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INDEX TO VOL. LV.

ACCRA, M. V., Sinking of 209	BARBADOS—(continued).	305
A.F.S., The London 310	Termite Control in 289	
Agar, Sir Arthur, Retirement of 86, 135	United States Mission, Arrival of 275	
Agriculture, Inspector-General of 74, 100, 128	Bauxite to Aeroplane 180	
Air Raid Victims, Aid for 274	Beauchamp, Flying Officer P., Awarded D.F.C. 180	
Air Service; United States to Europe 31	BERMUDA—	
Altmark, West Indians Rescued from the 45	Convoy Concentration Centre for Merchant Ships 111	
America and the West Indies	Library Centenary 151, 159	
201, 220, 225, 229, 275, 283, 285, 310	Bindley, Canon T. H., Memorial to 159	
America and West Indies Station 52	BOOK REVIEWS—	
American Scientific Congress 230	Agricultural Testament, An 223, 264	
Animal Health Adviser, Appointment of 111	Bermuda Burial 163	
ANTIGUA—	Bride of a Thousand Cedars 163	
Agricultural Report for 1938 117	Caribbean Readers, The 35	
Beach Hotel Opened 171	Dutch Plantations in British Guiana 199	
Broadcasting Station Opened 267	Family of the Barrett 163	
Grant from Development and Welfare Fund 173	Handbook of Jamaica for 1939, The 35	
Harford, Mr. and Mrs., leave for St. Kitts 161	Handbook of Malaria Control 198	
Holberton Hospital 109	Maid no More 199	
Income Tax Increase 66	Marine Fishes of Trinidad 234	
Introduction of Sugar Cane into 253	Report on a Journey to Parts of the West Indies	
Land Settlement and Peasant Agriculture 97	for the Study of Soils 313	
Legislative Council Elections 267, 292	Stardust 195	
Moravian College 291	Survey of Insecticidal Materials of Vegetable Origin 209	
Population of 210	Those Wild West Indies 35	
Public Health in 266	Voodoo Gods 206	
St. Peter's Church, Centenary of 279	Briercliffe, Sir Rupert 294, 303	
St. Philip's Church, Restoration of 173	Bristol Branch of the Royal Empire Society; Lecture by	
Stockdale, Sir Frank, Arrival of 277, 289	Mr. Hugh Paget 294, 303	
Sugar, Excise Duty on Washed 109	BRITISH GUIANA—	
Sugar Crop Finished 210	Aerated Water Factory, Improvement to 210	
Telephonic Communication with other Colonies 109	Agricultural Journal 70	
United States Defence Bases in 275	Air Bases in 292	
Aspinall, Sir Algernon 99, 263	Air-service, Practical use of Local 71	
	Allotment Scheme, Georgetown 97	
	Bauxite Industry 95, 173, 275	
	Bishop's Gratitude for Help from Sugar Estates 9	
	British Guiana Airways, Ltd. 86	
	Centenarian, Death of a 21	
	Children, Employment of 97	
	Civil Servants' Bonus 33	
	Colonial Students Advisory Committee 32	
	Cosmopolitan 83	
	Disturbances in 7	
	Drought Fires 161	
	Financial Assistance for 121	
	Firearms, Control of 109	
	Government Departments, Amalgamation of 21	
	Governor's New Year Message 57	
	Henton, Mr. J. Lyden, Visit of 267	
	Income Tax Increase 40	
	Kaieteur Fall, New Route to the 32	
	"Kaietuk" not "Kaieteur" 176	
	Livestock Industry 21, 257	
	Manikuri Goldfields, Ltd. 86	
	Mayor of Georgetown, Hon. P. C. Wight re-elected 33	
	Motor Vehicles and Traffic Bill 267	
	Pensions Committee, Old Age 33	
	Place Names 198	
	Policing the Corentyne District 97	
	Rice Industry 9, 17, 149, 185, 222, 265, 291	
	Royal Commission Recommendations 108	
	Settlement of Jewish Refugees 4, 29, 59	
	Sugar Industry 118	
	Swingler, Mr. W. T., Murder of 7, 71, 173	
	Timber 108	
	Trade during 1939 97	
	Volunteer Forces in 245	
	Waddington, Sir John 32	
BAHAMAS—		
Aerodrome, The first 86		
Heape, Mr. W. L., Appointed Colonial Secretary 185		
Population Statistics 185		
"Sea Floor" Post Office 69		
Swimming Team's success Abroad 280		
United States Defence Bases in 275		
Windsor, Duke of—		
Appointed Governor 165, 177		
Arrival at Nassau 205		
Discussion with President Roosevelt 310		
Sworn-in as Governor 205, 219		
Visit to Shipwrecked Sailors 277		
Bananas: Imports into United Kingdom suspended		
285, 295, 299, 315		
BARBADOS—		
Bread made from Wheat and Cassava 109		
Civic Circle Annual Report 186		
Colonial Engineer, Appointed 171		
Cotton Crops 138		
Firewood, Production in 83, 268		
Food Supply, Local Wartime 57		
Governor's A.D.C., Major H. W. Peebles, Appointed 43		
Governor's Financial and Economic Review 105		
Harrison Family in 253		
Montefiore Fountain 280		
Moth Borer, Control in 32		
Peaceful Picketing 74		
Publicity Committee Report 240		
Rainfall in 197		
Root Borer and Brown Hardback Beetles in 71		
Settlement of Emigrants in St. Lucia 70, 105, 197		
Sugar Crop 138, 161, 197		

15 SEP 1977

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	PAGE		PAGE
BRITISH HONDURAS—		COLONIAL OFFICE—	
Agricultural Journal	56	Business Adviser	74
Agricultural Report for 1939	288	Economic Department Increase	42
Annual Report for 1939	288	Hall, Mr. George Henry, Appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies	145
Burns, Sir Alan, Departure of	8, 10	Parkinson, Sir Cosmo, Appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies	145
Health Broadcasts, Local	86	Sabine, Mr. N. J. B., Appointed Public Relations Officer	207
Hunter, Mr. John Adams, Appointed Governor	8, 31, 86	Tempany, Dr. H. A., Appointed Agricultural Adviser to Secretary of State for the Colonies	232, 249
Johnston, Hon. W.; A Sierra Leone Appointment	86	Visit of H.M. the King	238
Langley, Mr. Carleton G., Appointed Chief Justice	119, 195	Colonial Wireless Chain	183
Mahogany Contracts during 1940	44	Coloured British Subjects and Enlistment	116
Metzgen, Captain M. S., Appointed Information Officer	289	Committee on Colonial Research	127
New Roads in	121	Committee on Development and Welfare	127
Public Health in	230	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS—	
Refugees in	315	Angostura Bitters, Ltd.	23
Soap Factory	71	Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.	11, 313
Timber	108	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.	11, 23, 176
Turnbull, Mr. R. E., Appointed Colonial Secretary	107, 197	Bank of Nova Scotia	60
War Surtax on Income	276	Barbados Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.	12, 317
Broadcasts to the West Indies	235	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.)	152, 313, 317
Buck, Mr. E. C.	107	Bovril, Ltd.	99
Buckingham Palace, Bombing of	225, 235	British Guiana Building Society, Ltd.	152
Budget, The	104, 212	British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd.	11, 88, 317
CABINET Changes		Caroni, Ltd.	269
Call to the Colonies	113, 114	Central Mining and Investment Corporation	140
Canada—West Indies Trade Agreement continued	141	Cuyuni Goldfields, Ltd.	173
Canadian Trade Mission	42	Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd.	152, 187
Cardinal, Mr. A. W., Appointed Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands	289	Demerara Storage Co., Ltd.	187
Carey, Mr. Harold L., Retirement of	43	Guiana Match Factory, Ltd.	124
Caribbean Lodge	313	Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd.	11, 23, 317
Cashew Nut By-Products	170	Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.	88, 98
Cashew Nuts in India	305	Rose, L., and Co., Ltd.	76
CAYMAN ISLANDS—	52	Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.	293
Cardinal, Mr. A. W., Tribute to	96	Telephone and General Trust, Ltd.	99
Chamberlain, Mr. Neville, Death of	271	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.	212
Chancellor, Sir John	219	Trinidad Freeholds, Ltd.	317
Children's Overseas Reception Board	153	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.	124, 269, 306
Chocolate Supplies	315	Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd.	269, 281
Churchill, Mr. Winston, Appointed Prime Minister	113	Trinidad Sugar Estates, Ltd.	23, 34
CITRUS FRUIT INDUSTRY—		United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.	176, 187
Imports into United Kingdom suspended	295, 299	United Fruit Co.	140
Ministry of Food; Notice to Importers	254	United Molasses Co., Ltd.	124
Palestine	30, 39, 99, 286	West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.	60
Pest Investigation Grant for Windward and Leeward Islands	98	West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd.	269, 281
West Indian	89, 133, 189, 247, 295	Connell, Mrs. G. C., Patriotic Hymn by	300
Cocoa—		Copra, Price of	47
Allocation to Manufacturers	230	COTTON—	
Control Scheme	27, 39, 77	Cultivation and Soil Fertility	118
Destruction of, in Gold Coast	146, 175, 211	Empire Cotton Growing Review	148
Exports to Scandinavia	75	Marie Galante Acreage and Production for 1939-40, Estimated	85
Gold Coast	19, 147, 175	Sea Island—	
Government Purchase of	39, 146, 175, 213, 240, 254	Acreage and Production for 1939-40, Estimated	85
New Board Appointed	294	Production for 1940, Estimated	196
Outlook for	224	West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, Advisory Committee	99, 253
Problems	213	Cricket: West Indies v. Sir Pelham Warner's XI	209, 221
Shippers' Expenses	75	Crown Colonist Map of the Colonial Empire	300
Trinidad Industry	290	DAVSON, Lieut-Colonel Ivan	1, 143
West African, Government Purchase of	52, 240, 254, 315	Defence Bases Leased to the U.S.A.	201, 220, 225, 229, 275, 283, 285, 294, 303, 310
West African, Maximum Price of	209	Defence Regulations in the Colonies	48
West Indian Quotas for 1940-41	254	de Freitas, Mr. H. A., Lecture given by	31
Coco-nut Shell Charcoal	200	Devaux, Mr. J. L., Appointed Chief Judge, Mauritius	7
Coffee; Restriction of Imports into United Kingdom	278	DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE IN THE WEST INDIES—	
Cole, Rev. Herbert H.	241	Antigua receives Grant	173
Colonial Appointments	22, 40, 73, 99, 120, 211, 232, 256, 302, 314	Briercliffe, Sir Rupert, Appointed Medical Adviser	232
Colonial Civil Service, Lord Lloyd on	172	House of Commons Debate	93, 113, 186
Colonial Debts to British Exchequer	120	House of Lords Debate	82, 186
Colonial Development	113, 120, 127, 162	Hammond, Mr. S. A. A., Appointed Educational Adviser	232
Colonial Economic Policy	311	Norman, Mr. F. A., Appointed Labour Adviser	218
Colonial Empire, War Gifts from	189	Norris, Mr. R., Appointed Secretary to Comptroller	289
Colonial Empire's Part in the War	252, 299	Schemes Approved	139
Colonial Labour Problems	194	Stockdale, Sir Frank, Appointed Comptroller of	165
Colonial Loans	156	Wakefield, Mr. A. J., Appointed Inspector-General of Agriculture	128
Colonial Man Power	153, 299	West Indian Club entertains Sir Frank Stockdale	215

	PAGE
KENNEDY-PURVIS, Sir Charles	52
King and Queen Escape Bombing Attack	225, 235
Kleinwort, Mr. H. G., Retirement of	31

