of suitable land for cacao growing; next, the selection and supply of seeds and plants of varieties adapted to local conditions; and, lastly, the advice and tactful assistance of trained Europeans backed by the resources of science.

On the application of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, and the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Limited, under section 42 (1) of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, as respects "the business of manufacturing cane sugar in the British West Indies," the Board of Referees have issued an Order increasing the statutory percentage in connection with the Excess Profits Duty to 7 per cent. It will be recalled that in 1917 the West India Committee and the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow secured increases in the statutory percentage as respects "the business of growing sugar-canes, or growing and manufacturing cane sugar, in the British West Indies and in British Guiana" to 11 per cent. in the case of companies.*

* THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 478, January 25th, 1917, p. 29.

THE TRINIDAD FARMERS' CROP.

AGRICULTURE IN TRINIDAD.

The cane-farming industry in Trinidad continues to prosper. In 1918-19 it gave employment to no fewer than 12,370 East Indians and 8,568 West Indians, who produced 270,324 tons of cane, for which they received \$1,210,155. These figures are in every case the largest yet recorded, and are well ahead of those for 1918, when there was a set-back due to the

It is stated by Mr. W. G. Freeman, Acting Director of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, in his report for the year 1918, that the exports of cacao were 58,638,562 lb., of the value of £1,547,085. Although over 11,400,000 lb. below the record year 1917, the crop was in excess of any other excepting that of 1914. The development of the colony's

ESTATE.	Total Sugar made. Tons.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes.	Tons of Estate Canes Ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased.	Amount Paid for Canes.	No. of Farmers.	
						East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle ...	2,910	2,270	25,401	7,650	\$ 33,018	349	220
Bronte ...	2,922	1,794	19,784	14,049	60,690	545	169
Caroni ...	3,360	|| 1,515	18,951	23,061	88,383	1,603	925
Cedar Grove ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Craignish ...	743	240	3,068	6,351	27,436	400	205
Esperanza ...	1,663	820	10,525	11,382	51,620	506	267
Forres Park ...	1,851	1,325	15,593	6,790	29,325	430	122
Golden Grove ...	407	60	1,089	6,581	28,430	120	185
Hindustan ...	773	203	2,342	6,560	28,339	364	420
La Florissant†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mon Desir ...	144	—	—	1,077	4,303	|| 10	|| 15
Malgretoute §	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reform ...	669	|| 191	3,447	6,870	29,651	|| 500	*400
Tacarigua Factory	2,940	1,381	18,195	21,033	100,911	911	977
La Fortuné ...	2,573	1,540	16,698	11,245	48,578	|| 404	*371
Usine St. Madeleine	16,482	9,490	95,570	72,551	313,320	4,322	2,392
Waterloo ...	7,702	2,387	26,020	58,028	292,301	1,300	1,450
Woodford Lodge ‡	2,711	1,440	18,837	17,096	73,850	597	368
	47,850	24,656	275,451	270,324	1,210,155	12,370	8,568
Return for 1918	45,256	22,544	252,783	266,144	\$ 812,247	12,158	8,244
" " 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	1,608,665	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	496,630	7,450	5,253
" " 1913	42,331	31,095	346,912	136,724	330,364	6,942	5,513
" " 1912	40,936	27,856	315,762	151,697	358,428	6,983	6,042
" " 1911	46,718	32,539	366,599	165,720	357,560	6,621	6,391
" " 1910	51,950	37,446	454,530	176,447	412,658	6,443	5,820
" " 1909	52,972	39,553	451,891	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	397,912	237,844	469,122	6,127	5,446
" " 1906	62,975	39,735	244,418	144,868	432,053	5,424	5,462
" " 1905	38,240	—	385,015	171,947	360,046	4,646	4,685
" " 1904	50,744	—	373,577	169,709	340,527	6,557	5,777
" " 1903	47,778	1,669	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	53,837	1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
" " 1898	58,109	—	—	105,733	202,901	2,326	3,824

* Canes sold to La Fortuné.
|| Estimated.

† Crop of 1,152 tons canes sold to Tacarigua Factory.
§ Included in last St. Madeleine returns.

‡ 95 tons of syrups estimated.
¶ From Collens' Year Book.

ravages of the froghopper, &c. There is, indeed, every indication that the industry is in a prosperous condition. We are indebted to Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co. for the above comparative table of the cane-farming and sugar-crop returns from 1898-1918.

premier industry is indicated by the following figures:—

1878	...	10,258,304 lb.
1888	...	21,352,912 "
1898	...	24,340,960 "
1908	...	49,137,088 "
1918	...	58,638,562 "

RECORDS of the Dutch cocoa industry date back to 1847, when the imports of cacao were 225,000 kilos. By 1913 they had increased to 43,191,000 kilos, of which 13,211,039 kilos were exported, and when difficulties due to the war are out of the way it is expected that Holland's requirements will still further expand.

Noteworthy years in the history of the industry were 1914 and 1917, when the crops were 63,447,876 lb. and 70,144,898 lb. respectively.

There was no serious outbreak of disease of any kind, and much greater freedom than during recent

years from thrips, black pod, and algal (*Cephaleuros*) diseases.

Experimental work was continued at River Estate and on private properties. The application of manures was discontinued temporarily owing to their prohibitive cost. An experiment in budding, with seedlings from the same selected trees as a control, was started on another private estate, and encouraging progress made both at River and on private properties with the new experiments of converting poor bearers into heavy bearers by budding on to chupons (or suckers) after the original tree has been cut back. It is too early yet for results to be obtainable.

The sugar crop was exceptionally short, owing to the ravages of the frog-hopper (*Tomaspis saccharina*). The coconut industry continued to prosper, though exports showed a slight decrease, being equivalent to 37,896,358 nuts. The rubber industry continues to expand, the exports being 39,517 lb.—nearly twice the total for 1917 (22,224 lb.). On one estate 16,000 hevea trees were tapped. Other estates are also tapping hevea, and several have made scrap rubber from castilloa. On the other hand, a large number of castilloa have been cut out, the yield from this plant, when cultivated, being much below what had been hoped for. As not unfrequently happens in such cases, the policy of exterminating castilloa has been carried to excess, and well-grown trees, which might have been made a source of profit, have been ruthlessly felled. Hevea has undoubtedly been proved the best rubber tree for cultivation in the colony.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM KENRICK WILLOUGHBY SHAND, who, we regret to state, died at Marseilles on his way home from India, was the younger son of the late Mr. Charles Arthur Shand, of Antigua, and for some time Magistrate of Nevis, and only brother of Mr. Francis B. Shand, barrister-at-law, formerly of Dominica. Born in the former island on July 7th, 1899, he was educated at the Antigua Grammar School and Ontario Business College, Ontario, Canada. William Shand was one of the large number of former pupils of the Venerable Archdeacon Branch, Head Master of the Antigua Grammar School, who did their duty to King and country. He was an all-round athlete, who, if business had not claimed him at an early age, would have got very near championship form as a quarter-mile. At the outbreak of war he was partner in a firm of accountants in Montreal, but he gave up his work and came over to England in 1915 to join up. He obtained a commission in the 3rd Norfolk Regiment, and after a period of training and conducting drafts to France he went out in the following year to Mesopotamia, where he participated in the brilliant campaign during which Baghdad was captured, taking part in all the important engagements. Having contracted malaria and rheumatic fever, he was invalided in 1917 to India, where, on his partial recovery, he was employed as bombing officer training troops at various Indian stations. He was invalided home in September, but on October 13th, immediately after landing at Marseilles en route for England, he collapsed and died a few hours later of valvular disease of the heart. He was laid to rest in the British Military Cemetery at the French port.

CORONA CLUB DINNER.

Tribute to Colonial Civil Service.

Many past as well as present members of the West Indian branch of the Colonial Civil Service were present at the sixteenth Annual Dinner of the Corona Club, which was held on October 9th at the Connaught Rooms.

In proposing the toast of the Club, Lord Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who presided, made a spirited speech, in the course of which he remarked that it was partly due to men in the Colonial service that the machinery of government was carried on throughout the war as steadily as in times of peace, and nowhere, in all our vast territories, was there any breakdown of administration. The wonderful stability of the Empire in that period was very striking evidence of the loyalty of the many diverse races composing it, despite the efforts made by the enemy to sow the seeds of disaffection and revolt. There were some disturbances, no doubt, but they were not more than we should have had in normal times, and nothing like so serious as other Powers had experienced. Such troubles as there had been were with our older colonies, but in our newly acquired territories the most profound tranquillity had been maintained.

The more any community in the Empire made progress and became prosperous the more certain it was that there would be an increase in the demands for a greater share of self-government. It had always been the case, but it was more the case to-day than ever, when the whole world was intoxicated with the new wine of self-determination. Doubtless they would lay down the general principle that they should lean as far as possible to giving the people the management of their own local affairs; but there was another side to this subject of progressive policy in which the road was much more clear, and which they could travel along with far less hesitation. He was thinking of the development of the material resources of our colonies and protectorates. An immense amount of work lay before us in that direction, and he would always continue to do everything in his power to get all the money he could for colonial development. He observed that some of our Dominions were becoming interested in the colonies which were nearest to them, and he thought this tendency ought to be encouraged. If any misunderstanding arose between headquarters and any of the colonies they were not due to any want of sympathy with the men at the outposts of Empire, but to the fact that they were not often able to meet together. He intended to get all the money he could for the development of the colonies, although there were difficulties in these days of rampant economy. The efforts of the Corona Club in renewing old acquaintances in the colonies were therefore invaluable.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on November 6th, between Theed Pearce, of Courtenay, B.C., and Elizabeth Margaret (Elma), elder daughter of the late Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., formerly Governor of the Windward Islands, and Lady Llewelyn, Campbelltown, Argyll.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

In a former note on the baobab it was mentioned that a few trees were known to be growing in the West Indies. The Report of the Antigua Agricultural Department says that there are two specimens growing in that island. The trunks of these trees are stated to be of an immense size, having, like "Tom Cringle's" famous cotton tree on the Spanish Town road in Jamaica, "twenty feet through of solid timber." It would be interesting to know their age. Tussac, in his *Flora des Antilles* speaks of one growing in St. Domingo twenty-five years old and four feet in diameter. Sir William Hooker published coloured drawings of the flowers in the *Botanical Magazine* which he made from specimens sent him by the Rev. Mr. Guilding from a tree growing in St. Vincent in 1827. Others are reported from Jamaica, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. This singular tree can be grown either from seeds or cuttings.

Attempts have been made from time to time to utilise megass as a paper-making material. Two of these were made in the West Indies—one in Cuba by the United Fruit Company and the other in Trinidad. Failure in all has been due largely to a lack of comprehension of the characteristics of megass, or to the supposition that it could be converted into a grade of paper to which it was inherently ill adapted. The paper made was wrapping and coarse papers, which had to compete with cheap straw paper. Apparently no large-scale industrial attempt has been made to use megass in which the fibre has been separated from the pith. The Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association has published in their Bulletin No. 46 a report by an expert, Mr. A. D. Little, on the paper-making qualities of Hawaiian bagasse. This excellent technical pamphlet should be consulted by all who are considering the question of using megass as a paper material.

The history of the introduction of cinchona into India through the efforts of Sir Clements Markham was referred to lately in the CIRCULAR. The method of preparation of sulphate of quinine was for long a trade secret. But the energy and perseverance of Sir G. King, Superintendent of the Calcutta Botanic Gardens, at length triumphed. The Government factory was able to supply packets containing 10 grains of quinine at 1 pice each for home consumption. It worked up all the bark from the Government plantations as well as from private plantations. But the amount of bark was never sufficient for the needs of India, and the Government is at the mercy of the foreign grower for part of the indispensable minimum. It has been in contemplation since the beginning of the war to form an Imperial Cinchona Department to grow all that India needs on Indian territory, and, if possible, all that the Empire requires within the British dominions. The report of the Madras Cinchona Department for 1918-19 anticipates that the Imperial Department will be constituted during the present year.

Agricultural Credit Societies in Trinidad and Tobago were referred to in the last instalment of "Nature Notes." Since then the report has been received on the Agricultural Credit Societies of St. Vincent for 1918-19. It appears that there are 1,060 members in twenty-one societies in different parts of the island. The total loans since the establishment of societies in 1913 to March 31st, 1919—a period of about 5½ years—amounted to £13,196, every penny of which has been repaid promptly at the assigned date. Only six societies were registered in 1913, and the increase to

the present number of twenty-one has been gradual but sure. The development has been due to the recognition that members have benefited in their pockets, in self-reliance, and in habits of provident economy. Apparently there is no provision for building up from interest on the loans and donations from well-wishers a reserve of their own. If this could be done, it would not be necessary to depend on the Colonial Bank and other sources.

The "Mountain Pride" of Jamaica (*Spathelia sorbifolia*) is one of the most remarkable and showy of the native plants. It is a tree without branches, 20 ft. to 25 ft. high. The stem is only 3 in. in diameter at the base, bearing all the leaves palm-like near the top. As the stem grows upwards, the lower leaves fall off, leaving conspicuous scars. The leaves are compound, 2 ft. to 4 ft. long, with twenty to forty pairs of leaflets. The flowers are of a crimson-lilac colour, very numerous, appearing when the plant is five or six years old. The flowering stalk arises above the leaves 4 ft. to 6 ft. high, and its lower branches are 3 ft. to 4 ft. long. When in flower it forms a conspicuous object, rising well above the surrounding shrubs. Another species (*S. glabrescens*) grows much higher, 50 ft. to 70 ft. high, and 9 in. in diameter near the base, but it is rarer. It is remarkable from the fact that it dies after ripening the fruit. Other plants which only produce fruit once and then die are agave (sisal hemp, &c.), and corypha (the talipot palm).

The Rothamsted Experimental Station was founded in 1843 by Sir J. B. Lawes. Chemical experiments at first were made in a barn, and manurial trials in two fields. Lawes was fortunate in getting the services of J. H. Gilbert as director of the chemical laboratory. They worked together for fifty-eight years, Lawes bearing the whole expense of the experiments. They devoted themselves to acquiring a knowledge of the soil and the growing crop. On scientific knowledge of these is based the discovery of the scientific principles underlying the operations of agriculture. Lawes died in 1900, but he had endowed the station with £100,000 under a trust. After the death of Gilbert in 1901, Prof. A. D. Hall became director, and worked out a scheme involving a national organisation. Advice was provided for farmers to be given by local advisers, and instruction for those about to engage in farming. An essential part of the scheme was research stations to furnish definite information and precisely ascertained facts, which teachers and advisory experts could make use of. Two of these stations are at Rothamsted—one for the study of soil and plant problems, the other for the study of plant pests and diseases.

Dr. E. J. Russell succeeded Hall in 1912. Developments were necessary to fit Rothamsted into the new national scheme of agricultural education. The old laboratories were insufficient for modern requirements. New buildings have been put up, which were officially opened during the present month. The new buildings, fittings, and farm equipment and buildings have cost about £26,000, of which £10,000 was given by the Government Development Fund. Besides the special work of the research stations, other investigations will be taken in hand, such as the possibility of reducing the wastage of farmyard manure, and the utilisation of sewage as manure. There is also the re-examining and rearranging of existing knowledge, putting it into a form suitable for modern farmers. Special problems in tropical agriculture must be worked out in the tropics, and a West Indian Rothamsted under the auspices and with the help of the Imperial Government and the guidance of Sir Francis Watts will no doubt soon be an accomplished fact.

HOMeward MAILS.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

ST. LUCIA.—A Mishap to the "Vestris."

MR. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, September 15th.—A general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on August 18th. The report submitted by the officers of the Agricultural Department on the working of the Peasant Cacao and Lime Prize Holdings Scheme was read and adopted. Much good work has been done, and the competitions are to be continued. It was urged by certain members that the main public road running along the leeward coast from Castries to Soufriere—a distance of 26 miles—should be made suitable for driving so as to reduce, as far as possible, the great inconvenience now caused to the travelling public in the absence of a coastal steamer. It is probable that the coastal service may be resumed ere long if the present efforts of the authorities meet with the success which they deserve.

On August 20th the troopship *L'annonia* arrived at this port, bringing fifty-two St. Lucians of the B.W.I.R., who, together with other detachments, had embarked in Italy. The troopship entered the harbour at 5.30 p.m., and the men were met by cheering crowds at the wharf. A reception similar to that given to their comrades who returned some weeks ago was given the men, who thoroughly enjoyed the supper prepared for them by the Reception Committee. A detachment of Leeward Islands men were landed at the same time, and after being entertained were taken to their quarters. They proceeded to their destination by the Canadian mail two days later.

News was received by cable that the R.M.S. *Chaudiere* had struck a rock while entering Port Hamilton, Bermuda. This accident resulted in a large hole being made in her starboard side, and will delay her arrival at the port for some weeks. The present cutting out of this port by the Quebec Line of steamers on their southern journey has helped to considerably reduce our shipping opportunities, so that we can ill afford to lose a Canadian boat from the service.

The newly appointed Chief Justice (His Honour A. De Freitas, O.B.E.), with Mrs. De Freitas and youngest son, arrived from Grenada by the R.M.S. *Chignecto* on September 4th. Mr. De Freitas, who was formerly Attorney-General, was Acting Administrator of this colony during the early stages of the war. Mr. T. H. K. Moulder, M.A., Inspector of Schools of this colony for the last four years, has resigned his appointment to take up a post on the teaching staff of Queen's College, British Guiana.

News has been received to the effect that the Very Revd. Father Tapon, F.M.I., will be permitted to return to this colony about the end of October. This news has given much pleasure to the whole community, who are grateful to the Rev. Father Brochard—the popular Cure of Laborie—whose earnest pleadings to his superiors has brought about this happy result. Father Brochard is expected to return to St. Lucia from France early in October. Mr. H. A. Ballou, entomologist on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, paid an official visit to this colony from August 19th to September 5th. Fortunately, pests and diseases in this island have remained normal during the last few years, so this visit of the entomologist was directed chiefly towards obtaining a personal view of the agricultural position generally.

The s.s. *Vestris*, from New York, put into this port with fire in one of her holds on Wednesday, September

10th. Every effort was made by the ship's agents, Messrs. Barnard & Sons, to get the fire under control, but, the means at their disposal proving inadequate, outside assistance had to be sought. H.M.S. *Farmouth* answered the call, and, arriving at daylight on Friday, September 12th, quickly got alongside and commenced pumping water into the burning hold. To avoid unnecessary risks the passengers, numbering about 400, were landed, and are being accommodated at various hotels and boarding-houses in Castries, and at the military buildings at the Vigie. The fire was finally mastered this afternoon, Monday, September 15th, but it is impossible at present to ascertain the extent of the damage done either to the ship or her cargo. A few of the passengers are leaving to-night for Barbados by the R.M.S. *Caraquet*, which arrived at this port this afternoon. The *Caraquet* is also carrying the passengers taken from the *Chaudiere* at Bermuda, or more of the *Vestris's* passengers would have availed themselves of this opportunity to reach Barbados.

TOBAGO.—Estates Changing Hands.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, September 24th.—The weather has thus far been favourable for the ripening crops in this district. July rainfall was 7.32 in., and for August 10.34 in., which is fully up to the average. Small cacao pickings are now being made, and by the end of October there ought to be a good start with the autumn crop. Coconut picking is in full swing in the Leeward, and large shipments are going forward at good prices. The sale of several Windward crops for October/November delivery at \$55-\$65 for culls and selects on the Beach here is reported. There is very little increase in cane plantings, but the small proprietors have put in large quantities of corn and other ground provisions. They will thus be less dependent on imported foodstuff.

Arden Estate has just been purchased by Lieut.-Colonel Howell, and other small properties have recently changed hands. There are many inquiries for Tobago properties, and if there were residences available we would soon get an influx of settlers. The want of a hotel at Scarborough prejudices the island. The war stopped all thought of it, and now that prices of building materials have advanced, the promoters are nervous about proceeding. The economic war seems to be as serious as the world's war, and struggling folks would be glad of an armistice, or, better still, industrial peace and reasonable prices as well as wages.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The R.M.S.P. Company.

The Court of Directors have resolved to pay on October 31st, out of the profits of the current year, interim dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the Ordinary Stock.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad.

The report of the United British Oilfields of Trinidad for 1918 states that working profit for the year, depreciation excluded, has increased by £32,000, resulting in a reduction of the deficiency by £23,000. It has not, however, been possible to reduce the loans to any appreciable extent. A further amount of £5,251 has been written off against abandoned and unproductive wells, and again £10,000 has been appropriated on account of depreciation of other assets. Production was 82,671 tons, being an increase of 30,000 tons over 1917. During 1918 eight new wells were drilled, yielding two-thirds of the total production for the year.

A circular was addressed to shareholders on October 16th stating that it is essential, in the interests of the

Company, that its capital be increased in order both to discharge its floating indebtedness, and to provide additional funds for further development. At the present time the authorised capital of the Company is £650,000, divided into 200,000 "A" shares of £1 each, of which 100,000 have been issued, 150,000 "B" shares of £1 each, and 300,000 "C" shares of £1 each, the whole of which have been issued. The three classes of shares carry the right, in the above order of priority, to a cumulative preferential dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, and, in addition, the right to participate in any surplus profits. No dividends have yet been paid on any of the classes of shares, and there are, in consequence, heavy arrears in respect of cumulative dividend.

It is considered essential that the existing distinctions between the three classes of shares should be abolished, and that the capital of the Company should consist of one class only—namely, Ordinary shares. Under these circumstances the directors have formulated a scheme for the reorganisation of the Company's affairs. With a view to carrying out the scheme, a conditional agreement has been entered into between the Company, and parties contracting on behalf of the "A," "B" and "C" shareholders respectively, providing for (1) the modification of the rights attached to the existing three classes of shares, (2) the adoption of new articles of association, (3) the transfer by the "C" shareholders to the "A" shareholders of 100,000 "C" shares, and (4) the increase of the capital of the Company. Separate general meetings will be held of the "A," "B" and "C" shareholders respectively at Winchester House, E.C., on October 23rd, at 2.30 p.m., at which the agreement will be submitted for ratification. Extraordinary general meetings of the Company will be held for the purpose of increasing the capital, and passing and confirming a special resolution adopting new articles of association.

The Colonial Bank.

Presiding over the 163rd half-yearly general meeting on October 16th, Mr. Charles F. Wood, Chairman, said the remarkable expansion of that business and the enhanced prosperity of the Bank during the half-year ended June 30th must be a matter of very hearty congratulation to all concerned. Taking the principal items in the order given in the balance-sheet, as compared with the corresponding half-year, the paid-up capital was now £900,000, as against £673,486, and the reserve fund £350,000, as compared with £325,000. The calls on the "B" shares had now been completed. Notes in circulation, at £706,400, showed an increase of £135,000. The Bank's note circulation was confined to the West Indies, and the increase was due to the greater demand for currency in consequence of the high prices. Deposits at interest and current accounts, at £7,411,000, showed an increase of £1,649,000, or 29 per cent. All would agree that this was very satisfactory. Bills payable, at £499,000, were £24,000 up, and acceptances on account of customers, at £1,197,000, were £376,000 up. Taking together the liquid assets and investments, the proportion to money lodged on deposit and current accounts, notes in circulation, and bills payable was 53 per cent.—a very satisfactory proportion indeed.

With regard to the Profit and Loss Account, gross profit, at £193,000, was £57,000 up. Of this, expenses absorbed £125,000, leaving a highly satisfactory increase in net profits of £29,000, or 45 per cent. The increase of £27,000, or 27 per cent., in expenses was due in part to the large increase in staff in all spheres of operation, but particularly in West Africa, and to the cost of equipping the branches recently opened and those which they hoped to open shortly, and it was a matter of congratulation that most of this increase of expenditure represented outlay which would bring its own reward in due course.

Proceeding, Mr. Wood said: "The West Indian business has shown further progress during the past half-year, and present prospects point to a continuance of prosperity, in which all the islands are sharing. Mr. Hewett, whose visit to Jamaica last year was postponed owing to the lack of shipping accommodation, expects to go out at the beginning of 1920. With the present price of sugar, greater attention is likely to be given to its cultivation in the areas favourable to such production, and it will be interesting to see how far bananas will give place to sugar in Jamaica. Good prices are being realised for sugar estates, and in this connection a note of caution may be sounded. A dyewood and chemical factory has been completed in Jamaica by a British firm.

"Speaking to you six months ago, I expressed the hope that the coming Budget would establish a measure of Imperial Preference. This hope has materialised, and with the help afforded in this way the West Indian sugar growers should again reach their old prosperity before the advent of the subsidised beet sugar of the Continent. They have now an opportunity and an incentive to increase their production of this commodity, which, with its by-products of rum, molasses and syrup, is one of the staple products of the West Indies. This bank is particularly interested in the tropical products of the Empire, and it is interesting to note that the main source of sugar supplies for Canada is drawn from the British West Indies. With the stimulus of Imperial Preference the Mother Country will compete for sugar supplies, but the islands and British Guiana should be capable of expanding their production to meet the chief requirements of both markets. Prospects for the current year are good, and some islands anticipate a bumper year. Labour troubles, which are world-wide, are causing some uneasiness and difficulty. In this connection I may mention British Guiana—a country larger than Great Britain, with a population of only 312,000—where the lack of labourers is handicapping very seriously the progress of the district. If labour, backed by settlers and capital, can be provided, British Guiana should become one of the greatest sugar producers in the Empire. In addition, there is a vast hinterland, where the timber resources are great and where cattle ranching should prove a success; but these industries depend on improved communication.

AMERICAN COMPETITION.

"The United States of America are taking an increasing interest in the West Indies, and competition for the trade there is very keen. In my speech for the previous half-year I mentioned the possibility of competition by American banks, and since then an American bank has established a branch at Trinidad, whilst others are projected in Jamaica and Demerara. I said at the time that we did not fear fair competition, but that I was strongly of the opinion that American banks operating in British territory should suffer the same disabilities as New York banking law imposes on British banks operating in New York. Our representations have, I am glad to say, already borne fruit in two ways. Legislation has been drafted, the effects of which will be to put those American banks on the same footing as British banks operating in New York, and the Federal banks in the United States of America are beginning to realise that their Banking Act is perhaps a two-edged tool. It is interesting to note that other countries—as, for instance, the Argentine Republic—are contemplating taking similar action to our own."

After referring to the Bank's position in West Africa, Mr. Wood concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the motion, having been seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, was carried unanimously. The dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., less income-tax, for the half-year was also agreed to.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

October 29th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom 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.

New York prices:—

96° Cuba Centrifugals, c. and f.	5.68c.
Porto Rico, St. Croix, &c.	7.28c.
Centrifugals, non-privileged, c.i.f.	5.64c.

In the United Kingdom "privately imported" white Natal and Mauritius have changed hands at 102s. to 104s. per cwt., duty paid. Crystallised and Muscovados have been in slower demand, the former being quoted at 80s. to 82s., and the latter at 70s. to 72s.

About 600,000 tons of the new Cuban crop are reported to have been sold for delivery early in 1920. Commenting on the situation, the Czarnikow-Rianda Company state, under date September 26th:—

"After two years of Governmental fixing of prices for Cuban sugars, during which period buyers furnished the tonnage, a return to pre-war market conditions means that the number of sellers will increase, while the number of buyers will not; therefore it will not be so easy to stabilise prices under such conditions. Moreover, a 'free' market also increases the competition for ocean tonnage. Unless properly handled, either or both of these factors may operate against high prices. Another factor—perhaps, the most important—that must not be lost sight of is the unfavourable condition of foreign exchange in francs and sterling. While in pre-war times we always considered \$1 equal to 5 francs, or £1 sterling equal to \$4.88, now it takes nearly 9 francs to make \$1, and £1 sterling is worth, in round figures, only \$4.20. The situation must, in the long run, work against large exportations to those countries, and in favour of their sending us (the U.S.A.) whatever products they can spare."

The Hawaiian crops for 1920 and 1921 have been sold en bloc to the two San Francisco refineries.

The West India sugar statistics in London on October 18th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	42,122	32,226	70,075	
Deliveries	40,111	31,310	66,928	
Stock	8,203	11,903	11,162	

CACAO. The market has been steady, with a fair business passing. At auction, on 21st, 12,332 bags met with an irregular demand. Trinidad was all bought in. Quotations: Trinidad, fine and superior, 128s.-130s.; Grenada, middling to fine, 124s.-126s.

Shipments of Trinidad cacao during month of August, 1919:—

Destination.	Weight.
To all countries	3,568,010 lb.
Shipped previously	51,369,624 ..
Total from January 1st	54,937,634 ..
To same date, 1918	44,373,021 ..
" " 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	40,532,091 ..
" " 1910	46,044,541 ..
" " 1909	39,907,499 ..

The stocks in London on October 18th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	34,288	10,055	25,586	
Grenada	16,689	7,957	24,984	
Total of all kinds	133,523	149,131	259,151	

RUM. The market is dull, and, though not lower at present, the Trade do not seem inclined to continue to support the market.

The stocks in London on October 18th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	8,206	4,452	8,698	
Demerara	14,656	9,710	8,639	
Total of all kinds	28,526	19,688	27,756	

ARROWROOT. Nothing doing; prices unchanged.

GOPRA. Market firm. We quote West Indian £56 c.i.f. London.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime-juice: Raw, neglected; value, nominally 2s. and 2s. 6d. per gallon. Lime Oil: Handpressed, nominally 11s. 6d.; distilled, nominally 3s. 9d.—both dull and inactive.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet, dearer, and wanted at 9s. 6d. to 10s. per lb. Bitter, quiet.

COTTON. Imports of West Indian in the forty-two weeks ending October 16th, 7,222.

SPICES. Nutmegs and mace are in small supply, and rather dearer. Pimento—a large business done at 5½d., and later at 5¾d., to a small extent, with sellers at the price.

HONEY. A bit steady, with a moderate demand for Jamaica at auction at 75s. to 87s. 6d. Cuban and other foreign, slow; unchanged.

OIL. Trinidad exports from January 1st to September 13th amounted to 35,998,184 gallons.

MARRIAGE.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

WILLIAMS-PHILLIPS.—On the 22nd September, at St. Patrick's Church, Bridgetown, Barbados, by the Rev. Father Wilkinson, S.J., Lieut. G. E. E. Williams, late 5th Prince of Wales (North Staffs Regt.), eldest son of the Hon. George Williams and Mrs. George Williams, of "The Mount," Morne, St. Lucia, to Audrey Kathleen, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Revell Phillips, of "Beech House," Shifnal, Shropshire.

DEATH.

SHAND.—On the 13th October, in hospital at Marseilles, from heart disease contracted on active service in Mesopotamia, William Kenrick Willoughby Shand, Norfolk Regiment, younger son of the late Charles Arthur Shand, of Antigua, West Indies.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

COPIES of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of March 6th, June 12th, July 19th and August 7th are urgently required. 6d. per copy will be paid for copies returned to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

R.A.F. LIEUT. desires position anywhere in B.W.I. Good leader and commander. Willing to take over any responsible position. Private school education, and with good knowledge of the West Indies. Knowledge of electrical engineering, store, and store-keeper keeping. Apply "B. M." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

DEMobilised OFFICER, Public School man, aged 20, with good knowledge of motor engineering, requires position of any kind on a plantation in the West Indies. Reply to "R. J. W.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

A TRAINED NURSE, West Indian, requires post as nurse to children or to invalid—lady or gentleman—going to any part of the West Indies. Very good sailor. Apply "E. H.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13, 1919.

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The West India Committee's Appeal.

THE West India Committee's Endowment Fund, the opening of which was announced in our last issue, is making satisfactory progress. Towards the minimum sum of £20,000 which it is the aim of the Executive to raise, rather over one-third has already been contributed by firms and individuals in this country, and we trust that residents in the West Indies who during the past five years have enjoyed the substantial advantage of not being subject to United Kingdom income-tax, super-tax, and excess profits duty will be equally prompt and generous in their response. It should be realised in the colonies that the more liberal that response is the greater will be the work which the Committee will be able to undertake for the benefit of the West Indies as a whole. At present the Committee, as will have been recognised by visitors to this country during the last few years, and by those who have followed its many activities in our pages, is sadly hampered by inadequate office accommodation and lack of secretarial assistance. In dealing with this question in our last issue we gave some examples of the public services rendered by the Committee, which we suggested should justify the various West Indian Governments making grants towards the Endowment Fund, a precedent for which existed in the substantial contributions which they gave to the Anti-Bounty League in the 'nineties.

It now appears that our valued contemporary the *Trinidad Guardian* had anticipated us in making this suggestion. An editorial in the issue of October 7th states:—

"There can be no doubt whatever as to the important part the West India Committee plays in London in connection with these islands, and the people need only be reminded of its activities in connection with the men from the West Indies who went to the war, whether they were members of the British West Indies Regiment or whether they were units of other regiments. This fact is mentioned to show that, apart from agricultural products, which, after all, are the staples of the West Indies, and commerce, which, as a result, forms a considerable portion of their enterprise, the interests and comforts of her sons are looked after in other directions with the same keenness whenever the necessity arises. . . . We are inclined to regret the fact that its usefulness has not up to the present been recognised by a subsidy from all the West Indian Governments."

The West India Committee is unlike trading bodies in that its revenue is not expansive, and when it is pointed out that several shillings of its modest minimum yearly subscription of one guinea is absorbed by postage, that the cost of production of the CIRCULAR is fully three times as much as it was before the war, and that wages have gone up, while the value of the sovereign has declined, it will be appreciated that it is not possible to provide for developments out of revenue. An increase in the subscription rate has been suggested, but it is the aim of the Treasurers to obviate this, it being the desire of the Executive to bring membership within the means of all classes of the communities, and to maintain it on the broadest possible basis, in order that the Committee may be thoroughly representative in its character. The creation of an endowment therefore became a pressing need, and we hope in the circumstances that every member of the West India Committee will make his or her contribution to the fund, and will further bring it before the favourable attention of firms and individuals interested in the British West Indies.

The West Indies and the Empire.

UNINTENTIONALLY, LORD ROTHERMERE has done the West Indies a service by urging, in relation to them, the lowest conception of Empire, its use as a means of barter. For not only has his proposal been received with cold contempt in this country, but it has stirred the still fire of loyalty in the West Indies into a flame. In other words, LORD ROTHERMERE has shown conclusively that Little Englandism is dead beyond the hope of resurrection. On the one side, the West Indies, true to their long and splendid tradition, have through the Legislature of British Guiana and the Jamaica Imperial Association, sent a vigorous protest to the Colonial Office against the suggested cession of British territory in the Caribbean to a foreign Power. On the other side a definite statement has been made by LORD MILNER that the Government have no intention of seeking relief from war liabilities by Imperial dismemberment. He does more, as one would expect from his fine record of statesmanship, by warmly responding to West Indian expressions of loyalty to the King and Flag, and of pride in the position of the islands as part of the British Commonwealth. A mere repudiation of LORD ROTHERMERE's hysterical proposal would not have been enough. The Colonial Secretary's statement carries conviction by its living sentiment. Just as the connection between the West Indies and Britain is valued by them, so, he says, it is by her, and so highly that its severance would be regarded as "disastrous." Here is less a repudiation of a policy by which the Children of the House should be sold to pay its most pressing debt than an announcement of a determination to develop the present relations between them into a partnership mutually profitable and mutually advantageous from the point of view of security. Thus LORD ROTHERMERE has his answer. So, too, have those who argue that unless the West Indies enter the Canadian Confederation they must inevitably become part of the United States. LORD MILNER indicates another alternative more in keeping with their history. LORD ROTHERMERE sees them, with one or two exceptions, as a pawn in diplomacy. Those who advocate union with Canada see them a dependent on a Dominion to save them from the humiliation of falling under a foreign flag. Surely the most coveted territories, as they were in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, have not sunk to either! True, their opulence, as well as their intimate association with sea-power, passed. But it was only temporary. To-day, with both returning, the West Indies feel that they are in the proud position of being able freely to choose their own destiny. They have vast wealth, actual and potential, in natural resources; they are, again, the keys of naval strategy; and the spirit of their people, as shown by the fine part they played in the Great War, is as high as ever. In these circumstances they may see their future in forming a political and economic unit of the Empire by a Federation of their own. Direct connection with the Motherland has the weight of sentiment and tradition behind it, and has, moreover, been sanctified by the sacrifices made

to preserve it. Therefore, as a policy it will always make the strongest appeal to West Indian opinion, and more than ever now that the British Government has endorsed it so unreservedly and heartily. General approval is expressed in such responsible journals as the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Morning Post*, which, in scathing terms, denounces the idea that loyal and faithful subjects of the King should be treated as a marketable commodity. What people here feel is that LORD ROTHERMERE's wild proposal would not have aroused fears in the West Indies but for two reasons—one was the exaggerated estimate of the financial situation of this country by an ill-informed section of the community, whose outcry is only now subsiding as things are seen in better perspective; the other reason is the new form taken by British anti-Imperialism in its advocacy of the League of Nations, loyalty to which it desires to substitute for loyalty to the British Crown and Empire. Its insidious propaganda is, and will be, a source of danger. But if the faith and constancy of the West Indies, in common with the other overseas Dominions of the King, defeated Little Englandism when it was the creed of a great party in the State, they are not likely to be alarmed now that its fresh manifestation is confined to extremists masquerading as supporters of the League of Nations. In LORD MILNER's statement, long after the cause of its issue is forgotten, the West Indies will find hope and inspiration. LORD ROTHERMERE's boom-rang has recoiled upon himself.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Endowment Fund's Auspicious Start.

A splendid start has been made by the West India Committee's Endowment Fund. From the first list of contributions, which is published below, it will be noted that £7,588 have been already received from sixty-three firms and individuals in this country. The objects of the fund are to enable the work of the Committee to be carried out more effectively by providing for more commodious premises and also secretarial assistance. In their appeal the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, after calling attention to what the Committee has done during the war, lay stress on the fact that now that Peace has been signed it is certain that many important matters will call for attention in connection with the work of reconstruction, and that it will be their endeavour to secure continuity of policy in respect of the preferential treatment of West Indian products in the markets of the United Kingdom.

During the past twenty years the West India Committee has raised and actively supported many funds for the direct benefit of the West Indian colonies, but has never appealed for special contributions for its own organisation. It is hoped, therefore, that this appeal may meet with a generous response, so that the West India Committee, which is the oldest, but by no means the least active, colonial body in the United Kingdom, may be placed on a more sub-

stantial and satisfactory footing. The first list of contributions is given below:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.	1,000	0	0
The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	1,000	0	0
Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.	500	0	0
The Colonial Bank	500	0	0
Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Ltd.	250	0	0
Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.	250	0	0
Demerara Co., Ltd., Pln. Leonora, Ltd., and Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Samuel Dobree & Sons	250	0	0
Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.	250	0	0
The Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies	250	0	0
Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.	250	0	0
Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co.	250	0	0
Pln. Port Mourant, Ltd.	150	0	0
E. A. de Pass, Esq.	105	0	0
G. M. Fraue, Esq.	105	0	0
William Gillespie, Esq.	105	0	0
Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co.	105	0	0
H. F. Previté, Esq.	105	0	0
Robert Rutherford, Esq.	105	0	0
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.	105	0	0
Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller	105	0	0
Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.	100	0	0
H. Crum Ewing, Esq.	100	0	0
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O.	100	0	0
J. Q. Rowett, Esq.	100	0	0
St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.	100	0	0
H. A. Trotter, Esq.	100	0	0
Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. Henry Langridge & Co.	25	0	0
Messrs. Lee, Spooner & Co.	25	0	0
Sir William Trollope, Bart.	15	0	0
Mrs. J. M. C. Galloway	10	10	0
Lieut.-Colonel G. A. O. Lane	10	10	0
F. N. Martinez, Esq.	10	10	0
W. P. B. Shephard, Esq., M.A.	10	10	0
Messrs. John and E. Sturge, Ltd.	10	10	0
Sunbury Estates, Ltd. (Barbados)	10	10	0
W. A. Wolseley, Esq.	10	10	0
A. F. G. Ellis, Esq.	10	0	0
Molyneux Estate, St. Kitts	10	0	0
Messrs. J. K. Gulland, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co.	5	5	0
Messrs. Urquhart Bros.	5	5	0
A. P. Cowley, Esq., M.B.E.	5	0	0
Delaps Estate, Antigua	5	0	0
Gambles Estate, Antigua	5	0	0
Lieut. R. C. Otway	5	0	0
Russell's Estate, Nevis	5	0	0
Stapleton Estate, St. Kitts	5	0	0
Mrs. J. W. Russell	3	0	0
A. W. Duncan, Esq.	2	2	6
Benjamin C. Forder, Esq.	2	2	6
Harris Harragin, Esq.	1	1	0

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gibson ... £1 0 0
 J. A. Hadley, Esq. ... 1 0 0

Contributions may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3, and it is proposed to publish the full list of subscribers in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR from time to time.

Membership now Exceeds 1,900.

Mr. Frederick N. Martinez, who has always taken such a close interest in the work of the West India Committee, proposed no fewer than twenty-one of the thirty-nine candidates elected to membership on October 30th. They comprise British firms of standing doing trade with the West Indies, the names of which will be familiar to most readers of the CIRCULAR.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Macdonald, Greenlees & Williams (Distillers), Ltd.	Mr. Frederick N. Martinez, Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.
Saager, Evans & Co., Ltd.	" "
Angostura Bitters, Ltd.	" "
Messrs. Silva & Cousins	" "
Bittall & Co., Ltd.	" "
Holland & Co., Ltd.	" "
W. H. Chaplin & Co., Ltd.	" "
A. J. Caley & Son, Ltd.	" "
Escoffier, Ltd.	" "
Anglodol, Ltd.	" "
J. B. Brooks & Co., Ltd.	" "
Henry Heath, Ltd.	" "
Frame Food Co., Ltd.	" "
Barnett Samuel & Sons, Ltd.	" "
Wm. Sinclair & Sons, Ltd.	" "
Kolok Mig. Co., Ltd.	" "
The Rizin Sun Polishes, Ltd.	" "
Humidine, Ltd.	" "
Messrs. F. R. Heale & Son	" "
Edward F. Braham, Ltd.	" "
Messrs. Henry Wright & Co.	" "
Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Robb, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.	Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Hon. Burchell Marshall (St. Kitts)	Mr. E. J. Shelford, Hon. D. H. Semper.
Mr. C. G. Bushe	Mr. N. Scott Johnston, Mr. Wm. Gillespie.
Mr. A. L. Evelyn	Mr. R. Rutherford, Miss L. Wilkinson.
Mrs. T. B. Moore Evelyn	Mr. R. Rutherford, Miss L. Wilkinson.
Lt.-Col. C. G. Browne	Jonas Browne & Son, Mr. J. Harding Browne.
Mr. Allan Warner	Mr. E. L. Marshall, Miss Moseley, M.B.E.
Mr. J. A. Veerasawmy	Dr. P. E. Giuseppi, Mr. J. A. Luckhoo.
Mr. W. H. Carden	Mr. James Miller, Nathan & Godfrey.
Lieut. F. C. Fisher	Mr. H. Henriques, Miss Moseley.
Lt.-Colonel H. A. Barclay, C.V.O., T.D., D.L., J.P.	Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. L. C. Inniss	Mr. A. Lewis Inniss, Mr. T. Boyd.
Dr. C. A. Barber, C.I.E., Sc.D.	Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. A. Trotter.

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. T. C. Hart (Dominica)	Mr. S. Didier. Mr. G. F. Branch.
Mr. F. A. de Verteuil (Trinidad)	Sir G. Townsend Fenwick, K.C.M.G. Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Dr. Chas. W. Daly	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. Patrick Maingot (Trinidad)	Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. S. S. Wreford (British Guiana)	Adam Pearson & Co. Wm. Smith & Co.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"HAB money, hab friend."

THE possibilities of sugar manufacture are shortly to be tested by a local syndicate in the Almednagar District in India.

THE name of Mr. James H. Stark, who, we regret to learn, died recently in Boston, Mass., is well known to all visitors to the West Indies as that of the author of a series of entertaining handbooks of the islands and British Guiana, which were published between 1884 and 1904. Mr. Stark, who was born in 1847, was a pioneer of photo-electrotyping, and published his own books, which still enjoy a great vogue in the Caribbean.

THE Court of Directors have agreed to recommend to the proprietors in March that Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter be elected Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England for the ensuing year. Mr. Trotter has been Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee since 1917, and was recently appointed a member of the Royal Commission on the Income-tax. He is a partner in the firm of Thomson Hankey & Co., and it is an interesting coincidence that he will, as Deputy Governor, be succeeding to the position in the Bank of England which was once filled by a former partner of his present firm, the late Mr. Thomson Hankey.

WE learn with much regret that Miss Dora Alleyne died in London on November 6th from heart failure following an attack of bronchitis and pneumonia. Miss Dora Alleyne, who was the daughter of our late valued correspondent, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, formerly of Porters, Barbados, and of Mrs. Forster Alleyne, of 21, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park, was making satisfactory recovery from a long and painful illness when she caught a chill which developed into pneumonia. By many friends in Barbados, where she spent many years of her life, she will be affectionately remembered, and much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Forster Alleyne and her family in the loss which they have sustained.

A Sailors and Soldiers Club has been successfully founded for the entertainment of sailors and soldiers in Trinidad visiting the island, and temporary premises have been loaned to the committee and an earnest band of helpers has been organised amongst the ladies of Port of Spain. The men of the U.S. Atlantic Squadron were the first to be entertained, and have been followed by matloes of H.M.S. *Dartmouth*, the Dutch cruiser *Zeeland*, H.M.S.S. *Cambrian*, *Farmouth*, and most recently by the *Renown*. The sailors thoroughly enjoyed all the entertainments got up in their honour, and Captain Taylor and Commander Rogers, who visited the Club, were most grateful to the ladies for their efforts on behalf of the ship's

company. The concert party, before leaving Trinidad, gave a most enjoyable concert, which was fully appreciated by the large audience.

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WE regret to learn that Miss Marion Gertrude Garraway, elder daughter of the late Mr. J. S. Garraway, of Barbados, died in London on October 18th after an operation for appendicitis. She was laid to rest in Brompton Cemetery five days later, and many Barbadian and other friends attended a beautiful funeral service, held the same day at St. Luke's, Redcliffe-square, among those present being Hon. J. Challener Lynch, O.B.E., Mr. W. Trowbridge, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Hughes, Dr. A. Gowdey, Mrs. Kernahan, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Harford, the Misses Paterson, Miss James, Mrs. Gray, and Miss Priestman. During the war Miss Garraway had been a devoted worker at the Anzac Club in Victoria-street, and quite a large number of Australian soldiers attended the last sad ceremony, eight of them acting as bearers from the church to the grave.

THE COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

A Committee of Enquiry Appointed.

IT has been common knowledge for some years past that the members of the various medical services in the British West Indies have been much underpaid. In some islands the salaries of the District Medical Officers are as low as £250 per annum, and though private practice is usually permitted, there are no pensions, no free quarters, and often no travelling allowance. It is also well known that, though the health of the people should be of primary consideration in any community, the medical officers in many parts of the West Indies, though second to none in local experience and enthusiasm, are inadequate in numbers to cope with existing demands on their time, let alone any sudden emergencies. Other subjects for complaint have been the lack of co-ordination between the various medical services in the West Indies, and the absence of any uniformity in respect of promotion, pensions, &c.

In the circumstances it is very satisfactory to learn that Lord Milner has appointed a committee to consider the position of the medical services of the various colonies and dependencies, with a view to maintaining and increasing the supply of candidates, and to securing contentment within the service; and to consider whether the principle of assimilating the medical service of neighbouring colonies may usefully be extended, and, if so, how far and by what means.

The members of the Committee are: Chairman, Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G. (late Governor of British Guiana, and recently Chairman of the Pool Petroleum Supplies Board); Lieut.-Colonel Sir Harry Verney, Bt., D.S.O.; Surgeon-Rear-Admiral Sir Humphry D. Rolleston, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P.; Major-General Sir W. B. Leishman, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., K.H.P., A.M.S.; Lieut.-Colonel Sir James Kingston Fowler, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., R.A.M.C.(T.); Mr. T. Hood, C.M.G., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service, Nigeria; and Mr. A. Fiddian, Principal Clerk, Colonial Office. Mr. J. E. W. Flood, of the Colonial Office, is secretary.

THE SUGAR SHORTAGE.

Revised Prices in the United Kingdom.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply issued the following memorandum on November 1st:—

"In view of the serious increase in the world price of sugar, it has become necessary to increase the selling price in the United Kingdom. The world supply of sugar is not sufficient to meet the effective demand, and at the present rate of consumption a continued shortage is to be expected. The beet sugar production in Europe has fallen by 4,200,000 tons since 1914, while the cane sugar production of the world has risen by only 1,800,000 tons, thus leaving a net decrease of 2,400,000 tons in the supplies. In America the prohibition of the use of beer and spirits has led to an increased demand for sugar in various forms. In this country the high price of sugar, as compared with the pre-war price, has not led to a reduced consumption. These factors make the position more acute. As a result of timely purchases by the Sugar Commission the present retail price of sugar in the United Kingdom is at least 3d. per lb. below the price at which supplies purchased now could be retailed, and for some time the loss on the sale of sugar has been met out of the reserves accumulated during the earlier period of control.

"With the prospect of the early exhaustion of the supplies in hand, it is no longer possible to maintain the present low price of 6½d. to 7½d. per lb., and the Food Controller has accordingly decided to make an increase of 1d. per lb. in the retail price of sugar as from Monday, November 3rd. The high prices ruling for sugar will doubtless stimulate production, but for the present it will be necessary to secure a decrease in the demand. It has accordingly been decided to maintain the individual sugar ration at 8 oz. per person per week, and to prohibit private traders from making purchases in excess of the national requirements, as estimated by the Sugar Commission. In accordance with this policy, the Sugar Commission have decided that during the year 1920 the total quantity of sugar imported into the United Kingdom shall be at least 500,000 tons less than the quantity to be imported during the present year. Efforts are also being made to obtain a general economy in the consumption of sugar in other countries, and it is hoped that any saving in this direction will not be without its effect on prices."

Revised Prices.

The new prices which came into force on November 3rd are as follows:—

Class.	Wholesale price per cwt. Discount 1½%	Approved retail price 10r lb.
1. Cubes, Loaf Sugar } Castor, Icing }	72s.	8½d.
2. Granulated } Crystals } Crushed and Chipped } Dry White Sugar } W.I. Grocery Crystallised Yellow Crystals } White Pieces (moist) }	66s.	8d.
3. W.I. Muscovado (moist) } Raw Bro'n Cane Crystals } Pieces—other than white }	63s. 6d.	7½d.
4. Jellies, Knots, and Lumps W.I. and other British Colonial Syrups, to be sold only to manufacturers }	"free"	No maximum price.

The Maximum Prices Order has been revoked, and refiners will sell syrup and molasses at prices approved by the Sugar Commission.

In reply to inquiries the West India Committee received the following statement from Mr. A. S. Ellyatt, Assistant Secretary to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, on November 5th:—

"The method of dealing with purchases of sugar to arrive after December 27th, as affected by the recent Order of the Food Controller, is a subject of considerable difficulty, and one on which it is not possible as yet to lay down rules which will govern every case. It may, however, be stated that the general policy of the Commission will be to grant licences to take delivery of such sugars, subject to the conditions—

"(a) That the contracts to purchase were made prior to October 31st, 1919;

"(b) That the sugar will be used for manufacturing purposes; and

"(c) That the ultimate user will be debited with the quantity of the sugars purchased, and the allocation to him of Commission sugar reduced by an equivalent amount.

"Under this system it will be possible to dispose of all the simpler and more straightforward cases; but where purchases have passed through several hands, or where there are other complications—such as an absence of title to allotment on the part of the ultimate purchaser—it will be necessary to consider the circumstances in each case, and the Commission will be glad to confer later with the Trade for the purpose of determining how best such cases may be dealt with, so as to avoid inflicting any undue hardship on purchasers. In no case will the Commission take over contracts. But short of this it will be its desire to do whatever may best conduce to an equitable adjustment between the obligations incurred by traders and the restriction about to be imposed upon their transactions."

A later communication, dated Nov. 7th, stated:—

"This Commission will advise the Food Controller to grant licences to take delivery, after December 27th, 1919, of low-grade sugar to be used for manufacturing purposes only. The Commission proposes that the definition 'low-grade sugar' shall mean any sugar not exceeding 91° polarisation at the time of landing, or any sugar manufactured by British refiners and sold as 'Class 4 sugar for manufacturing purposes only.' The Commission does not expect at any time to be in a position to advise the Food Controller to grant such licences in respect of sugar polarising over 91° at the time of landing."

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR WILLIAM MAHAFFY.

News reached London on October 28th of the death in Dominica of Mr. Arthur William Mahaffy, Administrator of that Presidency of the Leeward Islands.

The elder son of the late Rev. Sir John Pentland Mahaffy, C.V.O., Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, Mr. Mahaffy, who was fifty years of age, was educated at Marlborough, Magdalen College, Oxford, where he greatly distinguished himself as an oarsman, and Dublin University. Having seen some service with the Munster Fusiliers, Mr. Mahaffy travelled in the South Seas, and presently became Administrator of the largest of the Solomon Islands, in which, at that time, cannibalism still existed. He held this dangerous and difficult post for four years, and afterwards was promoted to the Colonial Secretaryship of the Fiji Islands at Suva. From this post he was promoted in December, 1914, to be the Administrator of Dominica.

THE CABLE SYSTEM.

The inefficiency of the existing West Indian cable service continues to be the subject of many heated articles in the Press of British Guiana and the islands which are by no means complimentary to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. In this connection it may be recalled that the West India Committee have for the past fifteen years or more consistently and strongly urged, by deputation, by letters to Ministers, and by resolutions, that the solution of the West Indian telegraph question lies in the extension of the all-British cables from Bermuda to Barbados or St. Lucia, and the development of wireless. Their proposals were endorsed and supported by the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, by the Canada-West Indies Royal Commission, and by the Ottawa Conference. It is by their adoption now that the way to improvement of the present chaotic state of affairs lies.

A committee, comprising the President, Mr. Albert Cipriani, M.B.E., and Mr. John P. Farnon, was recently appointed by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to inquire into the cable service, and their report submitted to a meeting held on September 21st, over which Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E., presided, disclosed the fact that in the case of one firm taken at random out of 165 messages no fewer than 72 contained important errors. After quoting the existing cable contract, the committee proceeded:—

"The agreement makes provision, and the Company specifically undertakes, that, in conditions such as obtained during the past few months, their rates for messages shall not exceed the rates specified in the above schedule, and in the circumstances we think that the Government should be requested to call upon the Company to refund the excesses which they have been collecting from this community.

"Further, on the subject of this agreement, we are of opinion that the printed conditions appearing upon the telegram forms supplied by the Company for the sending of messages are unsympathetic to the agreement, and we recommend that representations be made through our Government to the Colonial Office in the matter.

"We think that where monopolists are entrusted with public service that it should be the duty of the Government to see that the service rendered is in fullest conformity with the contract under which the monopoly is secured, and regret to have to place upon record the opinion that our Government have been very lax in regard to the service rendered this colony by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company under its agreement."

The report was unanimously agreed to, and it was decided to send a copy to the Government.

The following reply to their letter of September 30th, which was published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of October 16th, No. 549, was read:—

Downing-street,

October 25th, 1919.

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th September, calling attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the methods of telegraphic communication with the West Indies.

As you are probably aware, steps have recently been taken to allow the existing naval wireless stations in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Bermuda, Jamaica and British Guiana to be used for commercial point-to-point

work, as far as is consistent with naval and other maritime requirements; and in these circumstances, and in view of the cost which would be involved in laying new cables, it is proposed to postpone for the present the further consideration of the question of extending the existing cable system.

I am, Sir, &c.,

G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary,
West India Committee.

It is satisfactory to learn that the possibilities of commercial wireless in the West Indies are to be put to a definite test. The arrangement outlined in the above letter has been in force since October 1st. It is understood that wireless is only to be used for local traffic, and then not unless the cables are broken, except in the case of messages to and from Nassau, Bahamas and Belize, British Honduras. The experiment, which will be conducted for six months, will be made under most favourable conditions, for the period from October to March is the season when wireless in the West Indies is not generally interrupted by atmospherics. A test from April to October would be far more severe, as during those months atmospherics usually interfere considerably with connections.

THE STUDY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The London School of Tropical Medicine, which, since its foundation in 1899 by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has been situated near the Victoria and Albert Docks—a most inaccessible position—is shortly to be transferred to the heart of London. Its new headquarters are to be what was before the war the Endsleigh Palace Hotel, a large modern building in Endsleigh-gardens, within a few minutes' walk of Euston Station. This building, which for the greater part of the war was used as a military hospital, is being to a great extent reconstructed inside, and will hardly be recognisable when it leaves the architect's and the builder's hands early next year. Commodious wards (one of which at least it is hoped may be ready for occupancy in a month's time) are being prepared, and the laboratory will be one of the most spacious and well-equipped departments of the kind in the United Kingdom.

To provide for the move and for the establishment of an endowment fund for the school and hospital, Lord Milner is organising an appeal, and it was announced at the School Dinner, over which Dr. Andrew Balfour presided, at Prince's Restaurant on October 16th, that contributions amounting to £60,000 had already been received, besides £100,000 voted by the British Red Cross Society. Sir Havelock Charles, the Dean of the School, and Mr. P. J. Michelli, the Secretary, are indeed to be congratulated upon the results of their efforts. The transfer of the School to London should prove an immense advantage in many ways. It will bring the movement for the prevention of tropical disease into the limelight, and render the hospital easy of access to sufferers from malaria and similar unpleasant complaints.

WEST INDIAN SHIPPING.

Committee's Recommendations Summarised.

The principal recommendations of the West Indian Shipping Committee, whose report has now been presented to Parliament [Cmd. 372], were published in our last CIRCULAR. A fuller summary may now be added.

The main problem with which the Committee had to deal was the question of re-establishing a regular direct service between the United Kingdom and the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana. After giving a brief summary of the contract which existed before the war, and of the events which led up to it, the Committee state that the problem would have been comparatively easy if it had been practicable to re-establish the pre-war contract on the old terms.

"It is, however, obvious that conditions, more particularly in respect of the decreased value of money, have altered so greatly as to make this out of the question, but the Committee thought it desirable to ask the Royal Mail Company definitely to put in writing the reasons which would make such a renewal of the old contract impracticable. The Company point out that the subsidy provided for the pre-war service was itself inadequate, as the Company suffered a net loss on the traffic, even after allowing for the subsidy. In fact, they have supplied figures showing that a net loss of £1,037,853 has been incurred by the Company on its West Indian mail services over a period of twenty years—from 1896 to 1915. Since that date the cost of operating steamers has greatly increased, the cost of coal has more than doubled, the wages of crews have likewise increased, and the expense of maintenance has quadrupled. The capital cost of new steamers which would have to be provided for the service would be, approximately, three times that of those previously in use. They add that the earning power of large passenger steamers to offset these conditions is strictly limited on this service. Passengers' fares cannot be put beyond a certain point without dissatisfaction and restriction of traffic, and it cannot be anticipated that the present rate of freight rates will be maintained during a long series of years. Apart from this, the limited cargo capacity of the type of passenger ship hitherto in use restricts their earning capacity from this source."

Proceeding, they state that if the problem in the West Indies were confined to finding tonnage to carry the produce of the colonies to the best markets the matter could probably be left to commercial enterprise to deal with, but the needs of the West Indies are wider than these.

They express the conviction that, for the purposes of commerce and development, a regular passenger service is essential to the colonies, it being essential to business men to know when they will be able to reach and leave the colonies on definite dates, and for passengers to know what standard of comfort they can expect on board ship. They also attach importance to the maintenance of long and historic family ties, and to the encouragement which a regular service gives to families in the West Indies who avail themselves of educational facilities in the United Kingdom.

They further attach value to the connection from the administrative and political point of view:—

"Geographically speaking, the West Indies are more naturally within the orbit of the American Continent, in so far as they are on the direct route between North

and South America. Consequently, communications in the West Indies tend rather to run from north to south than from west to east. It is true that this fact provides the conditions for the development of a natural and expanding traffic between the West Indies and Canada, but the geographical advantages and present economic influence of the United States are so far greater than those of Canada that it appears to the Committee to be out of the question to leave the situation to be dealt with by Canada alone, quite apart from the breach with historic tradition which such a course would entail. It is therefore highly important to ensure that regular direct communication shall be maintained by steamer with the United Kingdom, and for this purpose the Committee are satisfied that to maintain a remunerative service direct financial assistance must be provided by the Governments concerned."

What Canada Can Do.

The Committee regard it as vital to the West Indies to maintain a direct service with Canada which will enable West Indian products to have easy access to the Canadian market, and will also offer an opportunity to Canadian manufacturers to capture a proportion of the increased trade which has passed, during the war, into the hands of the United States. It is understood that the Canadian Government is closely interested in the question of steamer communication with the West Indies, and Mr. Lloyd Harris has indicated that there is a considerable body of opinion in Canada which would be quite prepared to see the fortnightly service converted into a weekly one.

The question of the establishment of a steamer service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies is complicated by the fluctuation of crop movement throughout the year, and of passenger requirements, many passengers wishing to leave the West Indies about April and return about October, with the result that many berths are empty during the summer months.

The West Indian colonies generally indicated their desire for a service similar to that in existence before the war, and representations were received that any less service would cause considerable dissatisfaction; but the information furnished to the Committee made it clear that the cost of a service on a pre-war scale would be so great as to make it certain that it could not be maintained without a very large increase of subsidies.

Mr. G. F. Huggins proposed that the service should be regarded as part of a comprehensive scheme for capturing the trade formerly controlled and carried on by German ships along the South American coast, Hayti, Santo Domingo, Porto Rico and Cuba, but the Committee pointed out that this turned largely on the question of the general economic policy of the Government, particularly as regards shipping, since subsidies for such a purpose could hardly be limited to one area, such as the Caribbean Sea.

The possibility of utilising through services of steamers passing through the Panama Canal to Australia was considered, but expert information showed that, though they might benefit Jamaica, they would not afford any satisfactory solution of the difficulty of providing passenger communications with the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana. Such

a service could not profitably be run if a large part of the available accommodation was filled with passengers and cargo for only a fractional part of the voyage, and even if Australians broke their journey in the West Indies they would have to be accommodated by later steamers. So far as the regular passenger service between the United Kingdom and the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana is concerned, the practical alternatives appeared, therefore, to the Committee to reduce themselves to two:

- (a) A direct fortnightly service.
- (b) A direct three-weekly service.

Such services could either be direct to the West Indies and back, or could proceed to the West Indies and then on to Canada, returning by the same route.

"Via Canada" Route Rejected.

The Committee then review the proposals for establishing a service between the West Indies and the United Kingdom via Canada, which they do not think a satisfactory solution of the problem. They found the objections that it would subject passengers not only to the expense of changing at Halifax, but also, during many months of the year, to too great and sudden a change of climate adequate, and add that if the proposal for a continuous service between England, the West Indies and Canada and back is adopted, the difficulty caused by the sudden change of climate would still remain, while there would be the further dissatisfaction of attempting to combine two separate services in which it is not necessarily most economical to have a uniform type of steamer.

The Committee appreciates that there must be an interim period during which no regular service can be maintained owing to all steamers not having as yet been returned to the companies from Government work, and to shipbuilders not having had time to produce a surplus of passenger tonnage which could be diverted to the West Indian route. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company suggested, as the most economical course to pursue:—

(1) That the existing Canadian-West Indian service should be extended for one year from October 31st, 1919.

(2) That there should be no direct service between the West Indies and the United Kingdom for at least a year from October, 1919, during which they would endeavour to serve the passenger needs of the West Indies without subsidy or obligation by smaller steamers than those used before the war.

The first suggestion has already been adopted, and the Committee see no practical alternative to the second.

Reverting to the fluctuation in the demand for passenger accommodation, which leaves the steamers almost empty during certain parts of the year, they feel that some reduction of accommodation provided must temporarily be accepted as one of the consequences of the war. The problem of steamer communication is one of finance. For a fortnightly service the itinerary would require eight 12-knot steamers, though it might possibly be worked with seven. For a three-weekly service it should be conducted by five steamers, though possibly six might

be needed. They then suggest that alternative tenders might be called for a three-weekly as well as for a fortnightly service for two or three years in the first instance, and they assume that simultaneously tenders would be invited for a regular inter-colonial service. The Admiralty strongly favoured Trinidad as a port of transhipment, and, owing to its proximity to the mainland and to British Guiana in particular, and to the greater opportunities which Trinidad offered, they favoured the selection of that colony as the centre.

The Committee next draw attention to the immense potentialities for development offered by British Guiana:—

"If this colony, which consists of 89,480 square miles, could be developed, its trade would be large enough to support a commercial service with the Mother Country, and the problem of satisfactory steamship communications with the West Indies would thus be solved. Obviously, the solution of the problem in this case does not depend upon the grant of shipping subsidies, and it is useless to consider a proposal for such subsidies unless the problem is dealt with as a whole. To do this it would be necessary to provide for the introduction of suitable immigrants on a large scale, and also to spend a large sum of money in opening up the interior of the colony. From the purely shipping point of view, we have little doubt that such expenditure would amply justify itself within a short time."

Passing to the question of communication between the West Indies and Canada, the Committee, after reviewing the facilities now available, and referring to the possibility of the extension of the existing preferential trade arrangements, state:—

"It is quite clear to us that the Canadian Government takes a strong interest in the development of this trade, and we have no reason to doubt that this represents a permanent feature of Canadian policy. We therefore recommend that His Majesty's Government, in dealing with the question of communications with the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana, should take this aspect of the matter carefully into account. We consider that it would be an appreciable advantage to the West Indies, Canada, and the United Kingdom if the passenger and mail service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies and that between Canada and the West Indies were made a continuous service through the West Indies. The policy of the two Governments is, however, not necessarily identical, and it is quite clear that a rigid provision whereby all steamers on either route were to proceed from the United Kingdom to the West Indies and Canada and back from Canada by the same route would not meet the needs of the case. We would recommend, therefore, that, if it can be arranged, and if the Canadian Government sees no objection, any contractor on either service should be allowed to use his steamers for a continuous voyage if an itinerary can be arranged by the contractor which would satisfy the British and the Canadian Governments, as the case may be. In other words, we would suggest that the contract made by the British Government, and any contract made by the Canadian Government, should contain a clause allowing the steamers operating under that contract to perform continuous voyages in conjunction with the contract arranged by the other Government."

(To be continued.)

[The recommendations of the West Indian Shipping Committee regarding the Bahamas, Jamaica and British Honduras and West Indian harbours will be summarised in next CIRCULAR.]

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK

By "Onlooker."

The substances called "vitamines" have only of late years been under investigation. The word was first used in research into the cause of the disease beri-beri. In 1909 Fraser and Stanton traced the cause to the use of milled rice—that is to say, rice which has been polished by the removal of its husk and outer layers. Beri-beri is a form of peripheral neuritis. There is loss of muscular power, emaciation, and exhaustion. It was a scourge in those countries in which rice is the staple food. Mr. Taft, speaking in 1911 of the American occupation of the Philippines, said that the change of their food from polished to unpolished rice had practically stamped out the disease. People at death's door with the disease were quickly cured by the addition of rice-polishings to their food. It was supposed at first that the disease was due to the absence of phosphates from the rice. But it was proved later that it was owing to the loss of a substance of which there was a mere trace in the husks. So minute is the quantity, that there are not more than 10 grains of it in a ton of rice. The Lister Institute has the credit of the isolation of the substance by one of their workers, Funk, who gave it the name of vitamine. Later he isolated the vitamine of the lime, present to the extent of about 1 in 100,000 parts of the fruit. This vitamine has a favourable action on scurvy as well as on beri-beri.

* * *

South Africa before the war was importing Dutch cheese at the annual rate of 5½ million pounds, and local cheese was practically unsaleable on account of the popular prejudice in favour of the imported article. Many farmers did nothing with their milk, but left it to the calves. They were content with the slow returns in slaughter stock. But all this is rapidly changing for the better. A Government expert tours the country districts with his pail and his press. He demonstrates the simplicity of the method of manufacture, and points out that whereas 1 gallon of milk yields 1 lb. of cheese, 2½ gallons of milk are required to yield 1 lb. of butter. People are finding out that milk, which was looked upon formerly by the farmer as a by-product, can be easily turned into fine Dutch cheese, which commands a ready market at 30 cents per lb. The result is that, after paying the initial cost of a small plant and special cool dairy buildings, the whole of the money received for the cheese is profit, except expenses of labour and carriage. The whey, &c., produced in the manufacture is excellent for fattening pigs for the market. Factories for production on a large scale have been springing up all over the country. The imports have decreased, and it is anticipated that very soon the farmers will be able to supply all the needs of the Union, and there is talk of an export trade.

* * *

The male musk deer of the mountains of Central Asia is the source of commercial musk used in perfumery. The musk is situated in a gland about the size of a walnut on the under side of the body. As a perfume it is remarkable for its wonderful power. Everything near it becomes affected by it and retains the scent for a long time. It is generally used to give permanence and strength to other perfumes. Musk is also used in medicine in typhus, &c., as an anti-spasmodic. Besides the secretion obtained from the body of the musk deer, products with the same peculiar scent occur in the crocodile of the West Indies and America, the musk ox, musk rat or musquash, musk shrew, musk duck, musk wood of the West Indies and Guiana, musk plant, and musk mallow. None of these are found in commerce, except the seeds of the last

mentioned, and it is very inferior to the product of the deer. The glands in the crocodile are under the skin, one pair on the inner side of the lower jaw, the other pair on the under side of the body near the tail. The openings are slits leading into pockets filled with the strongly-scented material. The musk deer is somewhat larger than a greyhound. Its hind legs are much longer than the front legs, so that it looks humped up behind. Antlers are wanting. The male has two small tusks which hang out below the mouth. The hair is light brownish, very coarse and brittle. The lateral hoofs are large and wide-spread, so that it is very sure-footed. It moves about in the open by taking a succession of immense leaps, 50 to 60 ft. long. Hunters kill great numbers of them. It is said that 20,000 deer, male and female, are killed annually in Indian territory alone, and many more in Tibet and China.

* * *

The kinds of sugar-canes cultivated in India and the conditions under which they are grown are little understood outside India itself. The *Times* some time ago published a useful article by Dr. Barber, sugar-cane expert to the Government of India, with general information on the subject, accompanied by an ingenious map. The map shows the areas under cultivation of cane by the use of dots, each dot representing 10,000 acres of cane. The indigenous canes of India, which are most generally cultivated, are thin and grass-like, often no thicker than a fountain-pen. They tiller abundantly, 50 canes often growing from one root-stock. They are very hardy, and to a certain extent resist frost. They have a hard rind, much fibre, and little juice. Generous cultivation is not good for them. Even a small amount of manure prevents the formation of sugary juice. The juice yields "gur"—a treacly product which is neither sugar nor a substance from which, as raw material, sugar can be economically manufactured. It is therefore scarcely correct to dignify these native canes by speaking of them as sugar-canes. Gur is used almost universally throughout India instead of sugar, and even where the true sugar-cane is grown its juice is used, as a rule, to form gur, instead of being manufactured into sugar. Under the most favourable conditions the indigenous canes do not usually produce two tons of gur per acre.

* * *

Although there are on the average about 2½ million acres of cane under cultivation in India, including the tropical sugar-cane, only a comparatively small quantity of true sugar is produced. What is required has to be imported. In 1913 over 800,000 tons of white sugar were imported. It may be suggested that the true sugar-cane should be more generally cultivated instead of the native cane. But the great cane district of India, where the native canes are cultivated, lies along the southern margin of the Himalayas, well outside the tropics. During winter months there is little rain, and low temperature with occasional frosts. From April to June the temperature rises steadily until it far exceeds that of the tropics generally. The air is excessively dry, and even the hardy native cane can scarcely exist. Then the rains come, and the soil is soaked with moisture, often water-logged. The temperature falls as the rains slacken, and by the end of October all growth ceases. Only four months of the year are at all suitable for the growth of tropical canes, so that the production of sugar by them in this region is out of the question. This great cane tract includes perhaps ten-elevenths of the area generally set down in statistics as being under sugar-cane cultivation. Those who look for the extension of sugar-cane cultivation in India must find it in the tropical regions of India and Burma. And in all these regions we are warned that special local difficulties occur, such as labour, transport, water, land rights, &c. Dr. Barber's opinion is that there is no immediate prospect of India's contributing to the world's sugar supply.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. Clementi's Valuable Report.

(Continued from page 293.)

Owing to exigencies of space it is only possible to touch very briefly in the CIRCULAR on the many points of interest dealt with in Mr. Cecil Clementi's valuable Report on the condition of British Guiana. In our last issue some reference was made to his comments on the questions of immigration, health and communications, and in an earlier CIRCULAR we published his indictment of the existing telegraphic system between the colony and the outside world.

On the subject of roads he contrasts the position of British Guiana with that of much smaller West Indian colonies, to the disadvantage of the former. While British Guiana, with an area of 89,480 square miles, has only 343 miles of public roads and 103½ miles of municipal and village roads, Trinidad, with an area of 1,754 square miles, has 1,034 miles of main roads, and 1,221 miles of local roads, Jamaica, with 4,450 square miles, 2,213 miles of main roads and 4,246 miles of parochial roads, while Barbados, with an area of no more than 166 square miles, has constructed 470 miles of public road.

The history of the local steamer services follows, and Mr. Clementi finds the statistics of the Government-owned system very satisfactory, the loss on working made good by subsidy having fallen from \$31,795.66 in 1915 to \$17,363.46 last year, in spite of an addition to the itineraries in 1916 to the Pomeroon, as compared with a subsidy of \$47,000 per annum paid for these services prior to June 30th, 1913. Moreover, when the Government was paying a subsidy to Sproston, Ltd., it was getting nothing back, while in 1918 it was credited with \$11,067.30 as interest on capital and \$12,500 towards a steamer and insurance replacement fund, which on December 31st last amounted to \$61,034.50, or more than enough to replace one steamer. In the face of these figures no one would venture to endeavour to dispute Mr. Clementi's contention that, apart from the benefit derived by the travelling public from reductions in passenger fares and in freight effected by the colonial steamer service, the policy of Sir Walter Egerton in this matter has on the commercial side been profitable. He proceeds to point out that, for the remaining services still conducted by private enterprise, Sproston, Ltd., is receiving \$30,500 annual, to which \$20,000 was added in 1918 and \$10,000 for the first six months of the present year in compensation for increased working expenses. "Therefore, in 1918 the contract steamer services cost the taxpayers \$50,500, whereas the colonial steamer service only cost the taxpayers \$17,363.46; and the obvious inference is that in 1924 all the lines of steamer and launch communication, now run under contract, ought to be taken over."

Mr. Clementi is strongly of opinion that the river barriers, which divide the colony into watertight compartments, should be broken down, and that both the Berbice and Essequibo Rivers should be bridged. The Demerara River, on the other hand, he would leave unbridged, it being important to preserve and deepen Georgetown Harbour. He

favours an extension of the East Coast railway from Rosignol to New Amsterdam on the right bank of the Berbice River, and shows how this can be financed, expressing the belief that when the river is bridged a further extension of the railway to Plantation Skeldon, in Berbice, will become, in all likelihood, a paying proposition.

Predominance of Sugar Threatened.

Passing now to Mr. Clementi's remarks on Agriculture, it may be noted that he calls attention to the outstanding fact that, though British Guiana is as large as England, Scotland and Wales put together, the cultivated area in the colony is less than one-fifth of the size of Kent, this being due to the number of colonists being little more than three to the square mile, and he looks for no improvement until the population materially increases, and mechanical means are found of utilising the existing labour supply to greater advantage. Owing to the increase of acreage under rice cultivation from 33,889 acres in 1913 to 60,432 acres in 1918, the percentage of total acreage under sugar-cane has fallen from 49 per cent. in 1913 to 37.2 per cent. in 1918, and it is noteworthy that, whereas in 1913 the sugar-cane acreage was, approximately, equal to the whole area under other kinds of cultivation, in 1918 the rice and coconut acreages combined exceeded the sugar-cane acreage, which increased by no more than 1 per cent., while rice went ahead by 76 per cent., from which Mr. Clementi draws the conclusion that sugar is losing its once supreme position among the agricultural industries of the colony owing to labour shortage—

"It is at once apparent that even the encouragement given to the local cane-sugar industry by the elimination from the world's markets of beet sugar produced by Germany and Austria has not resulted in any great expansion of the sugar-cane acreage. This was due to the shortage of labour and the cessation, after the 18th April, 1917, of indentured immigration from India, as well as to the difficulty of obtaining manures such as sulphate of ammonia. But it has been calculated by the Director of Science and Agriculture that, even with the existing labour supply, the area now under sugar cultivation is capable of yielding 126,000 tons of sugar annually if the crushing plant in the local factories were improved. Moreover, on the 31st March, 1919, the area on sugar estates empoldered but left uncultivated was 82,609 acres—larger, that is to say, than the empoldered area under cane cultivation—and this suggests that, given an ample supply of labour and up-to-date factories, the annual yield from the already empoldered areas of existing sugar estates, which in 1918 was 107,560 tons, could be increased to some 250,000 tons of sugar. A conservative estimate of the area of unempoldered land available and well suited for the extension of sugar-cane cultivation in districts where sugar cane is already cultivated, gives 467,000 acres capable of producing (at the present ratio of yield of sugar to total empoldered area) a mean yearly crop of 320,000 tons of sugar. In addition to this, there are about 1,000,000 acres of virgin Crown land along the coast to the west of the Pomeroon River, and up the lower reaches of the rivers in the north-western district, presumably suited for sugar cultivation, although, so far as is known, they have never been in beneficial occupation. It is evident, therefore, that, with the introduction of the necessary labour and appliances, and with an improvement of means of transport, British Guiana could become a most important factor in the Empire's sugar supply."

(To be continued.)

THE DUTCH COCOA INDUSTRY.

Extracts from a valuable and informative report regarding the Dutch cocoa industry issued by the Commercial Department of the Netherlands are given below.

The art of making chocolate from cacao-nibs was introduced into Holland as far back as 1679 by Dr. Bontekoe, physician-in-ordinary to the Great Elector, whose book on chocolate, tea and coffee recommended the use of these healthy and, in the case of cacao, nourishing products. The process of manufacture consisted almost exclusively in the roasting of the cacao-nibs, which were ground while still hot, forming a syrupy mass. This was allowed to run into moulds and shaped into tablets or cakes.

The chocolate thus manufactured was bitter in flavour, and, since it contained a large proportion of fatty matters, was somewhat difficult of digestion, especially for delicate stomachs. Nevertheless, the products of this manufacture met with success, and were long in great request both in this country and abroad, where they were known by the name of Zealand chocolate, and even enjoyed a certain celebrity. In 1818 there were twenty-seven chocolate factories in the Netherlands. Most of these so-called factories were in reality no more than cocoa mills working in the manner described above. It was but a slow development that marked the manufacture of chocolate, and of the great variety of articles which, while known under different names, are all made of cocoa powder, sugar and spices.

The cocoa industry received a fresh impetus when the problem of the separation of the fatty matters contained in the cocoa—a problem that had long busied the experts—was at last solved. It was a Netherlander, Mr. C. J. van Houten, of Weesp, the founder of the still-existing factory, who, after much experiment and research, succeeded, in 1828, in obtaining a cocoa free from this excess of fat, which rendered it so indigestible, yet retaining all its nutritive value and providing a most agreeable beverage. Thereupon, side by side with the chocolate industry, was developed the cocoa industry, consisting in the preparation of a pure cocoa powder with no addition whatever, the aroma of which received its full flavour when the powder was dissolved in boiling water or milk by a simple process of stirring.

The process of removing the fat by mechanical means has been greatly improved since its invention, as a result of the general progress in technical science, and is now employed in all the Netherlands factories. Briefly, the process consists of the following: The cacao-nibs, after being roasted and peeled, are kept at a temperature of 70 to 80 deg. Cent., and subjected to hydraulic pressure. This pressure makes the nibs lose a part of their fat (the cocoa butter), which, before the treatment, amounts to about 50 per cent. After the treatment the product still contains 29 to 32 per cent. of cocoa butter and 71 to 68 per cent. of other substances (starch, albumen, water, sugar, cellulose, cinders, cocoa pigment and theobromin), and at the same

time possesses the quality of being now easily soluble in water. At present the factories produce cocoa alone, chocolate alone, or both of these articles. Those coming under the last category are in the majority.

The number of these factories has increased in this country by degrees. They are now pretty numerous. There are about forty of them, employing 3,700 workmen in all. The factories are situated as follows: Ten at Amsterdam, two at Alkmaar, two at Breda, one at Bussum, one at Deventer, three at The Hague, two at Haarlem, one at Helmond, one at Hilversum, one at Koog-on-Zaan, one at Nymwegen, six at Rotterdam, one at Sloten, two at Weesp, one at Westzaan, three at Wormerveer, and two at Zaandijk. In addition to these forty, there are some twenty which make products of sugar and chocolate, but these buy the cocoa used in the manufacture of their specialities from the other Netherlands factories, where it has already undergone a short preparation.

Side by side with this industry the Netherlands conduct a not unimportant trade in raw cacao, and also in powdered cocoa, and in chocolate in all its forms.

In consequence of the development of the cocoa industry, we have seen a considerable increase during the nineteenth century in the quantities of raw cacao imported. The principal markets hitherto supplying the Netherlands with cacao have been Hamburg, London, Liverpool, Paris, Havre, Bordeaux and Lisbon, but to a great extent it comes straight from the countries of production (Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, Netherlands Guiana or Surinam, Trinidad, the other West Indies, and the Netherlands East Indies). The cacao produced by the island of Java always arrives direct in the Netherlands, through the port of Amsterdam, where it is sold by auction. The other cacao, too, is imported mainly through the port of Amsterdam, which possesses more than double the cacao import recorded for the port of Rotterdam.

Only a part of the production of the Netherlands cocoa factories is consumed in the country itself. A large quantity of powdered cocoa and of chocolate in every form is exported abroad, where these products, thanks to their purity and their superior quality and flavour, rightly enjoy an excellent reputation.

MR. T. B. MACAULAY, President of the Canada-West India League, was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon yesterday afternoon.

* * *

THE White Star Line have been compelled to cancel their arrangements for West Indian cruises in the New Year, as the necessary steamers will not, after all, be available.

* * *

SIR EDWARD DAVSON, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, will read a paper on "Problems of the West Indies" before a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on December 9th, 1919, over which Lieut.-Colonel Amery, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, will preside.

LORD ROTHERMERE ANSWERED.**British West Indies Not for Sale!**

Lord Milner sent the following cablegrams on October 31st to the Governors of British Guiana and Jamaica respectively in reply to messages deprecating Lord Rothermere's recent suggestion that British Guiana and certain West Indian colonies should be ceded to the United States:—

"Pray assure elected Members of Legislature that His Majesty's Government have no intention of ceding British Guiana or any West Indian Colony to any foreign Power. His Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction this expression by the representatives of the people of British Guiana of their attachment to His Majesty the King and the British Empire, and they share conviction that it would be disastrous to sever connection so highly valued on both sides."

"Pray assure Jamaica Imperial Association that His Majesty's Government have no intention of ceding Jamaica or any other West Indian colony to any foreign Power. His Majesty's Government gladly welcome this expression of the deep attachment of Jamaica to the Empire of which it has been so long a valued member, and they trust that the tie which binds Island to Mother Country will never be severed."