LABOUR Problems, Colonial, Mr. G. H. Hall on	194
Land Misuse and Rural Poverty	169
Langton, Major A. V., Retirement from the D.O.T.	56
Leacock, Mr. Dudley G.	7
League of Coloured Peoples 241, 253, 277, 301, 313	313

LEEWARD ISLANDS—	
Baynes, His Honour T. E. P., Appointed to Executive Council	83
Dominica : Transfer to Windward Islands 13, 33, 46	46
First Women Members of Legislative Councils	277, 280
Governor's New Year Message	30
Harney, Mr. E. E., Appointed Federal Treasurer	121
Supreme Court, Establishment of	30
Lime Juice for Ptomaine Poisoning	36, 96
Limes Associations in St. Lucia and Dominica	305
LLOYD, LORD—	
Advice to Cadets	172
Appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies	113
Broadcast on Colonial Empire	252
Call to the Colonies	141
On Colonial Economic Policy	311
On the West Indies	157
London A.F.S., The	310
Lyle, Sir Leonard, M.P.	171

MACDONALD, Mr. Malcolm, Confers with French Colonial Minister	72
McDonald, Mrs. Hilda, Ballad by	277
Mails Lost through Enemy Action 171, 199, 219,	277
Maintaining Markets in War Time	247
Malaria, Control of	198
Malarial Control Course, Annual	107

MARRIAGES—	
Andrews—Evans	277
Campbell—Macpherson	184
Clementi—Pelham	301
Corbet—Sewell	139
Crowdy—Evans	43
Hudson—Johnson	171
Mais—Ventris	211
McPhail—Wortley	174
Pinney—Segrave	159
Punnett—Serenyi	163
Previte—Hodgson	148
Ross—Collens	173
Turner—Goodwin	95, 100
Wippell—Dunlop	148

Methodist Church on Royal Commission Recommendations	232
Milbanke, Lieutenant R.	241
Miller, Mr. J. Gordon	312
Ministry of Food : Marketing of Crops Announcement	254
Mirrlees Watson Co., Ltd., Centenary of	207
Mobile Canteens : Ceremony at Buckingham Palace	307

MONTSERRAT—	
Agricultural Report for 1938	117
Birds of, Account of the	7
Legislative Council Elections	293
Public Health in	291
Soil Erosion in	210
Unemployment in	289
Morgan, Dr. Hyacinth B., M.P.	195

NAVAL and Air Bases leased to the U.S.A.	
201, 220, 225, 229, 275, 283, 285, 310	310
Naylor, Mr. T. H.	56
Norman, Mr. F. A.	218

OBITUARY—	
Alleyn, Mrs. E. A.	45
Allwood, Major Aubrey L.	174
Alves, Mr. Duncan Elliott	56, 87
Andrews, Rev. Charles P.	95

OBITUARY—(continued).	
Baillie, Sir James Black	159
Bayles, Mr. Herbert Laurence	171
Best, Admiral the Hon. Sir Matthew	265
Bowen, Mrs.	69
Bryson, Mr. Robert 195, 206, 216, 228,	263
Burt, Dr. Albert Hamilton	278
Chandler, Sir William	151
Charley, Mr. Edwin	187
Christian, Mr. George J.	163
Cipriani, Mr. Albert H.	265
Clark, Colonel W. E.	44
Clementi, Miss Cecily Joyce	301
Coffin, Captain T. R.	69
Conyers, Dr. J. H.	45
Cox, Mr. E. T.	111
Craib, Mr. W. W.	60
Davidson-Houston, Mrs. Annie Henrietta	207
Day, Mr. F. W.	161
De Freitas, Sir Anthony	240
Eliot, Mr. E. C.	10
Fitzpatrick, Mr. Alexander	207
Flood, Mr. J. E. W.	111
Gamble, Mrs. R. S.	280
Garvey, Mr. Marcus	195
Gibson, Mrs. Isabella 19, 71	71
Harding-Finlayson, Captain M.	22
Hopwood, Mr. Alexander	33
Innes, Mrs. Robert	256
Jackson, Mr. Thomas Beddard	187
Lamb, Mr. Charles Herbert	111
Latreille, Mrs. E. F.	21
Lee, Mr. Donald	187
Lethem, Mr. Alexander J.	7
Lumb, Lady (Sara Martha)	301
Lynch, Dr. George William Augustus	83
Malcolm, Major M. de W.	20
Marler, Hon. Sir Herbert	31
McLaverty, Miss Edith	33
Messum, Captain F. F. C. 289, 300	300
Michelin, Mr. Victor A.	149
Napier, Captain Lennox	87
Nichols, Mrs. Esther	21
O'Brien, Dr. A. J. R.	69
Phillips, Mrs. John	278
Reid, Mrs. R. S.	278
Samuel, Mr. Henry Solomon	138
Schapringer, Mr. Ignatius	83
Service, Mr. George W.	256
Sequeira, Mr. B. A.	240
Slater, Sir Ransford	111
Smith, Mrs. Harold Hamel	43
Stephens, Mr. John Walker	304
Stuart, Mr. G. Moody 151, 158, 163, 170,	250
Sturridge, Mr. Hubert Galway	208
Swaby, Rev. Canon S. A.	122
Sweet-Escott, Miss Kathleen	159
Swingler, Mr. W. T. 7, 71, 173	173
Thurston, Mrs.	151
Tibbits, Mr. A. C. K.	46
Tritton, Mr. H. L. M.	289
Vaz, Mr. D. C.	20
Verity, The Rev. H. B.	46
Vickers, Mr. Alfred Ernest Albert	107
Wright, Dr. Blackwood	111
Wright-Nooth, Captain Rodney	163

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE—	
Adam, Flying Officer W. W.	98
Comfort, Sub-Lieut. J. S. G.	45
Dancer, Sergeant-Pilot E. A.	278
Rhodes, Pilot Officer R. A.	228
Rhys-Pryce, Mr. Mervyn ap.	195
Sewell, 2nd-Lieut. D. W. B.	174
Souchon, Captain L. J. G.	142
Swain, Wing-Commander O. B.	256
Wilcoxon, Sub-Lieutenant, R. O.	163
Oil, World Production of	188
Oranges, Price Control of	139
O'Reilly, Hon. H. A. O.	56
O'Reilly, Sir Lennox, Return to Trinidad of	7

	PAGE		PAGE
PAN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE		STOCKDALE, Sir Frank—	
Pan American Conference ...	230	Appointed Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund ...	165
Parkinson, Sir Cosmo ...	196, 250	Entertained by West Indian Club ...	213, 215
Passenger Fares, Increase in ...	145	Sails for West Indies ...	249
Pilgrim Trust ...	219	Stollmeyer, Mr. Victor H. ...	7
Plant Insecticides ...	160	Stubbs, Sir Edward ...	127, 158
Popham, Sir Henry ...	209	SUGAR—	
Princess Royal, The ...	107	1896 and 1938, Estimated Percentages Compared ...	89
Publications: Importation into the West Indies ...	191, 247	British Guiana Varieties ...	279
Puerto Rico, Agricultural Problems in ...	266	British Sugar Corporation, Profits of ...	208
	239	Canadian Regulations ...	16
		Cane Fertilizers ...	302
		Cane Moth Borer in 1775 ...	76
		Colonial Preference ...	162
		Colonial Sugar Certificates ...	170
		Colonial Sugar Committee, New Secretary of ...	43
		Costs, Risk of Rising ...	59
		Cuban Exports ...	265
		Duty ...	30, 31
		Empire Policy ...	59
		First British Planter ...	168
		Freight Rate of ...	7
		Government Purchase of West Indian ...	39, 125
		Health Value of ...	235
		Home Beet in War Time ...	208
		Imports into United Kingdom ...	162
		India and the International Sugar Council ...	195
		Indian Production ...	232
		Label Action ...	242
		Marine Insurance on ...	172
		Price Increase ...	125
		Production Costs ...	134
		Production in the West Indies ...	59, 75
		Ration, The ...	235
		Special Preference Quotas ...	134
		Trinidad Wages and Price Committee Report ...	244
		War Time Position ...	66
		West Indian Exports	62, 110, 135, 159, 206, 263, 277, 286
		West Indian, Government Statement ...	116
		World's Crop Estimates ...	47
		Sutton, Mr. S. W. P. Foster, Appointed Attorney-General of Cyprus ...	44
		Sweet Potato Starch, Uses for ...	198
		TALBOT, Mr. C. H. V., Appointed Colonial Secretary,	
		Grenada ...	171
		Teak for Paper ...	280
		Tempany, Dr. H. A., Appointed Agricultural Adviser to Secretary of State for the Colonies ...	232, 249
		Thorley, Mr. C. H. ...	107
		Timber Resources in the West Indies ...	101, 108
		Tobacco Duties, New ...	212
		TOBAGO—	
		Agricultural Conditions in ...	5
		Bishop of Trinidad, Visit of the ...	45
		Governor and Lady Young in ...	268
		Juvenile Farm Club ...	57
		Scarborough Harbour Improvements ...	258
		Trade ...	30
		Wakefield, Mr. A. J., In ...	280
		TRINIDAD—	
		Agricultural Conditions in ...	5
		Agricultural Society ...	34, 45
		Annual Report for 1939 ...	243
		Arsenic in Imported Sugar, Rumours ...	34
		Banana Ships carry Citrus Fruit ...	45
		Bauxite Shipping Depot in ...	293
		Boy Scouts and Blood Transfusion ...	8
		Butler, Uriah, Detention of ...	147
		Cane Farming in ...	17
		Censorship of Books ...	139
		Central Library ...	120
		Chamber of Commerce ...	107, 122
		Citrus Industry, Threat to ...	247
		Cocoa Export Regulations ...	57
		Cocoa Exports for 1937-39 ...	73
QUEEN, H.M. The, Receives Mobile Canteens ...	307		
RACE, Mr. J. D., Retirement of ...	313		
Red Cross and St. John Flag Day ...	313		
Red Cross and St. John War Fund ...	205, 288		
Red Cross Movement, Origin of ...	228		
Red Cross, Special Needs of ...	238		
Research Advisory Committee, Colonial ...	74		
Roger, Sir Alexander ...	148, 219		
Roosevelt, President, in the West Indies ...	303, 310		
Ross Institute Annual Report ...	17		
Royal Commission Recommendations, West India	37, 49, 50, 53, 61, 63, 65, 79, 89, 93, 94, 108		
Royal Commission Report on West Indies: Received by Government ...	48		
Rubber from Potatoes ...	279		
RUM—			
Duty on, New ...	104		
Jamaica-Type in Puerto Rico ...	305		
Propaganda Committee ...	101, 193, 259		
Publicity ...	9, 18, 101, 259, 271		
Verses ...	10, 30, 75		
SACCHARINE Import Duty ...	30		
ST. KITTS—			
Administrator, Mr. J. D. Harford appointed ...	77		
Cost of Living in ...	162		
Cotton Exports, Levy on ...	72		
Labour Dispute in ...	150		
Rainfall in 1939 ...	56		
Sugar Cane Control ...	72		
ST. LUCIA—			
Agricultural Report for 1939 ...	255		
Banana Association, Report of ...	208		
Cocoa Export Licences ...	138		
Cocoa: Export to U.K. Regulations ...	44		
Coco-nut Oil Industry ...	98		
Cold Storage Plant ...	33		
Income Tax Anomaly ...	162		
Limes Association ...	305		
Sugar Crop Finished ...	210		
Trades Disputes Bill ...	316		
ST. VINCENT—			
Arrowroot Industry ...	110		
Banana Sales ...	98, 110		
Child Labour Prohibited in ...	268		
Export Duties Increased ...	34		
Food Crops for Local Consumption ...	98		
Labour Legislation in ...	304		
Salt as a Heat-Stroke Preventive ...	231		
Schools and the Colonies ...	75		
Semper, Hon. D. H. ...	56		
Shepherd, Very Rev. H. Y. ...	207		
Shooting Competitions ...	16		
Smart, Dr. A. G. H., Appointed Medical Adviser to Secretary of State for the Colonies ...	301		
Snell, Lord, Broadcast on the British Empire by ...	15		
Soil Fertility, Maintenance of ...	223, 264		
STAMPS—			
Appeal for ...	164		
World's Rarest ...	218		