The messages from British Guiana and Jamaica are given below. Sir Wilfrid Collet cabled from Georgetown on October 24th:—

"Following telegram is sent at the request of all elected Members of Legislature at present in colony: Elected Members Legislature strongly deprecate proposal of Lord Rothermere cede British Guiana United States in liquidation of war debt. Such a step would arouse acute resentment of whole community, which is proud to belong to British Empire, whose King is King George, and whose flag is the Union Flag, and whose inhabitants died and bled for that King and Flag in the Great War. Resolution to be moved by Legislature denouncing proposal as obnoxious in the extreme will voice sentiments of entire community."

Colonel Herbert Bryan, C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica, cabled on October 25th:—

"Following resolution is forwarded at request of Jamaica Imperial Association: That the Jamaica Imperial Association, representing large numbers of producers, merchants, and others in the island of Jamaica, who are proud of their position as British subjects, protests with all its might against the suggestion of Lord Rothermere that some or any of the British West Indian colonies should be sold to a foreign Power to liquidate a small part of Great Britain's war debt. That this Association is convinced that the increase of production throughout the Empire, and a closer interrelation between its several parts thereof, will result before long in unparalleled prosperity to the Empire as a whole, and will render unnecessary any consideration of the question of parting with any portion of the Empire towards payment of its obligations."

MR. SANDS writes from St. Vincent (October 4):—Fine weather is being experienced, and crops develop well. Cotton picking has started on several estates, and the position of arrowroot is the only unsatisfactory feature. His Excellency the Governor is paying an official visit to the colony.

CORRESPONDENCE.**THE SANITATION OF GEORGETOWN.**

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Having taken a practical interest in the sanitation of Georgetown for many years past, I take exception to the very exaggerated indictment against the existing condition of things there as made out by Dr. Wise, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana, whose remarks on the subject are, unfortunately, quoted by Mr. Clementi in his otherwise excellent and comprehensive "Report on the Condition of the Colony of British Guiana during the Great War," reviewed by you in last CIRCULAR. I may add that the same quotation was the subject of remark, if not adverse criticism, at the recent engineering conference in London, referred to in the CIRCULAR of October 2nd.

Dr. Wise must be fully aware of the many difficulties—financial and physical—in satisfactorily dealing with the sewage of a tropical city like Georgetown, whose surface is absolutely flat and $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. under high-tide level, as well as of the steps taken from time to time with a view of improving the sanitary conditions of the city.

Whilst admitting the necessity that exists of further improvements, I venture to express an opinion that such sweeping assertions as those made by Dr. Wise, to the effect that "the city is veritably floating on sewage," tend to do more harm than good, and are not, indeed, warranted by actual facts, as I proceed to show. The size of an average lot in Georgetown may be taken as 100 rods by 5 or 6 rods (Rlyn.), equal to, say, an area of 75,000 to 85,000 sq. ft. each, and that of the cess-tank or midden-pit thereon, referred to by Dr. Wise, as 16 to 20 sq. ft., representing less than 1-40th of 1 per cent. of the total area of the land; and taking into account the impervious nature of the clay subsoil, even where the pits are unlined, there is little chance of soakage of the contents, which are periodically emptied by hose-extractor apparatus and removed in closed airtight tank-vans, now that the previous pernicious practice of burying the contents in the vicinity of the latrines has been abolished for several years past. I had always been a consistent advocate of complete removal of excretal matter from the premises, either by the pail system or other means; and so long ago as 1883 I suggested the adoption of the Shone hydro-pneumatic system of conservancy, but the cost of which was considered at that time to be beyond the resources of the municipality. Practically the same system is now again proposed by Mr. K. J. S. Harris, the present city engineer, and is under consideration by the authorities concerned. Let us hope that the necessary funds for carrying it through may now become available through adequate financial help from the Government, as a result of the general interest awakened through the colonisation scheme, recently proposed for the benefit and development of the entire colony of British Guiana.—Yours truly,

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

Late City Engineer and Town Superintendent of Georgetown, B.G.

Cheltenham, November 4th, 1919.

DOMINICA'S ROADS.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR,

Riversdale,

Dominica.

SIR—I have read the letter by Dr. Nicholls, published in the CIRCULAR of June 12th under heading "Dominica's Roads," and cannot agree with his statement that the surplus of £28,000 has not been frittered away. Dr. Nicholls must know that the general opinion in the island is that the money was wasted; otherwise

why did the members of the Legislative Council ask that Mr. Bell, the Director of Public Works in Trinidad, might come to Dominica and report on the work accomplished, and, moreover, that all road work should be suspended until such report was made? Anyone carefully reading Mr. Bell's report can see that he practically condemns everything.

It is true there are no local funds available for further road construction, but now is the time for the Home Government to come forward and grant a loan on easy terms to the island, and, having gained knowledge by past bitter experience, take due precaution that competent and businesslike men are put in charge of the work.

It has been shown on all sides that Dominica's crying need is better roads, and without them the island cannot prosper. It is folly to suppose that this end can be attained by abandoning existing roads and cutting down expenditure.

I am, Sir, &c.,
G. W. PENRICE.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Medal for Defence Forces.

Mr. Gideon Murray asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on October 27th whether arrangements were being made to award a war medal to the members of the defence forces of those Crown Colonies and Protectorates which were not defined as a theatre of war in Army Order XX. of 1918, or Army Order 301 of 1919.

Mr. Churchill, in reply, said that the question of the award of a medal for services rendered by military personnel outside theatres of war was under consideration.

The State of Jamaica.

Replying, on October 22nd, to Lieutenant-Commander Kenworthy, who asked whether he was aware of the unrest and discontent in Jamaica and the demand of the population for an extension of representative government, and what steps it was proposed to take to meet this demand of the people of Jamaica, Lieutenant-Colonel Amery said: "I am not aware that any exceptional amount of unrest or discontent exists in Jamaica. I have received copies of laws passed in the colony to extend the franchise to men who have served overseas, and to women, but I have not had any official information regarding a demand for further extension of representative government."

Spirit Consumption.

On October 30th Lieut.-Colonel Pownall asked the Prime Minister whether it was now possible to remove the restrictions on the amount of spirits going into consumption, or, if that were not possible, to increase the quantity from the present figure—three-quarters of the 1916 clearances—to the full amount of 1916; and whether such increase of one-third in the spirits permitted to be cleared would increase the amount raised by the Excise by some £14,000,000 yearly.

Mr. Parker replied: "I am afraid it is not possible at the present moment to remove the restrictions upon the amount of spirits which may be removed from bond, but the question of making some increase in the present figure is now being considered. As regards the last part of the question, it is problematical whether the measure suggested by the hon. and gallant Member would, in effect, lead to any increase in revenue in view of the fact that distilling has only been resumed comparatively recently, and stocks are still at a low level."

Lieut.-Colonel Pownall then asked the Prime Minister whether he appreciated the hardship of taking 1916 as

the basis year on which supplies of spirits were rationed to clubs, in view of the fact that in many clubs almost all the men of military age had volunteered for active service in 1914 and 1915.

Mr. Parker replied: "It was necessary for administrative purposes that in bringing these restrictions into force, which was done in March, 1917, the last complete year should be taken as the basic year for the rationing of spirits. The question, however, of modifying the present restrictions is now being considered."

[The West India Committee, by deputation and letter, recently urged His Majesty's Government to increase the quantity of rum to be released for home consumption mainly on the principal grounds put forward by Lieut.-Col. Pownall, M.P. It is extremely satisfactory to learn that some increase in the present figure is now being considered.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

MISS MOSELEY, M.B.E., on behalf of the West Indian Contingent Committee, deposited a wreath of laurel and palm leaves at the foot of the Cenotaph on the occasion of the commemoration of the anniversary of the Armistice. It was inscribed—

"To the glorious memory of all the gallant men from the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras who gave their lives for their King and Empire."

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings from London, October 29th, per s.s. *Quilpué* (Captain C. E. Smith, D.S.O., R.D., R.N.R.)—

Mr. Rowland Allen, J.P.	Mrs. A. E. Glendinning	Mrs. McIntosh and in-
Mr. J. P. Bain	Mr. Manuel Gomes	fant
Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G.	Mrs. Gomes	Mr. B. Murray
Mrs. Bell	Miss E. Gomes	Miss E. G. Nicholls
Miss M. Bell	Mr. Alvaro Gomes	Mr. Charles Nutt
Lt. G. V. de Boissiere	Miss M. Hamel-Smith	Miss M. C. Parsons
Mrs. E. L. Burtonshaw	Col. A. Haynes	Mr. E. G. Pilgrim, M.D.
Mr. J. L. W. Cathcart	Mrs. Haynes	Mrs. Pilgrim
Mr. J. B. Ceuteno	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mrs. M. A. Rapsey
Mr. Frederick Chinn	Mr. A. Hombersley	Miss M. E. Rapsey
Captain R. D. Smith	Mrs. Hombersley	Miss S. H. L. Rapsey
Cuninghame	Miss M. Hombersley	Mr. J. J. Rodrigues
Mrs. Cuninghame, in-	Mr. C. V. C. Horne	Mrs. Rodrigues
fant and Nurse	Mrs. A. W. Ibbett	Mr. J. Rodrigues, Jun.
Miss A. C. Dalgety	Miss T. Johnson	Miss Rodrigues
Miss P. A. Dalgety	2nd Lt. A. R. Lange	Miss K. M. Seymour
2nd Lt. R. C. Doyle	Mr. MacDonald	2nd Lt. J. Stopford
Lt. J. Eaden	Mr. MacDonald	Mr. B. A. Torrance
Mrs. Eaden	Mr. J. MacDonald	Mrs. Torrance
Miss Eaden	Miss P. Marcellin	Miss Torrance
Miss Eaden	Major J. R. McCarthy	Dr. E. A. Turpin
Mr. A. D. Ferguson	Mr. J. G. McIntosh	Lt. H. A. Wade
Miss G. Ferreira	Mrs. McIntosh	Miss H. Woolworth
Miss E. I. Fleming	Miss D. R. McIntosh	Miss Minnie Wolseley
Mr. M. J. de Freitas	Lt. F. G. McIntosh	Mr. S. S. Wreford
Mr. George Gleadow		

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Bayano* from Avonmouth, November 3rd:—

Mr. F. J. Abbott	Mr. R. E. Heal	Sir Leslie & Lady
Miss L. S. Abbott	Mr. S. Hendriks	Probyn
Miss G. Abbott	Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Hill	Mr. L. Saltmarsh
Mr. John Barbour	Mr. D. Hone	Miss D. E. Sanders
Mr. A. J. Bartlett	Mr. N. Hone	Miss W. M. Sanders
Miss E. W. Charley	Rev. & Mrs. A. Kirby	Miss J. M. Sanders
Mr. A. J. Coke	Miss E. B. Kirby	Miss A. F. Steel
Mr. F. W. Colclough	Mr. W. W. McGuire	Miss E. Steel
Capt. A. P. Davison	Sister Madeline	Mr. B. F. Taylor
Miss M. C. Denholm	Mr. M. Malcolm	Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Taylor
Baron & Baroness Dins-	Mr. H. B. Maynam	Miss L. E. Taylor
dale	Mr. H. Moss	Sir M. W. & Lady
Miss C. M. L. Dimsdale	Mr. J. J. Monteague	Thompson
Mr. T. B. Dixon	Miss M. Monteague	Miss K. Tivy
Mr. & Mrs. F. Drake	Mr. & Mrs. E. Morris	Mrs. L. E. A. Tyndale
Mr. & Mrs. D. N. Eaton	Mr. & Mrs. W. Morris	Mr. F. Uhor
The Hon. A. M. Eden	Mr. C. Murray	Miss H. Scott Walker
Mr. L. Frankel	Mr. & Mrs. T. E. Peters	Mr. & Mrs. A. Walsh
Mr. F. Shirley Freese	Master R. Peters	Mr. A. Watson
Mr. & Mrs. H. Gardner	Miss M. Pigou	Mr. H. E. Watson
Mr. F. Bedford Glasier,	Mr. C. G. K. Pile	Mr. L. A. Weston
C.M.G., C.S.E.	Mr. Andrew W. Preston	Mr. F. C. White
Mrs. L. A. Gould	Mr. R. D. Pringle	Mrs. J. W. Wright
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Heal		

HOMeward MAILS.

JAMAICA.—Steamship Extension.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The Tropical Steamship Corporation, of 32 Broadway, New York, of which Mr. W. E. Mullins, formerly of the United Fruit Company, is President, has decided to establish a service between New York, Kingston, Cartagena, and Puerto Colombia, with steamers capable of carrying all freight offered. Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co. have been appointed agents of the Company on Kingston. The P.S.N.C. Company, which is allied to the R.M.S.P. Company, will shortly start a service between New York and Valparaiso via the Panama Canal, calling at Kingston en route, with the steamers *Ebro* and *Essequibo*, which, it will be recalled, were constructed for the Southampton-West Indies route in 1914. The Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company are establishing their offices in the St. Charles Building, formerly occupied by J. E. Kerr & Co.

The banana outlook is bright, and companies were paying £15 per 100 stems in September, when the price used to be £7 10s. at the most. This is attributable to the maintenance of prices abroad, and to the setback in Central American fruit, and the advent of the Jamaica Shipping Company. The citrus trade has received a good start, and coconuts are selling at good prices.

Negotiations as to the proposed St. Thomas Sugar Central are still proceeding, and it has been intimated that it could not be ready until 1921.

The United Fruit Company have closed down their merchandise business in Jamaica. Messrs. Lindsay, Swan Hunter, Limited, have acquired a site in Harbour-street, hitherto the electric and ice companies' buildings, on which they propose to erect up-to-date marine and sugar engineering works equipped on the most modern lines.

The prospects of the coming tourist season are very bright. The United Fruit Company are arranging special cruises by the *Pastores* and *Calamares*, and other vessels of the White Fleet, and the Tichfield Hotel will reopen in January, while improvements are being carried out at the Myrtle Bank and South Camp Hotels.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

November 12th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

SUGAR. The event of the fortnight has been the alteration in the prices by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, which came into force on November 3rd, and the suspension of "free" imports as from December 27th. The new control prices are as follows—

	Wholesale Per cwt.	Retail. Per lb.
	s. d.	d.
Cubes, Lumps, &c.	72 0	8½
W.I. Crystallised	66 0	8
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups	63 6	7½
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing	"free"	No maximum

Prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

The various orders and regulations in connection with the change, which was not unexpected, will be found elsewhere in the CIRCULAR. During the war there was plenty of sugar and no ships; now there are plenty of ships and no sugar, and with former enemy countries and our allies clamouring for supplies, world rationing has become essential. In the United Kingdom a reduction in con-

sumption of 500,000 tons next year is aimed at. The individual ration is now 8 oz. per week. There has been some agitation for a reduction of manufacturers' rations, but this would, after all, only add a negligible quantity to the householders' ration, and it is recognised that it would be a hardship to starve the sugar-using trades. Such information as is available regarding forward contracts for "free" sugar is given elsewhere, and it is certain that manufacturers, who will have to take delivery as part of their rations, will be at a disadvantage unless prices are advanced further. We look for a further rise in prices after December 27th.

Imports of sugar into the United Kingdom for the ten months ended October 31st, amounted to 25,885,851 cwt. (as against 24,518,411 for the same period in 1918), and of that total 25,021,529 cwt. have been entered for home consumption (against 15,879,622 cwt. for the same period in 1918).

New York prices:—

96° Cuba Centrifugals, c. and f.	588c.
Porto Bico, St. Croix, &c.	728c.
Centrifugals, non-privileged, c.i.f.	564c.

Some expect a 4,500,000-ton Cuba crop for 1919-20, but Willett & Gray consider it too early to estimate.

The West India sugar statistics in London on November 1st were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	42,693	34,292	74,789	
Deliveries	42,613	33,620	69,180	"
Stock	6,262	11,659	13,624	"

RUM. The West India Committee have represented to the Government the desirability of releasing more rum for home consumption. Deliveries are at present on the basis of 75 per cent. of those of 1916, when several millions of rum consumers were out of the country, being employed on urgent business elsewhere. It would be reasonable to add to the consumption figures of 1916 the quantities consumed by the Navy (in excess of pre-war requirements) and Army, and to release 75 per cent. of the total.

The Board of Trade continues to insult rum by linking it with "imitation rum" in its returns. Imports of the two (mainly, of course, rum) for the first ten months of the year amounted to 9,191,162 proof gallons, while deliveries for home consumption were only 2,030,757 proof gallons. For the corresponding period in 1918 the figures were 2,647,761 and 1,650,537 respectively. The market is quiet, and buyers show little interest.

The stocks in London on November 1st were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	8,217	4,296	8,557	
Demerara	14,958	10,350	8,233	"
Total of all kinds	28,789	20,261	27,088	"

COCOA. Imports in the ten months ended October 31st amounted to 2,144,802 cwt., as against 518,261 cwt. for the same period last year. Entries for home consumption during the same periods were 1,052,436 cwt. and 1,026,389 cwt. respectively.

Imports of West Indian to September 30th, 43,504 cwts.

The stocks in London on November 1st were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags.
Trinidad	33,489	9,941	23,465	
Grenada	15,597	7,749	23,228	"
Total of all kinds	119,513	139,290	251,102	"

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil: Handpressed**, no inquiry; **Distilled**, sellers at 3s. 6d., but very quiet. **Lime-juice: Raw**, small inquiry; sellers at 2s. to 2s. 3d. per gallon. **Orange Oil: Sweet**, in good demand; value 11s. per lb.; **Bitter**, quiet.

COPRA. Market steady. We quote West Indian c.i.f. London. £59.

COTTON continues in active request at hardening rates; quotations show further considerable advances. Imports of West Indian in the forty-five weeks ending November 6th, 7,222 bales.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West India Committee's Fund.

IT is the hope of the Executive that every member of the West India Committee will make a contribution towards the special fund which is being raised with the object of providing more convenient and commodious premises and secretarial assistance, the need for which is of pressing importance. Provided that an endowment fund of at least £20,000 is raised, any increase in the present membership subscription rate, which remains at the popular level of one guinea, or five dollars, a year will be obviated. Towards the desired total £8,400 has already been contributed by eighty-four firms and individuals in the Mother Country, and we trust that every reader of these lines will respond to the Committee's appeal—if he has not done so already—and will further help forward a good cause by commending it to his friends both at home and in the British West Indies. By doing so he will be assisting this old-established body to carry out still more effectively its objects, which are to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, and thus to increase the general welfare of those colonies.

Good News for the Rum Trade.

FOLLOWING a statement in the House of Commons overnight, the Food Controller announced on November 18th that all restrictions on the clearances of spirits from bond were to be removed immediately, and that the distribution of spirits was no longer confined to licensed customers who bought spirit in the year 1916. Since February the clearances of spirits from bond have been limited to 75 per cent. of the quantity taken out in 1916, and it is this restriction which has now been removed, the arrangements as to warehousing under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, as modified by subsequent Orders in Council, remaining, of course, in force. The West India Committee may legitimately congratulate itself upon this announcement, for it will be recalled that for some time past it has urged that increased quantities of rum might be released for home consumption. Our readers will remember that on September 25th a deputation of the Committee submitted their views on the subject to COLONEL AMERY, M.P., who promised to convey them to the Liquor Control Board. They pointed out that the restriction of clearances to 75 per cent. of those of 1916 was unsatisfactory because in that year the figures of consumption of rum were unduly small (amounting, as they did, to 3,360,179 proof gallons, as compared with 4,523,768 proof gallons in the preceding year) by reason of the fact that (a) the importation of rum was prohibited for the greater part of the year, and owners consequently restricted sales with the object of conserving stocks, and (b) several millions of consumers were serving in the Navy and Army, and were supplied by the Government instead of from private sources, their consumption of rum, estimated on the average of the years 1916-17 at 1,386,000 gallons per annum for the Army, and 375,000 gallons for the Navy (in excess of the usual deliveries for that branch of the Service), being supplementary to, and not included in, ordinary withdrawals. They further urged that, in view especially of the fact that the men recently demobilised from the Navy and Army would now again have to draw their supplies from ordinary channels instead of from the Government, in computing the quantity of rum to be released for the current year the total amount consumed by the military and civil population combined in the year 1916 might be taken as the basis of calculation. This, they showed, would bring the total actual consumption in 1916 to 5,121,179 gallons—a figure approximating the with-

drawals of 1914 and 1915, 75 per cent. of which would be 3,840,882 gallons. In support of this request they pointed out that the manufacture of rum does not impinge on the production of foodstuffs, but that an increased sale of rum invariably proves a direct inducement to planters to extend the production of sugar, of which it is, except on very few estates in Jamaica, a by-product. They also laid stress on the fact that the release of further quantities of rum would materially ease the congestion in the docks in London and Liverpool, where there is no longer warehouse space available. COLONEL AMERY, M.P., whose interest in West Indian affairs is becoming proverbial, promised that the representations of the Committee should be brought before the notice of the Liquor Control Board, and we do not doubt that they contributed towards bringing about so satisfactory a decision as that referred to above. It is not too much to say that rum played an important part in winning the war. There is not a man who spent a winter in the mud-sodden trenches of Flanders, or who went "over the top," nor a sailor in his lonely patrol in the cold North Sea, who would not confirm this, and it is reasonable to suppose that this wholesome and (especially with milk) nourishing spirit will enjoy a marked revival of popularity in the homes of the demobilised when the retail price, which is, for the present, to remain at 10s. 6d. per bottle, is reduced to a more reasonable level. The statistical position of rum, as shown by the recent Board of Trade returns, was becoming somewhat serious. During the first ten months of the current year, imports amounted to 9,191,162 proof gallons, whilst deliveries for home consumption during the same period were only 2,030,757 proof gallons. Producers will consequently hail the removal of the recent restrictions with lively satisfaction. The public generally will also welcome the increased clearance of spirits for home consumption, and, incidentally, the Government will benefit materially from the increased receipts from the Spirits Duty, which is now £2 10s. 4d. on British, and £2 12s. 10d. on foreign spirits.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

An Assistant Secretary Appointed.

Anticipating the success of their appeal for contributions towards an Endowment Fund—to which it is hoped that every member will respond—the Executive have appointed Captain Gilfred Knight to be Assistant Secretary to the West India Committee. Captain Knight, who was educated at Bradfield and Balliol College, Oxford, received a commission in the 7th East Surrey Regiment on August 11th, 1914, and went to France in the following June. He was severely wounded at Hulloch on October 13th, and was subsequently employed on home service. He is at present attached to the staff of the Judge Advocate-General. While at Oxford he took 2nd Class Honours in Law, and last year he was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, where he was Tancred Scholar.

COPIES OF WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 550, of October 30th, are much wanted. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. per copy for unsoiled copies delivered at 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Progress of the Endowment Fund.

Though it is too early as yet to receive any replies from the West Indies to the appeal for contributions, which was published in the CIRCULAR of October 30th, the West India Committee's Endowment Fund already stands at £8,409, which substantial amount has been contributed by firms and individuals in the Mother Country. This leaves £11,591 still to be collected, as the minimum amount of £20,000 must be raised if the objects in view are to be carried out effectively. The Committee hopes that every member of the West India Committee will not only contribute towards the Fund, but will also commend it to the favourable consideration of others interested in the welfare of our West Indian colonies, the promotion of which is the ultimate object of the present movement. With the interest of the Fund, when invested, the Committee propose to secure more convenient and commodious premises and increased secretarial assistance in order that the work of the West India Committee may be efficiently carried on and developed in many directions.

Those readers who have not yet seen the appeal will find it reproduced on page xvii. of the present issue. The first list of subscriptions was published in last CIRCULAR; the second is now given below—

Second List of Contributions.

	£	s.	d.
The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.	210	0	0
Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son...	105	0	0
The Right Hon. the Lord Glenconner...	105	0	0
Messrs. A. Hubbard & Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Messrs. Theo. Vasner & Co.	100	0	0
The Mirrlees, Watson Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
The New Schoonood Sugar Plantation Co., Ltd.	26	5	0
Hon. P. J. Dean...	25	0	0
The Proprietors of "Waltham" Estate, Grenada	25	0	0
Walter Abbott, Esq.	20	0	0
Messrs. D. Q. Henriques & Co.	15	15	0
F. J. Constable Curtis, Esq. ...	10	10	0
Hon. Carlos Melhado, C.M.G. ...	5	5	0
Lieut.-Colonel C. Wood Hill, D.S.O. ...	5	0	0
Miss M. A. Bratt	2	2	0
F. G. Evan Jones, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Sir Alexander F. King, K.C.B.	2	2	0
Bernard F. King, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Major-General A. E. Sandbach, C.B., D.S.O. ...	2	2	0
Colonel Wilfred Tolson ...	2	2	0
Gordon W. Turner, Esq.	1	1	0

Correction to First List.—B. C. Forder, Esq., £2 2s. 6d., should read £1 1s.

Contributions may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3, and it is proposed to publish the full list of subscribers in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR from time to time.

Membership Still Expanding.

No less gratifying than the response to the appeal for contributions to the Endowment Fund is the number of candidates coming forward for election to the West India Committee. Following the admission of thirty-nine new members recorded in last CIRCULAR, fifteen were elected at a meeting of the Executive held on November 20th. The total membership of the West India Committee is thus brought to 1,929. The names of those elected on Thursday last are given below:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDER.
Caymanas Estate (Jamaica)	Mr. H. Crum Ewing. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Sir Alexander Freeman King, K.C.B.	The West India & Panama Telegraph Co. Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., G.C.M.G.
Messrs. Hutchison & Pollock, Ltd.	Mr. Frederick N. Martinez. Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.
Mr. R. W. Tomlinson	Mr. H. Crum Ewing. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. H. Ralph Mitchell (Grenada)	Mr. R. M. Otway. Mr. C. F. Renwick.
Messrs. J. K. Gulland, Ltd.	Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Messrs. John Tann, Ltd.	Mr. Frederick N. Martinez. Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.
The British Union Oil Co. Ltd.	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. G. Macgregor Frame.
Mr. Herbert G. W. Brinsley, M.C., F.S.I. (Dominica)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. H. B. Gajraj (British Guiana)	Dr. W. Hewley Wharton. Mr. E. R. Campbell
Mr. A. S. Rohoman (British Guiana)	Dr. W. Hewley Wharton. Mr. E. R. Campbell
Mrs. Helen Margaret Tredgold	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. G. Eliot Sealy.
Mr. V. A. Gale (Barbados)	Mr. W. Boyd. Captain E. Lindsay Armstrong.
Mr. Bernard F. King	Mr. W. A. Wolsoley. Mr. E. R. Campbell.
Hon. Carlos Melhado, C.M.G. (British Honduras)	Mr. Frederick N. Martinez. Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.

For the benefit of new readers it may be mentioned that the objects of the Association, as laid down in the Royal Charter granted to it by King Edward VII. on August 4th, 1904, is by united action to promote the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade, and thus increase the general welfare of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. Only British subjects are eligible for membership, particulars of which will be found above the first leading article.

THE Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are re-establishing direct steamship communication with Haiti, which has been interrupted since 1899, when their transatlantic steamers ceased to call at Jaemel en route from Barbados to Jamaica. The new service was inaugurated by the R.M.S.P. *Conway*, which left London on November 12th for the principal Haitian ports.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Give dog bad name, go hang him."

* * *

THE Royal Bank of Canada will celebrate the jubilee of its foundation on December 20th by giving a bonus of 2 per cent. to its shareholders.

* * *

MANY Trinidad friends will join with the CIRCULAR in congratulating Captain Raoul Esme Macdonell upon his marriage to Mrs. Katherine O. F. Mitchell Marshall, which was celebrated at St. Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, on November 19th.

* * *

COLONEL H. A. BARCLAY, C.V.O., who was recently elected a member of the West India Committee, was appointed Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII. in 1906, and is now A.D.C. to King George. He is leaving on December 1st in the *Camito* for a visit to Jamaica.

* * *

MR. J. P. DE VERTEUIL, late of the H.A.C., one of three brothers who came over to join up during the war, having completed a course of petroleum technology, proceeded to New Guinea last Saturday to take up an appointment with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

* * *

MR. HERBERT G. W. BRINSLEY, M.C., F.S.I., having severed his connection with the firm of Jenkinson, Brinsley & Jenkinson, left by the *Quillota* on November 26th for the West Indies, where he proposes to practise as a land agent and surveyor, making his headquarters for the time being in Dominica.

* * *

THE British Guiana Sugar Factories, Limited, which owns and operates Plantation Wales, West Bank, Demerara River, have purchased Plantations Houston and Hope, which for upwards of a century were in the possession of the Howell-Jones family, from which they passed to a London firm. The joint crops of the two estates average 3,000 tons of sugar per annum. Plantation Houston is approached by a noble avenue of cabbage palms, which forms one of the recognised sights for visitors to Georgetown.

* * *

THE Royal Dutch West India Mail steamer *Stuyvesant* will call at Dover to take up passengers and mails for the West Indies on or about December 6th, and will make Trinidad her first port of call. Messrs. Wainwright Bros. & Co., of 21, Fenchurch-street, the general agents of the Company, state that all available berths in this vessel have been already booked, but they hope that it may be possible to arrange for the steamers of the line to call regularly at an English port for passengers and mails on their voyage to the West Indies.

* * *

MR. DAVID GIBSON, a former long-resident and much-respected merchant and Town Councillor of Georgetown, now retired and living in England, writes in support of Mr. Luke M. Hill's letter of protest against Dr. Wise's serious indictment of the sanitary condition of Georgetown, British Guiana, which appeared in last CIRCULAR. Mr. Gibson emphatically refutes Dr. Wise's allegations, which he considers calculated to injure the fair name of the city and colony, especially at this time, when efforts are being made to carry out a comprehensive scheme of colonisation for British Guiana. Mr. Gibson enumerates at some length in his letter the many sanitary improvements effected in Georgetown since he first landed there in 1868, justifying the frequently expressed opinion of more recent visitors that it is the finest and best-kept city in the West Indies.

THE ANTI-DUMPING BILL.

The Imports and Exports Regulation Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on November 19th. This Bill, the full text of which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms, provides for the constitution of a Trade Regulation Committee comprising the President of the Board of Trade, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary and Controller of the Department of Overseas Trade, the Permanent Secretaries of the Board of Trade, and ten Members of the House of Commons to regulate the importation of goods with a view to preventing dumping, safeguarding key industries and industries affected by the depreciation of a foreign currency.

The Committee will be empowered by Orders to apply the Act on being satisfied—

(a) That goods of any class or description produced or manufactured in any country outside the United Kingdom are systematically and in substantial quantities being imported into or being sold or offered for sale in the United Kingdom at prices below the foreign value as defined by this Act, or that there are good grounds for apprehending that such importation or sale is about to take place; and

(b) That the production or manufacture of similar goods in the United Kingdom is or is likely to be thereby adversely affected.

Such Order may provide that the goods shall not be imported without the production of documentary evidence showing their foreign value and country of manufacture, and declarations by the importers as to the purchasers, with evidence to enable Customs Commissioners to ascertain the import price. Prohibition of importation may be applied if the import price is lower than the foreign price, but importation of such goods shall not be deemed illegal if the importer, before the clearance of the goods, pays to the Customs Commissioners a sum equal to the amount by which the foreign value of the goods exceeds their import price.

While the prohibition is in force the sale of such goods in the United Kingdom at prices less than their foreign value will be prohibited, unless the vendor pays to the Board of Trade a sum equal to the difference between the price at which the goods are sold and their foreign value, or unless he can show the price is due to depreciation in quality or other causes.

As drafted it would seem that these provisions of the Bill will only apply where "the production or manufacture of similar goods in the United Kingdom is or is likely to be . . . adversely affected." What, then, will be the position with regard to sugar? Presumably any renewed dumping of sugar would adversely affect the nascent English beet industry, and would therefore come within the scope of the Act. At the same time it would be better if colonial industries, on which the Mother Country may have to depend in times of stress, were also directly safeguarded.

The Bill will also empower the Trade Regulation Committee to prohibit by Order the exportation of certain goods, including sugar.

Germany's Sugar Industry.

Messrs. Willett & Gray report that in 1918-19, 307 beet-sugar factories in Germany worked a total of 8,730,996 tons of beets, while in 1917-18, 312 beet-sugar factories worked 9,229,939 tons of beets. The area harvested in 1918-19 has been officially set at 370,975 hectares, and therefore the average crop per hectare was 23.5 tons beets, against 24.0 tons in campaign 1917-18 and against 23.9, 26.4, 29.3 and 31.8 respectively for campaigns previous thereto. During the last year of the war there was a sharp falling off in production because of the well-known causes, and which was also contributed to by the poor weather conditions. The yield of sugar from the roots worked was 15.52 per cent., against 16.97 per cent. the previous year. To produce 1 ton of sugar in the campaign 1918-19 it was necessary to work 6.44 tons of beets, against 5.89 tons the previous year. In the sugar refineries 793,334 tons of raw sugar were worked, against 900,569 tons the previous year, from which were produced all kinds of refined sugar in the amount of 704,119 tons, against 788,833 tons the previous year. After making the necessary allowances for consumption sugar as against raw sugar, the official production in raw value is 1,341,574 tons, against 1,541,062 tons the previous year.

CACAO PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA.

All cacao plantations in the Eastern and Western Provinces of Nigeria are so far in the hands of native farmers who do not, as a rule, worry about "plantation method." All they are anxious about is the getting of their crops to the buyer with as little expenditure of energy as possible. An expert contributor in an article published in our valued contemporary *West Africa* suggests the following as a reasonable method of bettering the present unsatisfactory condition of affairs. The Government should arrange with some well-trained responsible cacao-grower from one of the more advanced colonies to take over from the native owner a farm of about 500 acres, half planted and half in bush. They should give the owner £500 for the first three years and the cacao-grower should be given £1,000 for labour for the first three years, this money to be paid in instalments in the sixth, seventh and eighth years. After the first three years the native owner should be paid by the cacao-grower at the rate of 30 per cent. of all profits, the agreement to be for thirty years. The Government could use this as a training centre where their agricultural pupils could be taught the practical side of plantation management. The total cost to the Government would be £4,500, exclusive of surveyors' and solicitors' fees. This, the writer thinks, would do away with a great deal of wasted energy and money.

The Agricultural Department has achieved a notable success with its cacao experimental plots. These plots consisted of five 1-acre plots of cacao, which had been planted several years before by their native owners. They were taken over by the Department in 1912, and all the proceeds were handed to the owners. They were handed back in 1916. During the four years they gave an average profit per plot of £4 12s. 6d. per annum.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Conditions During the War.

(Continued from page 310.)

Mr. Cecil Clementi, continuing his remarks regarding the agricultural industries of British Guiana, refers to the remarkable development of rice-growing, which now takes second place among the industries of the colony. The consumption of this cereal locally received a stimulus through the war and the increasing price of flour, which led to the use of rice as a substitute for bread, and it is now probably double what it was 20 years ago. There is a steady demand for Crown lands for rice-growing, but unfortunately the labour supply is so inadequate that, as one man cannot reap all that he sows, much rice is lost for want of labour to reap it at the proper time. Mechanical appliances are sorely needed by the rice-farmers, and defective drainage and irrigation and neglect of the proper seasons for planting and reaping are common faults.

Mr. Clementi considers cacao-planting an industry of promise, but he adds that it requires more capital, labour and perseverance than small farmers can command, no return being yielded until the fifth or sixth year after planting. The export of cacao attained its maximum of 55½ tons in 1900; but several of the larger cacao estates received a severe set-back when their proprietors were changed during the rubber boom from 1906 to 1911, young cacao being neglected and in many cases abandoned, while rubber-trees were planted.

A Government Lime Factory.

The lime industry is mainly in the hands of two firms—viz., Messrs. Davson & Company, of Plantation Providence, Berbice, and the Agatash Estates near Bartika. It is now fully proved that lime-trees grow well on the lighter lands of the colony, wherever they are protected from the force of the wind. On the light, almost sandy, soil of the Essequibo coast they grow excellently, as also on lateritic soils up the Essequibo River. When it becomes more generally known, says Mr. Clementi, that there are very large areas of loose, friable land in British Guiana, well adapted to this cultivation, as well as an enormous extent of ferruginous lateritic soils in many parts of the interior of the colony, where this crop can be successfully grown, a rapid extension of the lime industry should take place.

"In order to encourage lime-cultivation by the peasantry, especially those of the Essequibo coast, the Combined Court in March, 1915, authorised the erection and equipment of a Government factory at Onderneeming for concentrating lime-juice and manufacturing distilled oil of limes. The cost of erecting this factory was \$3,093.89, being \$1,502.47 for machinery and \$1,591.42 for the building and plant. This factory started operations early in July, 1916, when limes came into season, and the result of 2½ years' working, which ended on March 31st, 1919, has been eminently satisfactory. The undertaking is worked upon a strictly commercial basis, both in order that its actual profit and loss should be revealed, and that possible future investors in similar concerns may be afforded as much information as possible. Accordingly an advance of \$2,000 was made by the Government for working expenses, and, in the accounts, Onderneeming Farm has been paid for all limes supplied, and the Industrial School has been paid

for services of management and supervision, while the cost of the inmates' labour has been computed, as also that of firewood supplied, and these amounts have been paid into the Treasury. The Government has also been paid 5 per cent. per annum on \$1,591.42, being the cost of building and plant, as well as on the \$2,000 advanced for working expenses. A depreciation fund for replacement of machinery has been opened, and 20 per cent. on \$1,502.47 (being the cost of machinery) is paid annually into this fund, which on March 31st, 1919, amounted to \$822.19. The result has been a net profit of \$641.48 on the first half-year's working, a further net profit of \$875.78 on the period January 1st, 1917, to March 31st, 1918, and of \$2,900.04 on the period April 1st, 1918, to March 31st, 1919. Moreover, on June 27th, 1918, Mr. S. H. Bayley, the manager of the factory, reported that it is now possible to finance the lime factory with its own funds."

The vexed question of sea-defences is next dealt with, and, after reviewing its history, Mr. Clementi quotes Mr. Case's report and strikes a note of optimism, writing:—

"In view of the lamentable record of the past, it is gratifying to note, as an earnest of better things to come, that, in a report dated November 6th, 1917, Mr. Case was able to state that on the Lusignan-Beterverwagting and the Clonbrook-Grove sections, where permanent work first began and is furthest advanced, the condition of the foreshore is steadily improving at a rate beyond his most sanguine expectations. In front of the new Lusignan sea-wall, where the erosion was formerly very noticeable, the foreshore has built up an average of 3 ft. 6 in., and, in what were formerly the most eroded portions, to a vertical height of from 5 ft. to 6 ft.; while in the Clonbrook section, where in the spring of 1917 very rapid erosion was taking place, and where a part of the public road was washed away and the rest of it threatened with entire destruction, we now find the foreshore built up to a height of from 2 ft. to 3 ft. above the roadway. 'I have no doubt,' writes Mr. Case, 'that the building up will continue, and that in the course of a few years there will be little or no wave action against the sea-wall, even during storms.'"

A later report by Mr. Case, dated May 4th, 1919, is equally encouraging. Succeeding paragraphs deal with drainage and irrigation. Mr. Clementi suggests the following local principles, which he thinks should govern schemes in this connection. These are—

"First of all, that drainage is as essential to successful sanitation as to successful agriculture along the whole coastal fringe; secondly, that, since all schemes for draining the coast lands must affect the foreshore, precautions to obviate sea defence anxieties and expense must form an integral part of such schemes; thirdly, that, inasmuch as the local labour supply is quite inadequate, and must therefore be used to the fullest advantage, the chief aim should be to irrigate and to occupy beneficially the whole extent of existing empolders. Accordingly, preference should be given to schemes which will improve the drainage of populous centres, which will create no new sea defence problem, and which will improve the irrigation of existing empolders. From all these points of view it is clear that, when funds are available, the proposals for extending the East Demerara Water Conservancy deserve priority, because they affect the well-peopled area which extends from Hyde Park on the Demerara River to Mahaica on the coast, and includes Georgetown, because they affect a section of the seaboard which is being permanently protected against erosion, and because they will improve the irrigation of 48,793 acres of land at present in cultivation, and enable another 24,182 acres of land already empoldered, but now lying fallow, to be brought into cultivation."

(To be continued.)

GUIANA DELEGATES FOR INDIA.

The members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation selected to visit India are now on their way to that country. Dr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., and Mr. T. Greenwood, left in the *s.s. Leicestershire* on October 26, while Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, F.R., Dr. W. H. Wharton and Mr. Parbhu Sawh sailed in the *s.s. Egypt* on November 6th. As at present arranged, the deputation will proceed first to Delhi with a view to laying their case before the Government of India, and will take every opportunity of enlightening public opinion in India as to the amenities of British Guiana and to the advantages which the colony offers to immigrants from India on an entirely free basis.

Dr. Nunan, the leader of the deputation, first went to British Guiana in 1905 as Solicitor-General, and has been Attorney-General of the colony since 1912. Called to the Bar in 1898, he is recognised as a man of conspicuous ability and an indefatigable worker. Mr. Greenwood, who will represent in particular the interests of the British Guiana proprietors, is director of the firm of Messrs. Booker Bros., Mc Connell & Company, Limited, and a member of the executive of the West India Committee.

Dr. W. Hewley Wharton, chairman of the East Indian Association of British Guiana, was born in that colony, and was the first "creole" Indian to embark on a professional career. For some time a chemist in Georgetown, he came over to Edinburgh in 1893 to study medicine and took the degrees of L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. (Edinburgh) and L.R.C.P. and L.R.F.S. (Glasgow). Whilst in Edinburgh he served successively as Vice-President and President of the Indian Association in that city. He has also served as Chairman of the Medical Board of British Guiana for four consecutive periods. Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, F.R., the youngest member of the deputation, was born in British Guiana, and sits in the Combined Court of the colony as Financial Representative elected by popular vote. Mr. Parbhu Sawh, who is proud of the fact of having himself been an indentured immigrant in the old days, is now a prominent merchant in Georgetown.

CEYLON'S COCONUT INDUSTRY.

The following data for the conversion of oil, copra and desiccated to a nut basis are given by Mr. H. K. Rutherford in an article on coconuts published in the *Tropical Agriculturist* for September:—

- 1 ton of oil equals 8,125 nuts.
- 1 ton of copra equals 5,000 nuts.
- 1 ton of desiccated equals 6,900 nuts.

On this basis the average annual export of coconuts from Ceylon in the pre-war years 1911 to 1914 were 569,841,250; in the war period 1915-1918 there was a falling off represented in nuts at 19,928,250, probably due to export difficulties and consequent deterioration of stocks. The acreage under coconuts in 1915 was 800,000 acres, giving on the basis of 1,500 nuts per acre an output of 1,200,000,000 nuts per annum, of which 640,000,000, or their equivalent, are consumed locally as food oil, &c.

OUR AGRICULTURAL STAFFS.

When commenting in last issue on the appointment of a Committee to consider the position of the various medical services in our colonies, the CIRCULAR called attention to the disadvantages to which medical officers in the West Indies were subject through inadequate pay, and the absence of uniformity in respect of promotion, pensions, &c. What was then said applies with equal force, *mutatis mutandis*, to the agricultural staffs in the West Indies, the members of which are, in many cases, admittedly underpaid, with the result that, after comparatively few years' work and experience, many of the best men are tempted away to other parts of the world by the greater inducements offered. Thus, the British West Indies has lost the services of such prominent agricultural officers as Dr. C. A. Barber, Professor Maxwell Lefroy, Dr. F. A. Stockdale, Dr. H. A. Tampany, Mr. F. W. South, Mr. Lewton Brain, and, still more recently, Mr. W. N. Sands, who, we regret to say, has left St. Vincent, where he has done such excellent work, especially in connection with the cotton industry, for the Malay States.

To have brought to the front so many notable scientists is certainly a feather in the cap of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and, incidentally, more than justifies its claim to Imperial assistance, and it is a short-sighted policy which permits other colonies to take away many of its best men through the absence of sufficient inducements for them to remain in the West Indies.

In this connection, it may be recalled that Professor Maxwell Lefroy is reported to have saved the Australian Government no less than £5,000,000 sterling by devising means to cope with the insect attacks on wheat stored in Australia.

No doubt this aspect of the question has been considered by the Committee which was appointed some little time back by Lord Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to consider whether the staff of the Agricultural Departments in the colonial services is adequate, and, if necessary, to recommend increases of staff; to consider whether the rates of salary offered to the agricultural staff are adequate, and, if necessary, to suggest improvements; and to make suggestions for improving the arrangements for recruiting agricultural staffs for the colonies.

The members of the Committee are: Sir Herbert Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary, Colonial Office (Chairman); Lieut.-Colonel Sir David Prain, C.M.G., C.I.E., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sir Henry Birchenough, K.C.M.G., Chairman of the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee; Professor J. B. Farmer, D.Sc., Professor of Botany, Imperial College of Science; Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies; Major R. D. Furse, D.S.O., Assistant Private Secretary (Appointments), Colonial Office. Mr. F. L. Sidebotham, of the Colonial Office, is Secretary.

As we go to press we learn with deep regret that Lady Allardye, wife of the Governor of the Bahamas, has died of heart-failure at Nassau.

A HOOKWORM LEAGUE.

It has been decided to establish a league in Trinidad with the principal aim of attempting to reduce Hookworm disease, which is known to be exceedingly prevalent in the colony.

To this end the following suggestions have been prepared by a Committee of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad in Tobago, consisting of Mr. E. Radclyffe-Clarke, Rev. H. H. Morton, Mr. A. B. Carr and Dr. Lassalle.

The objects of the Hookworm League should, they say, be:—

To effect a permanent reduction in the amount of Hookworm disease in the colony by—

- (a) Education concerning the dangers of soil pollution among planters, labourers, farmers and villagers.
- (b) Encouragement of the examination of all persons in the rural districts of the colony, and arrangements for the treatment of every infected person by a physician.
- (c) Co-operation with the Government in developing measures which will aid in the accomplishment of the object of the League.

The methods of operation of the League recommended by the Committee are:—

(1) General educational work by means of the distribution of literature of various kinds and newspaper publicity as well as instruction in schools.

(2) Education on Estates.—This should be made a point of thorough work on the part of the League, not only to get owners and managers to provide proper sanitary conveniences for their labourers and to help labourers suffering from Hookworm disease to obtain treatment, but to see that the estate overseers and drivers are active in educating the labourers and in supervising the care of the latrines and their maintenance in a clean, sanitary condition. It is the universal experience that latrines cannot be left to the unsupervised care of low-grade labourers and uninterested drivers. Their purpose is often defeated in the best estates by lack of inspection and supervision.

(3) Education in villages, preferably intensive campaigns lasting a few weeks, and including a house-to-house canvass in which the chief stress is laid on sanitation; this to be followed by efforts of a less intensive nature, and continued indefinitely and perseveringly.

(4) Indirect education through other organisations—

- (a) Friendly and other benefit societies, which should be urged to see that members have sanitary homes, and that they are free from Hookworms. This is a matter of pure economy on the part of the society, for it means a great saving in money for sick benefits. In Arima the applications for relief in the chief society of the town dropped to the lowest point in their history during the campaign of the Trinidad Ankylostomiasis Commission.
- (b) Credit and loan associations should be urged to investigate the health of persons applying for loans.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. T. B. Macaulay of Canada Entertained.

Mr. T. B. Macaulay, President of the Canadian West Indian League, was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon on November 19th. Sir Edward Davson presided, and the company present included Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel Beekles Willson, Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Ogilvie, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, Mr. Hugh Cotton, Mr. Russell Garnett, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. L. W. L. Moore, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. G. R. Moody, Mr. F. W. Rowstone, Mr. G. R. Parrott, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G.

Proposing the health of the guest, Sir Edward Davson referred to the keen interest which Mr. Macaulay was showing in West Indian affairs, and to the thorough manner in which he had investigated the various problems affecting the West Indies during his recent trip down the islands to Guiana and back. For eight years their guest had been President of the Canada-West India League, whose work had been productive of much good. Mr. Macaulay was also President of that great corporation known as the "Sun Life" of Canada.

Mr. Macaulay, responding, gave an interesting address on the question of a closer understanding between the West Indies and Canada, which he has already done so much to bring about. He admitted that since first he had interested himself in the matter his views had undergone a change. As far as the islands were concerned, he was now no longer in favour of political union with Canada. The obstacles in the way of that were too numerous. On the other hand, he felt that closer commercial union between these two parts of the Empire was eminently desirable. This he could effect by a mutual increase of the existing preferences to 50 per cent., which would not be followed by any great loss of revenue if the existing preferential tariff rates were made the new preferential rates. As to the desirability of this he believed that there would be general unanimity. British Guiana was on a different basis, and he believed that if Canada could have a commercial union with British Guiana she would be prepared to assist in the development of the colony by building railways and utilising the water power. He advocated the appointment of a Commission, to include prominent men of British Guiana and Canada, with a representative of the Mother Country, to consider what could best be done to promote the best interests of British Guiana and Canada.

[An editorial will be devoted to the subject of Mr. T. B. Macaulay's address in next issue.—Ed.]

"WHEN I was out in the West Indies a French frigate came into the harbour with yellow fever on board. My admiral asked the captain of the English man-of-war that happened to be there what kindness he had shown the French frigate on arrival. He said he had sent them the keys of the cemetery."—Lord Fisher's "Records" in the *Times*.

* * *

MAJOR J. R. BOOSE, C.M.G., V.D., travelling commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, will be the recipient of congratulations from many friends in and connected with the West Indies, which he visited several years ago, on his marriage to Mrs. Louise Chick, widow of Mr. Albert Chick, of Chard, Somerset, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on Wednesday, November 26th.

WEST INDIAN SHIPPING.

The Departmental Committee's Report.

(Continued from page 308.)

Dealing with the position of Jamaica and British Honduras, the Committee point out that all the arguments which apply to the difficulties of steamship communication between the United Kingdom and the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana apply with greater force to Jamaica, with the further feature that there is no large undeveloped area like that of British Guiana offering commercial possibilities for the future on a big scale. They state that the direct service carried on from 1901 to 1911 by the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service under contract with the Imperial and local Governments was conducted at a considerable loss to the contractors. A statement supplied by the Company and published as an appendix shows that this loss amounted to £278,784 for the ten years after crediting the amounts received for subsidies.

The Committee then enumerate the various steamer services which connected Jamaica with Europe before the war, and point out that the banana trade was carried in the special steamers built for the trade and owned by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes. "Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, however, who are controlled by the United Fruit Company of the United States of America, do not carry fruit on behalf of independent shippers. Consequently, there is very little opportunity for the independent fruit-grower to ship his produce away from the colony, and even if he did succeed in doing so, he would probably be unable to market it. This situation has aroused considerable dissatisfaction in the colony, which was specially brought to the attention of the Committee by Mr. de Pass." The Committee felt, however, that, while of great importance, this was not a matter with which they could deal, though they expressed the hope that a fruit trade with Canada might be developed. They then sum up the situation regarding Jamaica as follows:—

"Apart from the question of the fruit trade, which is a very serious one to the producer in the colony, the Committee are not aware that any difficulty exists in obtaining freightage for the produce of the colony. They learn from the General Post Office that the mail service with Jamaica is adequately maintained by way of New York. As regards a passenger service, they have already expressed their view that it would be impossible to maintain such a service by itself on commercial lines; and they can only recommend that the Governments concerned should watch the shipping situation closely, so that, should the opportunity arise, arrangements could be made for one of the regular lines passing Jamaica for the Panama Canal and beyond to make Jamaica a regular port of call in return for a small subsidy. It is possible that steamship companies in their own interest may find it convenient to call at Jamaica without the inducement of such a subsidy, and this would be the most satisfactory course from the point of view of the colony; but the Committee are of opinion that the importance of maintaining direct communication between Jamaica and the Mother Country is sufficient to justify the payment of a small subsidy, if this offer has the effect of inducing a shipping line to call regularly when in the ordinary course of commercial practice it would not do so. This subsidy might cover the performance of mail services. In this connection the

Committee note with much gratification the Governor's intention to make Kingston Port free of light and harbour dues, and are of opinion that this step will operate as an inducement to steamers to call at the colony on their way to and from the Panama Canal.

"The Governor of Jamaica, in forwarding the recommendations of the local Government recommended that Jamaica should be linked with one port of the inter-colonial service system. The Committee assume that by this he meant that the steamers performing a voyage under an inter-colonial contract should go on to Jamaica. Having regard to the geographical position of Jamaica in relation to the Lesser Antilles, the Committee are of opinion that this proposal is impracticable."

With regard to British Honduras, the Committee consider it to be clear, from the geographical position of the colony, that the possibility of regular communication between it and this country is closely connected with the establishment of a service between the United Kingdom and Jamaica. As to the question of communications between British Honduras and Jamaica, they are of the opinion that the Governments immediately concerned are alone in a position to make recommendations as to the policy to be adopted.

(To be concluded.)

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings per s.s. *Coronado* from Avonmouth on November 10th:—

Mrs. G. Adair	Miss M. M. Fraser	Mrs. H. B. Ogle
Master W. A. Adair	Lt.-Col. P. J. Gordon	Master P. Ogle
Mr. J. Barclay	Mrs. E. H. Gordon	Lt.-Col. G. A. Pagan
Mrs. F. Barton	Miss P. Gordon	Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Randall
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Beckford	Mr. K. S. Haughton	Master F. L. Randall
Rev. & Mrs. J. S. Blackman	Mrs. A. K. Herron	Mr. C. H. Rickman
Mrs. C. L. Bullwinkle	Mr. W. Hind	Mr. A. J. Russell
Lady Chalmers	Mrs. A. M. Hire	Mrs. Rutty
Miss Chalmers	Mrs. A. Kerr	Comdr. & Mrs. St. A. St. John
Mr. & Mrs. J. Charley	Lt.-Col. A. E. Kershaw	Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Shekell
Mrs. G. L. Cooper	Mrs. H. H. Lake	Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Lucie-Smith
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Cootie	Miss J. I. Lake	Mrs. A. H. Sparks
Mr. C. M. Cootie	Miss F. G. E. Lake	Miss M. H. Sparks
Mr. C. J. Cullen	Mjr. & Mrs. R. R. Leader	Mrs. A. M. Stiel
Mrs. A. Currie	Sir E. A. Lechmere	Miss E. Shoebridge
Mr. & Mrs. K. S. Davidson	Mr & Mrs. J. Macdonald	Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Townsend
Mr. C. D. C. Dewar	Mr. J. P. McElwee	Miss D. F. Watson
Mr. & Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis	Mr. & Mrs. D. R. Mackenzie	Mr. G. H. L. Wharton
Mrs. T. B. Evelyn	Mr. A. Mackenzie	Dr. C. Redwood White
Mr. F. R. Fardoe	Mr. W. Macmillan	Mr. & Mrs. T. B. Coombe Williams
Mrs. A. Fraser	Captain & Mrs. E. B. Methuen	
	Mr. R. S. H. Noble	

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Sailings per s.s. *Quillota* from London, November 26th:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Aikman	Mr. H. G. Courtney	Mr. D. F. Mowatt
Miss M. R. Aikman	Lieut.-Col. R. Deane, O.B.E.	Mr. C. H. Nicholson
Mrs. E. B. Arthur	Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Dean	Capt. & Mrs. S. A. Paige
Miss K. M. Arthur	Miss K. E. Elphinstone	Miss P. C. Paige
Miss K. E. Arthur	Miss L. Elphinstone	Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Parratt
Mr. & Mrs. R. Arthur	Capt. and Mrs. A. B. Fellowes	Mr. & Mrs. G. Parrott
Mr. E. R. Boon	Major D. Fraser, M.C.	Mr. E. G. Penhall
Capt. and Mrs. W. Bowring	Mr. S. C. Gomes	Miss E. Powell
Miss N. Bowring	Miss J. Gonacede	Miss A. Pritchard
Miss P. Bowring	Mr. & Mrs. W. Gordon	Mr. Hamilton Ross
Miss B. Bowring and Nurse	Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Sealy
Mrs. E. Boyle	Master W. G. Gordon	Mr. G. C. Skinner
Mr. G. G. Brinsley	Rev. J. Laud Havard	Mr. V. C. Turner
Mr. H. G. W. Brinsley, M.C.	Dr. O. Jarrette	Mrs. H. W. Turner
Miss J. D. Browne	Miss D. A. Johnstone	Master H. G. W. Turner
Mr. W. F. Bushe, M.C.	Miss M. Knowles	Capt. and Mrs. G. H. Waldegrave & Child
Miss E. M. Bushe	Mr. B. B. Littlepage	Mr. E. A. Wallis
Miss N. H. Bushe	Mr. W. Livingstone	Mr. J. A. Wharton
Mrs. M. Challenger	Mr. D. M. McAlister	Mr. D. R. A. Wharton
Mr. G. Clarke	Mr. S. H. McMinn	Miss G. M. Woellworth
Dr. G. H. T. N. Clarke	Mrs. J. S. de la Mothe	Brig.-Gen. & Mrs. A. J. A. Wright
	Miss P. D. M. de la Mothe	Miss J. N. A. Wright

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The establishment of a United States Naval Station at St. Thomas has created a very large demand for ground provisions of all kinds, and especially sweet potatoes. From this the inhabitants of the British Virgin Islands are reaping the benefit on account of their proximity to St. Thomas, and getting excellent prices for their crops.

* * *

Attention was directed some time ago in the CIRCULAR to the subject of camphor in the West Indies. *Tropical Life* points out that the Japanese output of camphor has considerably declined since 1916. It was only half the usual quantity in 1918. This was owing to a steady advance in the scale of wages and other causes. The camphor monopoly of Japan are now encouraging the laying-out of camphor plantations in Japan and Formosa. Meantime they are restricting the export of camphor in order that their own celluloid industry shall not suffer. The present is a golden opportunity for starting and extending the cultivation in the British Empire.

* * *

Steps are being taken to mark the cemeteries where overseas soldiers have been buried with plants native to the countries whence they came to the defence of the Empire. It is intended to make the cemeteries, as far as possible, smooth, well-kept grass lawns, surrounded by hedges, and with groups or avenues of trees. In the cemeteries where permanent planting is not yet possible good results have been obtained by sowing seeds of annual plants according to a colour scheme. The effect in summer has been very beautiful and much appreciated. The horticultural work has been under the general direction of Captain A. W. Hill, Sc.D., the Assistant Director of Kew Gardens, who some years ago visited the West Indies.

* * *

The coyo is a fruit much like the avocado pear in size and shape. When ripe, it is light green in colour, with numerous large yellowish-green spots. The flesh varies from brownish-white to pale brown, and differs from the avocado by a well-marked flavour of coconut. Mr. Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture, fully describes the coyo in Bulletin No. 743. He states that the coyo tree is vigorous, growing in all manner of soils and climates from the coast up to 1,500 ft. in Guatemala. The flowers differ from those of the avocado in having a blotch of deep orange or red at the base of the petals.

* * *

Experiments are being made in the West Indies with various plants to serve as hedges. The Botanic Garden of Antigua is now surrounded by a hedge of "bread and cheese," a homely-sounding plant known to botanists as *Pithecolobium unguis-cati*. This hedge was planted from time to time inside an iron fence. The curious observation has been made that the iron fence appears to last longer and be in better condition where the hedge has been growing, the suggested explanation being that the roots of the plant help to keep the soil surrounding the supports of the fence dry, rusting and subsequent weakening being thus retarded.

* * *

A fatherless frog was exhibited about a year ago at the Linnean Society of London. Unfertilised frog's eggs were punctured with glass needles of microscopic fineness, and blood applied. The treated eggs were placed in water. A certain number developed into tadpoles, and a few into complete frogs. It was found that the white corpuscles of the blood were essential, the ordi-

nary red corpuscles were useless. The eggs of sea-urchins had formerly, by a similar course of treatment, been artificially developed into living examples. Instances of natural parthenogenesis occur in many cases. For example, the drones of the honey-bee are developed from unfertilised eggs. In some saw-flies only females are produced in this way, in others only males. In plant lice (Aphis) there are several generations of females only. Instances also occur amongst plants.

* * *

Vitamines are substances in foods which play an important part in nutrition. They are therefore spoken of as "accessory food factors." If they are not present in the diet, serious consequences follow, especially in the case of children and young people who have not finished their growth. Their chemical nature is not known; probably they are very complex. They are soluble in fat and water. They may be dissipated to some extent by heat, or when the food is not fresh. Their presence or absence in many foods has been ascertained by the effects in feeding experiments. The existence of three vitamins has been recognised by physiologists, and are known by the names Fat-soluble A, Water-soluble B, and Water-soluble C.

* * *

Fat-soluble A occurs in animal fats (except lard). Cream, butter, and cod-liver oil are particularly rich in it. It is also found in olive oil and ground-nut oil, but not as a rule in vegetable oils. It is not dissipated by the heat of boiling water, and the foods containing it do not lose virtue due to it on keeping. The deficiency of this factor in the diet of the young is the chief cause of rickets. Water-soluble B is found especially in eggs, yeast, and the seeds of plants, but also in most natural foods. It is not destroyed by cooking. In wheat, rice, and other cereals it is present only in the germ and the outer layers of the seed. If these are removed from grains of wheat to make white flour, the value of bread is very much diminished. Water-soluble C occurs mainly in fresh fruits—e.g., lime and orange—and vegetables. It is destroyed by cooking or on keeping. It is useful in preventing scurvy.

* * *

Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, a former member of the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, is well known for his excellent work in connection with insect pests and general entomology in West and East Indies, and latterly at the Imperial College of Science, London. He has now added to his reputation by successfully rescuing vast quantities of wheat stacked in Australia from the attacks of weevils, and initiating methods of preventing such attacks in future. The wheat crop of Australia for 1916-17, stacked in bags on the ground with sheets of corrugated iron laid over the bags, was badly attacked. It was quite unfit for export, and was likely to prove a total loss.

* * *

Mr. Lefroy was sent out by the Wheat Commission, arriving in Sydney in March, 1918. After trying to rid the wheat of the weevils by various experiments for ten days—chemical, electrical, mechanical—he decided that heat was the only effective agent, and also the cheapest. With the help of local engineers a suitable plant was devised, capable of treating many hundreds of bushels an hour at a cost of under 4l. a bushel. Beetles, larvae, eggs were all killed by the heat. The plant included devices for cleaning, so that dead beetles, dust, and other foreign matter were removed. All the Wheat Commissioners' wheat is now stacked according to Mr. Lefroy's improved method, and remains perfectly sound from weevils. Nine plants are at work, treating before shipment 5½ million bushels per month at a cost of 3½d. per bushel, thus ensuring the wheat against any lurking weevil, and thoroughly cleaning it.

WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

The CIRCULAR is indebted to Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son for the following particulars regarding the exports from Grenada in the five years 1914-15 to 1918-19:—

Grenada's Exports in 1914-19.

Crops.	Cocoa.	Spice.	Cotton.	Cotton-seed.
Oct. 1 to Sept. 30	Bags.	Packages.	Bales.	Bags.
1918-1919	62,377	17,979	1,088	4,863
1917-1918	68,240	16,388	1,730	3,953
1916-1917	78,852	10,439	930	4,450
1915-1916	80,034	12,254	1,166	5,770
1914-1915	62,315	10,953	1,218	6,587

Of the above, the following were shipped:

	To North America.	To Barbados.
1918-1919	11,658	6,691
1917-1918	43,801	6,828
1916-1917	30,184	7,674
1915-1916	29,747	7,325
1914-1915	20,271	4,064

and the remainder to Europe.

A Sugar Famine in Barbados.

Exclusive of invalids, 679 men of the British West Indies Regiment have returned to Barbados for demobilisation, and the problem of giving them employment is receiving attention. October was marked by an absence of rain and exceedingly hot sun. The crops have suffered, and the yield next year must suffer. The island is suffering from a sugar famine, and 1,000 tons of sugar are to be imported from British Guiana. The deaths are recorded of Mr. D. M. Simpson, a prominent engineer and proprietor of Guinea Estate, who was for several years a vestryman in the parish of St. John and St. Philip, and also of Mrs. Douglas Pile, who was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. John S. Howell, for many years Colonial Treasurer of the island. The greatest sympathy is felt for Mr. Douglas Pile in his bereavement.

British Guiana Electives and Lord Rothermere.

Mr. J. McCowan, in a letter dated October 22nd, states that Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) to provide for the establishment and control of sugar experimental stations in the colony, to which reference was made in the CIRCULAR of October 16th, has received the Acting Governor's assent. Sir Wilfred Collet has returned to the colony, and Mr. C. Clementi, who has been administering the Government since His Excellency's departure, has left for England. Mr. Carl Wieting died on the 20th at the age of seventy-six. He had been in failing health for some time, and had retired from business for two years. With Mr. G. H. Richter, he was the founder of the firm of Wieting & Richter, and of the annual ice depot and Demerara biscuit factory. Though born in Germany in 1843, he left for the United States in 1860, and remained there till he came to British Guiana six years later to take up a position in the firm of A. W. Perot & Co. The funeral was attended by His Excellency the Governor and all the principal officials, besides many friends, at Le Repentir Cemetery. Lord Rothermere's suggestion to cede British Guiana to the United States is deeply resented, and a resolution of protest has been passed in the Combined Court, on the motion of Mr. R. E. Brassington. A telegram embodying the resolution was signed by Messrs. A. B. Brown, R. E. Brassington, Francis Dias, P. N. Browne, J. S. McArthur, Nelson Cannon, A. McL. Ogle, M. Nascimento, W. I. Sousa, and A. A. Thorne. The weather continues hot and dry, and good rains are needed. Mr. P. N. Browne attended a meeting of the Planters' Association on September 29th to discuss the possibility of recruiting labourers in Barbados. Captain E. S. Massiah has returned to the colony and resumed his duties.

The Cost of the British Honduras Riots.

The enquiry by Sir Frederic Maxwell into the cause of the recent riots is proceeding. As the result of the disturbances the unforeseen expenditure of \$180,000 will have to be met by the taxpayers. An industrial school is to be established at Orange Walk. A Select Committee has been appointed to consider a tender from the United Fruit Company for a mail, passenger, and freight service between the United States and the colony.

A Fishing Company for Dominica.

The prospectus of a "Dominica Fishing Company, Limited," with a capital of £1,000 in 4,000 shares of 5s. each is published in the *Dominica Guardian* of October 24th. The object is to carry on and encourage the general fishing industry, and to provide fresh fish for the shareholders, local public, and possibly neighbouring islands. The promoters are Mr. C. G. Harris, Mr. A. C. Shillingford, Mr. S. S. B. Alleyne, and Mr. W. C. Winston, and it is proposed to buy boats, nets, fishing-pots, and other necessary impedimenta, and to provide employment for fishermen, net-workers, pot-makers, and others. Mr. S. R. Pemberton, first Puisne Judge, has recovered from his illness, and has resumed his duties. The shipment of cocoa from January 1st to September 15th amounted to 2,452 cwt., as against 3,747 cwt. for the same time last year, while the export of raw lime-juice fell from 313,120 gallons last year to 108,013 this year. On the other hand, the export of other lime products shows a notable increase, citrate rising from 436 cwt. to 2,482 cwt., and distilled lime oil from 18,715 lb. to 36,032 lb., and fresh limes from 39,362 barrels to 18,723 barrels. The export of coconuts shows a satisfactory increase from 39,362 last year to 270,170 this year.

Mr. V. J. Richards Becomes "M.L.C."

Mr. V. J. Richards, senior partner of the well-known firm of Messrs. Richards Brothers, has been appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council in succession to Mr. F. A. Corea, who has resigned. A new paper, the *Vincennes*, has made its appearance in Kingstown.

American Enterprise in St. Kitts?

The people of St. Kitts, according to Mr. E. J. Shelton (October 1st), were much gratified at their island being included in the itinerary of H.M.S. *Renown*. The first three weeks in September were dry, but good rains, averaging from 3 in. to 7 in., fell during the last week of the month—typical thunder showers, which, with a hot sun, will stimulate the cane-growth. Estates in the St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. Ann's parishes are still busy syrup-making. Delay in the delivery of packages to the producers has been a great hindrance and handicap this season. This evil will probably be remedied shortly by the erection at Pump Estate (overlooking the Sandy Point anchorage) of concrete tanks to contain about 2,500 pans of syrup by the Sugar Products Company, of New York.

No Victory Stamps for St. Lucia.

The Lamport & Holt s.s. *Vestris*, which arrived at Castries on fire on September 10th, writes Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, under date October 14th, left for Barbados on the 23rd, the fire having been extinguished with the assistance of the crew of H.M.S. *Yarmouth*. On the following day the *Yarmouth* proceeded to Barbados in answer to a call for assistance from the s.s. *Tennyson*, another Lamport & Holt liner, which had arrived at that port on fire. The troopship *Orca* arrived here on September 24th, bringing the remainder of returning soldiers, who were given a cordial reception. Bishop Berkeley, of Barbados, visited the colony from September 30th to October 7th, and during his stay held Confirmation Services in Castries and the country districts. At a recent meeting of the Legislative Council the Administrator announced that the Secretary of State's

approval had been refused in connection with the proposed issue of a Victory Stamp. At the same meeting a motion to temporarily increase the pensions paid to retired Civil Servants was moved by the Attorney-General, but, the Unofficials being unanimous in their opposition, the motion was withdrawn. A resolution to increase the salaries of subordinate public officers was put before the House and unanimously adopted, the increase to date from July 1st. The coastal service problem still engages the earnest attention of the Government, but no satisfactory solution has yet been found. The s.s. *Vigilant*, belonging to the Canadian Government, which was employed on the examination service at Port Castries during the war, has been sold for £500 and taken to Martinique. Mr. W. V. Moore, R.N.R., until recently Officer-in-Charge of H.M. Wireless Station in this colony, has been replaced by Petty-officer Telegraphist F. S. Pardey, R.N. It is rumoured that Mr. A. F. Palmer, who has held the post of Magistrate of the 2nd and 3rd Districts for the last twenty years, will shortly be retiring from the public service. The weather during the last month has been decidedly on the dry side, and the want of rain is being felt in several districts. October has been the wettest month of the year for the last thirty years, but the present month promises to be a dry one. The agricultural outlook is good, sugar, cacao, and limes promising good crops.

Coconut Cultivation in Tobago.

New buildings are, says Mr. Robert S. Reid, in a letter dated October 21st, needed in all directions, but the price of materials and the difficulty of obtaining them stand in the way. Instead of English cement we have to take United States', and to a less extent Canadian. It is almost impossible to get British hardware, and trade generally has been diverted to foreign countries. It is hoped that the trade with England will be restored, but markets once lost are not easily regained. Our ex-soldiers are settling down to work, and those who have the will to work have no difficulty in getting it. Heavy showers fell on the 15th and 19th, with drizzles in between, making 3 in. of rain for the month. The scorching sun has dried up many young cocoa-pods, but trees still have a fair lot. Coconuts have not yet recovered from the 1918 and early 1919 dry spell, but the trees are laden in the windward district. Coconut cultivation is extending, and the natives are taking it up more keenly, one having recently added 200 acres to his estate. The island is to have the advantage of visits from Mr. Urich, entomologist and mycologist of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Scheult, Superintendent of the River Estate. Mr. Alfred Miles, a cattle ranch owner from the Argentine, is now on a visit to relations at Merchiston Estate in this district. He is struck with the beauty of Tobago and its marvellous soil and growth, and is surprised that so little is being done by the people to utilise its resources. The easy-going natives and their untidy gardens almost irritate him, as he feels they could do so much. Our little seashore-level lands, and the hills with their narrow, steep valleys, compared with the mighty stretches of flat pasture lands in the Argentine, greatly appeal to him, and he and his wife hope to enjoy their few months' holiday in Tobago. Merchiston "Great House" (the local name) is on a hilltop plateau about 900 ft. above sea-level. The estate was owned years ago by the Napiers of Merchiston (Edinburgh), and was sold only some twenty years ago by the Duchess of Mantua, a descendant of the family.

Should Trinidad Cacao be "Clayed"?

Mr. Edgar Tripp, who has returned to Trinidad invigorated by his recent holiday, writes from Port of Spain on October 25th that Mr. T. A. V. Best arrived on the 17th and assumed the administration of the Government. He formally opened the session

of the Legislative Council, when a graceful tribute was paid to the retiring Acting Governor, Mr. Montgomery Gordon, who is proceeding on leave prior to resigning his position as Assistant Colonial Secretary, after eighteen years' faithful service to the Government. Mr. Gordon will carry into retirement the best wishes of a large circle of friends for himself and Mrs. Gordon. At the Council meeting a vote for £38,464 for the purchase of new locomotives and trucks met with vigorous criticism by Mr. Adam Smith, C.M.G., who complained that the railway for years past had been working in an inefficient and slipshod manner for want of rolling stock, which could have been purchased at half the present prices before or during the early part of the war. The vote was, however, passed. H.M.S. *Rennon* has arrived from Rio de Janeiro, and is en route for New York to meet the Prince of Wales, and many entertainments have been held for her officers and crew, who return the compliment by holding a reception on board this afternoon. At the invitation of the Acting Director of Agriculture, about thirty members of the Agricultural Society have visited River Estate, where experiments are carried out on a practical working scale with most useful results. Mr. Freeman and his efficient staff are to be congratulated upon the agricultural and financial success of this branch of the Department's work, which is now more than self-supporting, yielding, as it does, a substantial profit. For this satisfactory state of affairs the Acting Director paid generous tribute to Professor Carmody, the late Mr. J. H. Hart, and others. Mr. Freeman has now been Acting Director for three years, and has done excellent service, which is generally recognised, and it is sincerely hoped that he will now be appointed permanently to the post which he has proved himself so worthy and capable of holding. The question of the claying of cacao has again been taken up by the Chamber of Commerce, who recommend that the use of clay be forbidden on all other than estate lands. The Board of Agriculture go further and suggest that it should be forbidden altogether.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Demerara Railway Company.

The directors have decided to recommend the following dividends, subject to audit, on the stocks of the Company for the half-year ended June 30th last:—(1) At the full rate for the half-year on the 4 per cent. Extension Preference Stock; (2) at the full rate for the half-year on the 7 per cent. Perpetual Preference Stock; and (3) a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the Preferred Ordinary Stock.

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited.

The results obtained at Tabaquite, and the information received as to the Cruse Area and Lizard Springs, are so favourable that the directors have decided on a substantial increase in the capital of the Company, so that an intensive effort may now be made to develop these areas, and exhaustively to examine geologically the further extensive areas over which the Company has rights. To this end the shareholders on November 21st approved a resolution increasing the capital of the Company to £1,350,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 shares of £1 each.

MARRIAGE.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

GROSER-JONES.—On November 15th, at St. Peter's Church, Southborough Common, by the Rev. Russell Howden, M.A., Stanley Rust, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Groser, of Kilsby, near Rugby, to Marjorie Graham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Jones, London (late of Mauritius).

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

November 26th, 1919.

BANK RATE, 6 per cent.—changed on November 6th from 5 per cent., at which figure it had stood from April 5th, 1917.

SUGAR. Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per lb.
	s.	d.	d.
Cubes, Lumps, &c.	72	0	8½
W.I. Crystallised	66	0	8
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ...	63	6	7½
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ...	"free"		No maximum

It is generally believed that there will be a further increase in the control prices at the end of the year. Present official quotations will certainly not attract grocery W.I. sugars; but as it would appear that the Royal Commission will want a certain quantity of West Indian crystallised and Muscovado for grocery purposes next year, there is good reason for believing that some arrangement will be made for marketing such sugars. A further rise in price, and a resumption of the former grading arrangements, would solve the problem. This matter is now the subject of negotiations between the Commission and the West India Committee. As regards privately imported sugars arriving after December 27th, the Commission is arranging for a return to be made by first importers in this country of all such sugars with a view to deciding what proportion, if any, it can see its way to advise the Food Controller to grant licences for delivery without prejudice to rationed quantities. As far as forward contracts are concerned, the manufacturers were naturally disturbed at the prospect of the "free" sugars, which they bought at greatly enhanced prices, being counted as part of their rations; but here again a satisfactory settlement is probable. Meanwhile, sugar to arrive before December 27th naturally continues to be in active demand.

New York prices for 1918-19 crop:—

96° Cuba Centrifugals, c. and f.	588c.
Porto Rico, St. Croix, &c.	728c.
Centrifugals, non-privileged, c. & f.	564c.

New crop sales are being effected at greatly enhanced prices, 96° Cubas having been sold at 7.50 to 7.60c. f.o.b., or 7.95c. c. and f.

The West India sugar statistics in London on November 15th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Imports	46,906	34,846	76,401	Tons.
Deliveries	44,245	36,603	71,830	"
Stock	8,853	10,230	12,586	"

RUM. The removal of restrictions against clearances has been received with general satisfaction. A few parcels of fine "export" character Jamaica have sold at 13s. to 14s.

The stocks in London on November 15th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Jamaica	7,975	4,118	8,302	Puns
Demerara	14,912	10,237	7,624	"
Total of all kinds	28,603	20,025	25,415	"

COCOA. The cocoa market remains in the same state as it has been for weeks past and is likely to be for weeks to come, or, at any rate, until Germany has had her fill, and who can say when that will be? At present we have only touched the fringe of that demand, but the anticipation of what the Continental market could be, once the money comes forward to pay for the raw materials needed, is likely to keep the market very active everywhere. The present range of values are likely to

continue, with perhaps a slight drop after Christmas if supplies are heavy, especially from West Africa, and sellers press their wares. With Accra kinds up to 94s., or even at 92s. when bought for the home trade in the United Kingdom, and as high as 104s. or more when sold for export, planters throughout the cocoa belt stand to have a happy Christmas. Trinidads continue in the neighbourhood of 128s. to 130s. for export, and rather lower for home use. Of Grenadas no sales have been reported of late, but, as an optimistic holder of Jamaica cocoa is said to have refused 128s. for a pile, it is not improbable that the best grades of the "other islands" will go over 126s. when they come up for auction.

A fact very palpable to those on the spot here, but perhaps not so clear to producers, is the much greater facility with which the best grades of cocoa are sold compared with the common to fair qualities. All the reported sales of late have been for the best kinds, and although we have such large stocks of cocoa in the United Kingdom (probably in manufacturers' and "second-hands"), buyers still complain of the shortage of attractive parcels. Planters therefore will be wise to give the beans just that extra sweat, polish and drying which will cause them to rise above the level of fair good red, or good medium, and land them well into the category of "good to fine." It will be worth the little extra trouble and expense. It will mean a quick sale at full value, instead of a dragging one obtained only after some haggling.

The stocks in London on November 15th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	
Trinidad	30,445	17,277	21,866	Bags.
Grenada	14,680	7,678	21,509	"
Total of all kinds	106,790	138,895	247,323	"

ARROWROOT. Very slow market.

BALATA. West Indian sheet, spot 4s. 4d.

COPRA. Market steady. West Indian f.m.s. London £60.

COTTON. Imports of West Indian in the forty-six weeks ending November 13th, 7,225 bales.

HONEY. Irregular at auction. Fine pale rather dearer, but dark liquid unchanged. Jamaica 75s. to 101s.; Cuban, 72s. 6d. to 100s.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed quiet; nominally worth 11s.; Distilled, very slow of sale; 9s. 3d. per lb. asked. Lime-juice: Raw, no inquiries.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet, scarce, and wanted at about 12s. 6d. per lb.; Bitter, no inquiries.

RUBBER. The market has been dull. Plantation sheet, 2s. 4½d.

SPICES. Pimento quiet; a small spot business at 5½d. Nutmegs and mace unchanged since last report.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

PLANTATION MANAGER. ex-officer, fourteen years' experience Ceylon and Africa, wishes to settle in West Indies with wife and child, and seeks billet. Cacao, rubber, tea, coconuts, &c. Has successfully controlled large properties. Good testimonials. Reply "H.M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

AIRMAN, demobilised, wants position as overseer on cotton, sugar or fruit estate in West Indies. London commercial experience, mechanical knowledge, used to control of staff. Fond of work; aged 26. Apply "H.F." c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Advertiser, previous experience in colony, desires position. Would accept agency or represent firm. Age 30. Good engineer, mech. draftsman, knowledge of motors. Excellent business experience. Not out for soft job. Address "S. H. O." c/o West India Committee, 15 Seething-lane, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIV.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 1919.

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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 compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 3743 AVENUE.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
December 11th, 1919.

Canada and the West Indies.

SOME statistical diagrams have recently been prepared by the Canadian Ministry of Trade and Commerce to show the extent to which the British West Indies are filling the requirements of Canada in respect of tropical produce, and the Dominion is meeting the demand of the West Indies for foodstuffs and manufactured goods. We refrain, however, from quoting them at length, as they seem to refer only to direct imports into Canada, and to take no account of the considerable trade passing *via* the United States. Thus, it is shown that of Canada's imports of the "golden bean," valued at \$1,500,000 last year, cacao to the value of \$518,000 only came from the West Indies, and, similarly, that no bananas were received by those colonies, though it is reasonable to assume that the total imports of West Indian cacao and bananas were very considerable. Statistics regarding sugar must also necessarily be misleading since, owing to the dislocation of trade due to Government purchases and to the development of the exportation from Canada of refined sugar resulting from the war, they can hardly form any criterion of the true

position of affairs. It will, however, we believe, be accepted as an axiom that there is still room for a considerable development of trade between the West Indies and Canada, and *vice versa*. The question arises, How can this be brought about? The answer would seem to lie in broadening the basis and extent of the mutual preference provided for under the Reciprocal Trade Agreement, as suggested by Mr. T. B. MACAULAY, President of the Canadian West Indian League, in the statesmanlike address which he delivered recently at a luncheon given in his honour by the West Indian Club. Incidentally we may remind our readers that this agreement, which was signed at Ottawa on April 9th, 1912, will remain in force until 1923 for certain, and thereafter until one of the parties gives notice of a desire to terminate it. Mr. MACAULAY was once an advocate of political union of the West Indies and Canada, but we are glad to learn from him that he no longer favours such a policy, appreciating as he does that, not only is there no general desire for political union in either of these two parts of the Empire, whatever Mr. HARRY J. CROWE, its leading exponent, may say to the contrary, but that it would, for many obvious reasons, be undesirable, even if attainable. Now Mr. MACAULAY, for whose enthusiasm and activity we have the greatest admiration, plumps for closer trade only so far as the West Indian islands and Canada are concerned, with, perhaps, special treatment for British Guiana, whose mutual relationship might, he thinks, usefully form the subject of inquiry and report by an expert commission in the near future. As far as closer trade is concerned, we are with Mr. MACAULAY wholeheartedly, and we trust that it will be brought about in the near future by an extension of the present mutual preference. But we would go further. At present, the preference in the duties in the West Indies is limited to articles which Canada can supply. We would like to see it extended to the wide variety of articles which the Mother Country could ship to the West Indies. As we have already pointed out, there would be no more certain means of securing the permanence of the substantial preference in the duties on the staple products of the West Indies, which Great Britain is now giving to her colonies, than by building up such a trade upon it that its suspension would be detrimental to industries in the United Kingdom. Moreover, the development of trade which would follow the granting of such a reciprocal preference would undoubtedly help to solve the problem of transatlantic steamer communication

—one of the difficulties in the way of the restoration of which has been the lack of outward cargo. For ourselves, we believe that a reduction in the existing duties in favour of the products of our colonies is a policy which has come to stay; but, all the same, it is very essential that, now that we have secured the victory, we must consolidate the position, and we trust, therefore, that the question of preferential trade will engage the early attention of the West Indian Legislatures.

Guiana's Mineral and Forest Industries.