	PAGE
TRINIDAD—(continued)	
Cocoa Exports in 1940	118, 164
Cocoa Committee's Report	283, 290
Cocoa Quota Increase	70
Cocoa Subsidy	162
Cost of Living in	234, 293, 304
Cunard, Sir Edward, Appointed Private Secretary to Governor	135
Disturbances in	7
East Indians in	197
Economic Report	118
Electricity Supply	100
Food Crops	98
Food Regulations	87
Gibson, Mr. Leslie, Appointed Attorney General	185
Governor's Island Resort	21
Governor's Speech	91
Grant, Mr. T. Geddes, Memorial to	234
History and Art Exhibition	258
Illegal Assembly in	120
Income Tax	22
Labour Adviser, Assistant, Resignation of	83
Labour Dispute	48
Land Settlement in	211
Light Aeroplane Club	8, 98, 110, 149
Medical Officer, Dr. H. P. S. Gillette appointed	19
New Air Route to	268
New Constitution, Governor on	316
Oilfields Agreement	27
Population of	197
Paper Pulp Industry	110
Paralytic Rabies Disappears	139
Praedial Larceny, The Governor and	110
Public Health in	122
Queen's Royal College	149
Railway, Diesel Locomotive for Government	110
Smith, Lieut.-Colonel D. Gordon	56
Soil Conservation in	198
Sugar Board and Committees Appointed	81
Sugar Cane Farming	87
Sugar Quotas	17
Teak in	210, 280
Trade	30, 222
Trade Unions in	174
United States Defence Bases in	275
Unrest and Distress	112
Wages Committee Report	244
Working Girls Hostel	22
Young, Sir Hubert, Leaves by Air for Washington	301
Tropical Air Conditioning	246
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS—	
New Commissioner Assumes Office	139
Salt Exports	139
VEGETABLES for Export, Waxing of	
	315
VIRGIN ISLANDS—	
Tobacco Growing in	112
Vital Statistics	289
WAKEFIELD, Mr. A. J.	
	128, 265
WAR, THE WEST INDIES AND THE—	
Antigua	16, 40, 66, 115, 150, 155, 167, 203, 217, 227, 261, 277, 287, 297
Bahamas	28, 40, 104, 150, 155, 167, 179, 191, 203, 204, 237, 251, 261, 287, 309
Barbados	16, 66, 84, 92, 104, 155, 167, 191, 203, 204, 227, 237, 251, 261, 287, 297
Bermuda	128, 150, 155, 203, 248, 261, 287, 309
British Guiana	4, 16, 28, 40, 66, 115, 155, 167, 179, 191, 203, 217, 251, 261, 277
British Honduras	4, 28, 180, 191, 203, 227, 251, 276, 297, 309
Call to the Colonies	141 ^e
Chagres, Sinking of the	43
Clothes for Air-Raid Victims	228, 238
Dominica	4, 203, 204, 251

	PAGE
WAR, THE WEST INDIES AND THE—(continued).	
Empire Review Articles	195, 277, 288
Financial Aid and Gifts from	13
Financial Gifts: Best Mode of Remittance	252
Gifts for the Forces	9, 58, 68, 69, 84, 103, 125
Grenada	28, 40, 92, 128, 145, 192, 203, 204, 237, 297
Guide to Comfort Requirements	262
Inverdargle, Sinking of the	19
Jamaica	7, 16, 31, 40, 92, 103, 104, 128, 150, 155, 180, 192, 203, 204, 218, 222, 227, 237, 251, 261, 273, 287, 297, 309
King George's Fund for Sailors	92, 104
Leeward Islands	40, 167, 203
List of Those in Forces	7, 14, 19, 42, 69, 83, 115, 128, 155, 179, 192, 217, 237, 273, 298
Lloyd, Lord: Despatch to Governors	141
Montserrat	167, 204, 287
Princess Royal, Message from	247
Princess Royal visits War Services Depot	191
Recruits for the R.A.F.	287 ^a
St. Kitts-Nevis	116, 128, 167, 203, 204, 251, 261, 297
St. Lucia	28, 116, 155, 180, 203, 218, 227, 237, 287
St. Vincent	16, 28, 128, 155, 167, 201, 237, 261, 297
Summary of Gifts	203 ^a
Tobago	4, 16, 28, 66, 84, 92, 128, 156, 168, 203, 218, 227, 287
Tracing of those Missing	244
Trinidad	4, 16, 21, 28, 31, 45, 66, 84, 92, 103, 128, 150, 155, 167, 180, 192, 203, 205, 218, 227, 237, 251, 261, 273, 287, 297, 309
Virgin Islands	203
Voluntary Work for the Forces	262 ^a
Volunteers	259
Wardlaw, Dr. C. W., New Appointment of	83
Watson, Captain W. F., Visit to Jamaica	316
West African Cocoa, Destruction of	175, 211
West India Association of Glasgow	314
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE—	
Additional Deputy Chairman, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman appointed	3
Annual General Meeting	143
Annual Report for 1939	129
Cocoa Quota Representations	70, 77
Jamaica Standing Committee Report	158
Ladies War Services Committee, Report of	181
Library, Presentations to	106, 244
Members, Election of	4, 18, 39, 68, 106, 133, 158, 183, 263, 286
Murray, Mr. Cecil W., Elected Member of Executive Committee	68
New Year Message from Chairman	1
Notice of Annual Meeting	101, 113
Officers, Election of	158
Officers Received by Lord Lloyd	145
Osmond, Mr. George P., Fortieth Anniversary of	39
Passenger Service to and from West Indies	65
Removal of Records	312
Royal Commission Recommendations	68
Rules, Alteration to	301
Silver Candelabra Presented by Mrs. Alice Lubbock	4
Souness, Mr. Thomas, Appointed Assistant Secretary	158
Stubbs, Sir Edward, Elected Member of Executive Committee	127, 158
War Services Committee	9, 103, 125, 156, 177, 180, 181, 262
War Services Fund	18, 28, 39, 92, 168, 252
West Indian Club: Stockdale, Sir Frank, Entertained	213, 215
West Indian Exports and Imports	123
West Indian Rainfall in 1939	254
Windsor, Duke of	165, 177, 205, 219, 277, 310
WINDWARD ISLANDS—	
Cocoa Quota Increased	70
Supreme Court, Establishment of	30
YELLOW Fever, Possible Spread of	
	245

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

SIGNED CONTRIBUTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

	PAGE		PAGE
Braemar	9	Smith, Donald	164, 208
Burdon, Lady, O.B.E.	6	Stuart, Mark S. Moody	250
Cobbe, H. N. G.	198	Thwaites, N. G.	96
Cruickshank, J. Graham	276	Warner, Sir Pelham	221, 231
Irvine, Terence	20		

ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE		PAGE
British Convoy seen from the Air	26	Princess Royal visits War Services Depot	190
British Guiana : Rupununi District	27	Rum Advertisements	15
Convoy Control Base	214	Rum Ration on a North Sea Minesweeper	9
Evening Scene on the River Avon	2	St. Lucia : Washing Day in	3
Felling for Pit Props in the Forest of Dean	14	Stockdale, Sir Frank	249
First-Aid Post in Hampstead, Some of the Staff of a	6	Stubbs, Sir Edward	63
Freeman, Mr. H. J. J.	3	Tempany, Dr. H. A.	249
JAMAICA—		Tobago : Through the Coco-Nuts at Bacolet	3
Greeting Card from	58	West India War Services Committee Certificate	103
Plaque to Commemorate Gift of Bombers	309	Windsor, Duke of, Being Sworn in as Governor of the	
Red Cross Ambulance given by	31	Bahamas	215
Moyne, Lord	53		

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CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE	
LEADING ARTICLE—			
HOLLAND'S WEST INDIA COM- MITTEE	1	WEST INDIANS ON SERVICE	7
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	2	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	8
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE	3	CORRESPONDENCE	9
SETTLEMENT IN BRITISH GUIANA	4	RUM IN PUBLIC FAVOUR	9
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	4	GIFTS FOR THE FORCES	9
AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS	5	OBITUARY	10
WITH FIRST-AID POST IN HAMPSTEAD	6	FAREWELL TO BRITISH HONDURAS	10
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN IN- TEREST	7	WEST INDIES FILMS	10
		COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS	11
		ROUND THE MARKETS	12

TO all readers of the CIRCULAR, overseas and at home, the West India Committee in London sends its good wishes for 1940 and joins in the confident hope that the New Year will bring victory to our cause and restore peace and goodwill among the nations.

While watching with pride the patriotic response of all classes in the Colonies to the national emergency, the Committee is working ceaselessly to further the war effort of the Empire and to ensure that the prestige and economic strength of the Caribbean Colonies are maintained so that they can continue to play their full part in the struggle in which we are all engaged.

Ivan Dawson

Holland's West India Committee

THE destinies of England and Holland in the field of colonial development have been, from the earliest times, inextricably interwoven. In each case, a desire for the extension of trade, implemented by the spirit of enterprise of a sea-faring people, has resulted in the creation of a Colonial Empire.

In the West Indies, the energies of Englishmen, Dutchmen and Frenchmen of courage and initiative, were, in early days, directed towards the disruption of the trade monopolies enjoyed by Spain and Portugal in the New World. It was inevitable that nations pursuing identical ends and inspired by the same spirit should often have been rivals and, at times, enemies. It is none the less true that each of the three great invading nations benefited by the efforts of the other two in their opening up of the West Indian trade. If England has her DRAKE, Holland has her PIET HEIN, whose great exploit of capturing the Spanish treasure fleet in 1628 gave a final blow to Spain's tottering monopoly of the West Indian trade. Such victories as these made possible the work of constructive commercial develop-

ment promoted by such far-seeing Dutch statesmen as WILLIAM USSELINX. USSELINX saw that the trade of the Netherlands in the West Indies must go hand in hand with colonial enterprise if it was to survive and it was owing to his initiative and foresight that the Dutch West India Company was founded in 1621. Trade and not conquest became the chief concern of Dutch enterprise in the Caribbean and, with the capture of Curaçao in 1634, Holland obtained not only a centre of power but also a permanent base for her commercial operations in the West Indies. Curaçao, moreover, became, as did Surinam on the mainland of South America, a home for permanent settlers from the Netherlands and an integral part of a great democratic Empire based, like our own, upon the principles of freedom and justice for all the peoples within its borders, whatever may be their race or creed.

Now, a little over three hundred years after the capture of Curaçao, a body corresponding to the West India Committee has been set up in Holland to promote trade between the Dutch West Indies and the Mother Country. We have now received notification from the Secretary of this body, MR. S. M. S. REITSMA, that the West India Committee of the Netherlands (Economische Stichting West Indie Nederland) was officially instituted on November 11th, 1939, under the Presidency of DR. L. N. DECKERS, a former Minister of War and of Agriculture and a member of the House of Representatives. DR. DECKERS, on a visit to the Dutch West Indies some months ago, was impressed by the need and scope for an extension of the existing economic relations between those colonies and the Netherlands. With this conclusion, DR. DECKERS found that MR. REITSMA, then Director of the Surinam Bank in Paramaribo, was in entire agreement. These gentlemen and others of like mind therefore exerted themselves to bring about the formation of a Committee designed to promote trade between Holland and the West Indian Colonies and their efforts have now been crowned with success.