THE recently published report of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana for the year 1918 furnishes an interesting review of the mining and forestry industries of that colony. Both were, it appears, adversely affected by the war through lack of labour and the high prices of food supplies, which interfered with the provisioning of the working expeditions which are wont to go into the interior from Georgetown and New Amsterdam. The gold industry has been the hardest hit in this respect. The first shipment of gold from British Guiana was recorded in 1884, when 250 oz. were exported, and ten years later, in the year 1893-94, it had attained its maximum of 138,527 oz. Since then, however, the annual output from placer diggings, dredging and milling has gradually fallen off owing to lack of development; but, taken altogether, the total yield during the thirty-five years from 1884 to 1918-19 aggregated 2,568,464 oz., to the value of over £10,000,000 sterling. Considerable activity and good returns are reported from the diamond fields of the colony during the year under review. These are situate by the Cuyuni and Massaruni rivers, but rumours are current of fresh finds in other areas. British Guiana diamonds were first recorded in the year 1900, and since then 1,649,027 stones have been found, weighing 165,470 carats, or practically ten stones to the carat. The quality of the stones is excellent, resembling, as it does, that of Brazilian diamonds. The industry of bauxite—the base of aluminium—so far has been mainly developed by means of capital supplied from the United States. Applications for further grants and options from England, the colony, and elsewhere having been suspended in the meantime, pending the decision of the Imperial Government in regard to regulations, fees and royalties for prospecting and working the deposits of the mineral, which are said to abound in the colony. Other minerals which have been found and are attracting attention are manganese ores and mica; but samples of the former recently received in London have not been reported upon favourably. Prospecting for pitch and oil, mostly in the North-West district, adjacent to the Venezuelan boundary, is still being carried on from time to time, but so far without any definite result; but new expeditions, financed from London, are likely to materialise shortly. Amongst forest industries the exports of balata and rubber are being fairly well maintained, considering difficulties attendant on recent war conditions already referred to. Rubber production, however, remains comparatively small. The timber trade, consisting chiefly of the shipment of green-

heart logs, has been for some years past restricted through lack of shipping; but, nevertheless, the exports are nearly double those of the previous year, though that of lumber, chiefly confined to greenheart and crabwood planks and boards, had fallen off by some 50,000 superficial feet. Crabwood lumber is known in the United States and Canada as Demerara mahogany, and its export is likely to increase. Other forest products finding place among the exports of the colony are roof shingles, railway sleepers, firewood, charcoal, and locust gum, which indicate the varied natural resources of the colony's wealth, apart altogether from sugar, rum and rice, grown and prepared on the front coast lands.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

It is hoped that every one of the 1,929 members of the West India Committee will respond to the appeal of the Executive for contributions towards the Endowment Fund of £20,000 which they are raising, and that he will also commend it to the favourable notice of his friends interested in the welfare of our West Indian colonies. The full text of the appeal will be found on page xxv. in the present issue. The third list of contributions is given below—

THIRD LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Contributions already acknowledged...	8,409	17	6
Messrs. Benckendorff, Berger & Co.	105	0	0
Messrs. Tenants Estates, Ltd.	105	0	0
Wales Estates (Demerara), Ltd., and British Guiana Sugar Factories, Ltd.	105	0	0
Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse	52	10	0
E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.	50	0	0
Messrs. Alfred Field & Co.	25	0	0
Messrs. Delbanco & Co., Ltd.	20	0	0
Messrs. H. R. Silver, Ltd.	20	0	0
Elmslie's Gray's Inn Estate, Ltd.	15	0	0
Miss Elizabeth Carrington	10	10	0
Messrs. Lawrance, Webster, Messer & Nicholls	10	10	0
The St. Lucia Usines and Estates Co. (1907), Ltd.	10	0	0
Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq., C.M.G.	5	5	0
Messrs. Nathan & Godfrey, Ltd.	5	5	0
J. B. Taylor, Esq.	5	5	0
J. R. Philip, Esq.	5	0	0
N. Scott Johnston, Esq.	2	2	0
Messrs. John Lamont & Co.	2	2	0
Colonel A. H. Nourse ...	2	2	0
Major H. J. Jarrett-Kerr ...	1	1	0

Correction to Second List—For "Smith Bros. & Co." read "Smith Bros. & Co., Ltd. (Demerara)."

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. 3, and it is proposed to publish the full list of subscribers in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR from time to time.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"If anyone hate you, him gib yo' basket fe carry water; but if you cieber you put plantain leaf in him."

* * *

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR TREVELLYAN NAPIER assumed command of the North American Station on December 1st in succession to Vice-Admiral Morgan Singer, and will fly his flag at Admiralty House, Bermuda. At Jutland he commanded the Third Cruiser Squadron.

* * *

UNDER contract with the Colonial Government the Furness-Bermuda Line will inaugurate its new service between New York and Hamilton with the s.s. *Fort Hamilton* (11,000 tons), which will leave New York on December 6th. She will be followed by the s.s. *Fort Victoria*, of 14,000 tons.

* * *

Two welcome appointments are to be made to the Imperial Department of Agriculture—namely, an Economic Botanist and an Agricultural Chemist—as soon as suitable men can be found. This development has been rendered possible by the Treasury having consented to an increase in the vote for the Department by £3,000 per annum for the next two years.

* * *

THE Earl and Countess of Harrowby, accompanied by Viscount Sandon and their daughter, hope to visit Jamaica and other West Indian islands early next year. Lord Sandon, since his demobilisation, has been Private Secretary to Lord Milner. Throughout the war Lady Harrowby has kept open house for officers from overseas, which should ensure her receiving a cordial welcome in the colonies.

* * *

THE new Christmas price list of the West Indian Produce Association, of 14, Creechchurch-lane, E.C., which has just been issued, shows that such "minor" West Indian products as cassava cakes, hot sauce, salmagundi and pimento dram, which were not seen in England during the war, are again on the market. Jamaica cigars are also specially featured, and historians will be interested with the illustrated account of the ancient firm Davison, Newman & Co., which, according to a tradition, shipped the tea to Boston on a memorable occasion, and is now incorporated with the W.I.P.A.

* * *

At the annual sale for Foreign Missions at the Kensington Town Hall on November 5th, the Countess of Stamford had an attractive stall. The proceeds were devoted to the West India Mission in West Africa, which has done such excellent work for many years, and deserves all possible support from those who have interests in the West Indian Islands. Among Lady Stamford's helpers were Lady Jane Grey, Miss Dixon, Miss Isaacson, Lady Joan Shirley, Miss Jackson (daughter of the late Bishop of Antigua), and Mrs. John Bromley, whilst her numerous customers were seen to include Miss Moseley and Sir James Hayes-Sadler, who is always ready to do good works.

* * *

THE Société Générale des Transports Maritimes à Vapeur intends to inaugurate a service between San Francisco and the Mediterranean, *via* the Panama Canal, with a port of call in the West Indies, probably St. Pierre, Martinique. Comte de Fayolle, a director of the line, in an interview published in San Francisco recently, said that there was a trade possibility for the Pacific Coast with the West Indies. He continued: "At the present time your sugar comes from the Hawaiian Islands and your beet-fields; but the present supply is not equal to the demand, and the West Indies will be the next source of supply. You will also be able to draw

directly on the West Indies for spices and other goods that now come indirectly by rail. We plan to establish headquarters at Kingston, Jamaica, and maintain an inter-island fleet of small vessels of not over 12-ft. draught, which will comb the West Indies for this trade; but these vessels are yet to be built, and will not be ready for a year. Still, we are ready immediately to call at the largest ports."

* * *

MR. FREDERICK N. MARTINEZ, who is aptly described by the *British and Latin America Trade Gazette* as an "Ambassador of Commerce," in an interview published in that journal refers to the great strides made by the United States towards capturing the trade of the West Indies and Latin America. Fortunately, for English houses, however, he believes that the United States are not appreciated as a business community in those parts, owing to their representatives lacking the knowledge of the customs, ideals, and commercial needs of the markets. Americans are always in a hurry, while to be successful the principle of *mañana* has to be, and has been, successfully cultivated by English firms in their dealings with Latin America. To an active man this might seem irksome, but Mr. Martinez has proved that business methods can be adapted to meet the requirements of the many peoples with whom he has dealings without loss of vigour.

* * *

MR. ORRETT, representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in Jamaica, in an interview published in the *Tranier* recently, stated that the Company was considering the inauguration of a passenger and cargo service between Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and Santo Domingo, Porto Rico and St. Thomas, with the former intercolonial steamer *Balantia*. Such a service would form a valuable link between the Greater and Lesser Antilles, the forging of which might have far-reaching effects towards bringing Jamaica into closer touch with our other West Indian colonies. The Company, through its subsidiary the P.S.N. Company, has recently started a service from New York to Valparaiso, *via* Jamaica and the Panama Canal, with the steamers *Ebro* and *Essequibo*, which, it will be recalled, were specially built for the West Indian transatlantic contract service just before the war. These developments will strengthen the hope that before long a better service may be provided between this country and Trinidad, which is much wanted.

* * *

MEASUREMENTS of refractive index give such valuable information concerning the purity of oils and other substances that in chemical laboratories where any kind of liquid products have to be tested or controlled the refractometer has now become as indispensable as the hydrometer or specific gravity bottle. The importance attached nowadays to a knowledge of the refractive index of substances is well shown by the frequency of the reference to this property in scientific papers dealing with edible and technical fats, oils, waxes, sugar, syrups, essential oils, &c. Refractometers are particularly valuable in the sugar factory for the rapid determination of the percentage of "dry substance" in samples of sugar-juice. These remarks are prompted by an inspection of a catalogue recently issued by Adam Hilger, Limited, of 75A, Camden-road, N.W. 1, who are now manufacturing Abbe Refractometers. Those interested should send for a copy.

BIRTHS.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

FRETZ.—On November 4th, at Stonehaven, St. Kitts, B.W.I., the wife of H. E. King Fretz, F.R.C.S., of a daughter.

TAYLOR.—At 87, Herne-hill, London, S.E. 24, on 26th ult., to Mr. and Mrs. John D. Taylor, a daughter.

BRITISH GUIANA.

How the Usurers were Floored.

(Continued from page 319.)

Mr. Clementi next surveys the position of co-operative credit banks in the colony. These banks, it appears, all charge the full legal rate of interest—namely, 12 per cent.—which the borrower considers highly advantageous, seeing that the local moneylenders' lowest rate was 52 per cent. per annum. The system of co-operative village associations, for the purpose of buying supplies and marketing produce, would, he thinks, be equally successful. In Georgetown, a self-help association, which handles the produce of its members and associates, has proved very advantageous, though its operations have been adversely affected by the war. After reviewing the steps which led up to the establishment of a vegetable products factory, Mr. Clementi deals with the pastoral industries, and gives a table showing the number of live stock in the colony. It has been estimated, he says, that the coast lands and river savannahs near the coast, the area of which is some 2,900 square miles, could supply pasturage for 650,000 head of cattle, whilst the inland savannahs, of which the area is some 6,190 square miles, could, at a very low estimate, based on the Brazilian ratio of about 40 head to a square mile, carry a quarter of a million head, and, should the ranching land of the interior prove to be equal in grass-producing power to some regions of the western United States, they would suffice for grazing half a million head. The colony ought, therefore, not merely to supply the British West Indies with rice, but it should be the main source of their beef supply.

After referring to the work done by Mr. H. P. C. Melville and three other ranchers in the Rupununi district, he points out that at present there are 30,000 head of cattle in the district, and the ranchers could send to the coast between 2,000 and 3,000 head of marketable oxen yearly—a number which, though sufficient to justify the construction of a trail for the purpose of bringing the cattle to the coast, is quite inadequate to establish an export trade either in live cattle or frozen meat, it being estimated that 3,000 head would be required to give a vessel like the s.s. *Imataka* a full load of frozen meat for a single voyage.

Mr. Melville, however, reports that in the Rupununi district there are vast areas of land now lying idle and unoccupied, but suitable for grazing hundreds of thousands of cattle, and he has no doubt that 100,000 head of fair quality breeding stock could be purchased within a day's drive of these areas, and that good stockmen can be found in the district.

It is therefore to be hoped that, when the cattle trail to the Rupununi district is open, persons of sufficient experience and capital will take up these grazing lands and stock them. The most noteworthy effort of the Government to assist the pastoral industries was the construction of the cattle trail from the Rupununi to the Berbice River, and to Wismar on the Demerara River, to which reference has already been made.

When peace is restored, it is hoped also to

establish ostrich farming in the colony, an ostrich farm having been established in Curaçoa in 1912, with a paid-up capital of £6,520, and twenty birds which were transported from Egypt for the cost of £16 per bird.

Dealing next with the mining and forest industries, Mr. Clementi records that the gold industry was apparently reviving when the war hit it hard by increasing the prices of labour, foodstuffs, and of mining appliances, while leaving the value of gold unchanged. The diamond industry also suffered from excessive cost of transport up the river, where nearly all the stones are found. The largest diamond hitherto won in the colony weighed 27½ carats, and was found on November 19th, 1918, in a claim on the Alpha Creek, a tributary of the Upper Mazaruni River.

America and the Bauxite Industry.

Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., is credited with the discovery of bauxite in the colony. In 1897 he discovered an outcrop of bauxite on the summit of a low hill at Akyma, on the Demerara River.

He analysed samples and found that, although they did not consist of phosphate of alumina, they contained exceptionally high proportions of a hydrate of alumina. For years no attempt was made to turn this discovery to profitable account; but in 1915 the Demerara Bauxite Company was formed, and obtained, on the 5th October, 1916, after protracted negotiation with the Imperial Government, leases of 1,795 acres of Crown land and 1,718 acres of colony land near Akyma. Mining operations were commenced by this company on the area known as "Three Friends" about the middle of December, 1916, and the first shipment of bauxite from this colony was made on the 21st March, 1917. Practically all mining operations have hitherto been confined to the "Three Friends" tract, and all shipment of ore have been made from that property. A total of about 10,322 tons of bauxite had been mined up to the 31st December, 1918, and up to the same date 8,997 tons had been exported, chiefly to the Merrimac Chemical Company, but partly also to the Aluminium Company of America, the royalty at 10 cents a ton being \$809.70. About 100,000 tons of bauxite had been stripped, trimmed, and were ready to be mined, when, on the 1st July, 1918, work on the mine was suspended because there was then on hand sufficient ore to load the s.s. *Mohegan*, which was the only ship then available, five times over, and also because the present price of shipping alone greatly exceeds the price of bauxite in the United States of America. Mining, under existing conditions, will only proceed at a pace sufficient to take advantage of any improvement in transportation which may eventuate.

Mr. Clementi is not very enthusiastic about the forest industries, believing that it is unlikely that any large export of British Guiana timbers, save greenheart, which has been well advertised by Messrs. Sproston Limited, will be developed until determined efforts are made to get these timbers recognised and established in the markets of the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America. The forest industries are also hampered by the heavy cost of transport and the difficulties of access to the forests of the interior, as well as by an inadequate labour supply.

An important economic survey was recently undertaken at the instance of the British Ministry of Munitions. Bauxite is the essential raw material required for the manufacture of aluminium, and

aluminium (apart from its use for many industrial purposes) is essential for the following munitions of war—viz., motor vehicles, submarines, aircraft, explosives, military pyrotechnics, machine guns, shell fuses, and steel shells. The Ministry of Munitions also pointed out that "British Guiana, in the Falls of Kaieteur, possesses a source of power greater than that of Niagara"; that, with the exception of Canada, British Guiana is the only country within the Empire favourably enough situated geographically to become an important producer of aluminium; and that, "apart from the manufacture of this metal, the colony, in possessing this potential source of hydro-electric power, may be said to have a great industrial future, provided that it is capably developed." In these circumstances, Mr. W. H. Long, in a despatch dated the 22nd May, 1917, suggested that much trouble and waste of effort would be saved if a preliminary local survey were made under the guidance of the Director of Science and Agriculture, and of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines. The Combined Court readily voted the cost of this preliminary survey, and also pledged itself by resolution, dated the 19th July, 1917, "to vote the money, not exceeding \$24,000, estimated by the Geological Section of the Colonial Survey Committee to be necessary for the expert geological and mineralogical examination of the northern section of the colony in connection with its resources in bauxite, iron ore, manganese ore, asphaltum, petroleum, and other minerals of importance to British Guiana and the British Empire, and for inquiries regarding the utilisation of its vast potential water powers, in their exploitation, production and manufacture." Mr. E. E. Winter, B.Sc., of the Department of Lands and Mines, was seconded on the 2nd January, 1918, to the Department of Science and Agriculture for the special duty of making, under the direction of Professor J. B. Harrison, the preliminary survey, and he has made a careful field study of the conditions under which bauxite exists at Christianburg, Akyma, and elsewhere in the Demerara River valley.

(To be concluded in our next.)

OBITUARY.

MR. SAMUEL L. WILLIAMSON.

We regret to learn that Mr. Samuel L. Williamson, of Jamaica, has died in New York.

Mr. Williamson was a respected merchant in Kingston, Jamaica, where he had for many years carried on business under the name of Williamson Bros. in Lower King-street. Born in Kingston, he was educated at Old Wolmer's Grammar School. For some years he was a member of the office staff of the *Gleaner*, but gave up his position to embark, as he did successfully, on commercial enterprise. His colours were well known on the Jamaica Turf, and he was a popular member of the principal local Clubs. Mr. Williamson was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

The Tropical Agricultural College Committee have now completed their work, and it is understood that their report will be in the hands of the Secretary of State for the Colonies early next week.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN ST. KITTS.

More Mosquitoes than in Africa.

Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, was entertained by the West Indian Club at luncheon on Wednesday, November 26th, Mr. G. Moody Stuart presiding.

Proposing Major Burdon's health, after luncheon, Mr. Moody Stuart congratulated him upon the manner in which he had steered the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis through the troubled waters of the war. Their guest was particularly to be congratulated upon having interested himself in improving the social conditions in the island, and especially upon having set up a Health Department and established a new Maternity Wing to the Hospital in Basseterre.

Major Burdon, in replying, expressed regret that infantile mortality in St. Kitts was higher than in any other West Indian island, but every endeavour was now being made to secure improvement in this respect. Mr. Moody Stuart had complimented him upon what he had done in connection with the hospital; credit was certainly due to him, the speaker, for having left the arrangements in connection with the establishment of the new wing to his wife. (Laughter.) He hoped to make the Pogson Hospital at Sandypoint also a Maternity Home, and further to arrange for licensing the midwives in the island. The Health Department was certainly proving a great success. There were more mosquitoes in St. Kitts than he had ever seen in West Africa, where he spent fourteen years of his life. He himself had rid Government House at Basseterre of this pest—and it was positively infested with mosquitoes when he first entered it—and the Health Department had now done the same for Basseterre by filling up all possible breeding-places. Before he left there had been upwards of a month's steady rain in the island; but Basseterre still remained free from mosquitoes. When he returned to the island he hoped to establish a permanent campaign against the yaws and syphilis, which also had a prejudicial effect on the labour supply. (Applause.)

Referring to the progress of the local industries, he paid a special compliment to Mr. F. R. Shepherd for his work in connection with the cotton industry. The Presidency was certainly progressing, and he hoped that private enterprise would be forthcoming for the establishment of connection with Nevis by means of a motor-boat or steamer, and also for lighting the capital by electricity. A hotel, too, was much required, and he had been glad to learn that an agreement had been settled between the Government and Mr. Bromley, who had recently visited St. Kitts, in connection with the erection of a hotel in the neighbourhood of Basseterre.

The company present also included Mr. R. Rutherford, Sir Edward Davson, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Lieut. Rupert C. Otway, Mr. Hugh Cotton, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Dr. F. E. Bridger, Mr. A. Hirsch, Captain Mason, Mr. Moody, Captain T. W. O'Neal, Mr. C. H. Spooner, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Sir William Trollope, Bart., and Mr. J. F. Westwood.

The native type of cotton in the Caicos Islands, although possibly not the highest grade of "Upland cotton," is especially suitable to the habits of a people who would not look at the industry if the plants required any care whatever beyond sowing and reaping. In these days, when experimental work plays so large a part in the prosecution of all agricultural industries, it might be interesting to ascertain what the Caicos Islands type of cotton would do under more favoured conditions of growth and treatment.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The West India Committee, on November 25th, wrote to the Board of Agriculture calling attention to the urgent need of sulphate of ammonia for sugar-cane cultivation in the British West Indies and British Guiana, and expressing the hope that adequate supplies might be made available for the season 1919-20. To this letter the following reply has been received, from which it will be noted, with satisfaction, that preference is to be given to British possessions in respect of the export of this fertiliser:

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries,
72, Victoria-street, S.W. 1.
November 29th, 1919.

DEAR SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., relative to the need of sulphate of ammonia in the British West Indies and British Guiana, and to inform you that in the export of this fertiliser preferential treatment is accorded to British possessions. While it is not possible to earmark supplies for these countries as suggested by you, owing to the primary necessity of meeting home demands, every effort will be made to, as far as possible, allow the export requested.

It is, however, essential that the approximate requirements should be indicated at the earliest possible moment, and this information should be sent to the Sulphate of Ammonia Association, 84, Horseferry-road, S.W. 1, on whose recommendations licences for export are approved by the Board.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. U. ENFIELD.

The Committee have pointed out that the normal requirements of sulphate of ammonia are 7,000 tons in respect of British Guiana, and 3,600 to 4,000 tons for the West Indian Islands, and have suggested that supplies might be allocated on the same basis as in the season 1918-19—that is to say, on the basis of acreage under cane.

It must not be assumed from the Board of Agriculture's letter that there are, or are likely to be, ample supplies of sulphate of ammonia available for export to the West Indies. When the market was fairly easy in June, July and August, only 1,248 tons was applied for for those colonies, and this quantity was sold. Now the position is, it is claimed, less favourable owing to strikes, &c., and the producers are still making up arrears on export contracts made with other countries for June-September shipment. The best advice that can be given to shippers is to put themselves into communication with their usual suppliers without delay.

SIR RICHARD STAPLEY, who has just left England to winter in the West Indies, is the founder of an Educational Trust for the assistance of students of both sexes desiring to enter a secondary school, college or university.

* * *

It is impossible, says the *Cuba Review*, at present to state whether the petroleum resources of Cuba are important. Although exploitation has been going on for several years without proof as yet of oil deposits of commercial importance, there are those who profess to believe that wells drilled to considerably greater depth will show valuable deposits.

SOME JAVA SUGAR FIGURES.

Some interesting particulars regarding the Java sugar industry are given by Mr. Truman G. Palmer in his loose-leaf service "Concerning Sugar." From these it appears that high-water mark of production was reached in 1917, when the crop amounted to 2,008,625 tons—a striking increase from the 846,277 tons of twenty years ago. In 1918 there was a set back owing to temporary disadvantages, the output reaching 1,960,221 tons.

That the Dutch believe in large factories is shown by the fact that the average production per factory was 10,539 tons last year against 7,522 tons ten years ago. There are now 186 factories in operation in the island, and last year 43 sheet tons of cane were harvested per acre, which yielded 9,730 lb. of sugar, the sugar extraction per weight of cane being 11.19 per cent., and in pounds weight per ton of cane 223.80. Nearly one-half of the crop is now shipped as white plantation sugar, the actual percentage being 45.9 of first runnings, and 3.2 of second runnings.

Apparently there exists no such jealousies in Java as prevail where West Indian interests are concerned, and consequently full particulars of the factory results are compiled and published regularly by the Java Experiment Station. From these the following figures, relating to the 1918 results, will be of interest for purpose of comparison with what the West Indies are doing:—

<i>Cane—</i>			
Sucrose content	...	...	13.63
Fibre content	...	...	12.99
Sucrose in juice	...	...	12.55
Available sugar	...	...	12.17
Juice extracted	...	...	92.10
<i>Juice (raw)—</i>			
Purity	...	...	86.50
<i>Megase—</i>			
Sucrose	...	...	4.34
Moisture	...	...	47.22
Sucrose lost % weight of cane	...	...	1.08
<i>Sugar—</i>			
Yield basis 96.5°	...	...	11.68

PETROLEUM IN CUBA.

Under Cuban law oil and minerals lying below the immediate surface do not belong to the owner of the land, but remain the property of the State; but concessions to develop possible oil-fields in Cuba are granted freely to foreigners and to Cubans on the same terms. The owner of the surface has no share in the profits of the enterprise, though he is entitled to damages when injury is done to the surface or to buildings or other structures thereon.

The number of petroleum concessions granted in Cuba up to the close of 1917 was 88, including a total of 17,595 hectares.* It is said that approximately twenty oil-wells have up to this time been completed in Cuba, of which only four or five are producing in what can be called paying quantities, and in these cases the actual yield is not large.

* One hectare is equal to 2.47 acres.

COTTON IN THE CAICOS ISLANDS.

A New Industry Established.

Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands, lays much stress in his interesting report for 1918 on the appearance of cotton for the first time on record among the exports of the Dependency.

Quite two-thirds of the population of the Turks and Caicos Islands reside in the Caicos Islands, where, under conditions of almost unbelievable hardships, owing to the absence of any agricultural industries, the inhabitants are compelled to eke out a precarious existence by conch and sponge fishing, and for many years have constituted a continual source of anxiety to the Government. Especially do they become so during years of drought, when, their scanty store of ground provisions having become exhausted, a period of utter destitution and starvation ensues, which only prompt Government aid in the shape of "emergency labour schemes" can avert.

It would seem that at the time of the settlement of the Caicos Islands, soon after the Revolutionary war between the United States and Great Britain (1784-85), a number of gentlemen residing in the British Provinces of America obtained grants of land from the British Government in the Caicos Islands, which at that time formed part of the Bahamas. The white settlers have long passed away. The descendants of their slaves constitute the bulk of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands to-day. These settlers brought with them seeds of the Sea Island and Upland cottons, but for various reasons the cultivation of the plant never assumed the proportions of an industry. Cotton plants were, however, allowed to grow up untended in waste places near to the settlements, where, amid the cactus scrub, they for over a century pursued a struggle for existence, evolving eventually a type of cotton plant that for hardiness, freedom of disease, and heavy cropping qualities, under almost unbelievable conditions of sterility and neglect, cannot be surpassed anywhere.

In the year 1915, during a visit of inspection to these islands, the Commissioner's attention was attracted to this unusual type of cotton, and a sample of the lint was procured and forwarded to Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland, of Liverpool, for report. This proved so satisfactory that efforts were made in 1916 to induce peasants to take up cotton cultivation on systematic lines.

It was an arduous task at first, owing to the ignorance of the people of even the simplest agricultural methods. By degrees, however, they began to make headway, and the first shipment of three bales of cotton in 1916 proving satisfactory, they were led to realise that, after all, there was a value attached to land, and were stimulated to further effort in this direction. An output of eight bales in 1917, twelve bales in 1918, and fourteen bales in 1919 mark the progress, which, although slow, is being steadily achieved in this connection. The "deadpoint" or "experimental stage" of the industry having now been passed, it would seem that, if carefully fostered and encouraged, the cotton industry will before long completely change the fortunes of these islanders, since there are thousands of acres of land in the Caicos Islands suitable for its cultivation. It was, however, recognised at an early stage that the only hope of establishing a cotton cultivation among the peasants of the Caicos Islands lay in the Government becoming sponsor for the industry, on the lines so successfully adopted in the Grenadines, and that every precaution should be taken to prevent the introduction of cotton seed from outside, with its attendant dangers.

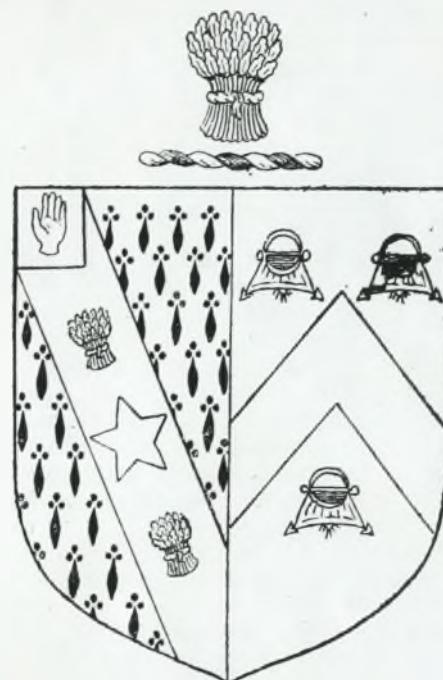
GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

IV.—Sir Thomas Modyford.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

When Lyttelton sailed from Port Royal on the 2nd of March, 1664, he left Thomas Lynch, the President of the Council, to act as Governor till the arrival of the new Governor. Sir Thomas Modyford (or Muddiford), who was the eldest of five sons of John Modyford, Alderman and Mayor of Exeter, and his wife Marie, daughter of Thomas Walker, an Exeter Alderman. He is said to have been born in 1620. As, when in 1625 his father made his will, there were four brothers younger than he, his six sisters must have been his seniors.

He was a cousin, or kinsman, of the first Duke of Albemarle, also a man of Devon, and the connection stood him in good stead on more than one occasion. A barrister by profession, Modyford served



SIR THOMAS MODYFORD'S ARMS.

on the Royalist side in the Civil War. In 1647 he sailed for Barbados, where he purchased of Major Hilliard, for £7,000 (or about £25,000 in present value), half an estate, which consisted of about 500 acres, of which 200 was in sugar-cane, with smaller amounts in tobacco, ginger and cotton. Here he played a prominent part for many years. At first he sided with the Royalists, and opposed Ayscue, the Commissioner sent out by Parliament; but later he, with other moderate men who had estates in the island, threw in his lot with the Parliamentary side, and was one of the four Commissioners who drew up the Articles of Capitulation of the colony by Willoughby to Ayscue, in January, 1652.

On the 16th July, 1660, he received a commission from the Council of State as Governor of the colony, but on the 17th December he resigned on hearing that Lord Willoughby had been appointed Governor,

although some of his friends petitioned that he, by "full of justice and ability," might be continued in office. He then became Speaker of the Assembly—thanks to Albemarle's influence—and he held this post till he was appointed Governor of Jamaica early in 1664, his commission being dated February 15th. He was instructed to take with him as many settlers as might be willing to accompany him, and to promise them as much land as they could plant. He sent his deputy, Colonel Edward Morgan, in advance, and followed in the *Westergate* (Captain Stokes), with the *Marmaduke* and *Swallow*. A few settlers went with Morgan, and nearly 1,000 followed with Modyford. The former arrived at Jamaica on May 21st, the latter on June 4th. He was empowered to choose a standing Council of twelve persons, or to continue that already established, and to make laws by the advice of five of them. He had power to summon assemblies for the making of laws. By his instructions he was to prohibit the granting of letters of marque, and to encourage trade, especially with the Spaniards. The allotment of 400,000 royal acres was to be suspended in order to encourage planters. All planters and servants were to be provided with arms, and trained in their use. No duties were to be exacted either on exports or imports, for twenty-one years. Plantations were to be on the sea coast, and near to each other, for the sake of protection. Even as early as those days the excellent rule was enunciated—to be broken most flagrantly—that no one was to be admitted to more than one office. He was instructed to do all things for the encouragement of the Royal African Company, the affairs of which he had managed to their interest while residing in Barbados.

Modyford said that Barbados could supply 1,000 emigrants for Jamaica yearly, but that the passage would have to be free as "they are generally so poor they cannot pay their passage," and recommended the use of merchantmen instead of vessels-of-war, as being cheaper. He advised the King to be prodigal in granting the first 1,000,000 acres—30 per head to white or black. He suggested that the great men of England should be obliged to settle plantations; that the Royal African Company should be obliged to furnish negroes on easy terms to the poorer planters; and "that encouragement be given to Germans, now oppressed by the Turk, and to all other nations, by making them as free as the English." He tells us, incidentally, that the Spaniards called Jamaica "the navel of the Indies." He sent Commissions to treat with the Governor of San Domingo "touching a good correspondence and commerce."

Modyford found Jamaica very healthful and pleasant. He was received with the utmost kindness, and soon made a tour of his new domain. His own private family consisted of eighty persons, even before Lady Modyford joined him from Barbados. In a letter dated June 21st (1664), addressed to his younger brother, Sir James Modyford, he writes that he is "just despatching Jack to Barbados to fetch his mother." In 1668 Jack was given up for lost, supposed to have been carried into slavery by the Moors.

Sir James was one of thirteen Barbadians made

baronets in 1660-1. He was in 1663 named one of the Royal African Company. He went to Jamaica and sent home a survey and description of the island. He was appointed judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court in 1664, and was later made a member of the Council while on a visit to England, during which time he acted as agent for the colony. In November, 1666, he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Providence, but when he reached Jamaica in July, 1667, he found that his domain had been captured by the Spaniards. He was made Governor of Port Royal and Lieutenant-General of Jamaica.

(To be continued.)

SOME POINTS IN DISTILLING.

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

The following hints as to the control of a distillery for the manufacture of rum of the "Demerara" type may be of interest.

The most important point as regards the fermentation is good water, for it is impossible to secure good fermentations and, it follows, a good quality rum—without it. In Demerara the great danger is in the distillery water supply being contaminated with injurious products from sour canes and "sweets" and dirt from the buildings. These all lead to putrefactive changes, with the development of putrefactive bacteria, fatal to good fermentation. In Demerara—and, of course, this refers to British Guiana as a whole—if there is the slightest "mill-clock" smell about the water, or if it is bright and clean, it should not be used. The latter condition is unnatural for Demerara trench water, and indicates some prejudicial agency, probably acidity.

The next essential point is the condition of the molasses. Molasses which has been stored in open receptacles for any length of time, exposed to the weather, if outside the factory, or to the germ-laden atmosphere of the factory itself, in which there has been heavy liming, is unsuited to satisfactory fermentation. The latter condition leads to the development of *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*, which is denoted by the rice-like growth in gutters and connections, besides giving rise to the excessive presence of lime products, a condition also fatal to good fermentation.

To secure satisfactory working, therefore, in distilleries, molasses should not be heavily limed when re-boiled for the second sugar products, and should be stored in covered tanks. The pumps, gutters, piping, &c., between the storage tanks and the wash vats should also be kept scrupulously clean, and washed periodically with lime-water, followed by water made slightly acid with sulphuric acid. The wash vats also should be treated in the same manner from time to time.

If "washings" are used and not molasses only, the same precautions should be adopted to secure an "aseptic" condition and freedom from putrefactive bacteria, the curse of fermentation.

Now as to the actual distillation. If an ordinary Demerara pot-still is used, there is some defect in the apparatus if the strength of the spirit does not go up as high as 54 deg. o.p. within a short time

after the commencement of the flow of spirit from the condensing worm. It may be leakage in the rectifier; but a fruitful source is faulty detail of construction of retort. The dip-pipe should not be more than 1 in. from the bottom of the retort, and the retort itself should have a sufficient area. This area, my experience has shown, should be not less than 15 sq. ft. to 1,000 gallons of wash; otherwise a pressure is thrown back on the wash being distilled, preventing the proper liberation of the spirit.

A similar remark applies to the still itself, if it be a vat-still in which the boiling is done by means of steam introduced through a perforated pipe. The charge of wash should only occupy one half of the total capacity of the vat.

With a continuous still of the coffee type, the type in vogue in British Guiana, it is advocated that the spirit be run at 48 deg. to 50 deg. o.p. If it be run at a strength above this the spirit becomes too "silent"—i.e., flavourless; if at a lower, to be overcharged with objectionable impurities. An extremely efficient way of securing the regular running of the still is by the introduction of a thalpotassimeter into the vapour space of the section immediately above the spirit-plate. The slightest change of strength in the spirit flowing from the still is at once denoted, and the control of it governed with the greatest of ease.

In the running of the still the steam pressure should be regulated by a reducing valve. Thus if the still has been found to give its best work with a pressure of 5 lb. in the steam pipe immediately supplying the still, the reducing valve should be adjusted to this, and the supply valve opened full.

With both continuous and pot stills the flavour of the spirit is considerably mellowed by, in the case of the former, treating the "cold-feints" with lime in the cold-feints vat and allow any settlement to take place. An insoluble body-aldehyde resin is formed and settles, and the purified feints can be drawn off. Of course, two vats are necessary in this case. With a pot-still the lime can be added to each charge of the retort.

An extremely important part of Demerara rum manufacture is the colouring. Good molasses should be used—that is to say, molasses which are as free as possible from lime products and which are of a good flavour. Fresh first molasses, therefore, should be employed for the purpose. It is not advisable to use sugar itself, as flavour is an important point, and a good cane-juice flavour is wanted.

The degree to which the colour should be burnt is of very great importance. If it be underburnt, the obscuration—that is to say, the veiling or strength—is too great for the market. If over-burnt, "faultiness"—that is to say, turbidity when the spirit is broken with water—results.

The proper point is arrived at when a small blob of the molasses being burnt floats in water for a while, due to occluded gases. The colour should then be quickly cooled with water acidified with sulphuric acid.

As regards the chemical control of the distillery, what is required is (1) the quantity of "sweets" going to the fermenting loft, and (2) the quantity of spirit leaving the distillery in the puncheons. A good result may be said to have been obtained when between 11 lb. and 12 lb. of "sweets"—i.e., the

sugar in the molasses and washings used expressed as sugar—have been taken per gallon of proof spirit. Nothing above 12 lb. should be accepted as satisfactory.

Nothing is more indicative of the condition of working of a distillery than the smell of the fermenting loft. This is, of course, much affected by the nature of the molasses used and the kind of cane ground, and the kind of sugar made has, of course, a powerful influence on the molasses. In the atmosphere of a Demerara liquor loft there should be an aromatic, fruity, pleasing odour.

According to the proportion of "sweets" in the molasses, so should be the degree of fermentation. An ordinary Demerara wash of second molasses, set up with sulphate of ammonia and sulphuric acid at 1.063, should alternate to between 1.012-1.015.

It sometimes happens that wash suddenly refuses to ferment, or stops fermenting after the specific gravity has only been reduced a few degrees. This is due to the putrefactive bacteria getting the upper hand and wiping out the yeast cells. Instant stoppage and entire overhauling of the distillery as regards cleanliness should at once take place.

Lastly, the wash should be taken off for distillation before it has quite finished fermenting. To leave it until it is quite "dead" only means loss of spirit from too much acetous fermentation.

With a pot-still an invaluable substitute for the spirit bubbles for determining the point at which the rum should be "cut" will be found in the ether thalpotassimeter, which indicates temperature on a dial after the manner of a pressure gauge. This should be inserted in the vapour connection leading from the top of the rectifier to the cooling worm, and experience will soon show from temperature indicated the point when the spirit should be switched from the high arms receiver to the low arms receiver. Specially prepared instruments for the purpose can be obtained from the Sugar Supply Association, 2, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.

POTASH IN AGRICULTURE.

One of the effects of the outbreak of war was the closing to the world of the famous potash deposits of Strassfurt in Germany. To agriculturists this was a very serious matter, as all who know what an important part potash plays in agriculture will appreciate. Potash forms to a greater or lesser extent an essential feature in plant life. On that account it is a necessary plant food, without a due proportion of which no soil can be fertile.

But though the Strassfurt deposits have again become available, it must not be forgotten that much may be done in agriculture by the utilisation of "local" sources of potash. Thus, by returning to the soil crop *ditto*, leaves, stalks, &c., and allowing them to decompose there, potash can be conserved while fresh supplies can be brought from outside in the form of fallen leaves, &c.

Potash also exists naturally in soils in the form of felspar, the disintegration of which leads to the formation of clays. It is by the gradual decomposition of these under the influence of air, water, and carbonic acid gas which leads to its liberation in a form in which it can be readily taken up by the roots of the plant. This form is termed by chemists "available," and in analysis is denoted by the quantity of potash which can be dissolved in a given time by a 2 per cent. solution of citric acid, this being supposed to represent the carbonic acid in the terminals of the rootlets of plants.

WEST INDIAN SHIPPING.

(Continued from page 322 and concluded.)

Bahamas off the Beaten Track.

After discussing the problem of steamer communication for Jamaica and British Honduras, as recorded in last CIRCULAR, the West Indian Shipping Committee in their Report refer to the position of the Bahamas, whose cause was ably championed by Sir William Allardyce. At present those colonies are regularly visited by the steamers of the Ward Line, of New York, only, though in the winter there is passenger communication with Miami in Florida. Unfortunately, the cargo offering—namely, about 4,000 tons of sisal and 300 to 500 tons of sponge—make the establishment of a special steamer service out of the question. The Committee therefore found themselves only able to express the hope that, in view of the services rendered to the colony in the past by British steamship companies, and notably Elder, Dempster & Co. and the Scutlon Line, some British line may be enterprising enough to make Nassau a port of call on its route to some other port of the Caribbean with the object of developing a commercial cargo traffic in the future.

As far as Bermuda is concerned, the Committee strongly advocate an increase of trade with Canada, whose subsidised steamers call at the colony on their way to and from the West Indies. The Bermuda Legislature is prepared to spend £2,500 per annum for a direct service with the Mother Country, but this would be obviously insufficient. The Committee then again emphasise the desirability of securing the assistance of Canada towards securing steamer communication.

The Cost of Communication by Air.

The next paragraph of the Committee's Report deals with the possibility of establishing air services, and in view of the deep interest which this question has evoked, no apology will be needed for quoting their remarks regarding it *in extenso*. They run:—

"The Committee have received a letter from the Air Ministry giving estimates of the cost of carrying the mails between the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana, on the same basis as was provided in the recent inter-colonial contract between the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Crown Agents. It appears that the initial cost of such a service would amount to some £85,000, and the cost of maintenance in subsequent years to £55,000, on the assumption that three flying boats were employed; the lifting capacity of a flying boat would be about a ton. If for flying boats float seaplanes were substituted, the total cost of these estimates in respect of the first year and of each succeeding year would be reduced by approximately £15,000; but the capacity of these seaplanes is only one-quarter of that of the flying boats. The Air Ministry informed us, however that these estimates were based on war costs, as no figures for peace-time flying were available at the time. It is clear to us that the estimates given make the initiation of such a scheme by the Government out of the question at present. We understand that the Post Office are proposing to experiment on Continental routes where there will be a chance of developing a large and regular traffic, and it would be desirable that the West Indian Governments should wait, at any rate until the results of these experiments are known. The Committee understand, however, from the Air Ministry

that that Department does not see any objection to private individuals being allowed to experiment at their own risk and expense, and they consider that enterprises of this kind would be of advantage from an experimental point of view, and should be carefully watched with a view to collecting data for further experiments, if thought desirable, at a later date. The Committee recommend, therefore, that no immediate action in this matter should be taken at present by the Governments concerned beyond that of watching any experiments which may be authorised on private account."