In the early stages of the formation of this association, the West India Committee was consulted in order that its experience (covering as it does a period of nearly two centuries) might be available for the guidance of the founders of the similar body in the Netherlands. The West India Committee has been only too happy to be able to assist in this matter and it extends to the newly formed Committee in Holland its best wishes for a long career of prosperity and usefulness in the important work of promoting the interests of the Dutch West Indies which lies ahead of it.

From a Londoner's Notebook

ALTHOUGH some reconstruction of the Government was known to be probable, the impending departure of Mr. Hore-Belisha from the War Office was the best-kept political secret of recent times. Indeed it is said that only Sir John Simon—the very embodiment of discretion—knew in advance of the Prime Minister's intention. I write before either Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Hore-Belisha has given any public explanation—the former may do so in his speech at the Mansion House on January 9th, the latter when Parliament meets the following week—, but it is necessary to say that the first reception of the announcement has been decidedly unfavourable.

* * *

Mr. Hore-Belisha has enjoyed a great popular reputation as, with Mr. Churchill, one of the most vigorous personalities in the War Cabinet, of which he was the youngest member. At the War Office, besides presiding over the immense revolution involved in the change from a wholly volunteer to a mainly conscript army, he has been especially associated with the opening of the avenues of advancement both to youth and to humble birth. He has promoted young generals, Lord Gort chief among them, over the heads of their seniors; and he has made service in the ranks the normal avenue to a commission.

* * *

These and other drastic innovations were bound to make enemies. Though the published correspondence between the retiring minister and his chief is icy in tone, the fact that an alternative office in the Government was offered, though refused, seems to prove the sincerity of both when they say that they have parted through no difference on policy. To that extent the prevailing opinion, that friction between Mr. Hore-Belisha and the generals has convinced Mr. Chamberlain that a change was necessary, though it is based on mere guesswork, seems reasonable. If that is so, it may be hoped that the persons concerned may continue to keep their own counsel, for differences between the civilian and military authorities of the army, which presumably relate to questions of high strategy, are not a matter on which we wish to take the enemy into our confidence.

* * *

Mr. Oliver Stanley, who comes from the Board of Trade to take Mr. Hore-Belisha's place, is another young man, who has a considerable reputation as an administrator but has been rather retiring in Parliament. He has the interesting experience of taking over the office held by his father, Lord Derby, in the last war, and it is in his favour that he has already been denounced over the Nazi wireless as an enemy of German *Lebensraum* in the Baltic.

* * *

Two men are brought into the Government from outside politics, and will have to be found seats in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. Sir Andrew Duncan goes to the Board of Trade with a great industrial reputation, gained in many fields, including

steel, iron, and shipping, besides having gained experience of public administration as Coal Controller in 1919 and 1920.

* * *

Sir John Reith takes over the Ministry of Information from Lord Macmillan, who leaves that much-criticized department, not because he is thought to be personally in any way to blame for its many shortcomings, but because, as a peer, he cannot meet in the House of Commons the innumerable attacks on its work. Sir John is, of course, the man who built up the British Broadcasting Corporation to its present position. He is known as one of the most commanding, not to say dictatorial, personages in public life; and he is likely to be as masterful in answering his critics in the House as in reforming his department from within.

* * *

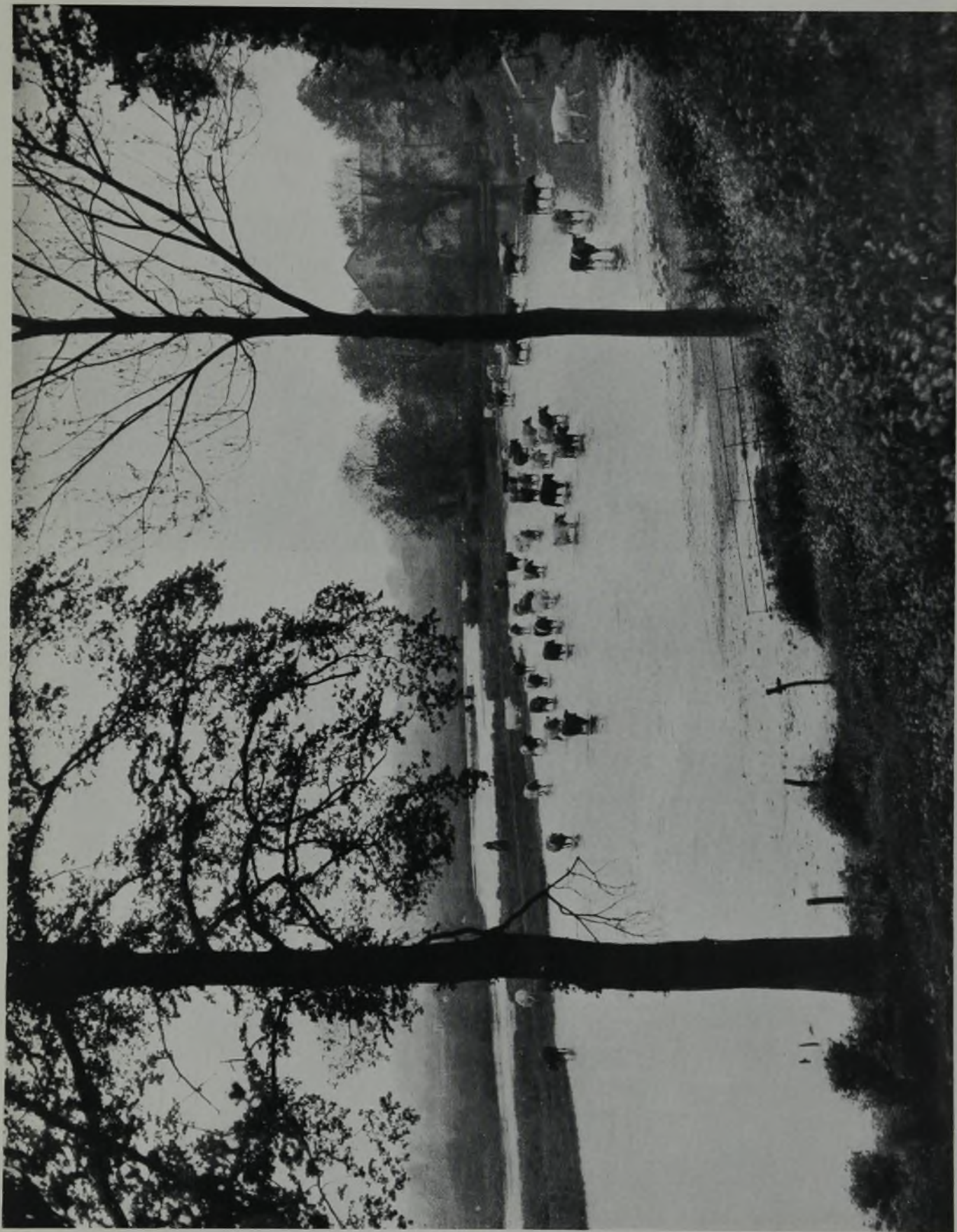
Food rationing of the civil population begins this week, although unofficially the shops have for some time been limiting supplies to their customers. At the moment the only restrictions are on sugar, of which we are allowed weekly three-quarters of a pound per head, butter, and bacon or ham, for each of which the ration is four ounces. Meat will be rationed in due course, but at present neither the amount nor the date has been announced. The limitations are being brought into force much earlier than in the last war, but this does not imply any serious lack of the commodities rationed. There are two essential purposes of the scheme. The first is to keep down to a minimum the strain on our shipping and foreign exchange caused by the need to import food. The second is to ensure that, where supplies are not unlimited, all classes shall share alike, and avoid the danger that the competition of the rich in the market may force up prices against the poor.

* * *

The New Year has begun with a Proclamation calling on all men from the age of 19 to 28 to register for military service. By the Act passed in September all from 18 to 41 are liable. Those from 20 to 23 have already been called up. None of those coming under the new categories are to join the colours immediately; it is understood that the new Proclamation is intended to provide in advance for the estimated requirements of the whole year 1940. They will be called on for training, group by group, according to the capacity of the military establishments to absorb them; in particular the nineteen-year-olds, now registered for the first time, will not start their training till their twentieth birthday. The effect of the Proclamation, if it is brought fully into effect during the year, and allowing for the large numbers who are reserved as indispensable in their civilian employment, will be to increase the army by about a million and a half men.

* * *

In spite of the demands of compulsory service it is remarkable to find that the army's intake of volunteers since the outbreak of war has been greater than in the corresponding period of 1914.



EVENING SCENE ON THE RIVER AVON



WASHING DAY IN ST. LUCIA



THROUGH THE COCO-NUTS AT BACOLET, TOBAGO

[From photographs by Mr. S. J. Hayward

The West India Committee

Its Officers and its Work

FEW organisations are fortunate enough to receive such a wealth of honorary services as the West India Committee does from its officers and the members of its Standing Committees and Executive, and those services are sometimes in danger of being taken for granted. Apart from the call of private business, the work of the Committee is increasing, and a wider spread of responsibility has become necessary and is, indeed, no more than reasonable.

In the summer of 1939, Mr. J. Gordon Miller intimated that, on medical advice, he must take things less strenuously, and that he could not continue to fill the deputy chairmanship of the West India Committee to his own satisfaction. At the request of the Executive, and to the great relief of his colleagues and others who are familiar with the services which he is rendering he consented to continue in office if one of the treasurers were associated with him in his work in support of the chairman. Mr. H. J. J. Freeman was accordingly asked by the Executive to assist in this way, and has continued to give ungrudgingly of his time, particularly to the financial side of the Committee—a task rendered more complex and more arduous in a year of change and transition.

This appointment is now "de facto" as well as "de jure," for the Lord President of the Council, under the power conferred on him by the Chartered and Other Bodies (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1939, has granted permission for the West India Committee to appoint an additional deputy chairman, as a temporary war measure, thus obviating an alteration in its Royal Charter, a process which, in war time, is scarcely practicable. Thus on December 19th, 1939, the Executive unanimously confirmed Mr. H. J. J. Freeman in this appointment.

Furthermore, at a meeting of the treasurers earlier in December, Sir Alfred Sherlock, who for ten years had presided at such meetings, stated that on doctor's orders he was compelled, though with great reluctance, to relinquish some of his responsibilities. It is a source of great satisfaction to the committee that Sir Alfred will remain one of the treasurers even though he is unable to act as their chairman. It was unanimously agreed that, in his stead, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman should preside over treasurers' meetings in future and no appointment could be more appropriate as he has, for many years, played a prominent part in the affairs of the West India Committee.

Educated at Harrow and Cambridge, and a chartered accountant, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman has long been connected with Jonas Browne & Son, Ltd., of which he is a director, and with A. Hubbard & Co., Ltd., of Grenada as managing director. His interests in Grenada, which he visits frequently, are many and varied. In particular he is a leading authority on matters affecting the cocoa industry and has had practical experience of plantation management.

THE MONTHLY EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee was held on December 19th under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson.

A recommendation by the treasurers that the Committee's authorised overdraft be increased to £4,000 in view of the exceptionally heavy expenditure during



Mr. H. J. J. Freeman

1939, was adopted. The cost of the move to 40, Norfolk Street, estimated at £1,000, would be charged to income spread over five years.

It was learned with satisfaction that as a result of representations made to the Colonial Office, the Advisory Committee on Cocoa set up to assist the Ministry of Food would include a representative of West Indian interests.

Proposals by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd., regarding cost of production were discussed, and, in connexion with the Canadian Preference Pool, it was reported that the representatives of the West India Committee were holding meetings with the representatives of Australia, South Africa, Fiji and Mauritius and that arrangements for participation were proceeding satisfactorily on the basis proposed by the West India Committee.

Other important subjects discussed included Jamaica

Trade Representation, marine insurance, and the activities of the War Services Committees.

Votes of thanks were passed to Sir Algernon Aspinall for the gift of a labourer's token from the Picton Estate, and to Mrs. Alice Lubbock for the gift of a silver candelabra. This candelabra was presented by the West India Committee in 1903 to Sir Nevile Lubbock, and his son, the late Mr. Arthur Nevile Lubbock, had expressed the wish that, on his death, it should be offered to the original donors.

The following candidates were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MISS KATE MARJORIE ARTHUR (London)	{ Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller. Mr. J. W. Pearl.
CAPTAIN T. DOWDALL HAMPSON (Country)	{ Mr. M. S. Moody Stuart, M.C. Mr. Thomas Greenwood.
MRS. ETHEL M. SADLER (Country)	{ Mr. J. Gordon Miller. Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc.
MR. HERBERT ROWLAND FERRIER WATSON (London)	{ Mr. R. W. Jerratt. Mr. Harold de Pass.
MR. JOSEPH WHITWORTH (Country)	{ Mr. W. H. Zimmern. Mr. C. H. Kirtton.
MR. GEORGE DE NOBRIGA (Trinidad)	{ Mr. G. O. M. O'Reilly Mr. Gordon Forbes.
MR. REGINALD SWIRE HAUGHTON (Trinidad)	{ Mr. C. V. Espeut, M.Inst.C.E. Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) (Trinidad).
MR. GEORGE STANLEY EMTAGE (London)	{ Mr. George H. Hunte. Mr. George Inniss.

Settlement in British Guiana

Lecture by Sir Geoffrey Evans

The possibilities of agricultural settlement in the Rupununi District of British Guiana will be dealt with in a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, to be given by Sir Geoffrey Evans on Thursday, February 1st, to the Planters' Group of the Royal Empire Society.

Sir Geoffrey, formerly the Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, was one of the additional members nominated by the British Government to accompany the United States Commission which visited British Guiana during the past winter to investigate the possibilities of making the Colony one of the homes for Jewish Refugees.

The Planters' Group, of which Sir Harry Lindsay is President and Mr. W. G. Freeman, Chairman, has extended an invitation to any members of the West India Committee who may wish to attend. The lecture will be preceded by tea at 4 p.m. Any further particulars will be supplied by Mr. E. A. Andrews, the Hon. Secretary of the Group, Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

The present issue is the first number of Volume LV of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. Copies of the Title Page and Index of Volume LIV will soon be obtainable by subscribers post free from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.

Cases for binding Volume LIV can be supplied post free for 4/- each. Subscribers can have their own CIRCULARS bound for the inclusive charge of 7/6 on sending them, carriage paid, to the Secretary.

The West Indies and the War

BRITISH GUIANA

Food in War Time. Professor J. S. Dash, the Director of Agriculture, prefaces the special Food Production Number of the Farm Journal of British Guiana with a message to estate proprietors, rice millers and all classes of cultivators. After pointing out that imported food is more difficult to get in war time owing to increased demands for the troops and the need of conserving stocks, also that prices will rise due to increased freight, exchange rates and handling charges.

Professor Dash states that the Colony can and indeed should feed itself. He makes an earnest appeal to all connected with the land to provide every facility for its fullest use, and expresses the hope that this crisis may serve to bring home to all classes of farmers and cultivators the fact that it is good business, even in normal times, "to live more off the land and less out of the shop." The Journal describes food production organization and gives very useful information of the commoner food crops and how their products may be used, either in themselves, or as substitutes for other substances which are normally imported into the Colony.

BRITISH HONDURAS

War Surtax on Incomes. Under Ordinance No. 18 of 1939, an additional war surtax will be imposed in respect of the year of assessment commencing January 1st, 1939. On chargeable incomes up to \$3,000 the surtax will be 25 per cent. of the amount of the income tax; from \$3,001 to \$4,000, 33½ per cent.; \$4,001 to \$5,000, 50 per cent.; \$5,001 to \$6,000, 66⅔ per cent.; and on chargeable incomes exceeding \$6,000, 75 per cent. The surtax will also be 75 per cent. on the chargeable income of every company. The ordinance will continue in force until December 31st of the year next following the year in which the present war terminates.

DOMINICA

Export Licences. Until further notice an open licence is granted to export plantation products (oranges, limes and lime products) to the United Kingdom and for cocoa, as well as the above, to Bermuda and the West Indian islands. For the export of other articles licences should be applied for.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Governor on Two Duties. In a Christmas message to the people of the Colony published in the Trinidad Guardian Christmas Magazine, the Governor said "we have two duties before us in the coming year, one to do all we can to see that our own social and domestic affairs are not neglected because of the war, and the other to do all we can to help in its successful prosecution."

Sir Herbert added that he put home duty first because "we ought to regard the war as a blessing in disguise and take advantage of it to learn how we may do our duty better by our fellow men. This we can do by voluntary service and increased liberality in the social sphere. To help in the prosecution of the war we must cheerfully and readily undergo any privations and discomforts that the war may bring remembering all those who by death, wounds or bereavement will be contributing so much more than we are asked to do."

Agricultural Conditions

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

VERY unfavourable weather conditions and distressingly low prices caused the value of the agricultural exports of the Colony in 1938 to drop to £1,814,402 compared with £2,329,782 in the preceding year. Mr. E. J. Wortley, the Director of Agriculture, in his annual report places the financial difficulties of producers in true perspective by the following comparison of the prices of the three staple crops for four periods dating back to 1911-13.

	COCOA Per bag (165 lb.)	SUGAR Per ton f.o.b.	COPRA Per ton f.o.b.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pre-war (1911-13)	19 29	14 10 0	21 7 6
Boom Years (1919-21)	33 15	30 7 0	40 12 6
Pre-Depression (1926-28)	21 00	15 10 0	21 0 10
Current (1938)	10 06	8 9 0	9 0 0*

* Local price, not f.o.b., includes 25 per cent. bonus.

As he says, it is not unreasonable that primary producers should feel that they have a claim to higher prices today than obtained prior to 1914, in view of the fact that since then the cost of living, of labour and of supplies have all increased.

The sugar production was 133,627 tons, a little more than 20,000 below that of 1937, due primarily to exceptional rains during the crop season. This reduction and a fall in the price of grey crystals from £9 2s. 6d. to £7 10s. resulted in a drop of some £240,000 in the value of sugar exported.

The plight of the cocoa industry was even worse, because, although exports exceeded those of 1937 by over 16 million pounds, their value was actually £149,522 less. The continuance of these low prices is particularly serious in reference to the witchbroom disease. Mr. Wortley points out that the crop at Marper Estate, the original focus of infection, reached its highest yield since the property was taken over by the Government in 1929. This, he says, points to the fact that witchbroom can be kept within reasonable check provided funds are available. The amount required is not more than \$3 to \$5 per acre but the prevailing low prices for cocoa do not allow the necessary control measures on the majority of estates. This vital question, which is dealt with in detail by Dr. F. J. Pound in his divisional report as Agronomist, will form the subject of a future note, as also the very important data he gives on the replacement of poor bearing trees.

The coco-nut industry has also suffered badly. The exports of nuts, copra and oil, converted into terms of nuts, were approximately 32 million with a value of £49,000, compared with 58 million valued at £136,000 in the preceding year.

Limes and lime products showed a fall in value from £54,000 to £35,000, and coffee had one of its poor cropping seasons. The banana exports were almost halved, at 80,000 bunches, largely due to over 51,000 bunches not being shipped owing to lack of space, although purchased. Cercospora leaf spot is the main factor in preventing expansion. Tonka bean growers had compensation for a smaller crop in increased prices; exports of 52,656 lb. realizing £17,463. The one redeeming feature in a gloomy year was provided

by the grapefruit industry which with exports of 79,660 boxes of the value of £66,300 surpassed its previous 1935 record of 51,119 boxes valued at £42,473.

There are many other matters of interest in the report which space does not permit dealing with now. It should be mentioned however that in order to link still further the Government Farm with the development of the livestock industry of the Colony a Live Stock Officer was appointed to encourage stock rearing by small holders and disseminate information regarding the best methods of management.

DOMINICA

In his Report for 1938 on the Agricultural Department of Dominica, Mr. F. G. Harcourt says that agricultural operations, crop production and the transport of produce were all adversely affected by extreme weather conditions. Very dry conditions in April and May caused serious fruit shedding, and exceptionally wet conditions from June to September made cultural operations difficult or at times even impossible. Transport conditions were frequently rendered more difficult than usual by flooding, damage to bridges and minor landslides.

Although the quantity of agricultural produce exported showed an increase over that of the previous year, the total export value was slightly less.

The upward trend in the output of limes which has been taking place in areas re-established in recent years with budded plants was maintained, resulting in an increase of about 20 per cent. The decline, however, in the market value of some of the chief lime products cannot but have serious repercussions on the agricultural community and on the entire Presidency, and the situation thus created urgently calls for full and frank co-operation between lime growers in all the British Caribbean Colonies in the marketing of their produce.

During the year an important step was taken in the appointment of a Peasants' Adviser, whose time is exclusively devoted to the improvement of peasant agriculture and the extension of peasant industries. The duties of the banana inspectors were also modified so as to make more general use of their services in the improvement of peasant agricultural work.

Mr. Harcourt records with gratification the formation of a Dominica Lime Growers Association, and of the Northern District Fruit Growers Association as registering an advance towards the manifestation of that spirit of general co-operation among growers which is so essential for their welfare and progress.

There was evidence of further increased production of bananas during the year, but the higher standard of fruit demanded and the consequent more rigid selection practised by the Canadian Banana Co. offset the increased production, the total number of bunches purchased by the company being almost identical with that of the previous year. Much work of an educational nature yet remains to be done in the cultural treatment and handling of bananas to ensure acceptance by the company of a high percentage of stems, but difficulties of transport, Panama and leaf spot diseases are important limiting factors in further expansion.

With a First-Aid Post in Hampstead

By LADY BURDON, O.B.E.

A GREAT deal of criticism has appeared in the Press and elsewhere about the extravagance and muddle of the A.R.P. work in London. As Commandant of the largest First Aid Post in the North-West District, I can only say that I was astonished at the ease with which the whole organization got to work on the outbreak of war and at the marvellous response of the voluntary workers. Of course, it all seemed a muddle to a great number of people who were merely onlookers, but at least I can say that had we had the air raids that were expected within a few hours of the declaration of war we should have been quite ready here to deal with the casualties.

We were luckier than some other Posts as we took over the first two floors of a children's hospital, an easier proposition for us than for those who had to make use of empty school buildings. The fact too that I am a fully trained nurse myself and had had experience in France during the last war made the organization, routine and discipline of the Post a more or less easy matter.

The regular small inmates of the hospital were evacuated within 24 hours with most of the nurses. The Matron and the rest of the staff packed up, and stored in the upper floors the whole hospital equipment before they too left; leaving us in possession with only the bare necessities for setting up our Post.