Development of West Indian Harbours.

Coming now to the question of harbour development, the Committee adopt the views of a sub-committee of their body, which, with regard to Kingston, Jamaica, were expressed in the following resolution:—

"The Committee do not consider that the conditions exist at present which would justify large expenditure on deepening the port or improving the coaling facilities. They see no objection to an expert being sent out to report whether the harbour is capable of improvement in minor matters; but they suggest that, in any case, the Governor should first of all be asked to report what he has in mind apart from the recommendations of the Dominions Royal Commission, in suggesting the appointment of an expert. In particular, the expert should be asked to look into the question of the extension of the Government railway to all wharves, both from the point of view of passenger and of cargo traffic, especially the banana trade. Finally, the Committee anticipate that it would be a great advantage if the harbour were made free of light and harbour dues, as already suggested by the Governor."

On the subject of Demerara Harbour, the Committee agreed that to make any substantial improvement it would be necessary to spend a very large sum of money. Consequently, it was considered that no steps could usefully be taken for expenditure on a large scale, except in connection with a general Imperial scheme for developing and opening up the whole hinterland of the colony; in the latter event, such expenditure would be an essential element of the scheme. It was agreed, however, that it would be worth spending £100,000 if the harbour could be deepened by at least 2 ft.; but it did not appear clear from the information before the Committee that the expenditure proposed in the colony would attain this object. It was pointed out that in any case the purchase of a suction dredger, which had been proposed, would involve the continuance of dredging, and therefore a continuance of maintenance charges, and it was not known how far this aspect of the matter had been taken into account.

The Position of Port of Spain.

In discussing the harbour of Port of Spain, the Committee had the benefit of hearing the evidence submitted by Mr. Thomas G. Prentice against the recommendation of the local Government for a deep-water scheme of quays, and Sir John Chancellor, the Governor of Trinidad, was also present during the discussion. The Committee passed the following resolution:—

"Provided that the scheme of deep-water wharves is started at a time when they can be built at a reasonable cost, and on the express condition that the use of the wharves is optional, the Committee are of opinion that it would be of advantage to the colony if a scheme on the lines suggested by Sir John Chancellor were adopted."

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK

By "Agronomist."

Experiments are now being made in shipping bananas from Colon to New York. The fruit is grown on good soil along the valley of the Chagres River, and the arms of the Gatun Lake, and if the venture proves successful it will be easy to extend the cultivation, as there is a good deal of land suitable for growing bananas in the neighbourhood.

* * *

If a particularly good strain of Indian corn (maize) is to be kept pure, measures must be taken to keep it from being cross-fertilised by other undesirable strains. The direction and force of the wind are the chief factors during tasselling in cross-fertilisation. A wind-break of some kind, such as a crop of sorghum between the two strains of corn, may be sufficient, or they may be cultivated at some distance, say a quarter of a mile from one another.

* * *

The organism which is the cause of the bud-rot of the coconut palm, according to the Philippines *Journal of Science*, is a species of a parasitic fungus belonging to the well-known genus *Phytophthora*—namely, *P. faberi*. The writer states that coconut palms should not be planted with cacao, Hevea rubber, or the papaw. The same species of fungus causes canker of cacao, black rot of cacao-pods, fruit-rot and canker of Hevea rubber, and fruit-rot of the papaw. It can grow on dead parts of coconut, cacao, and papaw, and when opportunities offer it can spread from these to become a parasite on living, healthy trees.

* * *

In radio-telegraphy the clearness of sound depends upon the regularity with which the current of electricity is released. A patent has just been taken out by a Norwegian for a device for the production of electrical current for radio-telegraphy. The electricity is received by an accumulator, which releases it at certain intervals with a mathematical exactness. The system is sparkless, and the sounds are clearer than in former inventions. It is also cheaper, simpler, and more durable.

* * *

Drs. Pease and Rose have written a paper in the American *Journal of Diseases of Children* on the banana as a food for children. A number of carefully controlled experiments were made. The conclusions arrived at are as follow:—The banana is a useful fruit that can with profit enter liberally into the child's dietary, provided it is fully ripe, or well cooked. Bananas that are merely yellow are not ripe. If eaten unripe, its availability as a source of heat and energy in the system is comparatively low, and the effect on digestion injurious.

* * *

Bananas may be known to be ripe when the colour has no appearance of green in it, but is a deep golden with brown spots, or when it is altogether dark brown, or nearly black all over. The pulp itself when very ripe becomes dark-coloured, and most delicate and delicious in flavour. The brown colour of the ripening, however, must not be confused with the brown patches due to bruising. The banana properly handled and allowed to ripen thoroughly is a wholesome food, uncontaminated by dirt and pathogenic germs, even if purchased from the costermonger's barrow.

* * *

The fig is one of the most important fruit crops in Spain, because of its widespread cultivation and its general use as a food product. It reaches its highest development in the extreme south of the peninsula. It is extremely hardy, and does well planted round the edges of fields, and even on waste land which is put to no other use. When the fig tree is planted in orchards

it is set out at distances of 25 ft. to 30 ft. apart, and all the intervening space is closely cropped to vegetables or small grain.

* * *

The intermediate crops receive an intensive cultivation. The fig trees seem to require nothing more than hoeing round the tree in spring, and the removal of dead branches. The figs are sun-dried on mats made of a kind of cane. They require little attention beyond turning them over every two or three days. In ten or twelve days the drying is complete, and the fruit is carried in baskets to specially prepared sheds for careful grading as to size, colour, &c. The figs are then flattened out, and packed in rows in boxes. There are many places in the West Indies where figs might be grown without interfering with other crops.

* * *

Honey should be produced wherever it is at all possible. The work of the bees in making honey is of indirect advantage in cross-fertilising many plants and increasing their yield. Honey is a profitable crop in itself, even if no advantage comes from cross-fertilisation. As a food product it is of immense importance. It is a source of heat and energy in the system, and a pound weight is said to be of equal value to twenty eggs. Honey is a pre-digested food, consisting mainly of grape sugar and fruit sugar. These, unlike cane sugar, are directly available for the production of heat and energy. Honey also contains nitrogenous matter and vitamins.

* * *

The cow is a most wonderful laboratory. She takes the grasses of the pasture, says F. O. Lowden, Governor of Illinois, and converts them into milk, the most perfect food for man. In that food there is a mysterious something which scientists have found essential to the highest health of the human race. Men have sought for centuries the fabled Fountain of Youth. The nearest approach to that fountain which has yet been discovered is the udder of the cow. Without her milk, children languish, the vigour of the adult declines, and the vitality of the human race runs low.

* * *

There are said to be 1,500 motor cars in Jamaica, or one car for every 533 persons; 825 cars in Trinidad, or one for every 450 persons. Most of the cars in Jamaica are for passenger use. Small, light cars, costing under £200, suit the roads best, as they are often steep. In Trinidad much more use is made of motor lorries for carrying plantation products to the coast and railway points. In the smaller islands the use of motor vehicles is on the increase. They prove of special value in the development of those areas where railways have not been constructed. Small, inexpensive cars are the most popular. They are chiefly of American make, but no doubt British models will soon be available as good and as cheap as the American.

* * *

The Uba cane in Jamaica was the subject of a recent note in the CIRCULAR. The reports of its cultivation in South Africa are most encouraging. The Chilean Nitrate Propaganda has published a useful pamphlet on the subject. The Uba cane is well suited to a subtropical region like Natal, which is unsuitable for the growth of the tropical sugar cane. Grown on a planting scale first in 1884, it has superseded all other varieties of sugar-cane. It is grown also since 1906 in Zululand. From a purely milling standpoint, it compares unfavourably with soft canes. It is thin, tough, wiry, and fibrous. It requires 10 to 30 per cent. more mill-power than other canes. The juice needs special care in treatment. But, on the other hand, it is hardy. Its deep-rooting nature enables it to withstand drought, and resist high winds. It tillers well, and ratoons freely. It is not subject to fungus pests, and is singularly free from attacks of the borer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WEST INDIES NOT FOR SALE.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Apropos of the recent proposal to hand over certain territory in the West Indies to the United States in liquidation of British liabilities to that country, I suppose that all natives of Trinidad, one of the excepted islands, ought to feel supremely honoured and grateful to Lord Rothermere for allowing them to remain subjects of his Gracious Majesty the King.

Why Trinidad should be so highly honoured it is difficult to understand. It would be impossible to suggest that the oil lands of the island have endowed it in the eyes of Lord Rothermere and other capitalists with such importance and desirability, apart from other potentialities, that he has been good enough to exempt us from the fate which he proposes for other parts of the West Indies.

Whatever the reason may be, one may well express astonishment that the ink of the Peace Treaty has hardly dried before the principle of self-determination of which we have heard so much lately is apparently forgotten, and the West Indians, who have been loyal subjects of the British Crown for three hundred years and over, are to be handed over to a foreign Government regardless of their sentiments and regardless of their birthright as citizens of the Empire.

Apparently the rule which holds good in the case of European nationalities and peoples does not apply to us West Indians—we are only "natives" and not "cousins" like our dear Americans.

The war will indeed bring a tragic issue to us if after all the sacrifices which we so gladly made in the cause of our beloved Empire we are to be handed over to a foreign State with which we have no sympathy whatever, and in which "Judge Lynch" too often presides over the destiny of the darker section of the community. May I, as a daughter of the Empire, raise my voice in protest against any attempt to sever those ties of love and loyalty which have for so long bound us to the Motherland?—Yours faithfully,

KATHLEEN I. LIDDELOW.

Errol Park, Trinidad.

October 17th, 1919.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In the Press comments arising out of Lord Rothermere's recent and startling suggestion to cede to the United States certain British colonies, in satisfaction of Great Britain's mere cash debt to Uncle Sam, I was glad to note the worthy and characteristic utterances of the West India Committee thereon. The opinion of Mr. A. E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Secretary of that influential body, that Lord Rothermere's proposal is "a piece of gross impertinence," will be endorsed by every person in a position to form a just estimate of the situation. His lordship's cynical and insensate scheme of arbitrarily transferring millions of His Majesty's loyal subjects, like so much goods and chattels, to the tender mercies of a Power whose people are antagonistic to and contemptuous of the race forming almost the entirety of the populations in question, a scheme bound to fail under any circumstances, but now put forward at a period of our national history when the unity of our

great Empire is so much dependent on the homogeneity of that Greater Britain to which the Motherland owes so much, is an outrage on the common sense of an enlightened nation, to say nothing of the egregious ignorance of the subject which has prompted this reckless schemer to seriously advocate the voluntary loss of some of the most productive and resourceful regions of the King's dominions.

But the cold cynicism and the amazing ignorance of to-day will be better realised and more fully understood, in the light of certain dogmatic and magisterial vaticinations to which Lord Rothermere committed himself not long ago, also on a subject of national moment, and on which he, as much as to-day, got completely out of his depth.

In August last year, just *three months* before the abject cry for armistice completed the downfall of our beaten enemies, contemporaneous with that of the German oligarchy, Lord Rothermere, in his exceptionally advantageous position as a public man and a Press magnate, and with all the portents and signs of the times around him, actually published as follows in the selfsame *Sunday Pictorial*, the mouthpiece of his latest vagaries:—

"My object is to endeavour to warn my countrymen that there is no prospect of the early collapse of Germany, and that there is much to justify those who believe that the war will last at least *three years more*." [Italics his lordship's.]

"It is a mistake to suppose that the throne of the Hohenzollerns is in any real danger. Why should it be?"

"There is absolutely no likelihood of any effective revolution in Germany while the war continues, and I doubt whether one will come afterwards. Those in power are too strong."

Now, Sir, without further trespassing on your indulgence, I will conclude by putting it to your readers whether it can surprise anyone that a mentality devoid of a sense of the obvious significance of the events which so rapidly succeeded our final counter-attack of July, 1918, and oblivious of the truism that history repeats itself (deficiencies patent in the foregoing prognostications), should evoke and parade to-day the pernicious and impracticable project in question. Lord Rothermere has not come out strong as a prophet, neither will he score as an engineer of national liquidation.

Thanking you for space,

I am, Sir, &c.,

F. STERNS FADELLE, BAC.Sc.

[Owing to exigencies of space we regret that we are unable to publish many other letters regarding this subject which we have received.—Ed.]

EMIGRATION FROM JAMAICA.

The Acting-Governor has issued a return of those who left the chief ports of Jamaica under the Emigrants Protection Laws, from which it appears that in September no fewer than 1,508 persons, exclusive of ex-B.W.I.R. men, emigrated. Of these 1,320 went to Cuba, 179 to Colon, and not one to any British colony. It is obvious that if British colonies wish to attract colonists and labour they will have to make conditions as attractive as those afforded by Cuba, Colon, &c. The *Gleaner* of November 3rd makes a strong appeal to the City Fathers to improve the sanitary and social conditions of Kingston, of the state of which after dark it draws a sorry picture. It warmly advocates the granting of a lease of Rosemary Lane to the Myrtle Bank Hotel.

A later issue of the *Gleaner* states that no fewer than 500 men left for Cuba in a single week recently.

WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

Dominica's Late Administrator.

It appears that Mr. Arthur William Mahaffy, O.B.E., the Administrator of Dominica, whose death was announced in the CIRCULAR of November 13th, died at Government House on October 27th. He had visited England earlier in the year to place his elder son at school, and caught influenza on the voyage, which weakened the system. After his return to Dominica he contracted bronchitis, from which he never recovered. The announcement of his death caused a great shock to the community. The funeral, an account of which is given in the *Dominica Chronicle* of October 29th, took place at St. George's Anglican Church on the 28th, and was of a most impressive nature, being attended by the Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., acting Administrator, the members of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands and Dominica, the first Puisne Judge, Officers of the Dominica Defence Force, police, and a representative gathering of the general public. As a mark of respect the bells of the Cathedral and Methodist Chapel were tolled, and heartfelt sympathy is felt for Mrs. Mahaffy and the family in the loss which they have sustained.

The closing of the hurricane season was marked by the singing of the *Te Deum* after High Mass at Roseau Cathedral on October 26th.

In announcing the death of the Administrator, the Chief Clerk in a notice published in the official *Gazette* of October 28th states:—

"Mr. Mahaffy was sworn in as Administrator of Dominica on the 9th of April, 1915, and, except for brief intervals, he devoted his high abilities and great energy to the advancement of the welfare of Dominica and the happiness and prosperity of the people. His early and somewhat sudden death is lamented by all classes of the population, and he endeared himself to the many firm friends he made during his residence in the island."

Mr. James Royer, of Macoucherie, and Mr. Didier have been appointed members of the Legislative Council.

Sewerage Proposals for St. George's, Grenada.

At a meeting of the Grenada Board of Education on October 7th the Governor disclosed the fact that the colony was faced by a deficit of £10,000 to £15,000, owing to the expenses of the Contingent. In order to restore the equilibrium it is proposed to impose an Excess Profits Duty. A Bill for this purpose has been introduced into the Legislature. It appears to be aimed at the merchants, the planters escaping its provisions. The cost of equipping St. George's with a much-needed sewerage system has been estimated at £12,000 to £15,000.

Mr. D. Hadley, M.E.C. for St. Vincent.

Mr. Digby Hadley, of Spring Estate, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of St. Vincent. The weather in this island showed signs of breaking on October 15th, and a fair amount of rain, which caused cotton planters some concern, though, fortunately, no harm was done, fell in the following week. The local *Times* wisely advises planter and peasant to plant all the provisions they can. Bishop Berkeley has been paying the island a visit, and was no doubt gratified to find the improvements effected in the Cathedral, the sittings and windows having been renovated. Dr. A. W. Lewis, son of Mr. A. Wellesley Lewis, K.C., has taken up his duties as Medical Officer of the northern portion of the Leeward District. The Income-tax Ordinance received the consent of the Governor before His Excellency left on October 16th for Grenada. Mr. W. N. Sands, who now leaves St. Vincent, to the great regret of many friends, was a passenger in the same steamer.

Barbados' Antiquated Tramways.

The Governor's speech at the opening of the Legislature has been well received, and has evoked an uncontroversial reply. The Governor, in his rejoinder, referred again to the "glorious reputation of the colony of Barbados as one of the most loyal in the whole of His Majesty's Empire." He assured the House that he had no desire to press any measure of additional taxation, except in so far as was necessary for the efficient working of the administration of the colony. A deputation of the Civic Circle of the Ladies' Lyceum Club waited on the Governor on October 20th to present a petition signed by 1,012 householders and 3,880 occupants for the improvement of the tramway service. They called special attention to the emaciated condition of the mules and their inability to work without excessive use of the whip. The Hon. A. P. Haynes, M.L.C., and Mr. E. R. Skeete have been appointed members of the Board of Education during the absence of Mr. T. W. B. O'Neil and Mr. G. E. Sealy.

Vital Statistics of British Guiana for 1918.

The Government Vegetable Products Factory was formally opened by the Governor on October 31st, after Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., had delivered an address giving the history of the proceedings in connection with its erection, which arose out of a motion of the Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C., in November, 1916. In passing, Professor Harrison paid a tribute to the late Mr. C. K. Bankcroft, who did so much in regard to the preliminary work. The weather still continued very dry when Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote on October 27th. Lord Rothermere's suggestion of ceding British Guiana to the United States had been the subject of several meetings and many articles in the Press, in which it was generally characterised as impertinent. Dr. A. H. Rich, the General Medical Officer, who came to the colony in 1917 from Dominica, died at the Public Hospital on October 22nd, at the early age of thirty-four. The report of Dr. C. H. Conyer, Registrar-General, for 1918 shows that the estimated population at the end of the year was 310,972, of whom 161,693 were male and 149,279 female. Of the total population, no fewer than 134,670 were East Indian. The increase in the total population in the last five years was at the rate of 4 per 1,000 per annum only, as compared with 14 for Trinidad, 21 for Barbados, and 6·6 for Jamaica. The birth-rate was 21·5 per 1,000, and the death-rate 4·6, this high figure being attributed in great measure to the influenza epidemic, which in December last caused 2,326 deaths. Infantile mortality is still very high. Up to the end of March the death-rate for the quarter reached 85·1 per 1,000, and the population of the colony was consequently 3,614 less than at the end of 1914. Before his departure on leave Mr. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., delivered an interesting lecture on the kinship of the Indian and British races at the inaugural meeting of the Wesleyan East Indian Young Men's Society. The question of increasing the Civil Service salaries is under consideration, and a bonus scheme has been prepared by the Colonial Treasurer. Captain C. C. Sherlock, M.C., late Middlesex Regiment, has arrived in the colony, and has been appointed A.D.C. and private Secretary to the Governor. Mr. D. J. Ewing Chow, a member of the Colonisation Deputation, has returned to the colony. The Governor was given a cordial reception on his return to the colony on October 19th. Captain Massiah, who has been absent from the colony since 1915, was also a passenger in the same vessel.

Favourable Weather for Trinidad's Crops.

H.M.S. *Renown* has made quite a stay here, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp, under date November 6th, and has proved a very popular ship. Both officers and men have been widely entertained on shore, a concert and entertainment company of the ship having given several per-

performances to crowded and appreciative audiences, whilst dances and picnics have been of almost daily and nightly occurrence; in fact, it has been quite like old times. It is most sincerely to be hoped that the white ensign will once again be seen frequently in these waters. Nothing else is so calculated to stimulate and maintain the fine patriotic spirit which has always marked the population of the islands of all classes. In this connection, Lord Rothermere's thoughtless suggestion that some of us should be transferred to the kind ownership of Uncle Sam, in part payment of Great Britain's debt, has excited a storm of indignation throughout the colonies interested.

The new Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. A. V. Best, has created a very favourable impression. He was sworn in as Acting-Governor on the morning of his arrival, and has already shown his tact and discretion. The Consular Body of Trinidad and Tobago gave a private dinner in his honour, which is understood to have been successful.

A very sad social event has been the death of Mrs. Austin, the wife of Major George Bruce Austin, who, after many years' absence in England, where she had remained during the period of her children's education, had only returned to the colony about a month ago. She had many friends and had received a warm welcome, and her sad demise after only a few days' illness has excited very general regret and sincere sympathy for her husband and family.

The strength of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, which are to meet in Barbados in February, has been added to recently by the enrolment as members of the Jamaica Imperial Association and the Chamber of Commerce of British Honduras. Sir John Chancellor is expected by the *Arctica* to-morrow morning, when a full official welcome will be accorded to his Excellency. The weather is all that can be desired, and crops of all kinds look well.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Ltd.

The directors in their sixth report record a disappointing crop owing to the drought from January to April. The new scale of farmers' canes has been welcomed by farmers, who appreciate the good prices which they are getting owing to the high level of sugar, and understand that this will be lowered in proportion as sugar falls, and recognise the fairness of the scheme. The Company has appointed a Cane Farmers' Superintendent, which step has also been appreciated. He instructs them in approved methods of cultivation, and has also guided them in starting co-operative credit societies, of which fourteen have been registered, with a total membership of 900 cane farmers, to whom advances amounting to about £6,000 have been made, the money being provided by the Colonial Bank.

The total of canes handled was 166,020, of which 95,570 were estates and 70,450 farmers. From the statistics for the years 1914-19, the following figures are reproduced:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Sucrose in Cane ...	11.21 %	12.56 %	11.28 %	11.69 %
Sucrose in Megass ...	3.40 ..	3.95 ..	3.30 ..	3.46 ..
Purity of Juice ...	77.6 ..	80.5 ..	79.6 ..	80.5 ..
Recovery of Sucrose ...	82.55 ..	80.53 ..	81.14 ..	81.59 ..
Yield of Sugar 96 deg. ...	9.66 ..	10.55 ..	9.51 ..	9.93 ..
Estates Canes per acre	24.72 tons	23.35 tons	19.62 tons	19.44 to
Estates Sugar	2.38 ..	2.46 ..	1.86 ..	1.93 ..

The Profit and Loss Account shows a surplus of £6,743 7s. 2d., to which there is to be added £16,938 recovered on account of Excess Profits duty, making together £23,681 7s. 2d. This, with £44,410 6s. 4d. brought forward from the previous year, makes a total

of £68,091 13s. 6d. A dividend of 6 per cent. on the paid-up capital was paid on the 1st July. The directors now recommend that a further and final dividend of 2s. per share be paid. These payments absorb £21,221 11s. 1d., leaving £46,870 2s. 5d. to be carried forward.

The directors have now under consideration several proposals for proving the existence of oil on their estates, and for subsequent development. The Company has also been establishing a coconut plantation on its estate of Plein Palais, planting the young trees amongst the canes. The area planted to date is 368 acres. The whole plantation is coming on remarkably well, and the earlier-planted trees are now coming into bearing.

Presiding at the annual meeting on December 4th, Mr. G. Moody Stuart said that when he had been in Trinidad in January he had expected something very different from the poor result shown by the report. The cost of production had risen 20 per cent., but the crops seemed past all risks. Then came a withering drought, prolonged for four months, under which the crops shrank. Otherwise the position was thoroughly satisfactory. The figures in the report might lead shareholders to question that, for they showed that the company raised only 19½ tons of cane, or barely 2 tons of sugar, to the acre. But that was without any sulphate of ammonia, and with a very trying season. The cane farmers were now very contented, and had, indeed, presented him with an address of thanks for what the Company was doing whilst he was in Trinidad. Now this gratitude was only for giving them what was fair and just, and yet one sometimes heard it said in the West Indies that the labourers were never grateful. The farmers were well off at present with the high price of sugar, but when that returned to a low level they would not make a living unless they cultivated better. They had, in a very large number of cases, been wasting their land by want of good work and proper methods. They might grow double as much cane on the same plots, and they could at least easily grow 50 per cent. more, and even the latter would mean £35,000 extra into their pockets in a year like this.

With regard to oil prospects, Mr. Moody Stuart said: "You will recollect that in our report last year we mentioned that we had had a general survey made of the company's property, and that the report was considered favourable on the whole, and that, as you will see from the present report, the directors have now under consideration proposals for proving the properties, and, if the results warrant it, for developing oil work."

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was adopted unanimously.

Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.

The prospectus of this Company was published on December 9th for information only, the whole of the capital having been applied for privately. The Company has a capital of £400,000 in £1 shares, and is formed to acquire all or any of the shares of the Oropouche Oilfields, Ltd., and the Moruga Oilfields, Ltd., both incorporated in Trinidad. The first directors are Mr. T. L. Gilmore, of 3, Rosecroft-avenue, Hampstead, Barrister-at-law; Mr. R. F. M. Scott, of Borrans, Chobham, Surrey, of the Kawa (Java) Rubber Estates; Mr. P. Marsden, 3, London Wall-buildings, Chairman of the New British International Oil Syndicate, Ltd.; Lord Willoughby de Broke, and Mr. W. N. Mitford, of 2, Kidderpore-avenue, Director of the Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

The net profit for the year ended June 30th, 1919, amounted to £187,379 10s., which, with the balance brought forward of £62,361 18s. 10d., makes a total of £249,741 8s. 10d. The directors recommend a dividend of 12½ per cent., less income-tax, on the issued capital of £1,049,250, placing £50,000 to Reserve, and carrying forward £62,030 7s. 7d.

OUR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Forthcoming Commercial Conference.

Arrangements have now been definitely completed for holding the Second Triennial Conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies in Barbados in February next.

The delegates from the Leeward Islands and St. Lucia are expected to reach Bridgetown in the *Caraquet* on February 18th, and those from British Guiana, Trinidad, Grenada and St. Vincent in the *Chignecto* on the following day. The delegates from Jamaica will probably travel by way of New York.

An interesting agenda has been prepared, the matters for discussion including—

(1) Imperial Trade Relations, with special reference to:—

(a) Preference granted by the Mother Country to the Colonies and the advisability of reciprocating by granting substantial return preferences.

(b) Mutual increase of preference under the Reciprocity Agreement with Canada.

(2) Trade Relations between British West Indies and Venezuela.

(3) Consideration of the report of the Inter-Colonial Customs Conference held at Trinidad on March 10th, 1919, and discussion of resolutions Nos. 1 to 13 passed thereat.

(4) Consideration of the report of the Colonial Office Committee on West Indian shipping, and discussion of the question of steamship services, contracts and subsidies between:—

(a) United Kingdom and West Indies.

(b) Canada and West Indies.

(c) Inter-Colonial.

(5) Development of commercial aviation in the West Indies.

(6) Improvement of telegraphic communication, with special reference to the need of establishing an all-British cable route.

(7) The emigration of labour from the British West Indies and the desirability of, as far as possible, retaining it within these Colonies.

(8) Sanitation and prophylaxis of tropical diseases in their bearing on the commerce and industries of the British West Indies.

(9) The closer union of the British West Indies as tending to their commercial development and prosperity.

Sir Edward Davson, President of the Associated Chambers, will preside, and it is hoped that Sir Francis Watts, Commissioner to the West Indies, will address the Chamber on the work of his Department, and that Mr. A. J. Pavitt will read a paper regarding the work of the Department of Overseas Trade.

OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Bayano</i>	Dec. 16
West Indies	London	<i>Arzila</i>	Dec. 17
West Indies & Bermuda	London	<i>Sargasso</i>	Dec. 18
B'dos and T'dal	Liverpool	<i>Asian</i>	Dec. 20
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Crown of Navarre</i>	Dec. 22
Glasgow	Bristol	<i>Coronada</i>	Dec. 23
West Indies	St. Nazaire	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Dec. 26
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaudiere</i>	Dec. 26
West Indies	London	<i>Savan</i>	Dec. 31
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	Jan. 9

The above dates are only approximate.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Limited.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, November 26th, per s.s. *Patuca* (Commander S. H. Simmons):—

Miss F. Addison	Mrs. W. R. Durie	Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Pimnock
Mrs. M. I. Abraham	Mr. T. Entwisle	Mr. R. Quesada
Capt. L. E. Amedroz	Mrs. M. J. Gosset	Mrs. E. Rimell
Col. & Mrs. J. F. Barry	Miss D. A. Gosset	Mr. R. E. Rimell
Mrs. E. L. Bolton	Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Mitchell-Hedges	Mr. R. A. E. Rimell
Mr. A. L. Bruce	Master J. F. Mitchell-Hedges	Miss Ruby Rimell
Rev. and Mrs. R. J. Campbell	Mr. and Mrs. E. E. C. Hosack	Miss Rosalind Rimell
Rev. and Mrs. T. S. Cannon	Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hyslop	Rev. H. Simpson
Mrs. C. Clarke	The Right Rev. the Bishop of Jamaica	Miss E. G. Smith
Mr. W. Conran	Mr. and Mrs. L. A. T. Johnson	Sir Richard Stapley
Mr. D. Curry	Mr. D. I. Melhado	Mrs. G. W. Thomson
Mr. J. Dixon		Mr. & Mrs. E. Townsend
Lt.-Col. & Mrs. J. C. M. Doran		Miss D. J. Townsend
Miss F. L. Dunn		Mr. B. Travers
		Mrs. J. F. Travers
		Miss L. Whiteley
		Miss E. M. Whiteley

Sailings to Jamaica per s.s. *Camito* from Avonmouth on December 2nd:—

Mrs. N. A. E. Alcazar	Miss O. R. Elliott	Mrs. M. B. O'Brien
Miss D. Alcazar	Miss M. E. Finnie	Mr. and Mrs. H. D. O'Donnell
Mrs. N. A. S. Allan	Mrs. B. I. French	Mr. S. Owen
Miss N. F. Allan	Mr. W. Gamble	Capt. P. M. Pearce
Mr. J. Baird	Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Gaye	Mr. K. Mallett-Pringle
Col. and Mrs. H. A. Barclay	Mr. & Mrs. A. Gordon	Mr. G. Pycroft
Miss M. Barclay	Mrs. J. F. Hardwick	Mr. F. E. Reed
Commandr. L. L. Bevan, R.N.	Miss R. H. E. Higham	Major W. W. Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. L. de Bernardy	Miss E. M. Hogarth	Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Riley
Miss G. de Bernardy	Miss M. L. Hogarth	Master J. R. Riley
Mr. A. K. de Bernardy	Mrs. N. M. Irwin	Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Browne	Mr. Lethbridge	Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Routledge
Miss I. Browne	Mr. C. M. McGregor	Sister M. Sinclair
Mr. R. E. Cailles	Mrs. C. Madeley	Mr. A. C. Solomon
Mr. A. B. Cobbett	Mrs. M. Malcolm	Mr. R. Taylor
Mr. P. C. Cork, C.M.G.	Mr. Matthews	Mrs. K. Tivy
Mr. F. Craib	The Rev. J. Maxwell	Miss N. Tivy
Mrs. F. E. M. Denyer	Miss M. M. Mercer	Miss E. Tivy
Mrs. K. J. Dimsdale	Mr. E. C. Morris	Capt. and Mrs. G. B. Wilson
Masters T. E. and J. R. Dimsdale	Mrs. H. Moxay	Mr. D. Woolcott
Mr. & Mrs. Dumbrell	Mr. W. R. Murray	Mr. W. Woolliscroft
	Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Newman	
	Miss E. B. Newman	

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

(Continued from next page.)

BALATA. The market continues quiet. Demerara sheet, 4s. 0½d. c.i.f.

COPRA. Market firm; buyers L.m.s. West Indian, c.i.f. London, £61.

HONEY. There is rather more demand, and business has been done at from 80s. to 10½s. for Jamaica honey.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil: Handpressed,** quiet; sellers at 10s. per lb. **Distilled,** firmer, with business done at 2s. 10½d. to 3s. 1½d. per lb. **Lime-juice: Raw,** quiet; nominal value, 2s. for good.

ORANGE OIL. **Sweet,** scarce and wanted; good prices obtainable. **Bitter,** not inquired for.

PETROLEUM. Exports from Trinidad continue to go ahead, those from January 1st to October 25th in the years 1914-19 being as under:—

Year.	Galls.	Year.	Galls.
1914	12,001,148	1917	26,222,823
1915	8,324,534	1918	32,715,058
1916	27,254,396	1919	38,402,978

SPICES. There have been no offerings of **W.I. Nutmegs** or **Mace** during the last fortnight. A large business has been done in **Pimento** at advancing prices. To-day's value, 6d.

The Hon. Treasurers hope that every member will contribute towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

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

December 11th, 1919.

SUGAR. Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lump, &c.	s. d.	d.	d.	
W.I. Crystallised	72 0	8½		
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ...	66 0	8		
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing	63 6	7½		
	"free"	No maximum		

Contrary to expectation, the demand from manufacturers for "free imported" sugar pending the close time after December 27th has not been so brisk. The order prohibiting dealings in sugar, except under licence by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, was renewed on December 4th. The object is to prevent firms not before in the sugar trade speculating in large quantities of sugar. To recognised sugar firms licences are being freely issued. It would now appear certain that satisfactory arrangements will be made for the profitable sale of West Indian crystallised and Muscovado for grocery purposes in the United Kingdom next year, negotiations to which end are now proceeding between the West India Committee and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. The reappearance of these sugars in grocers' stores will be welcomed by the public; but it must be remembered that with the present 8-oz. ration the demand will not be so great as before.

Messrs. Willett & Gray estimate the world's production of sugar for 1919-20 at 16,600,000 tons, as against 16,320,654 tons for 1918-19, and 17,220,243 tons for 1917-18. Of the total for the coming season 12,261,000 tons are represented by cane, and 4,339,000 by beet. The principal cane estimates are: Cuba, 4,300,000 tons (an increase of 300,000 tons over 1918-19); Hawaii, 560,000 tons; Porto Rico, 400,000 tons; Peru, 250,000 tons; the Argentine, 250,000 tons; Santo Domingo, 180,000 tons; Brazil, 175,000 tons; British Guiana, 100,000 tons; and the British West India islands, 217,000 tons (including Jamaica, 50,000 tons). The beet estimates include: Germany, 1,300,000 tons (as compared with 2,725,000 tons in the pre-war year); Czecho-Slovakia (now our ally), 750,000 tons; Russia (Ukraine, Poland, &c.), 350,000 tons; and France, 150,000 tons.

Readers of the CIRCULAR, which has constantly referred to the psychological fact that those who imbibe strong drinks have a craving for sugar and sweets, will not be surprised to learn that since the pussyfoots have had their way, the consumption of sugar in the United States has increased enormously.

Himely reports from Cuba that the cane fields are notably advanced, and present a fine appearance in the western and middle part of the island, but are not so favourable in Oriente, and especially the Guantanamo district, where the cane is rather poor.

Guma-Mejer report that the total Cuba crop for 1918-19 was 3,971,776 tons, or 525,693 tons more than the preceding crop.

New York prices for 1918-19 crop:—

96° Cuba Centrifugals, c. and f.	5'88c.
Porto Rico, St. Croix, &c.	7'28c.
Centrifugals, non-privileged, c. & f.	5'64c.

The West India sugar statistics in London on November 29th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	47,607	35,858	80,981	
Deliveries	46,074	37,986	73,913	
Stock	7,725	8,859	15,083	

RUM. Little business is passing, as buyers are holding back. Quotations are nominally unchanged.

The stocks in London on November 29th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	7,490	3,994	7,960	
Demerara	14,527	10,610	6,984	
Total of all kinds	28,592	19,902	23,228	

COCOA. The cocoa-market is quiet, but steady. Here and there, at various centres, some changes and signs of excitement occur, but in the end they only seem to add to our strength—at any rate here in London. At one time the "Pussyfoot" mania in America promised great things in the way of forcing the pace on the consumption of cocoa and chocolate, but it has, from all accounts, moderated, and it seems probable that cocoa, in the hands of skilled international firms, will do better on the whole in London, thanks to the Continental markets close at hand. Again, however, it will be wiser to send "best goods," on a parity, say, with the Grenadas just sold at 128s. to 130s., the first parcel of that growth to change hands, thereby establishing a price for some time to come. But it must be remembered the rates for home use have not been so good for British growths at times as they may have seemed on paper, remembering that such cocoa pays 7s. less duty than Bahias, San Thomé, or Guayaquils. The last-named have been mounting up until they touched 147s. 6d., against 130s. as top price for Trinidads or Grenadas. Those watching the New York market may have noticed that, as lately with coconuts, their support of West Indian cocoa seems to have gone flat for a little. Take Grenadas first. During the last four crop-years that island exported an average of 70,364 bags per crop, of which (average) 43,231 came to Europe and 27,152 went to America; but during the year just closed—October-September, 1918-19—the United States received only 11,658 bags, whilst with Trinidads the United States took last crop-year only 149,217 bags, against a four-year average of 179,051 bags. It is to be feared that the rival attractions of the cheaper Accras is the cause, and, if so, the much-advertised American invasion of England with "choice" American chocolates will have as much "bone" in it as America's support of her Peace Treaty.

Our deliveries for consumption have been so very good—quite on a war basis; so it is to be hoped that they will remain at that high level. To the end of October, 52,621 tons went into consumption in the United Kingdom against 51,319 tons in 1917, and 39,725 in 1918.

The latest business reported shows Trinidads to be worth, as before, 125s. to 130s., with a good demand for the best qualities, but a quiet one for common to fair. Grenadas, for best, marks 128s. to 130s.; other grades down to 120s. for good common. St. Lucias should sell about the same. Dominicas and Jamaicas about 2s. below extreme rates, except for one or two Jamaica marks. The M.C.C. mark from Montserrat would do well now, as that fine class of cocoa is needed, very little Ceylon coming this way of late. Choice Ceylons last sold at over 190s., and Javas went up to 207s. and 210s. The late Mr. A. N. Dixon, of "Log Hall," Jamaica, used to send over a choice mark—almost pure Criollo. One wonders what has become of that cocoa. It seems a pity to sell it locally to go into the common pile for export. One might as well send a fine saddle mule to work in a market cart.

The shipments from the Gold Coast, January to September, have been, to all countries:—

	Tons.	Tons.
January	13,588	9,676
February	15,908	8,495
March	15,991	6,481
April	23,287	6,897
May	29,098	
Heavy months	97,872	31,549
Light months		
= 129,421 tons in all.		

(Concluded on the preceding page.)

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIV.

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The Compliments of the Season!

AS the present CIRCULAR will bear the date of Christmas Day, we may appropriately wish our many readers the Compliments of the Season, and express the hope that the New Year which will have opened before this message can reach the colonies will be one of prosperity and progress for the British West Indies. To bring this about will be the constant effort of the West India Committee, and we trust that members will one and all help by contributing generously towards the Endowment Fund. It should be remembered that the greater the response to this fund is the more the West India Committee will be able to do for our West Indian colonies, for whose welfare it has been conscientiously working for over a century and a half.

Anti-Dumping Legislation.

THE Imports and Exports Regulation Bill, popularly known as the Anti-Dumping Bill, the salient features of which were given in our issue of November 25th, has failed to find favour with any political party. It has, indeed, given rise to so much controversy that it is hardly surprising that its consideration should have been deferred until next Session. To British sugar producers the world over—both actual and prospective—it will cause profound disappointment, for they will find, on referring to Clause 2 (1) (a) and (b), that the Trade Regulation Committee to be set up will be empowered to apply the Act only when foreign goods are dumped here systematically and in substantial quantities at prices below the foreign value, and when "the production or manufacture of similar goods in the United

Kingdom is, or is likely to be, thereby adversely affected." Now, in pre-war days, the principal commodity which was systematically dumped in this country was German and Austrian beet sugar. This dumping was checked to a great extent by the International agreement embodied in the Sugar Convention; but the disastrous effects of it are shown by the fact that the consumer was dependent on foreign countries, and mainly Germany and Austria, for no less than 97 per cent. of his sugar supply. The British sugar industry was reduced to a state of atrophy, for no capitalists would embark upon it when Great Britain wriggled out of the Convention and rendered the resumption of the systematic dumping of foreign beet sugar possible, even if not probable. The consumer is now reaping the reward for his folly in not insisting upon fair play for British industry. For years he batted on cheap foreign beet sugar. In 1911 he experienced premonitory symptoms of what this dependence on Europe meant when there was a severe drought on the Continent and the price of sugar went up by leaps and bounds, and he had to pay through the nose for his sugar, there being no British sugar industry to rely on. Now the position is even worse. The Continent has been placed out of action as a sugar exporter, and production reduced to such an extent that the world's output of sugar has fallen by 2,000,000 tons, with the result that the consumer is reduced to a beggarly weekly sugar ration of 8 oz. If timely steps had been taken to develop a British sugar industry on a large scale the statistical position would have been widely different, and the householder would not have been reduced to his present straits in respect of sugar supplies. We had hoped that the Government had profited by the lessons of the past. The substantial preference given to British sugar in the last Budget, the principle of which so eminent an authority as COLONEL AMERY, M.P., Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies, believes to be established for good and all in this country, augured well for the future; but, as we have all along contended, the benefits of a preference in a duty can be rendered nugatory if products similar to those on which they are granted are dumped on the market by foreign countries. It is of the utmost importance therefore that Imperial Preference should be accompanied by adequate anti-dumping legislation. Now, what would be the position of sugar if the Anti-Dumping Bill in its present form became law? Foreign sugar could be dumped systematically and in substantial quantities on the English market, pro-

vided that the production of sugar in the United Kingdom was not likely to be adversely affected. From this point of view it will be obviously advantageous if the efforts to establish a home beet industry prove successful. Presumably such an industry would be adversely affected by dumping, the Bill would be put in force, Empire sugar would ride home on the back of home beet. This would perhaps meet the case, but it would be far better to make the Bill Imperial rather than parochial in its scope. Meanwhile, it is significant of the change of opinion which has come over the country that Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, though still a confirmed Free Trader, stated at a meeting at the Manchester Reform Club on December 6th that he refused to believe that the cause of Free Trade was inseparable from permitting what was known as dumping, and what Mr. ASQUITH called "unfair competition." He continued:—

"On the contrary, there is nothing that does more harm to the cause of Free Trade. It was the weakest point in our outposts; it was the thing that made it most difficult for us to defend the whole position. When you remove it you strengthen the whole line of Free Trade. What does it mean? It means that we permit foreign trusts, under the protection of a tariff wall, to charge higher prices in their own country in order to sell us goods continuously and persistently—do not forget those words, continuously and persistently—in our country at a price below what we could produce them. Why, that is unfair competition. You need not be afraid of fair competition; we prosper by fair competition. But that is not fair. I use Mr. Asquith's words again. I say dumping is unfair competition. It is no essential part of the doctrine or the practice of Free Trade that we should bind ourselves to defend it or avoid legislation for its prevention. On the contrary, you strengthened Free Trade by getting it out of the way. That is my conviction."