I shall never forget the hectic work of the first week or so. The majority of the staff are voluntary workers who, having their ordinary work to do, can only give a few hours so many times a week. Twelve hours voluntary work in the week is the least we can really do with. Even so to fit them all in so that night and day we have an adequate staff to deal with any emergency was rather like a jig-saw puzzle. The staff numbers about 122 including ten whole time men-drivers, stretcher bearers and door keepers. We are fortunate in having the services, on the small pay roll allowed, of enough fully trained nurses, so as to have one on each shift as well as one on the Mobile Unit.

The Mobile Unit consists of a large empty van fitted up as a complete surgery, with cupboards that fit into each other and can easily be moved out on arrival at the scene of action, and a car which follows with some of the staff. This Unit is attached to the Post and the staff, as long as they are not required outside, have to work in the Post. They consist of a trained nurse, four auxiliary nurses and four drivers with a doctor who takes charge when they are called out.

Another and most important part of the Post is the department to deal with decontamination of poison gas

patients. This was a problem at first, but a "Heath Robinson" contraption set up with an outside tarpaulin shed for the undressing, and blanket partitions in the former post-mortem room of the hospital saw us ready for dealing with even that nightmare within a few days of war. The staff to deal with these cases, which we earnestly hope may never have to function, have of



THE COMMANDANT AND SOME OF THE STAFF
Included in the group is Mrs. George Owen of Barbados

course all had special training. Hundreds of men and women were given free lectures and examinations in gas decontamination work after the crisis of September, 1938, by the Borough Councils of most districts and those of us who took advantage of these opportunities then, were ready to help train others when war actually started. A new permanent department in the basement for the treatment of gas cases is now nearing completion with overhead showers and good dressing rooms for both sexes. It should, for walking cases at least, be one of the best equipped in the whole of London.

And now that all is ready and prepared, although there is still plenty of organization to do, we keep the staff busy with inside or outside exercises. The outside exercises are organized by the Borough Council so that wardens, ambulance drivers, stretcher bearers, mobile units, first aid posts and hospitals all work together in their separate capacities and get to know their work and districts. First Aid lectures and demonstrations by our Post workers are also given to wardens and stretcher bearers.

In our recreation hours, "keep-fit," "country dancing" classes, fire drill and table tennis help to keep us all alert, and physically fit, ready to meet any emergencies that may arise.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"BRICK pon brick mek house."

* * *

THE Jamaica War Assistance Committee has made a first gift of £500 to the Y.M.C.A. War Service Fund.

* * *

SIR LENNOX O'REILLY, who travelled via New York and Barbados, returned to Trinidad on November 13th, after an absence of over four months.

* * *

MR. ALEXANDER J. LETHEM, a brother of Sir Gordon Lethem, Governor of the Leeward Islands, died suddenly at his home in Edinburgh on January 3rd.

* * *

THE average freight rate during 1939 of sugar from British Guiana to Montreal was 18 cents per 100 lb. and not 17 cents, as stated on page 469 of the CIRCULAR for December 14th.

* * *

THE Colonial Office has announced that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. J. L. Devaux, Attorney General, Trinidad, to be Chief Judge Mauritius.

* * *

MR. BARTLE BULL, Member of Parliament for Enfield, and, like his father Mr. W. Perkins Bull, K.C., a Life Member of the West India Committee, has received a commission in the Coldstream Guards.

* * *

MR. S. T. DANFORTH has published an account of the birds of Montserrat in the Journal of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico, 1939, No. 1, pp. 47-66. According to a note in the Experiment Station Record 58 species are recorded, 14 for the first time.

* * *

THE news has been received with very deep regret and grave concern of the murder of Mr. Swingler of Port Mourant Plantation. The crime, the motive for which has not yet been ascertained, adds one more tragedy to the tale of recent violence in British Guiana.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Captain N. C. Westwood, R.A., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Westwood of The Croft, Drax Avenue, Wimbledon, and Usine Ste. Madeleine, Trinidad, to Miss Joyce May Murrant, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Murrant of Little End, Nazeing, Essex.

* * *

MILLER, GIBB (STAPLES), LTD., of Hackins Hey, Liverpool, will carry on and develop the export trade conducted for so many years by Miller, Gibb & Co. The directors are Mr. T. Oswald Miller, founder of the original business, and a Life Member of the West India Committee, and Mr. S. McMeakin.

* * *

MR. VICTOR H. STOLLMAYER has been admitted to the practice of a solicitor in the Supreme Courts of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. C. A. Child, K.C., who

presented the prayer of the petition to the full court described Mr. Stollmeyer as a distinguished cricketer who plays with a straight bat and modest heart.

* * *

WE thank the Hon. Dudley G. Leacock for his message from Baltimore of "Sincere remembrances to all friends at the West India Committee," who will be very glad to learn that, after ten weeks in the John Hopkins hospital there, he is almost quite fit again after his breakdown from overwork last August and expects to be back in Barbados about the middle of February.

* * *

WHEN Mr. Stanley Wilcoxon called at 40, Norfolk Street last week to see the new premises of the West India Committee, he had just received a telegram from his son Henry, in Los Angeles, announcing the birth of a daughter. Mr. Wilcoxon was for many years in the West Indies in the service of the Colonial Bank, and it was while in Dominica in 1905, that his son Henry, the film star, was born.

* * *

A correspondent points out that, when dealing in the last issue of the CIRCULAR with Mr. Gordon Miller's speech at the Caroni meeting, no reference was made, doubtless due to space limitations, to the following: "One incident (and not by any means an isolated case) should be recorded. A white overseer, on his rounds, was suddenly attacked, for no apparent reason, by men who sought first to blind him with salt and then proceeded to beat him up. Six men were arrested. The Union disclaimed all responsibility for the incident but the assailants were defended in court by the Union's president and were fined small sums and released."

West Indians on Service

MR. RICHARD J. RERRIE, of Jamaica, has joined the 55th (Army) Tank Regiment.

MR. C. ARUNDEL M. MOODY, son of Dr. Harold Moody, has joined the 165th Officer Cadet Training Unit.

MR. HOWARD LISLE SMITH, of Barbados, is serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment, and hopes to obtain a commission in the near future. Mr. Smith has represented St. Philip in the House of Assembly for the past six years, and is Chairman of Committees.

CAPTAIN NEVILLE C. WESTWOOD is serving in the 57th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, while his brother, 2nd Lieut. Richard G. Westwood, is serving in the 2nd London Divisional Signals. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Westwood of the Usine St. Madeleine, Trinidad, and Wimbledon, London.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



—♦—
Appreciation of a Governor's Work — Rice for Trinidad
Help for the Church in British Guiana



BRITISH HONDURAS

Departure of Sir Alan Burns. Captain M. S. Metzgen wrote on November 30th, that the outstanding event of the past week was the universal acclaim of Sir Alan Burns by an appreciative people. If one were to attempt to describe the various ways in which the inhabitants vied with each other to show their affection and appreciation of Sir Alan and Lady Burns it would occupy possibly all the pages of the CIRCULAR. At a Farewell Dance given to Sir Alan on November 27th, every district of the Colony was represented by its Commissioner as well as other responsible citizens. Approximately 400 guests attended. The climax was reached on the 29th November, when over 10,000 people, of all walks of life, assembled at the Customs Wharf (Belize) to bid Sir Alan God-speed, good luck and every success. Sir Alan, said Captain Metzgen, has left our shores to take up a more responsible position to the Empire at the Colonial Office. His administration is a chapter of achievements without parallel not only as regards British Honduras, but, he believed, in the Colonial service as a whole.

The New Governor. Speculation is rife as to the kind of man Mr. John Adams Hunter is. British Honduras is a vast undeveloped country crying out for the tapping of its various potentialities. The field is large and no one Governor can ever hope to work it fully no matter how brilliant he may be nor how blessed with exhaustless energy. The Colony is the only British possession on the mainland of Central America and thus in a unique position to be of great usefulness to the Empire in very many ways. The Colony's timber limits are not what they used to be and therefore if a permanent economic foundation is to be built other resources will have to be developed and means of communication improved.

The Hon. William Johnston, Colonial Secretary, will administer the Colony during the period between Sir Alan's departure and the arrival of Mr. Hunter. The Hon. Arthur Wolffsohn, Director of Surveys, will act as Colonial Secretary.

DOMINICA

Acting Administrator. During the absence of His Honour J. S. Neill the administration of the Government devolved upon the Hon. Dr. C. N. Griffin, the senior resident member of the Executive Council.

JAMAICA

Resignation of Bishop Sara. Great regret is expressed throughout the island at the resignation of the Right Rev. E. W. Sara, from the office of Assistant Bishop of Jamaica.

Mr. Rolph Grant, the captain of the West Indies

Cricket Team which visited England last summer, has taken up an appointment in Jamaica with T. Geddes Grant, Ltd.

On his arrival from Trinidad with his wife and son, Mr. Grant was met by representatives of the Cricket Board of Control who welcomed him on behalf of Jamaican cricketing circles.

Lieut.-Col. H. P. Rudolf. The promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel is announced of Major H. P. Rudolf, M.C., M.B., of the R.A.M.C., son of the late Mr. H. J. Rudolf, of Hampstead, St. Mary and brother of Mr. Norman Rudolf, of the Orchard Hotel, St. James, and of Mr. Oswald Rudolf, of St. Mary.

Fishing Industry. Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood as chairman of the Fisheries Sub-Committee has been taking active steps to reorganise the fishing industry on a co-operative basis. Fishermen have suffered particularly severely from the recent storms and measures have been taken by the Government to afford them relief.

The Hon. George Seymour Seymour, O.B.E., member of the Legislative Council for St. Andrew for fourteen consecutive years, who resigned his seat to take the post of chairman of the Water Commission, received many tributes to his great services to Jamaica in the Legislative Council on November 22nd. His chairmanship of the Water Commission is for a period of three years dating from December 1st.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Light Aeroplane Club. The newly formed club is making active preparations for commencing actual flying operations. Two planes with dual control for training purposes are expected to arrive soon and a contract has been entered into for the erection of a hangar at the aerodrome. After the first general meeting of the club, held on December 2nd, Mr. Elmer O. Bearden, Divisional Manager of Pan-American Airways, gave a lecture on the Theory of Flight.

Boy Scouts and Blood Transfusion. Some nine months ago volunteers for blood transfusion were called for. The Trinidad Guardian states that, at the suggestion of Dr. J. Cook, Medical Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain, Boy and Rover Scouts were chosen because, being clean living and healthy, their blood would probably be the most suitable in every way should the necessity for a transfusion arise. Although the proposal has only recently been brought into operation, good results have already been obtained. Whenever possible a donor is secured of the same race as the person requiring the transfusion.

Rice Supplies. Owing to possible difficulties due to the War in guaranteeing regular supplies of rice from India the Government has entered into an agreement

with the Government of British Guiana to purchase 10,000 tons of Demerara rice for delivery as required from now up to September. Negotiations are to be reopened in April with the object of arranging for deliveries after October so that the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board may be able to fix a price to padi growers before they start planting the autumn crop.

BRITISH GUIANA

The Bishop's Gratitude. In the Letter which he contributes regularly to El-Dorado the Bishop writes :—

" Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd., have added to their already generous support for the Church a new annual grant for Cane Grove parish. With what our church members can give, this provides the salary for still another priest. Ever since the Church began work in this country all the proprietors of sugar estates and the various commercial firms in Water Street have afforded us their unfailing support, and the full extent of our indebtedness to them will never be known. It is not only in big money that they have helped the work of the Christian Church. In several parishes free electric light for church and vicarage is provided by the Estate, minor repairs to schools and other church buildings on the plantations are often quietly done without any suggestion of a charge being made; estate managers offer unreservedly to us the kindest hospitality whenever we need it. In countless ways we owe to all of them what could never be repaid."