If Mr. LLOYD GEORGE and his followers had held these views twenty years ago we should not have found ourselves so deplorably dependent on foreign countries for such essentials as dyes, sugar, &c., as we were at the outbreak of war. Mr. GIDEON MURRAY, M.P., and Sir WILLIAM MITCHELL THOMPSON, M.P., whose attention was called to the matter by the West India Committee, have, we are glad to notice, already tabled an amendment to the Anti-Dumping Bill providing for the protection of Empire industries from foreign dumping, and we earnestly hope that when this Bill, or a new one which will probably supplant it, comes before the House of Commons in February next, that will be on a broader and also less complex basis.

A Statesmanlike Lecture on West Indian Affairs.

WE publish as a supplement to our present issue a lecture which was delivered by Sir EDWARD DAVSON, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee and President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, on "Problems of the West Indies," at a meeting of members of the Royal Society of Arts on December 9th. It is a belief still prevalent in certain parts of the West Indies that non-resident proprietors are a baneful class, which is solely interested in "getting rick quick," and looks upon the West Indies solely as a means of amassing wealth. That there is no justification for such an impression we have frequently endeavoured to show,

and the proceedings in London in connection with the West Indies since we last went to press furnish abundant evidence as to the solicitude of the West Indian proprietors for the welfare of the colonies in which they are interested. Thus, there have been meetings in connection with the development of Dominica, taxation in Grenada, the oil industry of Trinidad, the treatment of West Indian crystallised and Muscovado sugar in the United Kingdom markets next year, and two full dress meetings of the Executive regarding the labour trouble in Trinidad. These we venture to think, show the advantage which the West Indies enjoy in having a body of non-resident proprietors to watch over the interests of the West Indies as a whole. A further and notable example of broad-minded attitude of non-resident proprietors is furnished by Sir EDWARD DAVSON's address referred to above, which COLONEL AMERY properly described as thoughtful, judicial and well-proportioned. Here was a British Guiana proprietor showing an intense interest not only in the great colony with which he was connected, but also in the many problems affecting the West Indian colonies as a whole. Sir EDWARD, as we know, went to much trouble and expense in founding the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, and we cannot sufficiently compliment him on the remarkable insight which he showed in his statesmanlike paper on the problems affecting those colonies. His paper covered a wide ground, and will form a valuable corrective to the many fantastic proposals recently put forward by irresponsible doctrinaires such as Professor SHEPHERD, of Columbia University, and his coadjutor Lord ROTHERMERE, who wish the Caribbean Sea to be made into an American Lake, and appear to be altogether unmindful of the fact that the English flag flew over those islands before the American nation was born. Sir EDWARD's views on the question of the federation with Canada also struck us as eminently sound. He showed that there was no existing desire in the West Indies for political union with the Dominion, and that even if there were there would be an insuperable difficulty in the fact that Canada, in absorbing 2,000,000 people, mostly coloured, in their own 8,000,000, would be giving the West Indies a great share of political power in Canadian affairs. The only alternative would be to treat the West Indies as a dependency under some form of Canadian-Colonial Office Government, which, he rightly added, did not appeal to West Indians. He felt that it would be better to bear the rulers they have than to fly to others they know not of. Again, the problem of West Indian federation bristled with difficulties, chiefly owing to the different forms of government prevailing, but it did not necessarily follow that because attempts in the past had always proved unsuccessful, such a scheme as that for a central Federal Council, put forward by Mr. GIDEON MURRAY, was doomed to failure. There must first, however, be "the will to federate." Valuable work towards bringing the colonies together in a bond of common, material interest was being done by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, which held its first meeting in 1917, and would hold its second

next February, and, it is hoped, might become the Central Council of a Commercial Federation. SIR EDWARD also dealt with the all-important question of Education, with special reference to the health conditions of the West Indies, to the improvement of which it would be impossible to attach too much importance. He also had some interesting suggestions to make regarding cable communication, the grave inconvenience resulting from the chaotic conditions of which was demonstrated during the recent disturbances in Trinidad, when the cable between that island and Barbados was interrupted, and merchants were without messages for days. If the cable, he said, is to the business firm what the voice is to the individual, then it must be confessed that recently West Indian firms have been almost inarticulate. The subsidies at present being paid by England, Canada and the West Indies are more than sufficient to provide both interest and sinking fund on the outlay required to establish an "all red" cable service via Bermuda on the lines suggested by the West India Committee. One may hope, therefore, that the Government, who should be the actual owners of all such strategic cables, may have a really British scheme carried out by the time that the existing contract expires. We commend to our readers SIR EDWARD DAVSON'S valuable paper, which ably epitomises many outstanding problems concerning the British West Indian colonies which call for action.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Progress of the Endowment Fund.

The sum of £10,761 is still required to complete the minimum total of £20,000, which must be raised to enable the Executive of the West India Committee to carry out its policy of development. The need for more convenient premises, which it is now the primary object of the Committee to secure, is very pressing, as every visitor to the Committee Rooms in recent years will be prepared to admit. *It is therefore earnestly hoped that every member of the West India Committee will contribute to the Endowment Fund*, which was opened recently with the object of providing secretarial assistance and new premises, so that the work of the West India Committee may be carried out effectively.

The first three lists of contributions were published in recent CIRCULARS. The fourth list, which is necessarily short, as—owing to the CIRCULAR going to press earlier than usual—it only covers a few days, is now given below:—

FOURTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Contributions already acknowledged ...	8,966	9	6
Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Messrs. E. D. & F. Man	100	0	0
E. A. de Pass, Esq.	25	0	0
Bernard Oppenheimer, Esq.	10	10	0
Messrs. Paines & Reid	10	10	0
Messrs. Pereira & Gonsalves	10	0	0
S. C. Thorne, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. H. Bronnley & Co., Ltd.	1	1	0

Capt. J. Hamilton	£1	1	0
Messrs. Thomas Lawlor & Co.	1	1	0
T. E. Ward, Esq.	1	1	0
Allan Campbell, Esq.	1	0	0
Major R. Hughes-Chamberlain, D.F.C.	1	0	0

Contributions towards the West India Committee Endowment Fund may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or may be forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, the West India Committee, 15, Seething-lane, London.

The Membership Reaches 1,948.

During the current year no fewer than 242 new members have been elected to the West India Committee, bringing the total membership up to 1,948. At Executive meetings held on December 11th and 12th, the following candidates were admitted:—

NAME.	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES.
Mr. H. A. Bligh (Country)	Mr. W. A. Boyd. Mr. J. Lambert Bell.
Major E. T. Dixon (Jamaica)	Mrs. M. C. Dixon. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. H. V. Davis (London)	Mr. W. A. Boyd. Mr. L. Lambert Bell.
Mr. F. H. Farquharson (Jamaica)	Mr. W. H. Farquharson. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Mr. John A. Price (British Honduras)	Mr. John McArthur. Hon. L. R. Grant, M.L.C.
Lt.-Col. C. L. Estridge, D.S.O. (Country)	Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. S. M. Jacobsen (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Sir Edward Davson.
Mr. Harold de Mercado (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. Lionel A. Isaacs (Jamaica)	Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. A. W. D. Alexander (Grenada)	Mr. W. C. de Gale. Mr. G. M. Frame.
H. Bronnley & Co., Ltd. (London)	Mr. F. N. Martinez. Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.
Messrs. Fox & Co. (Country)	Mr. F. N. Martinez. Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.
Messrs. William Maclean, Sons & Co. (London)	Mr. F. N. Martinez. Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.
Mr. James Banks (Country)	Mr. Frank Evans. Mr. H. S. Cameron.
Mr. Gladwyn Browne (Country)	Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son. Mr. Harding Browne.
Mr. P. R. Veacock (British Guiana)	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. W. A. Boyd.
Messrs. Thos. Lawlor & Co. (Country)	Sir Edward Davson. Mr. G. M. Frame.
Lieut.-Col. H. A. Clifton (London)	Mr. Norman Malcolmson. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Major R. Hughes-Chamberlain (Dominica)	Mr. C. M. Rose. Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E.
Mr. John Frew (St. Lucia)	Mr. A. P. Skeat. Mr. F. Henry Norton.
Mr. J. T. K. Pedder (Barbados)	Mr. R. Challenor. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mr. Bernard Oppenheimer	Messrs. J. K. Gulland, Ltd. Mr. A. Hirsch.
Mr. A. R. C. Mallet (St. Lucia)	Hon. Geo. Williams. Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. George Challenor (Barbados)	Mr. R. Challenor. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"If fish come from ribber bottom tell you alligator hab teethache, believe him."

* * *

THE area under sugar-cane in India for the 1919-20 crop is 2,729,000 acres—an increase of 139,000 acres over that for the preceding year.

* * *

GRAPE-FRUIT in wrappers showing that they were produced in the Isle of Pine were recently seen in Liverpool fruiterers' shops marked 8d. each.

* * *

THE cost of production of sugar in Russia under Soviet rule is estimated to be 3,000 per cent. over the pre-war figure. The area under sugar-beet is only 27 per cent. of that of 1916.

* * *

IN Convocation at Durham University the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was granted to the Right Rev. A. H. Anstey, Bishop of Trinidad. The degree will be conferred at Codrington College, Barbados, of which Dr. Anstey was formerly Principal.

* * *

MR. GEORGE MACKENZIE, F.R.G.S., F.R.C.I., who was for some years on the staff of the *Daily Chronicle*, Georgetown, British Guiana, and acted as assistant editor of *Timehri* and as honorary secretary of the British Guiana Museum, has been appointed Editor of the *Northern Chronicle*, Inverness.

* * *

MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, mycologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture in 1905, Assistant Director of Agriculture in British Guiana in 1908, and now Director of Agriculture in Ceylon, proposes to revisit the scene of his earlier activities, and will leave for the West Indies on a holiday tour early in January.

* * *

THE *Jamaica Gleaner* of November 26th records the arrival at Kingston of two companies of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, under the command of Colonel A. E. Glasgow, C.M.G., D.S.O., which, it states, will make Newcastle their headquarters for two years. The same authority states that other companies of the regiment are stationed at Bermuda and British Honduras respectively.

* * *

H.M.S. *Temeraire*, cadet training ship, Captain L. A. B. Donaldson, C.M.G., with 110 cadets on board, was expected to reach Trinidad on December 20th. She will remain in the Gulf until January 5th, and will then visit the following islands on the dates as shown: Grenada (January 5th), St. Vincent (January 12th), Barbados (January 15th), Dominica (January 30th), St. Kitts (February 2nd), Jamaica (February 9th), and Bermuda (February 26th).

* * *

READERS will, no doubt, share our satisfaction at the many new and interesting announcements now appearing in our advertisement columns, which clearly indicate the patriotic desire of British firms to develop their trade with our oldest group of colonies. Amongst newcomers will be noticed the firm of Messrs. P. Antrobus, Limited, manufacturing jewellers, of 19-21, Heddons-street, London, W., who are anxious to increase their business with the West Indies.

* * *

WE are interested to learn that Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, M.P., and Lady Hall intend to sail from Bristol on Christmas Eve, bound, in the first place, for Jamaica, where they propose staying in the hill country for three weeks. Admiral Hall will be remembered for his invaluable work during the war as Director of Naval

Intelligence at the Admiralty. Another distinguished visitor to Jamaica will be Brigadier-General L. W. Sadler-Jackson, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

* * *

THE rumour that the National Bank of South Africa has recently purchased half of the interests held by Barclay's Bank in the Colonial Bank is misleading and incorrect. An ordinary business transaction has taken place whereby the National Bank of South Africa has acquired an interest in the Colonial Bank. Mr. Cunningham, managing director of the National Bank of South Africa, sits on the Board of Directors of the Colonial Bank, but no amalgamation of any kind is contemplated.

* * *

A VERY attractive catalogue of light railway track, rolling stock, and locomotives of British manufacture, suitable for sugar and other estates in the tropics, has been published by Francis Theakston, Limited, of 57, Moorgate-street, E.C. Before the war this trade was largely in German hands, and we trust that the enterprise of Francis Theakston, Limited, in endeavouring to divert it to British channels will be rewarded. All interested should apply for a copy of this pamphlet, which is admirably illustrated.

* * *

At the annual meeting of Messrs. Henry Tate & Sons on December 10th, Mr. Edwin Tate said that it was fortunate that the attempt to decontrol sugar in the early part of the year had not been successful. Commenting on the high prices realised by free importing sugars, which had advanced to 118s. for white sugar as compared with the Commission's price of 66s. per cwt. for granulated, he said that one might well ask what would be the price of sugar had control been entirely removed. At the end of the year there would be a world's shortage of 2,000,000 tons as compared with 1914. The prospects of increased cane supplies were good, and there would be undoubtedly an increase in the Continental supply, but it was difficult to say what the latter would amount to owing to the shortage of coal, &c.

* * *

HE added: Owing also to the enormous profits which have been made by the cane producers during the last two or three years sellers will be very independent. On the other hand, buyers will be eager to secure supplies, and with only a narrow margin between supply and demand there may be very heavy fluctuations in prices, while at the same time there may still be difficulties as regards freights. In our opinion, the Government will have to watch events very carefully before they decide to give up control entirely even at the end of 1920, or they may find, as we have pointed out before, that the good which they have done in supplying this country with sugar at a moderate price will be entirely spoiled by a too early abandonment of control.

* * *

OUR valued contemporary the *International Sugar Journal* in its December issue says:—

"Few associations, we should reckon, are more deserving of support in their particular sphere than the West India Committee—that body which represents in London the diverse interests of the British West Indies, and has for many a long year, in season and out, been foremost in organising and suitably presenting to the Government of the day the urgent needs of the colonists in respect to their commercial, fiscal or economic disabilities. It has been in fact, the unofficial mouthpiece in London in making known the wants of a once much-neglected group of Crown colonies, and one has only to recollect their long-drawn-out campaign against the foreign sugar bounty system, their lion's share in securing for the West Indies the £250,000 grant-in-aid voted by Parliament in 1902, their organisation of various relief funds to remedy periodical catastrophes in the West Indies, and, lastly, their extensive war work in organising the charitable financing of the West Indian Contingent Committee—a body which, as the name implies, looked after the interests in this country of the soldiers from the West Indies who came to fight for the Mother Country. All this has only to be recollected to justify the continued existence of the Committee under what we hope will be happier auspices."

THE DISTURBANCES IN TRINIDAD.

By degrees it has become possible to piece together such fragments of news as have reached this country regarding the regrettable disturbances which occurred in Trinidad early this month. It is hardly necessary to say that, as is usual in cases of emergency where general West Indian cable communication is concerned, the cables were interrupted between Trinidad and Barbados, and it probably accounts for the fact that practically no private messages have been received.

The result was that alarmist rumours spread rapidly through the City, one paper distinguishing itself by quite unwarrantably describing the affair as a "Black Revolt."

It would seem that labour troubles in Port of Spain in the first week of December culminated in three days' rioting, which necessitated the closing of Government warehouses and business places. This was followed by some disturbances in the country districts. As is frequently the case, the disturbance was infectious, and spread to Tobago. The Governor communicated with Admiral-in-Command of the North American-West Indies Station, who sent H.M.S. *Calcutta* to the scene. This vessel left a landing party at Tobago, where there was some shooting, and one of the rioters was killed.

The first news of the disturbance reached London on December 6th by a message dated December 4th, and it is probable, therefore, that the outbreak occurred on the 1st instant. On the interpellation of Sir William Mitchell-Thompson, C.B.E., M.P., Colonel Amery, Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies, made the following statement on the subject in the House of Commons on the 15th instant:—

"I received on the 6th December a telegram from the Governor of Trinidad, dated the 4th December, reporting that during the three preceding days there had been disturbances in Port of Spain, originating with a strike of stevedores, and that the mob had compelled the closing of the shops and commercial establishments and the suspension of traffic in the business quarter of the town. Other messages indicate that strikes and disturbances have occurred in the interior of the colony and in Tobago.

"The Governor has reported that the strike of stevedores has been settled by the grant of an advance of wages which has satisfied them, and I am happy to be able to state that recent messages indicate that the situation is well in hand, both in Trinidad and Tobago. The latest message describes the situation as much easier. Indeed, the conditions in Port of Spain are said to be normal.

"The official reports contain no reference to any attack on Government buildings. Valuable assistance was rendered by His Majesty's ship *Calcutta*, which is remaining in Trinidad waters for the present. I regret to have to add that two men—apparently rioters—are reported to have been killed—one in Tobago and one in the interior of Trinidad.

"It is, of course, far too soon to form any definite opinion as to the causes of the disturbances, but there are indications that the increased cost of living has given rise to widespread dissatisfaction."

DEATH.

HUTSON.—On the 14th inst., at Heathcote, Bexhill, after a long and weary illness, William Coleridge Hutson, dearly loved husband of Constance Mary Hutson, and eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hutson, of Barbados.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Prosperity Due to the War.

(Continued from page 331 and concluded.)

Mr. Clementi, in his report under review, next deals with the general economic conditions of British Guiana. He finds that the prosperity brought to the colony by the war was of an unhealthy nature, for, though between 1913-1917 the total value of local produce exported had almost doubled itself, the quantity had not increased in anything like the same proportion. Thus the value of sugar increased by 87 per cent., but the quantity only by 7 per cent. This was the same also as regards imports. The annual loss of revenue resulting from the trade arrangements with Canada, which gives the colony an assured market in the Dominion, was \$50,844, but this has been in part recouped by a tax of 33 cents upon each acre of land in the colony under cane cultivation, the yield from which down to December 31st, 1918, was \$127,646.12.

Commercial Union with Canada.

Mr. Clementi next summarises Captain Reid's proposals for free trade between British Guiana and Canada. Captain Reid's views are—

"that \$300,000 is a sufficient estimate of the revenue which this colony would lose under such an arrangement, and he recommended that the loss should be made good by an export tax on those products shipped to Canada which would enjoy the benefit of the Canadian free tariff. During 1917 products of this colony to a value of \$7,526,461 were exported to Canada, and of this amount 99 per cent. consisted of sugar, of which 70,160 tons were shipped to Canada. With the raw sugar of this colony on the Canadian free list, the amount of preference in the Canadian market would be \$30.80 per ton; and, given so substantial a preference, Demerara sugar could easily afford to pay an export duty of \$4 per ton. Based on the 1917 exports, such duty would yield a sum of \$280,640 annually, and would practically make good the contemplated deficit of \$300,000 per annum. Moreover, as Captain Reid has pointed out, the result of such a rearrangement of the Customs tariff would be that the principal classes of imported foodstuffs, including fish, meats, flour and other cereals, butter, cheese, lard, fruits and condensed milk, would be brought into the colony from Canada duty-free; and thus cheaper foodstuffs would be provided for the people. Captain Reid's scheme was approved by the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association and is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

"Meanwhile, however, in the House of Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer has proposed that with effect from September 1st, 1919, the duty on sugar from this colony imported into the United Kingdom shall be 5-6ths of the full rates, and that there shall be a preference of 2s. 6d. per proof gallon on rum. The preference offered by the Mother Country is thus 16½ per cent., as against 33½ per cent. offered by Canada. But the general rate of import duty on sugar at 96 deg. polarisation is in the United Kingdom £1 3s. 8½d. per cwt., and in Canada \$1.37½ per 100 lb. Consequently the money value of the preference is £3 14s. 7d. per ton in the United Kingdom and £1 11s. 6d. per ton in Canada. But Captain Reid points out that if Continental beet sugar again secures a footing in the British market the beet manufacturer in Europe will have an

advantage in freight rates as shown in the following example:—

	CONTINENTAL BEST SUGAR AT 96° POLARISATION.	DEMERARA CANE SUGAR AT 96° POLARISATION.
Price f.o.b. ...	£ s. d. 13 0 0 per ton	£ s. d. 13 0 0 per ton
Freight to London	2 0 0 ..	4 0 0 ..
Landed cost ..	15 0 0 ..	17 0 0 ..
Customs duty	23 14 7 ..	20 0 0 ..
Duty paid price	38 14 7 ..	37 0 0 ..

The difference—namely, £1 14s. 7d.—represents the maximum amount of preference obtainable by our planters, and this is practically the same as the preference now given by Canada to Demerara cane-sugar. It is clear, then, that in the light of this Imperial concession the whole question will have to be carefully reconsidered."

Exigencies of space prevent our quoting Mr Clementi's remarks on law and order and education, which are dealt with with the thoroughness characteristic of his report as a whole. Touching on local effects of the war, he reminds us that Georgetown, like the Mother Country, has its housing problem, the value of rentals having often been doubled, thus hitting clerks and men with small salaries, who have also suffered from the increased cost of living. Prices of labour also have risen considerably, the daily wage average for a cane-cutter having, for example, risen from 60 cents to \$1.44 in 1918.

The Colony's Labour Problem.

The shortage of labour following the cessation of immigration in 1917 was acutely felt, and handicapped every effort to expand the resources of the colony. Indeed, says Mr. Clementi, any attempt to develop British Guiana without first inaugurating and endowing a sound colonisation scheme must prove even more illusory than the endeavour to make bricks without straw on the banks of the Nile; for in such an attempt not only is the labourer left without the necessary materials, but the labour supply itself is absurdly inadequate.

With regard to the future, Mr. Clementi is not exactly optimistic. He regards the acquisition of numerous estates by local syndicates, which may cut down cultivation when hard times come, as a danger, though, on the other hand, the increase in the number of peasant proprietors, chiefly East Indians, owning rice lands, he considers a healthy sign. "Work harder and consume less must be our rule of life, if we are not to move in a vicious economic circle, in which the increased cost of living is met by increased wages, which can only be paid by further increase in the price of commodities, leading in turn to a renewed demand for an increase in wages."

Mr. Clementi lays stress on the importance of colonisation, and in one of the concluding paragraphs of this very valuable and informative report, he says:—

"The war suspended all organised immigration from India after April 18th, 1917, and the Government of India has decided that indentured immigration to the West Indies must not be resumed. The colony will therefore have to concentrate its efforts upon devising a system of free immigration, whether from India or elsewhere, and for this purpose a colonisation fund of

\$161,600 had been accumulated by December 31st, 1918, and is still accumulating. The problem, however, is not merely one of finance. For its inauguration a colonisation scheme depends chiefly on the co-operation of the Imperial Government, and for its successful prosecution it depends upon proper attention to all matters affecting public health and sanitation as well as upon sound methods of settling immigrants on the land. Road extension and colonisation should go hand in hand; for immigrants should not in future, as in the past, be confined to an amphibious life on the coastal flats, but should have an opportunity of settling on the upland savannahs of the interior. From this point of view the Rupununi cattle trail should prove of great value. It is, of course, vital to success that a proper proportion of female immigrants should be obtained; for, as Bacon wisely said, 'The true greatness of a State consisteth essentially in population and breed of men.'"

THE CUBAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Its Remarkable and Growing Prosperity.

The prosperity of the Cuban sugar industry is reflected by the report of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation for the year ended September 30th, 1919. The earnings amounted to \$7.77 a share on the common, as compared with \$1.25 a share in the preceding year, and the surplus available for the common was \$3,884,550, as compared with \$626,425 in 1918.

The balance-sheet shows a stronger cash position, the cash on hand amounting to \$4,303,188, as compared with \$700,712 in 1918. Mr. Manuel Rionda, President, in his remarks to stockholders, says: "The f.o.b. price per pound of sugar manufactured obtained during the last four crops, the proceeds from 'molasses' and 'other earnings' included, were 5.398 cents in 1918-1919, 4.360 cents in 1917-1918, 4.749 cents in 1916-1917, and 4.112 cents in 1915-1916. The difference indicated between the average price of 5.398 cents obtained for last crop, and the basic price of 5.50 cents f.o.b. north side ports paid by the U.S. Sugar Equalisation Board, represents the reduction of .05 cents per pound in the price of the 1,824,049 bags shipped from the south side, as well as losses in weight and polarisation.

"The cost per pound of producing sugar, including cane on a free-on-board basis at your factories during the last four crops, was 4.606 cents in 1918-19, 3.998 cents in 1917-18, 3.431 cents in 1916-17, and 2.748 cents in 1915-16. The greater portion of these increases is due to the higher cost of cane. The best way, therefore, to state the actual increase in the cost of production would be by excluding the cost of cane. On this basis, the cost of transporting the cane to the mills, manufacturing the sugars therefrom, and the delivery of the sugars on board steamer would be per pound 1.555 cents for 1918-19, 1.466 cents for 1917-18, 1.072 cents for 1916-17, and .715 cents for 1915-16. It is gratifying to note that the cost of manufacturing for the last crop shows only a slight increase over that of the previous crop, an increase of 6.8 per cent., as compared with an increase of 36 per cent. for the year 1917-18 over 1916-17.

"If from the preceding free-on-board prices at which the sugars of the last four crops were sold we deduct the cost of production, including the cane, it will give us the operating profits made per pound as follows:—

	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-1
Receipts	5.398c	4.630c	4.479c	4.112c
Production cost	4.606c	3.998c	3.431c	2.474c
Operating profit ...	0.792c	0.632c	1.048c	1.364c

"Cuba, in the future as in the past, will continue to be the country producing sugar at the lowest cost."

SHOULD CACAO BE "CLAYED" ?

The Views of the Cacao Trade.

The practice of "claying" cacao, or treating the bean with red clay, either dry, in the form of a powder, or wet, was first adopted with a view to preserving cacao from micro-fungi, and securing a uniform appearance. The advantages of the system are described by the late Mr. John Hinchley Hart in "Cacao: A Manual on the Cultivation and Curing of Cacao," published under the auspices of the West India Committee in 1911. He wrote:—

"Cacao prepared by this method keeps better owing to the clay and mucilage forming a thin protective covering which prevents the attack of micro-fungi, and it carries better as the strong covering of clay and mucilage renders it better able to stand pressure consequent on the accidents of transit."

That the system of claying is one open to abuse by the unscrupulous is obvious. Clay can be used to obscure defects in poor cacao, and also to add to the weight of the produce. This aspect of the case has recently been engaging the attention of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society.

At a meeting of the former body held on October 15th, Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., Chairman, said:—

He had had some instances brought to his notice which he thought were the worst attempts at claying that he had ever heard of, and he thought it a duty to the public to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that things did not improve, but had got worse. He thought the time had come that the planting body should know that an important product of the colony was being prejudiced. It was the first time within his memory that Grenada cacao was selling above Trinidad, and he thought it was largely due to the abuse of claying that was carried on. He thought the matter should be ventilated as much as possible. The law should make it so that claying should be used only on plantations, and it would be an offence to use it otherwise. Mr. Cipriani had suggested that no licensed dealer should have clay on his premises at all, and clayed cacao should not be allowed on his premises other than plantation. The means might be drastic, but the result would be for the good of the whole community. Some of the dealers in town were the worst offenders. He knew that claying was going on in town, and damaging the cacao interests of the island. It was very difficult to spot those things, because, while a licensed dealer was not supposed to have clay, he was told that he got it in the shop of cacao excessively clayed, and he used that for claying other cacao. He didn't know how true that was, but the fact remained that the claying going on about town was disgraceful; 10 to 15 per cent. clay added to the cacao would tend to ruin the reputation of a product of the colony. He thought the time had come to make a very firm stand about it. When the Government first legislated it was thought that they had gone too far, but he had since come to the conclusion that the Government had not gone far enough. It was quite time to put their house in order, and if they could not do it by ordinary means, they ought to adopt drastic measures.

After some discussion, he moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Cipriani, and carried with one dissentient:—

"That this Chamber recommends to the Government

that, in view of the abuse now obtaining with respect to the claying of cacao, the use of clay should be forbidden on plantations, except and only for the production of estates cacao, and that it be an offence for any dealer to have clayed cacao other than plantation on his premises."

A Committee was appointed by the Agricultural Society to consider the question, and its recommendations, the purport of which is given below, were adopted at a meeting of the Society held on November 13:—

That all exporters of cacao shall have a special annual exporters' licence, and that it be illegal for any licensed exporter to be in possession of excessively clayed cacao. Whether it is excessively clayed is to be determined by an arbitration committee (whose decision shall be final) to be constituted as follows: Two members of the Chamber of Commerce, one of the Board of Agriculture, one of the Agricultural Society, and the Director of Agriculture *ex-officio*. On a first conviction, an exporter's licence to be endorsed; the exporter, upon a subsequent conviction, to be suspended for varying periods up to twelve months. To carry out the proposal, a Government Inspector be appointed, at an adequate salary, with full power to make the necessary inspection.

The cacao trade generally in the United Kingdom see no harm in lightly claying the bean as practised on the larger estates, as it gives it a more uniform appearance, and is useful in preserving the cacao. What, however, they do strongly object to is the use of clay on "shop" cacao, and they properly consider it wrong that shippers should coat the bean with 8 to 10 per cent of clay. Cacao so treated is usually known as "Chinese cacao," and would only be saleable in normal times at a discount of, say, 3s. to 5s. The average run of mixed estates cacao as shipped by the Port of Spain merchant is not so pungent in aroma as it used to be. This may, perhaps, be due to planters devoting less care to fermentation. The English trade looks for considerable strength (acidity) in plantation cacao. The French certainly prefer a mild cacao, but in the United Kingdom and United States, and in most Continental countries, buyers look for a strong aroma in plantation Trinidad.

CUBAN CROP FIGURES 1909-19.

Mr. Himely gives the following figures of the Cuban crops for the past ten years:—

1909-1910...1,804,439 tons.	1914-1915...2,582,845 tons.
1910-1911...1,480,217 "	1915-1916...3,006,624 "
1911-1912...1,893,687 "	1916-1917...3,019,936 "
1912-1913...2,429,240 "	1917-1918...3,444,605 "
1913-1914...2,596,567 "	1918-1919...3,967,094 "

He points out that this crop statement is made out in accordance with the custom which has always prevailed in Cuba of figuring the contents of a bag of sugar to be 320 lb. avoirdupois, whereas the great majority of bags contain 133 arrobas of sugar, or 325 lb. Spanish. Taking this fact into consideration, and recollecting that 1 lb. Spanish is equal to about 1.014 avoirdupois, it becomes evident that the 1918-19 crop of Cuba amounted in reality to about 4,065,000 tons. Rainy weather and shortness of labour prevented the harvesting of a good deal of cane, which has had to remain over until the next crop.

THE CROWN AGENTS' TURNOVER.**The West Indies' Contribution.**

Appended to the annual accounts of the Crown Agents for the Colonies for 1918, which have been published in a Parliamentary White Paper [Cmd. 392], is a return of business transacted for various colonies, and of the sums payable to the Office for transacting it. From those the following items are extracted:—

Colony.	Business Transacted.			Payments to Crown Agents.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	36,476	11	8	100	17	8
Bahamas	35,151	5	5	104	9	8
Barbados	156,025	18	10	362	6	4
British Guiana	284,273	11	2	831	6	2
British Honduras	95,331	16	1	145	0	11
Dominica	25,630	17	10	62	15	8
Grenada	133,512	1	8	157	0	3
Jamaica	541,956	19	4	1,651	2	10
Leeward Islands	7,773	9	9	18	1	4
Montserrat	8,849	9	1	37	15	4
St. Kitts-Nevis	32,943	15	5	55	18	1
St. Lucia	43,278	13	2	161	18	6
St. Vincent	34,769	10	8	60	12	7
Trinidad	520,455	9	0	2,749	4	7
Turks Islands	6,109	11	1	14	11	7
Virgin Islands	3,546	0	10	2	15	7

The total turnover of the Crown Agents for the year was £87,494,323 5s. 2d., in respect of which the Office received £75,397 0s. 2d. It would appear that certain colonies make "fixed annual contributions" to the Crown Agents, the following appearing under that heading: British Guiana £322 7s. 7d., Jamaica £112 10s., Trinidad £75.

During the year the Crown Agents held in trust certain sums on account of the Reserve Funds of various colonies, as follows:—

Colony.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Antigua	8,000	0	0
Barbados	1,640	6	5
British Guiana	6,000	0	0
Grenada	250	5	8
St. Lucia	4,700	0	0
Trinidad	689	7	5

AT WESTMINSTER.**British Guiana Colonisation.**

Replying to Mr. Bennett, M.P., on December 11, Lieut.-Colonel Amery said that the British Guiana deputation had now left this country, but some of its members had proceeded to India to consult with the Government of India. The composition of the deputation was not one in which the Secretary of State could interfere, but in considering the proposals which might be put forward by the deputation, due regard would be paid to the interests and views of all sections of the community.

THE DOMINICA ROAD PROBLEM.

A meeting of Dominica proprietors, with Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton in the chair, was held on December 10th at the West India Committee Rooms, to consider the question of the construction and maintenance of roads in the island.

The chairman first referred to the sad news of the death of His Honour Mr. Arthur Mahaffy, and it was unanimously decided to send a message of sympathy to Mrs. Mahaffy and the family.

Correspondence which had passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office was next considered. The following letter was addressed to the Under-Secretary of State on March 14th, 1919:—

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that following a meeting of Dominica Proprietors, held in London on January 30th last, my Committee have had under consideration the report of the Commission appointed last year to make full inquiry into the state of the roads in the island of Dominica.

2. My Committee endorse the views of the proprietors that the report is not altogether satisfactory, since it does not provide for adequate road communication for the island, and they have therefore reaffirmed the following resolution which they adopted at a meeting on March 19th, 1914—namely:—

"That this meeting of Dominica Estates' Proprietors hereby requests the West India Committee to impress upon the Colonial Office the urgent need for securing the opening up of main roads with feeders, which will enable planters to get their produce to the various ports of shipment, and further requests the Committee to urge the immediate completion of the Imperial Road, in accordance with the promises made when the local Government sold land to settlers along its route."

3. They desire further to recommend that the requisite cost of road development may be raised, if necessary, by a loan, and to add most emphatically that they regard it as absolutely essential for the success of the undertaking that the work should be under the supervision of a competent engineer with experience of road construction, and that no expenditure shall be incurred until the services of such an engineer are obtained.

I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary, The West India Committee.

To this the following reply was received:—

Colonial Office, Downing-street,
May 30th, 1919.

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Milner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 14th on the subject of Road Communication in Dominica, and to inform you that a copy will be sent to the Administrator for his observations.

2. I am to state, however, that the outlook for limes and lime products and the financial position of the Presidency do not at present appear to be such as to justify any greater expenditure on roads than the recent Commission recommended, nor, in fact, any appreciable amount of new road construction.

3. The question of the extent to which it will be possible to maintain the portion of the Imperial Road which has already been constructed is under discussion with the Administrator, but there appears to be no hope that it will be possible to extend that portion in the near future.

I am, Sir, &c.,
G. GRINDLE.

A further letter was received from the Colonial Office, dated November 6th, 1919, as follows:—

Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Department of May 30th on the subject of the roads of Dominica, I am directed by Viscount Milner to inform you that a despatch has been received from the late Administrator, reporting that for the present it is the intention to maintain the Imperial Road as far as Highbury as a motor road; between Highbury and Brantridge as a fair carting road; and from there onwards to leave the maintenance to be carried out by the estates, assisted by a Government grant.

I am, Sir, &c.,
G. GRINDLE.

Strong exception was taken to the suggestion contained in the letter of May 30th, to the effect that the outlook for limes and lime products was other than favourable, and it was decided to write to the Colonial Office combating this impression, and urging that the views of the Committee might be reconsidered. It was further decided to seek an interview with the new Administrator, when appointed, and also to ask the Colonial Office to make it an instruction to His Honour that special attention be devoted to the road problem.

EMIGRATION FROM JAMAICA.

Plea for Higher Standard of Living.

The Jamaica *Gleaner*, in its issue of November 15th, sounds a timely warning on the subject of emigration from the island. It says:—

"We are informed that last week fully 600 able-bodied men left Jamaica for the neighbouring island of Cuba. And the tendency is towards a steady increase in the weekly average, while the prospects are that Cuba will not only draw on our labour supply to an immensely greater extent than Panama ever did, but will also, eventually, like Panama and Costa Rica, induce the Jamaicans to make the Province of Oriente his permanent home. Over 40,000 Jamaicans now inhabit Panama and Costa Rica; these will never return to us. They have been there too long; they have become thoroughly accustomed to conditions; there is work for them to do; their children are growing up as natives of the country in which they have been born. It will be the same with the Jamaican in Cuba unless we have a care. He goes as a temporary worker; he may remain as a permanent resident. For Cuba aims at becoming practically the world's source of supply for sugar, and Cuba realises that to do so she must have labour and yet more labour, and in these days she is quite ready to take what she requires from the nearest country. As the Americans intend to develop Hayti, and are doing so even now, the Haytian will ere long find sufficient inducements at home to keep him there. Jamaica, therefore, will be the principal field for Cuban labour recruiting, and this at a time when we ourselves are hoping for a development such as we have never yet known. Do our leading men understand the situation? Or do they, like the ostrich, prefer to avert their eyes from all the ineluctable signs of the situation, and then to say that because they will not see there is really nothing to be seen?"

After pointing to the condition to which British Guiana has been reduced through the lack of a proper system of colonisation, the *Gleaner* urges the heightening of the general standard of living.

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

IV.—Sir Thomas Modyford.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

(Continued from p. 334.)

Sir Thomas, on his arrival, transferred the residence of the Governor from "The Point" (Port Royal) to St. Jago de la Vega, "to the general contentment of the people," and he had a census taken which showed the population to be 4,205. In an early report on the condition of the island, dated October 1st, 1664, he informed the King that "sugar, ginger, indigo, cotton, tobacco, dyeing woods and cocoa may be had, and are produced as well as anywhere; but pimento, china roots, aloes, rhubarb, sarsaparilla, tamarinds, cassia, vaignillios, hides and tallow are the proper commodities. There is the best building stone in the whole world, and great plenty of corn, cassia, potatoes, yams, plantains, bananas, peas, hogs, fowls, cattle, horses, asincoes, sheep, fish, turtle and pasturage; in fine, nothing wanting but more hands and cows. The low, valley grounds are feverish and aguish from June to Christmas—the rainy weather—but the uplands and hills are as healthful as Cotsall in England." He later added that the wanton slaughtering of cattle had resulted in there being only 2,000 head upon pastures which would feed 1,000,000.

In July, 1664, Sir Thomas issued writs for the election of a General Assembly, the number of districts being reduced to nine—namely, St. Andrew, Port Royal, North Side, St. John, St. David, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Bluefields, and St. Thomas. The deliberations of the new Assembly were not so harmonious as those of the first. One of the results was that Captain Butler, of the Assembly, was killed at a State dinner by Major Ivy, of the Council.

Articles of impeachment were in March, 1664-5, preferred by Sir Thomas Whitstones, Speaker, against Colonel Samuel Long (afterwards Chief Justice), that "he had caused himself to be elected Speaker at a meeting at Port Royal of members of Assembly whose authority, by the departure of Sir Charles Lyttelton, had ceased, and passed certain orders and votes, with intention to grasp the legislative power into his own hands, and traitorously and impudently refuse to take notice of the Deputy Governor (Colonel Edward Morgan's) dissolution of the meeting, &c." On his being brought before the House "in custody," the charges were remitted to the next general session in order to give Long time to prepare his defence, but the Assembly never again met during Modyford's administration. In October, 1665, it was "ordered that the Assembly now in being be dissolved, and that a new one be chosen when need require." Modyford saw to it that need did not require for the five years of his governorship. The subject of contention was the desire of the Assembly to exclude the King's name from the money bills.

In June, 1664, the King wrote to Modyford that he could not sufficiently express his dissatisfaction at the daily complaints of depredations done by ships

said to belong to Jamaica, which had been sent out by Sir Charles Lyttelton, who, Modyford said, was "a weak man, and much led by mean fellows here." Thomas Kendall, a Barbados planter then in England, and husband of Modyford's sister Grace, advised that Modyford should be allowed to call them in, and encourage them to sell off and plant in Jamaica; otherwise they would drift to the French at Tortuga.

On the 6th February, 1665, about fourteen pirates were tried and condemned to death under the Statute of Henry VIII.

On April 15th Lieut.-Colonel Morgan sailed against the Dutch at Eustatia, Saba, and Curaçao, "the strongest Dutch fort in the Indies," with ten ships and 650 men, "chiefly reformed privateers, scarce a planter amongst them." Modyford's "durst not write before they were well on their way" is suggestive of the precautions of modern warfare. At St. Eustatius Morgan died, during the progress of the capture. Saba was taken, but the attempt on Curaçao was given up. In November Modyford, however, wrote home that he guessed the name of the Dutch will, ere three months expire, be forgotten in the Indies. When Willoughby claimed these islands as being within his government, those who took them said they were acting for Modyford and would own no other, and at Tobago they wrecked what they could not sell.

In November seasons were fixed for the return of ships from Jamaica to England, in order that they should mutually protect one another—i.e., March 24th, June 24th, and September 24th—and one of the commanders was to be appointed Admiral for the voyage.

Modyford, who had made his eldest son, John, Major of the island, but feared, as we have seen, that he was lost going down to Barbados to fetch his mother, begged that the office might be given to his second son, Thomas. He suggested that the office of Deputy-Governor should be dispensed with, but Sir James Modyford was appointed to the office. The old army officers, he says, "from strict saints are turned the most debauched devils."