The Rum ration on a North Sea Minesweeper

Rum in Public Favour

THE CIRCULAR learns that a good all-round business has been done in the London rum market recently. All sections of the trade report that the demand has been better than for a considerable period.

The improvement in the position is a result of the increased press and general publicity undertaken in recent months, while the Clerk of the Weather has done his best to co-operate !

The campaign of the Rum Propaganda Committee is being carried on unremittingly and it is encouraging to note that its efforts are producing satisfactory results. Rum calendars for 1940 have been distributed by the thousand, and there has been a steady call for the leaflet, " Spirit of the Party," and for window bills, counter cards, and rubber cash mats. Conversations have also been held with the British Empire Producers' Organisation with a view to obtaining additional editorial publicity.

The accompanying photograph gives eloquent testimony of the extent to which their rum ration is appreciated by the men engaged on the vital service of mine-sweeping in the North Sea.

Copies of the calendar and dealer aids referred to above may be obtained, free of charge, from the Rum Propaganda

Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.2.

Correspondence

The views expressed by correspondents in these columns from time to time are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and should not be regarded as such.

The Mickle - Muckle - Muddle

SIR,
May I point out that the second of the leading articles in the CIRCULAR of December 14th, contains a misquotation? " Many a mickle makes a muckle " should read, " Many a pickle makes a mickle."
A mickle could not make a muckle, because both words have the same meaning—much or great. The word " pickle " means " a little " or " small quantity."
This information has been checked by reference to the Oxford Dictionary, the Nuttall Dictionary of Quotations and other works of reference.

I am, yours, etc.,
BRAEMAR.

London, W.C.2.
January 2nd, 1940.

Gifts for the Forces

Comforts and other gifts for the men in His Majesty's Forces are already being dispatched in considerable quantities from the West Indies to the War Services Committee. Mr. E. M. Sinclair of Kingston, Jamaica, has sent 228 packs of pipe tobacco. Over 20 cases of bandages and slings, knitted materials and dressings, for the preparation of which Mr. V. C. Alexander has been largely responsible, have also been shipped through the courtesy of Messrs. Fred L. Myers & Son, at the instance of the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee.

Two parcels of comforts and Red Cross requirements have been received from the Bahamas Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society and one parcel of comforts from " The Wool Gatherers " group of The Bahamas Development Board. A parcel of socks has also been received from Mrs. T. H. Naylor.

Obituary

MR. E. C. ELIOT, C.B.E.

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death, in Barbados, on January 1st, of Mr. Edward Carlyon Eliot, C.B.E., Administrator of Dominica from 1923 to 1931. He was in his 70th year.

After being educated at Bradfield and at Uppingham, he went out, in 1888, to Argentina as a cattle rancher. Four years later, he left for Demerara, to take up a post on a sugar plantation, and in 1895 entered the Colonial Service as a clerk in the Government Secretariat, British Guiana. In 1900 he was transferred to the Gold Coast, but after seven years returned to the West Indian area, as Warden of Tobago.

In 1913, Eliot was appointed Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and after a temporary appointment in Australia, became, in 1921, acting Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor of Uganda. Two years later, he returned again to the West Indies, as Administrator of Dominica.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Eliot, a daughter of the late Hon. F. B. B. Shand, in her great loss.

MAJOR R. A. TORRANCE, O.B.E.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death, at San Fernando, Trinidad, on December 20th, of Major Robert Alexander Torrance, O.B.E.

Born at Kirkintilloch, Scotland, in 1883, he went out to Trinidad at the age of 20, and joined Davidson and Todd of Port-of-Spain. Later he took up an appointment with Tennants Agency at San Fernando, and in 1924 became business manager of the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., a post which he held at the time of his death.

Major Torrance had been a member of the Borough Council of San Fernando for many years, and Mayor since 1934. He had been Major of the 1st Battalion of the Trinidad Volunteers since its formation, and previously served with the Trinidad Light Infantry. He received the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List of 1939.

He married Miss Effie Sutherland Lewis, youngest daughter of the late Mr. John C. Lewis, a former Mayor of San Fernando. Much sympathy will be felt for her, and the members of her family in their great loss.

Farewell to British Honduras

The following message sent from the Patricia "at sea" by Sir Alan Burns to the Acting Governor was published in the British Honduras Daily Clarion of November 30th.

"I shall be glad if you will convey to the people of British Honduras an expression of my deep appreciation of the splendid 'send-off' they have given me on the occasion of my final departure from the Colony. I have been deeply touched by, and am most grateful for, their kindness, which I shall never forget.

"It is my earnest hope that prosperity will return to British Honduras, and I trust that in my new post I will be privileged to do something to assist in the restoration of that prosperity."

West Indies Films

In Empire Film Library

THE Empire Film Library of the Imperial Institute which was opened by The Duke of Gloucester in June, 1935, now contains 1,600 copies of 470 subjects. For approved displays no charge is made for the hire of films other than that of the cost of carriage, which is usually 6d. for the first and 3d. for each additional reel.

During 1938 at the request of the Imperial Institute all the West India films in the Library were seen by Mr. J. Gordon Miller and Mr. W. G. Freeman on behalf of the West India Committee, and as a result certain films, which were worn out, or were not considered of use, were withdrawn. Important additions were rendered possible by a grant made to the Imperial Institute by the Colonial Empire Marketing Board. As reported in the CIRCULAR of April 20th last, the Library purchased on the recommendation of the West India Committee two Gaumont Instructional films, "Jamaican Harvest" and "Tropical Lumbering" (British Honduras). Also through the generosity of Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., Caroni, Ltd. and Major K. E. Previtè, the West India Committee were able to purchase G.B.I. films of the sugar, oil and asphalt industries of Trinidad and present them to the Library, whilst the Tourist and Exhibitions Board of the Colony presented "Pleasure Trove in Trinidad."

A new edition has recently been issued of the Empire Film Library Catalogue of which a few complimentary copies are available from the West India Committee. The list of films of the West Indies is as follows:—

- GRAPEFRUIT (British Honduras).
- SPONGES (Bahamas).
- ISLES OF SUNSHINE (Canada to Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica).
- LARGE SCALE BANANA OPERATIONS IN JAMAICA.
- WEST INDIAN CATTLE (Jamaica).
- FISHERMEN OF THE CARIBBEES (Barbados).
- BRITISH GUIANA.
- CACAO INDUSTRY.
- BARBADOS.
- ST. LUCIA.
- GRENADA.
- PLANTATION PEOPLE (a colour film of banana, cocoa, sugar and grapefruit cultivation in Trinidad).
- JAMAICAN HARVEST (Bananas).
- TROPICAL LUMBERING (British Honduras).
- PLEASURE TROVE IN TRINIDAD.
- PETROLEUM (Trinidad).
- ASPHALT LAKE (Trinidad).
- LINER CRUISING SOUTH.

Rum in the Black Out

In the din and the darkness, aboard of a 'bus,
A cold correspondent soliloquised thus—
Inwardly blessing the tropical thirst
That caused him to call for a rum and lime first.

*There was an old man of Tobago
Who suffered from Bouts of Lumbago,
But every time
Some Rum and a Lime,
Would make his Lumbago away go.*

Company Reports and Meetings

Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd.

The net profit for the year ended August 31st, after providing for all charges including depreciation, amounts to £15,124, which added to the amount brought forward of £24,252, makes a total of £39,376. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent. less tax, absorbing £5,035, leaving to be carried forward, subject to directors' fees, £34,341.

The improvement in the results as compared with the preceding year is due to the increased efficiency in the field and in the factory, state the directors, coupled with a small rise in the price of sugar.

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

The accounts for the year ended September 30th, 1939, show oil profits of £417,957.

After deductions for amortisation of wells and head office expenditure totalling £161,908, a net profit is left of £256,049, to which is added the balance brought forward of £128,371, making a total of £384,420.

After further deductions for interim dividend, directors' additional remuneration and reserve for taxation a balance is left to the credit of profit and loss account of £231,768.

The directors recommend a final dividend of 17½ per cent. actual (10½d. per share), less British income tax at 4/3.35d. in the £, making a total dividend of 30 per cent. for the year. The balance of unappropriated profits to be carried forward is £130,705. The profits for the year are lower, but the increase in the rate of taxation has also contributed materially to the reduced rate of dividend.

British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd.

The report and accounts, for the twelve months ended July 31st, cover a full year's working of the Waddington dredge and practically a full year's working of the Mahdia dredge which was in operation till it sank on July 19th, 1939.

A profit of £24,357 8s. was earned, a result which reflects the larger yardage dredged, and the increasing economies effected during the year. The total volume dredged during the year was 1,059,600 cubic yards producing 7,681 ounces of fine gold, equivalent to 3.47 grains or 12.44d. per cubic yard. The figures for the Waddington dredge included in the foregoing were 840,100 cubic yards dredged, for a recovery of 5,915 fine ounces, equivalent to 3.38 grains or 12.10d. per cubic yard. The average net price realised per fine ounce was 143/2, after charging British Guiana Government duties and costs of freight, etc., equivalent to 6/4 per fine ounce. Total operating costs in the Colony amounted to 6.61d. per cubic yard dredged. The profit has been appropriated in writing off the debit balance of profit and loss account from last year, and the balance of the value placed on the Mahdia dredge, and in writing down the figures for the Waddington dredge, power plant and other equipment. The balance of £527 3s. 10d. is carried forward.

The unfortunate sinking of the Mahdia dredge has already been reported to the shareholders, as has also

the decision of the board not to raise and reinstate this dredge owing to its age and bad condition.

During the past year prospecting operations have been carried on in the upper section of the company's holdings in the Konawaruk River Area. Approximately 10,000,000 cubic yards have been proved by close drilling, while a further 14,000,000 cubic yards have been indicated by scout boring. The close drilling of this latter area will be completed during the current season, and attention will also be given to the investigation of the resources of the company's Kaburi and Potaro properties. During the year, the board thought it advisable to acquire by purchase the rights in a small additional area on the Konawaruk River.

During the past year further negotiations have taken place with the British Guiana Government with regard to the terms under which the company holds certain of its properties. These, it is anticipated, state the directors, will result in an arrangement of new terms favourable to the company. The negotiation of these terms was in the hands of the late chairman, Sir Alfred Sherlock, whose services in this connexion have been of so much benefit to the company. The directors report with great regret that Sir Alfred, on medical advice, has resigned from the board.

Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.

Mr. Mark Moody Stuart, the chairman, in the course of his speech at the annual meeting held in London on December 5th, said that work on the crop proceeded satisfactorily until March 27th, when the factory was faced with a lightning strike.

Work was resumed on the following day, but in such a careless and slipshod way that the efficiency of the factory suffered. Meanwhile the unrest spread to the estates and the cane supply was more or less seriously affected for a considerable time. After this unsatisfactory state had lasted for a month, the agitators thought it would be worth while staging another strike. This time a firm line was taken and work was not resumed for about ten days. After this everything went smoothly till the end of the crop, but unfortunately the resumption of work found the factory with a large tonnage of stale cane, some of which had been burnt, and the juice from this gave serious trouble in the boiling house. As the stale juice was worked off things improved but the effects were felt till the end of crop. Happily there was no actual violence during these disturbances.

The conduct of the members of the staff and foremen who carried on during this difficult time and conducted themselves with restraint and tolerance was worthy of the highest praise.