In February, 1665-6, Modyford and the Council decided that the granting of letters of marque against the Spaniards did "extraordinarily conduce to the strengthening, preservation, enriching and advancing the settlement of this island." Amongst other reasons which they gave were that it furnished the island with the necessary commodities at low rates; it helped the poorer planters by sales to the ships; it induced many to come to the island who afterwards became planters; it kept the buccaners of Hispaniola and Cuba friendly; it was of service as intercepting Spanish news; it was a source of revenue to the King and the Duke of York, through their fifteenths and tenths; it employed labour at Port Royal; it kept up the military spirit of the island; and it "seems to be the only means to force the Spaniards in time to a free trade."

About this time the privateers chose Edward Mansfield as their admiral.

In June, 1666, elaborate precautions were taken by the Council against invasion.

In December, 1667, Modyford appointed his son

Charles as his attorney. He found but one court of Common Pleas; he divided the island into six precincts, with a county court in each, and a supreme court "of whom, for want of a better lawyer, himself is chief."

In February, 1668, he wrote that, in sending to Barbados "it will be at least four months before it can come to his hands, the coming hence thither being by way of New England, the constant eastern winds obstructing all direct commerce with Barbados."

One of the earliest arrangements for the constant naval protection of the island was the sending of the *Orford* fifth-rate frigate thither, the colony undertaking to provide victuals and wages. She arrived at Jamaica in October, 1668.

It was during Modyford's government that Jamaica witnessed Morgan's triumphant return from Porto Bello in August, 1688.

In October Modyford wrote home excusing himself that the privateers had attacked towns instead of ships only, on the grounds that the Spaniards had full intention of attempting Jamaica, "we shall never be secure until the King of Spain acknowledges this island to be his Majesty's, and so includes it by name in the capitulations." This was done by the Treaty of Madrid two years later.

In January, 1668-9, the Spanish Ambassador contended that Modyford should be punished for the attack on Porto Bello. His defence was that he did, at his first coming to Jamaica, call off the privateers, but that afterwards he was obliged to let them go on for fear that they would join the French buccaners; that in May, 1665, he was given discretion in the matter of granting letters of marque, but that these only allowed the taking of ships, and not of towns.

(To be continued.)

CHEMISTRY IN GUIANA.

American Tribute to Prof. Harrison.

All scientific workers in the West Indies, and in the British Tropics generally, are familiar with much of the chemical work of Professor Harrison, C.M.G., the Director of Science and Agriculture in British Guiana, whilst those interested in the sugar industry of the West Indies recognise the valuable assistance that his work has rendered to sugar proprietors and growers.

It remains, however, to our American cousins to have written up a concise and readable account of the varied spheres of scientific work, in which our knowledge has been considerably increased by the devoted work of Professor Harrison in the laboratory at Georgetown. Dr. C. A. Browne, of the New York Sugar Trade Laboratory, in an illustrated article in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry of America*, describes what he is pleased to call "some of the most interesting applications of chemistry to agriculture and industry which have ever come under his notice."

Naturally, he gives first attention to the work that has been carried out in connection with the sugar industry. He alludes to the work carried out first in Barbados, with Bovell, and later in British Guiana with Jenman, in connection with the development of new varieties of seedling canes, and indicates the progressive

advance of acreage under seedlings in the "Magnificent Province." The valuable manurial experiments with sugar cane in British Guiana are reviewed, as are also the researches made on tropical soils and subsoil waters. The latter researches are the most detailed that have ever been made into the chemistry of tropical soils, and must always remain as a monumental piece of work carried out with scientific thoroughness and accuracy. They have given an insight into the changes that take place in certain classes of soils under tropical conditions, and have emphasised the importance of the maintenance of efficient drainage and a plentiful supply of humus in tropical soils.

Work in connection with chemical characteristics of British Guiana sugars, of its rum, molasses and molascuit, are also reviewed and emphasised, while references are also given to analyses of balata and bauxite made from time to time.

The geological work of Professor Harrison in the gold-bearing formations of British Guiana are described, and a quotation from Professor Harrison's address to the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society in 1918, regarding the future of the colony's auriferous deposits reproduced *in extenso*. A description of some of the work of the Government Laboratory in Georgetown is given, and indicates, to some extent, the multifarious duties that the chemist in the tropics, removed from scientific and manufacturing centres, is called upon to perform. The overhauling of balances, polariscopes, and other apparatus form an essential duty of the tropical scientific laboratory, and in British Guiana this work is performed not only for Government departments, but also for use at the mines or upon sugar estates.

The author states that his paper is of a general nature, and presents an imperfect picture. This is far from the case. It describes in a readable manner much of the important scientific work that has been carried on for a lengthy period. This work, as those who are familiar will agree with the author, is "for variety, scope, and economic value without parallel." The scientific work of Professor Harrison is always followed with interest by all those connected with scientific departments in the tropics, and its value to the colony of British Guiana is recognised by all.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Visitors from the West Indies are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething-lane, London, E.C. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr. A. K. Agar	Mr. J. Hamilton
Mr. Harry Bamford	Mr. N. Henriques
Mr. L. Lambert Bell	Mr. C. C. Henriques
Mr. T. Boyd	Mrs. E. P. Hutchinson
Mr. W. A. Boyd	Mr. E. B. Jago
Mr. G. F. Branch	Mr. E. B. Jarvis
Dr. J. F. E. Bridger	Mr. A. H. Kirby
Hon. E. C. Buck	Sir Norman Lamont, Bart.
His Hon. Major J. A. Burdon,	Mr. Thos Laycock
C.M.G.	Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, O.B.E.
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. N. D. Maidman
Sir W. K. Chandler, K.C.M.G.	Mr. T. M. Marshall
Dr. W. Clarke, M.B., C.M.	Mr. H. Mason
Mr. J. Connell	Mrs. McEwen
Mr. A. P. Cowley, M.B.F.	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. Paul Cressall, Jr.	Mr. W. S. Mitchell
Mr. A. H. DaCosta	Mr. J. Morrison
Mr. A. Cory Davies	Mr. Robert Nicol, M.A.
Mr. H. Y. Delafons	Mr. F. B. Oliphant
Mr. W. C. de Gale	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. G. C. du Boulay	Lieut. R. C. Otway
Mr. W. P. Ebbels	Mr. W. C. Robertson
Mr. F. Evans	His Hon. Sir R. B. Roden
Mr. J. R. Falconer	Mr. T. G. Ross
Mr. G. Farmer	Mrs. A. S. Scaly
Mr. R. P. Gibbes	Mr. J. B. D. Sellier
Mr. J. J. Gibson	Mr. W. C. Shettle
Mr. R. Gill	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Hon. G. A. Goodman	Mr. W. A. S. Vickers
Hon. E. G. Grabham	Mr. Athelstan Watson
Mr. N. Scott Johnston, 26, Hillside	Mrs. J. A. Perez, M.B.E., c.o.
Road, Streatham Hill, S.W. 2.	Henderson, 37, Arden Street,
Mr. L. Richard Wheeler, 69, Torrington	Edinburgh.
Square, W.C.	

WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

The Editor will welcome letters and newspaper cuttings giving items of news likely to prove of general interest to readers of the CIRCULAR for publication under this heading.

Lady Allardyce's Death.

The *Nassau Guardian* of November 26th pays a worthy tribute to the memory of Lady Allardyce, whose sudden death after a short illness on Sunday, the 23rd, was the cause of general sorrow. Reference is made to the splendid work which Lady Allardyce did for the British Red Cross Society during the war, in recognition of which she was made a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. The House of Assembly, which met on the following day, adjourned, after passing a resolution of sympathy with Sir William Allardyce, which represents the feelings of the whole community.

Seven Oil Wells in Barbados.

A favourable fortnight for the growing crop, with frequent showers, is recorded in the *Barbados Advocate* of November 11th. Mr. Wallace Crawford, who, in the early eighties, was Emigration Agent for British Guiana in the island, has been reappointed, and has opened an agency in Bridgetown. Says the *Advocate*, in this connection:—

"The higher prices that Cuba is offering may prove a superior attraction to the more adventurous spirits, but we believe that if the British Guiana planters treat the emigrants well and encourage them to bring their families, and make as good sanitary arrangements as are made in Cuba, they will obtain a considerable supply of labour from here. But they must not expect to get fully experienced agriculturists all the time. So long as the supply came from India, planters have been satisfied to put up with raw and untrained material, depending on its being trained in the course of a year; but there was no use for the non-East Indian, who was not expert with fork, and hoe, and bill. Since British Guiana wants workers, there should be some system by which able-bodied men could be given some preliminary training in the use of agricultural implements before being drafted on to a plantation, in cases where they were lacking in knowledge and experience, but were willing to work. Some system of deferred payment would also probably be necessary to secure steadiness."

The British Union Oil Company is carrying out its exploration for oil with great thoroughness, seven wells being sunk at Springfield, St. Joseph.

Jamaica Shipping Developments.

Many shipping developments are notified in a report from Jamaica, for which we are indebted to the Direct West India Cable Company, notably the R.M.S.P. Company's New York-Valparaiso service, three weekly cargo services to England, and the proposed Jamaica-St. Thomas service, to which reference was made in last Circular. The *Princess May*, the latest addition to the fleet of the new Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company, a fine passenger and fruit carrier, arrived from New York on the 31st. The election of Chairman and Vice-chairman of the City Council took place on the 13th, and both Messrs. R. H. Bryant, M.B.E., and Altamont Da Costa, M.B.E., were re-elected to fill the respective positions. Business is steadily improving, and agriculture, the main business of the island, is now proceeding apace, and Jamaica seems to be on the upgrade, this time with a promise of permanence. There is a great business future for the eastern end of the city, and already the values of properties in this locality are going up. Messrs. Lindo Bros. have acquired Marine Gardens, whilst Messrs. Grace & Company have bought Messrs. Soutar & Co.'s wharf and the premises to the west owned by the estate of the late Mr. A. M. Nathan. The whole trend of affairs goes to show that within the next twelve months or so there will be much activity on the eastern portion of Harbour-street. Thousands of pounds have so far been invested in the area, and it is expected that extensive building operations will be commenced early next year. The fruit trade continues brisk, and this activity is taken as the dawn of prosperity. The price

of bananas has advanced from £15 to £16 5s. per hundred by all purchasers, and the Atlantic Fruit Company, in some instances, paid as high as £18 per hundred.

An interesting statement with regard to the Customs collections for close upon seven months of the present financial year shows receipts to October 25th amount to £336,626, as compared with £230,675 collected during the corresponding period of 1918. It will therefore be seen that there has been an increase in the collections during this year of £105,951. The revenue in various respects has been keeping up splendidly. There is good reason for stating that the Customs collections will greatly exceed the highest estimate at the end of the present financial year. Signs are not wanting that the Government will have a very substantial surplus then. The various sources of revenue have, so far, exceeded all expectations, and with the tremendous spurt in the export trade of the island the colony is now in a most prosperous condition.

Appreciation of an Administrator's Work.

The St. Kitts-Nevis *Daily Bulletin* of August 1st contains an appreciation of the Administrator, the Hon. J. A. Burden, C.M.G., with special reference to his work in reorganising the Defence Force, creating a Cadet Corps, establishing a Public Health Department, reorganising the hospital, opening up the slums by the construction of Thibon-street, Laguerite Village, &c. Mrs. Burden is also complimented on her practical interest in the Cunningham Hospital, the Women's Self-Help Society, and various War Committees.

Export Duties in St. Vincent.

The island has enjoyed a visit from H.M.S. *Farmouth*, whose cricket team won an exciting match over Kingstown by one run. A proposal is on foot to establish a cotton-seed farm of about 60 acres in the Leeward district, with the object of growing the best type of sea-island cotton. An Export Duty Ordinance, 1919, passed by the Legislative Council provides for the levy of the following export duties as from November 2nd:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Sea Island Seed Cotton			Cotton Seed, per cwt.	0	3
per cwt.	0	11	Arrowroot, per cwt.	0	6
Marie Galante Seed			Other Starches, per cwt.	0	3
Cotton, per cwt.	0	7½	Cocoa, per cwt.	0	6
Sea Island Cotton, per			Sugar, per ton....	5	0
cwt.	5	0	Syrup or Molasses per		
Marie Galante Cotton,			100 gallons,	1	6
per cwt.	3	0	Rum, per 100 gallons....	1	6

The Hon. J. B. Kernahan, for many years a member of the Legislative Council, has resigned and left with his wife for Trinidad. Cotton picking was increasing throughout the colony when the mail left on November 6th. The weather has been favourable, light showers having fallen, from which the crops have benefited.

Trinidad by No Means "Dry."

No one will accuse Trinidad of being a "dry" colony in any sense, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp under date December 12th. Neither our liquid refreshment nor the hours during which it may be obtained have yet been curtailed, for which we are duly thankful. Again, when the flood-gate of the skies opens the result can hardly be described as "the gentle rain from heaven falling on the place beneath." Coming down by the bucket is often a more truthful description, and it might have been applied to the rain that poured down as Sir John Chancellor landed from the—I was going to say good ship—*Arzila*, but the passengers would never forgive me. It *did* rain, but H.E., accompanied by Lady Chancellor, to whom a hearty welcome is accorded, came through it and landed at the Harbour-master's jetty, where they were received by a faithful group of damp officials and their good ladies, who were

huddled up in the little covered shed at the end of it. The Governor's party then proceeded to Government House through the flooded streets. A few minutes afterwards the band and guard of honour came marching down, only to arrive just too late, and with nothing for it but to march back again more like drowned rats than military constabulary. So that I am afraid the reception as a whole can hardly be described as exceptionally successful. The return of his Excellency results in the assumption by the Hon. Mr. Best of his substantive position as Colonial Secretary, whilst Mr. Walcott, who has been acting as Colonial Secretary for some months, adding to his already established reputation for able public service, resumes the office of Collector of Customs.

A large meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on the 15th instant, when, among other important business, the following resolution was unanimously passed—viz.:—"That this Chamber learnt with surprise and indignation of the proposal of Lord Rothermere to transfer a portion of the British West Indies and British Guiana, whose populations are among the most devoted to the throne and loyal to the Empire of any subjects of the King, in satisfaction of part of the debt of the United Kingdom to the United States of America, and welcomes with unfeigned satisfaction the assurance conveyed through the public telegram that his Majesty's Government has no intention of ceding British Guiana or any West Indian colonies to any foreign Power."

At the same meeting a new Ordinance confining the privileges of the National City Bank of New York to those enjoyed by British banks in the State of New York was considered on the motion of Mr. A. H. Cipriani, who, in an able speech, advocated the claims of the bank on the grounds of its already proved liberality of dealing and of the advantage to the merchant and agriculturist which must result from the competition of this wealthy institution with the other banks of the colony. This was generally agreed on, but it was stated that the proposed Ordinance emanated from Downing-street, and was in accordance with the Imperial policy of protecting all national interests, banking included, which would hardly be the case if alien banks were permitted to trade in British colonies without being subject to the restrictions imposed on British banks operating in foreign countries. Instead, therefore, of passing a resolution which the Government would have been compelled to ignore, the Chamber, wisely, I think, contented itself with "the earnest hope that means may be devised by his Majesty's Government whereby the advantages now enjoyed by the introduction of United States capital into Trinidad may not conflict with Imperial interests, and especially with the policy of preference within the Empire recently adopted."

General satisfaction is expressed at the confirmation of Mr. W. G. Freeman in the appointment of Director of Agriculture, a position in which he has been acting since the resignation of Prof. Carmody some two years ago. Besides possessing the scientific qualifications for the post, Mr. Freeman has displayed an energy and practical interest in all that makes for the agricultural progress of the colony that is generally and gratefully recognised, and no better-earned promotion could have been made. The report of the Auditor-General for 1918 has been issued, and makes satisfactory reading. The original estimate of revenue had been £1,103,904, the revised estimate to £1,169,108; the actual revenue was £1,172,700. Of this the war tax on incomes yielded £76,237. The surplus at December 31st was £173,263, the largest, I think, on record. Serious differences have arisen between the oil companies and riparian owners with regard to the damage to cultivation owing to oil overflows and the pollution of water-courses. The question is still under somewhat heated discussion, but it is sincerely to be hoped that amicable arrangements will in the end be made.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK

By "Agronomist."

The Director of Agriculture in the Philippines believes that sugar will soon be the leading article of export of those islands. Both local and foreign capitalists are taking an interest in the industry, and central factories are being constructed in several of the sugar provinces. It is expected that the production of sugar will be doubled, and that the islands will soon yield one-fourth the amount produced in Cuba, or about 1,000,000 tons annually, against their present production of 200,000 tons.

There are very few roads in China suitable for motor cars, but great interest is being taken in motor cycles, the use of which is permitted on the narrow pathways provided for foot passengers and wheelbarrows. The motor cycle promises to play an important part in opening up that vast country to the outside world, and increasing intercourse between the inhabitants of the various provinces. In the West Indies, too, the motor cycle will prove a blessing to residents on outlying estates, who should also find light motor lorries convenient for moving their produce.

During last year the beekeepers of Jamaica reaped a large harvest owing to the lack of sugar and jam in Great Britain. The Collector-General reported the export of 188,000 gallons, or 1,175 tons, of Jamaican honey to the United Kingdom, valued at £154,700. The value is greater than that of either the cacao or coconuts exported. There are good prospects for the future of the honey industry in the West Indies, as the merits of Jamaican honey are now well known.

An interesting article appeared lately in the West Indian *Bulletin* on the need for caution in using certain fish for food in the British Virgin Islands. The author, Dr. T. L. E. Clarke, points out that fish forms an important article of diet, and, in fact, is the staple food with the poorer inhabitants. Not only so, but the export of both fresh and salt fish is an important item in their trade. The annual value of the fresh fish caught off the islands, and carried to St. Thomas and St. Croix, is computed to be about £1,000. Salted fish to the annual value of about £150 is also exported.

An interesting account of Professor Harrison's work in British Guiana has recently appeared in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, and will be noticed with appreciation in the next issue of the CIRCULAR, and also in the *Agricultural News*. The paper deals with his work in regard to the chemical and biological aspect of sugar-cane cultivation, seedling canes, fertilisers, and soil problems. His investigations with reference to gold and bauxite are also described, and in conclusion the author, Dr. C. A. Browne, sums up by saying: "For variety, skill, and economic value, his thirty years of scientific work in British Guiana form a record without parallel, and one of which a general paper of this kind can give but a fragmentary and imperfect picture."

The expert in the aluminium trade, Dr. Georges Giulini, has invented a process which changes the character, but not the specific weight, of aluminium. The new metal has the same mechanical qualities and capacities as bronze, copper and brass. It is also a conductor, so that there will be a demand for it in the electrical trade. There is no doubt that it will be much used in ships, motor cars, railway carriages, and aeroplanes. As regards price, it is said that it will be able

to compete with copper and brass. There will be an increased demand for the bauxite of British Guiana, which contains about 65 per cent. of aluminium oxide.

The Agricultural Society of Trinidad has passed a resolution of congratulation to Mr. W. G. Freeman on his appointment as Director of Agriculture in that colony. The resolution records their opinion that his ability, attainments, and untiring efforts for agriculture eminently qualify him for the post. It also conveys their appreciation of all that he has done for the Society and its members. Mr. Freeman's friends throughout the West Indies and in the Mother Country very heartily join in these congratulations. His career has been watched with interest from his first connection with the West Indies, during the time when he was at the Imperial Institute in charge of the colonial collections, and subsequently when he was promoted to the post of Botanist in Trinidad, and acted as Director on Professor Carmody's retirement.

During the past few years the planters in Trinidad have had two great misfortunes to contend with—the losses due to the froghopper, and the want of labour. It may well be that the ravages of the froghopper are, to a great extent, due to want of proper cultivation owing to the labour trouble. However that may be, the dearth of labourers has forced Trinidad agriculturists to use labour-saving machinery—ploughs, harrows, cultivators, mowing machines, hay rakes, crushers of food for stock. With ploughs and cultivators much more land can be cultivated on each estate than when there was abundance of labour, and the work is done more thoroughly than by the labourer's fork and hoe. The drainage ditches are kept clear of weeds by a mowing machine and a rake, where formerly a large gang of workers was necessary at a much larger daily cost. Tractors also are beginning to be introduced, heralding a still further advance in scientific cultivation.

At a Conference of Research Associations held during this month, Mr. A. J. Balfour, who presided, said, in his introductory address, that the industrial progress of mankind was going to be in the future more and more dependent upon the alliance of science and industry, and upon the co-operation of different branches of science with each other. It was only upon our increasing knowledge of the powers of nature that we could hope to improve the material lot of men. That knowledge could only be gained by the cultivation of pure science, of knowledge for its own sake, by contriving to educate men who, with no thought of self-advancement, were consumed by a curiosity to know, and, when that stage had been passed, by learning how to apply the knowledge which they had disinterestedly acquired to the great purposes of industrial development.

One of the Research Associations represented at the conference is styled the British Empire Sugar Research Association, which has been formed to establish an Empire scheme for the scientific investigation of the problems arising in the sugar industry. Another aim is to encourage and improve the technical education of persons who are, or may be, engaged in the industry. The Association is working in co-operation with the Imperial Government Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The scope of the work includes the improvement of the sugar cane, the various methods of extracting sugar, of refining it, and the best methods for the use of sugar as a raw material. Another point is the discovery of the best uses of the after-products of both factory and refinery. Sugar planters should heartily support this Association, as all research work on sugar will directly benefit them. The registered offices are at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford-street, London, W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CATTLE FOOD OR RUM.

To the Editor, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In reference to the remarks appearing in your last issue, allow me to point out further facts in connection with by-products from the manufacture of sugar from the sugar-cane. I am pleased to know our gallant men had the "tot" of rum in war time; but I feel the manufacture of cattle food would be an aid in peace. The pith of the sugar-cane is highly digestible, and will absorb five times its weight of molasses, producing a nutritious, well-known cattle food. It is an easy, practical and economical means of transporting molasses in a suitable form for its purpose. According to the figures stated, there is enough fermented and distilled molasses (rum) in the docks to supply the demand for two years on pre-war and four years on present consumption! If sugar-cane planters were to reduce their output of rum as hitherto and again make part of their molasses into this stock food, for which there is a large inquiry, it might be to their advantage in the long run, as it certainly would be for our farmers. No doubt, as you state, rum and milk are a pleasant beverage, but the real food is in the milk. The present shortage of milk is unfortunate, but it has always been increased when milch cows have had this sweet fodder mixed in their rations. Eminent agriculturists can testify to this fact.

Never was there more necessity for stock food than for this winter, and as the Government some years ago granted my petition for the removal of the duty on this fodder it might even to-day be desirable to grant a bonus on imports of it.—I am, Sir, &c.,

GEO. HUGHES.

155, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.
December 10th, 1919.

The Empire Movement Committee, of which the Earl of Meath is Chairman, passed two resolutions on November 13th, advocating the adoption of an Imperial Flag for the whole Empire in place of the Union Jack, and also the general recognition of Empire Day as a day of religious thanksgiving. Readers will recall in this connection the proposal put forward by the West India Committee for a joint flag for the British West Indies, which met with the approval of all the West Indian colonies except British Guiana and British Honduras. In the absence, however, of complete unanimity, and owing to the outbreak of war, no further steps were taken in the matter, with the result that the West Indian flag was conspicuous by its absence on all ceremonial occasions, and from the decorations on Armistice day and during Peace week. The Committee meanwhile prepared a special blue ensign bearing the arms of all the West Indian colonies, an illustration of which was published in the CIRCULAR of March 9th, 1916, and a design submitted by Mr. Frank Cundall was also circulated, and met with much approval.

THE hope which we expressed recently that the steamers of the Royal Dutch West India Mail Service would call regularly at a Channel port *en route* from Holland to the West Indies is apparently to be fulfilled. Their s.s. *Oranje Nassau* will embark passengers for Trinidad and other West Indian ports this afternoon.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The General Petroleum Company of Trinidad, Ltd.

The prospectus of this Company was issued on December 13th. The Company has a capital of £300,000 in £1 shares, 200,000 of which were offered for subscription. It is formed mainly to take over the oil rights over La Fortitude Estate, and various other properties in the Fort George and San Francisco districts of Trinidad. The Trinidad Leaseholds have agreed to purchase the crude oil produced by the company if satisfactory quantities are obtained. The first directors are Mr. Eric Blackwood Wright, LL.D. (late Judge, Supreme Court, Trinidad), Mr. J. M. Aitken (brother of Lord Beaverbrook), Mr. W. B. Mitford and Mr. J. E. Plender, and the offices are at 13, Copthall-court, London, E.C. 3.

The Demerara Railway Company.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th last show a gross revenue of £37,103 5s. 11d. (£35,374 0s. 2d. for the same period in 1918), and a gross expenditure of £27,853 4s. 6d. After deducting debenture interest, £1,400, and adding the Government subsidy of £6,250, and the amount brought forward £1,392 10s. 2d., there remains an available balance of £11,968 14s., as against £15,365 15s. 4d. at the same date last year. Out of this the usual dividends will be paid on the 4 per cent. Extension and 7 per cent. Preference Stocks, and 3½ per cent on the Preferred Ordinary Stock, leaving £1,130 4s. to be carried forward. The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

	1919.	1918.
Demerara Railway	146,495	131,686
Berbice Railway	27,681	29,945
West Coast Railway	118,901	122,212
Total	293,077	283,843

The tonnage of goods was:—

	1919.	1918.
Demerara Railway	35,596	42,298
Berbice Railway	6,478	5,212
West Coast Railway	2,737	2,914
Total	44,811	50,424

The larger receipts have been more than absorbed by the increased cost of operating the railways owing to the continued rise in the cost of material and in wages. The net revenue accordingly shows a reduction as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1918, and the directors do not consider it advisable, under the circumstances, to recommend an interim dividend on the ordinary stock. The proposal by the Colonial Government for the acquisition of the railways became the subject of negotiations with His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., during his recent visit to this country. Unfortunately, His Excellency had to return to the colony before a conclusion was arrived at, and the directors now await an offer after he has had an opportunity of placing the matter before the Combined Court of Policy of the colony.

MESSRS. JAMES NOURSE, LTD., announce that arrangements are being made to provide promptly requisite tonnage for the Nourse Line to augment the present sailings between Calcutta and Rangoon, and the British West Indies and Cuba, as soon as the restrictions on the export of rice have been removed. In this connection it may be of interest to record that the export has been sanctioned of 150,000 cwt. of rice at the rate of 50,000 cwt. per month from Georgetown, British Guiana, to Bermuda, British Honduras, and the West Indian islands, including some of the French and American islands. The *Gogra* loads at Calcutta this week.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Royal Dutch West India Mail Service.—Sailings from Dover per s.s. *Stuyvesant*, December 6th:—

Trinidad: Miss F. A. Barclay, Miss K. Barr, Mr. H. E. Bradshaw, Sir Gilbert T. Carter, K.C.M.G., Mr. C. R. Clark, Mrs. E. S. Clark, Mr. S. S. Headley, Mr. H. E. L. Hosang, Mr. F. A. S. Jones, Mrs. R. L. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Gooday, Mr. D. S. Law, Mr. R. J. Morrison, Mrs. and Miss O'Reilly, Mr. F. Parsons, Mr. C. W. Peppiette, Miss E. M. St. M. Stocker, Mr. A. Sutherland, Mr. C. G. G. Wallace, Mrs. E. Willans, Miss R. C. Thomas. *La Guaira*: Mr. A. B. Muirhead, *Curacao*: Major G. Gonsalves. *Puerto Colombia*: Mr. P. W. W. Armfelt, Mr. G. H. Plowman. *Cartagena*: Mr. and Mrs. Stirling.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, December 16th, per s.s. *Bayano* (Com-mander, E. W. Castle):—

Major and Mrs. W. Alexander	Mr. M. Hardy	Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Read
Mr. G. F. Allsop	Mr. T. Hardy	Mr. L. Ridings
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Arnold	Mr. L. G. Hoare	Miss C. A. Robertson
Mr. A. W. Aubertin	Miss M. Hodges	Mrs. A. Rounnieu
Miss E. C. Bower	Rev. and Mrs. H. G. James	Capt. G. J. Sandys
Miss M. M. Butt	Miss M. James	Mr. E. N. Sanguinetti
Sister J. S. Cairns	Master R. James	Miss H. Saunders
Miss F. Checkley	Mr. Jenure	Mr. A. H. Sharpe
Viscount & Viscountess Combermere	Mr. E. C. Jones	Miss E. L. Shayshutt
Miss E. M. Cook	Mr. E. Parker Jones	Miss L. Sheldon
Capt. & Mrs. F. H. Cook	Mr. E. Kempson	Mr. G. Sheldon
Miss R. Cook	Miss P. M. Kempson	Mrs. L. J. Stone
Master J. Cook	Rev. J. Kneale	Col. and Mrs. R. S. Tempest
Mr. & Mrs. M. Cope	Col. & Mrs. H. Lewis, O.B.E., V.D.	Mr. M. P. Tennant
Mr. F. L. Davis	Miss B. H. Marsden	Miss L. C. Trotter
Mrs. A. G. Dawson	Major and Mrs. C. Mitchell	Mr. A. S. Turner
Mr. R. Docker	Mr. J. Morison	Col. R. E. de Vesian
Miss C. M. K. Drummond	Mr. C. L. Morley	Hon. and Mrs. W. A. S. Vickers
Miss C. Flint	Mr. & Mrs. Musson	Mr. W. H. Vickers
Miss V. A. Gardiner	Capt. Newnes	Mr. H. Burgoyne-Wallace
Hon. D. S. Gideon	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. C. McD. Ogilvie	Miss F. G. Burgoyne-Wallace
Dr. and Mrs. E. D. Gideon	Master P. Ogilvie	Miss B. Wilson
Capt. and Mrs. T. R. Gideon	Mrs. J. Ogilvie	Col. H. M. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. C. Lyon Hall	Mr. M. H. Pattinson	Mr. H. M. Winch
	Mr. O. B. Pike	Mrs. H. Wilson Winch
	Miss B. E. Potter	Lady Wolseley

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Advance bookings per s.s. *Arzila*, sailing from London about December 23rd:—

Mr. W. Abbott	Miss L. Falconer	Mrs. E. P. Minett
Lady Alcazar	Miss G. A. Falconer	Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E.
Mr. P. S. M. Arbuthnot	Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Forrest	Mr. A. C. V. Prior
Mr. & Mrs. J. I. Baeza	Mrs. E. L. Fraser	Mr. Hamilton Ross
Miss M. A. Baeza	Miss E. A. Fraser	Capt. R. A. Bostant
Master G. E. Baeza	Miss E. M. Fraser	Mrs. P. A. Bostant
Mr. D. Baird	Mr. C. H. B. Fryer	Mrs. W. C. Roy
Miss M. E. Butler	Miss L. Gonsalves	Master Roy
Mr. A. B. Cuarten	Miss R. Hall-Hall	Master Roy & Nurse
Mr. T. W. Clark	Lieut. S. A. Hargreave	F/Cadet Schjolseth
Mr. C. P. Clark	Mrs. M. Hargreave	Lieut. C. J. Scott
Mrs. Clark	Miss M. E. Hargreave	Lieut. S. M. Sharpe
Major H. B. O. Coddington	Mr. C. S. Kitching	Miss M. Skerritt
Mrs. F. A. Corea	Mr. W. A. Lea	Lieut.-Col. R. F. Staple-ton-Cotton
Mrs. G. Corea	Miss H. M. Macdonald	Miss T. M. Tilden-Smith
Miss D. J. Corea	Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Macdonald	Miss J. Tilden-Smith
Mr. W. Cunningham	Master E. A. S. Macdonald	Mr. B. R. Veacock
Miss S. Cunningham	Master J. A. Macdonald	Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Williams
Miss J. Deakin	Master F. E. Mallett	Miss I. E. Williams
Miss O. Dear	Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Martin	Miss R. S. Woolford
Capt. and Mrs. M. J. R. Dickson		Mr. E. Yule
Mrs. J. R. Falconer		

OUTWARD STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet.	Sailing.
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Notagna</i>	Dec. 30
West Indies	London	<i>Savan</i>	Dec. 31
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Patuca</i>	Jan. 6
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Pionier</i>	Jan. 7
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	Jan. 9
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camito</i>	Jan. 13
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	Jan. 23

The above dates are only approximate.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—8642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

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

December 22nd, 1919.

SUGAR. Control prices in the United Kingdom, which were modified on November 3rd, remain as follows:—

	Wholesale.		Retail.	
	Per cwt.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per lb.
Cubes, Lumps, &c.	72 0	8½		
W.I. Crystallised (see below)	66 0	8		
W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups (see below)	63 6	7½		
W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing	"free"	No maximum		

Our forecast that arrangements would be made for marketing W.I. grocery, crystallised and Muscovado sugars in the United Kingdom after December 27th, when free imports cease under the Sugar (Restriction of Delivery) Order, 1919, has proved correct. After prolonged negotiations between the West India Committee and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, the following proposals have been adopted:—

(1) At the commencement of every month the Commission will fix for the following month prices for B.W.I. grocery crystallised and B.W.I. grocery Muscovado, both of first quality, on landed, duty paid, terms, subject to a discount of 1½ per cent., and to interest at 5 per cent. per annum for the un-expired portion of the fourteen days prompt, such prices to represent the value of these two classes of sugar in comparison with the f.o.b. value of Cuba centrifugal sugar basis 96° Pol. for delivery during the following month.

As an example: At the beginning of January the value of B.W.I. grocery will be fixed for sugars allotted during February on the basis of the value on the day on which prices are fixed of February Cuba sugar.

(2) The Commission will pay to the importers of the B.W.I. sugar on all such sugar as is allotted during the month, the difference between the price obtained as the result of allotting the sugar at the Commission's authorised selling prices ruling at the time of allotment, and the price fixed for the same period, on the following conditions:—

- (a) That the sugar shall be graded as to quality by the Cane Sugar Grading Committee, who shall, after determining whether the sugar is of grocery quality, decide, in the event of the quality not being "first" quality, the difference in value between "first" quality sugar and the parcel submitted for grading, and that the difference so determined shall be abated from the difference payable by the Commission.
- (b) That the sugar shall be sold within six weeks of the date of the dock-lotting account.
- (c) That the sugar shall be sold in exchange for vouchers and/or licences issued by the Ministry of Food or the Commission, and in accordance with the Commission's regulations.
- (d) That an account be rendered to the Commission in a form to be prescribed by it, for the difference claimed by the importer, accompanied by a certificate proving the claimant's title to the difference.

(3) The "fixed" price of grocery crystallised sugar referred to in paragraph (1) shall be determined as follows:—

The value of Cuban raw sugar, basis 96° polarisation, f.o.b., as quoted by Messrs. Willett & Gray, for the first working day (not being a Saturday) in the month, shall be converted into sterling at the mean of the London rate of exchange (tele-graphic transfer) on New York quoted in the issue of the *Times* in respect of the first working day (not being a Saturday) in the month—e.g., say on 3rd or 5th January. Messrs. Willett & Gray's quotations for 1st January shall be converted at the rate of exchange quoted by the *Times* in its issue of 2nd January, 1920.

To the sterling value per cwt. so established shall be added—

	Shillings & Decimals.	Per cwt.
Muscovado & Crystallised.		
Grocery Syrup Sugar.		

- (a) Messrs. Scrutton's West India freight rate ruling on the first day of the month in respect of which the price is fixed (at present 120s.)
- (b) Marine insurance, ½ per cent.
- (c) Landing, &c., incl. six weeks' rent and port rates
- (d) Flat duty rate of
- (e) Preference on
- (f) Discount at 1½ per cent. on Commission's selling price
- (g) Loss of interest
- (h) Premium for grocery quality

6 00	6 00
26	26
84	90
19 67	17 62
3 93	3 52
99	95
52	52
4 00	1 52

Total addition to f.o.b. Cuban price 36 21 31 29

(4) It is proposed to apply this arrangement also to grocery crystallised manufactured by British Companies in Dutch Guiana, the preference in the duty being eliminated.

The West India sugar statistics in London on December 13th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Tons.
Imports	49,889	37,840	80,984	
Deliveries	47,744	40,980	75,715	"
Stock	8,337	7,847	13,284	"

RUM. A good business is being done in Demeraras at 6s. 4d. per liquid gallon. Jamaicas are quiet; buyers holding off.

The stocks in London on December 13th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Puns.
Jamaica	6,973	3,868	7,613	
Demerara	15,114	11,027	6,011	"
Total of all kinds ...	28,872	19,869	20,937	"

COCOA. Sales took place on the 16th, but were quite formal, and consisted of 4,000 West African, for which bids up to 102s. were received, 360 Trinidads which had no bids, and some Ceylon garblings. The next sales will be held on January 6th if there is the cocoa ready to be offered. The *Sargasso's* parcels from three or four islands certainly should be ready by then.

The shops are full of chocolates and sweets, and make a bold show, but the uncertainty as to what the future holds for us in the way of coal and sugar in Central Europe cannot but make the post-Christmas demand uncertain. Even in America the anxiety to secure supplies, especially of Bahias, which was so noticeable in the middle of November, soon went flat. Probably someone was taken short and had to cover, and the very reaction after the resultant transactions caused that market to appear rather limp, Bahias especially being weak, and Accras showed a drop.

There seems considerable anxiety everywhere to make the world realise what a big crop Trinidad will have this season, and how speedily it will come to market. It is a matter for regret that we cannot look forward to receiving much more than we shall, for so valuable a foodstuff will be badly needed by the time such supplies can be handled and worked up. The *Daily Express* may try to draw a smile at Mr. McCurdy's curdling tales of food shortages in 1920, but anyone who has watched the trend of events during the period of the war did not need the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food to summarise the position. Every cocoa trade journal that has come our way during that period called attention to the matter, especially in connection with meat, and, through that, with milk, butter, and animal fats. At the same time, the articles written on the subject urged the authorities to utilise plain chocolate on a widespread basis, with the minimum of sugar to make it palatable, and to supply this to the hungry ones, both to nourish them whilst supplying warmth and fats, and also as a change of food, which is most necessary since what is obtainable is monstrous and tasteless when used continuously.

Such a proposal will be needed during 1920 to a greater extent than ever, and whether the chocolate comes from America or the United Kingdom will not matter to the West Indian planters. Chocolate is better than the powder, which, it is said, America is now sending, as Central Europe badly needs fats, and also sugar. If the latter is blended in the factories, and not in the homes, less is used, and what is consumed is spread out evenly so as to reach everyone, as it should do.

Read the *Louisiana Planter* and Willett & Gray's circulars carefully to see how Europe progresses with her sugar, and even with coal supplies. Coal is so important to the sugar factory that both these papers touch upon it. If Germany (an ambiguous statement, and inclined to mislead one in these days), as Willett & Gray estimated on November 26th, does only produce a million tons of sugar, and has to pay Mks.600 per ton for American coal (see *Louisiana Planter*, November 29th, p. 350), how can she buy cocoa freely, as her population demands, and make it up into chocolate, &c., for

consumption at popular prices? Yet this is the position of Germany to-day, and this is why cocoa planters must watch the trend of events to gauge on ahead how the demand, and hence the prices, for their crops will go, not only in Germany, but in America and the United Kingdom, which can alone feed her.

Prices remain unchanged. Trinidads are spoken of as being worth up to 132s. for the best and 130s. for good red. Grenadas and St. Lucias 128s., or a little more for the best, and 125s. for good reddish. More than that need not be said now, because by the time these lines are being read in the West Indies the cables will give the latest rates; and so what is written here might be only misleading. What really matters is not the price of to-day, but of next March, June or September. What has been said may help you to estimate these.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports shipments from Trinidad during the month of October, 1919, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight.
To all countries	609,732 lb.
Shipped previously	53,023,757 "
Total from January 1st	53,633,489 "
To same date, 1918	53,296,973 "
" " 1917	67,890,372 "
" " 1916	50,636,017 "
" " 1915	44,258,053 "
" " 1914	60,745,517 "
" " 1913	45,780,272 "
" " 1912	40,143,025 "
" " 1911	42,127,478 "
" " 1910	49,332,789 "
" " 1909	41,367,387 "
" " 1908	37,020,821 "
" " 1907	35,052,616 "

The stocks in London on December 13th were:—

	1919.	1918.	1917.	Bags
Trinidad	27,157	22,088	18,516	
Grenada	15,157	7,090	17,259	"
Total of all kinds ...	123,803	118,288	219,675	"

ARROWROOT. The long-enduring stagnation in this market may, perhaps, be accounted for, to some extent, by the action of H.M. Government in offering their surplus stock at prices considerably below those of the Growers' Association; 1,075 barrels of their surplus were offered at auction last week, and sales of good and fine marks were effected at 5½d.—a few at 5½d. to 6d. This is rather over 1d. per lb. less than Association prices, and the Government's action is much resented.

BALATA. West Indian sheet steady. Forward positions, 3s. 11½d. c.i.f., 4s. 4d. spot.

COPRA. Market steady; f.m.s. West Indian, c.i.f. London. £63 10s.

COTTON. The market has been quieter, but quotations show a further advance. Imports of West Indian in the fifty weeks ending 11th December, 7,282 bales.

HONEY. Quiet, but steady, and business has been done in fine Jamaicas from 80s. to 100s.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil: Handpressed,** quiet; nominal value, 10s.; **Distilled,** quiet, but steady at unchanged rates. **Lime-juice: Raw,** neglected.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet, in good demand, but no supplies; **Bitter,** no inquiries.

SPICES. **Mace,** unchanged. **Nutmegs,** quiet; a few sales have been made at a decline of 2d. on last quotations. **Pimento,** firm, with a moderate business passing at 6d. spot terms.

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

PLANTATION MANAGER, ex-officer, fourteen years' experience Ceylon and Africa, wishes to settle in West Indies with wife and child, and seeks billet. Cacao, rubber, tea, coconuts, &c. Has successfully controlled large properties. Good testimonials. Reply "H.M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething-lane, E.C.3.