"Again, our crusade against the moth borer has been successful," continued Mr. Moody Stuart, "the joint infestation being lower than last year and proving that the money expended on fighting this pest is well worth while.

"During the year there was an opportunity of purchasing Bendals Factory and the board decided to take advantage of it. The factory will be dismantled and

the cane ground at Gunthorpes. In a normal year this should increase the output of our factory by between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of sugar with an appreciable effect on our production costs. The coming year will produce nothing like this, but it is some consolation that small as our total crop will be it would be even smaller but for the additional cane from Bendals area. This purchase was only effected in August so that we reaped no benefit from it in the year under review."

After referring to the visit of the Royal Commission and to the report of Major Orde Browne on the social conditions in Antigua, Mr. Moody Stuart said that the outlook for next year was not bright, though the price would show a welcome improvement over anything they had seen for a number of years. One of the most complete, though not one of the longest, droughts ever experienced in the island prevailed from the beginning of the year up to early October. Since then the weather had been favourable and the cane had been growing rapidly, but the change came so late that, even if ideal weather should prevail from then onwards, they could not look for much more than half a crop. The whole of the next crop, except that required for local consumption, had been acquired by the Government, who had indeed bought the whole Empire production for the current year and presumably would continue to do so for the duration of the war. The price was a reasonable one and though the planters had a very hard time ahead of them, that was due in the main to the very short cane crop that they would have to reap and not to increased production costs or a low price for sugar.

Barbados Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.

After charging £2,544 for administration and general expenses in London and Barbados, reserving £6,000 for taxation and £5,000 for depreciation and renewals, there was a profit for the year of £11,649, which added to £2,714 brought forward makes a total of £14,363. Of this amount £3,000 has been transferred to general reserve, leaving £11,363. It is recommended that a dividend of 6 per cent., free of income tax, be paid (requiring £8,400 net) and that the balance of £2,963 be carried forward.

Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £22,466 consisting chiefly of the cost of the additional generating plant referred to in the last report and of extensions of mains and services. Delivery of the generating plant was delayed owing to pressure of Government work, but the erection of the set is now complete. The growth of the company's service during the past five years is shown by the following figures:—

Year ended		Year ended	
June 30th.	Units Sold.	June 30th	Units Sold.
1935 ..	2,079,441	1938 ..	3,083,833
1936 ..	2,625,485	1939 ..	3,259,188
1937 ..	2,844,300		

January-February shipment from Jamaica. Moderate sales of Nutmegs are passing on the spot in London around 6½d. to 7d. for defectives; 8d. to 8½d. for sound unassorted; 9d. to 10d. for sound 80's; and 11d. for sound 65's. Business has been done in Mace on the spot in London at 2/6 to 2/7 for mixed red to pale. Choice pale is quoted at 2/8 to 2/9, and dark to mixed red to pale pickings at 1/2 to 1/10 landed terms.

Round the Markets

January 9th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Dec. 27th	Jan. 8th		
Canada ..	4.45	4.45	\$ value	4/5.9
U.S.A. ..	4.03	4.03	\$..	4/11.6
France ..	176.50	176.52	Fr. ..	-/1.4
Holland ..	7.55	7.54	Gu. ..	2/7.8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are shown below:—

Div. for latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 11s. 2d. per cent.) ..	69½ 70½
3½	War Loan	94½ 95½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 25/-
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	26/-
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	8 3
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	25/6 26/6
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A" ..	34/- 38/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ..	18
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2 ½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1 ½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ..	1/-
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/8 2/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1 ½
15	Corentyne Sugar Co.	7/9 8/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern River Oilfields 5/- ..	3/3 4/3
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1 ½ 2
7	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	14/6 15/6
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3 7/3
15	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/- ..	6d. 1/6
—	Trinidad Leaseholds	3 ½ 3 ¾
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. ..	46/6 47/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	6/- 7/-
Nil	United British Oilfields 6/8	8/- 9/-

SUGAR. Rationing came into force in Great Britain on January 8th. Civilian consumers will be allowed, until further notice, 12 oz. per week, while members of the Forces on leave may obtain 21 oz. per week.

COCOA. The holidays have interfered with the course of business, but apart from this, the tone has been slow. The prices of Trinidad and Accra to arrive quoted in last CIRCULAR have not been maintained. Small sales of the former—three marks—have been made, January-March shipment at 57/- cost and freight London, with quotations of Accra at the close to-day 30/6 buyers, and 31/- c.i.f. London, sellers. A small spot business has been done at Trinidad plantation, 72/6; Grenada, fine 67/6; Accra, good fermented 33/6.

COTTON. A moderate business has been done in West Indian Sea Island at hardening prices.

HONEY. There have been inquiries in the market for Jamaica dark liquid to pale amber with only small supplies offering. Prices are nominally unchanged at 70/- to 85/- per cwt. landed terms London for immediate delivery. New crop F.A.Q. without guarantee of colour has become easier on large offerings of Canadian, and as a result it is doubtful whether buyers would pay over 55/- c.i.f. for January-February shipment.

SPICES. Pimento is quiet but firm, with business done around 90/- c.i.f. London, for parcels afloat near at hand, with sellers at 88/- c.i.f. for January shipment. Spot London is quiet at about 11½d. per lb. ex store.

Ginger. The London quotations of Jamaica are: No. 3, 52/6 to 54/- ex wharf; No. 2, 57/6 to 60/-; Medium No. 1 to bold, 65/- to 75/- according to quality. New Crop No. 3 is offering at 55/- with buyers at 52/- for

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		RUM WEATHER . . .	18
THE WEST INDIES AND THE		WAR SERVICES FUND . . .	18
WAR . . .	13	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN IN-	
DOMINICA'S TRANSFER	13	TEREST . . .	19
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	14	CORRESPONDENCE . . .	20
WEST INDIANS ON SERVICE	14	OBITUARY . . .	20
AN EMPIRE OF FREEMEN	15	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD	
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	16	MAIL . . .	21
COLONIAL RIFLE SHOOTING	16	CAPTAIN M. HARDING-FENLAYSON	22
CANADIAN SUGAR TRADE	16	WEST INDIAN PASSENGERS	22
BRITISH GUIANA RICE . . .	17	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	22
CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD . . .	17	TRINIDAD INCOME TAX	22
STANDARD SICKNESS RETURNS . . .	17	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEET-	
TRINIDAD SUGAR QUOTAS	17	INGS . . .	23
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE . . .	18	ROUND THE MARKETS . . .	24

The West Indies and the War

IN the past the West Indian group of Colonies have wondered, and not without cause, why the British Press should ignore them except when some unfortunate incident—a riot or a hurricane—brought them, for a moment, into an unwanted limelight. The West Indies seemed to provide material for either sensational news or none at all. Their vital economic problems, their attractions for tourists, and other aspects of their day-to-day work on which their welfare depends, found but little space in the columns of our great newspapers and the impression that the West Indies are "The Cinderella of the Empire" was built up, and has persisted. Recently, however, something has been done to dispel this impression and the "good press" which the Colonies have had since the outbreak of war may augur well for the future.

The response of our Colonies to the national emergency has been magnificent. It is all the more notable since a large-scale opportunity for personal service in H.M. Forces has, so far, been denied to the West Indies in favour of the less spectacular, but none-the-less important, task of mobilising their agricultural and mineral resources in defence of the Empire.

That this response has been widely acknowledged in the Press will cause general satisfaction, even though public recognition of what the Colonies regard as only their duty was not asked for or expected. For example The Times devoted, on January 13th, its first editorial and a long article to "The Colonies in the War" and gave the West Indies their meed of praise.

Emphasis was laid on the disappointment which the Nazis must have felt at seeing one of their pet theories exploded. They had lost no opportunity of proclaiming their conviction that the first impact of war would shatter the British Imperial structure built up, as it is, of "scattered communities differing from one another and from the parent State in language, race, climate, habits and stages of culture." In the event precisely the opposite occurred. The national emergency has stilled the voice of faction, assuaged local controversy and closed up the ranks of the Empire.

In the first days of the war the broadcast speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies met with immediate and whole-hearted response among the West Indian Colonies who have devoted themselves assiduously to the task of intensifying their production of food supplies and to reducing their own demands for shipping and for foreign goods to a minimum. They have strengthened their own defence forces and have

like other Colonies accepted loyally the official but disappointing request that volunteering for active service overseas should be discouraged for the present.

Messages of loyalty to the Empire have been accompanied in every case by financial assistance, varying in extent but not in generosity. The Legislature of Barbados contributed £25,000 towards the Empire's war-chest. Trinidad and Tobago voted \$1,000,000 for the same purpose. Within a few days the people of British Guiana raised by public subscription £2,000 for the Lord Mayor of London's Red Cross and St. John Fund; the Trinidad and Tobago Central Council of the Red Cross contributed £1,000; British Honduras, £1,000; and the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee, £22,500, the latter also contributing £500 to the Y.M.C.A. War Service Fund.

Indeed, the list is too long to quote in full, but we would emphasise that every class in the community has contributed according to its means, and frequently beyond them, towards these impressive totals which are no doubt already exceeded. In addition, gifts in kind, and comforts for the men in the fighting services are arriving in ever increasing quantities.

That further calls will be made on our West Indian Colonies, as the trend of the war develops, is undoubted. Even more certain it is that those calls will be met in the same spirit of patriotism, co-operation and self-sacrifice, as has animated every Colony, large and small, in the war of 1914-1918, and in the present war, the end of which we cannot yet foresee.

Dominica's Transfer

DOMINICA, the third largest of the British West Indies, and the island, it is said, of 365 rivers, ceased to be a Presidency of the Leeward Islands on New Year's Day and became by the wish of her people a separate Colony under the Governor of the Windward Islands. The group now includes Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Dominica. The first step in this transfer was taken in the House of Lords in November, 1937, when a Bill providing for the separation of Dominica from the Leeward Islands was passed. The Commons gave their assent to the measure in February, 1938, and the Order in Council was made on December 20th, 1939. It has now been published together with the necessary Rules and Orders.

A meeting to commemorate the inclusion of Dominica in the Windward Islands group was held by the Legislative Council of Grenada on January 19th.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE really domestic debates in the House of Commons are apt to crop up unexpectedly and those which have been advertised in advance to fall comparatively flat. It was so with that on the resignation—in fact, though not in form, the dismissal—of Mr. Hore-Belisha. By apparent agreement between the front benches there was no fight. Mr. Chamberlain asserted and Mr. Hore-Belisha promptly acquiesced in the undoubted constitutional right of the Prime Minister to decide for himself whom he will have in his team. He gave no reason except “personal” difficulties for the parting from his colleague, and Mr. Attlee, the leader of the Opposition, by criticising rather the outgoing Minister than the head of the Government, practically ensured that the House should not question the Prime Minister's assurance that no difference of policy was involved.

* * *

The speech of explanation made by a Minister who had resigned is a delicate business, which may make or mar his subsequent career. Mr. Hore-Belisha's was modest and good-tempered—a model of its kind, his star will rise again.

* * *

Criticism of the composition of the Government has already turned right away from this affair and concentrated upon something more fundamental. Mr. Cross, the Minister of Economic Warfare, has recently given a most gratifying account of the success of our measures for strangling Germany's foreign trade. But it is impossible to feel satisfied that the whole of our economic effort is being correspondingly effective. The entire manpower of the enemy—a population 80,000,000 strong with 30,000,000 Czech and Polish serfs in addition—has been organized for war, not merely since last September, but from a much earlier date. After five months of war we, ourselves, still have 1,300,000 unemployed. Our economic advantage over Germany is gigantic—but only if we use our resources to the full.

* * *

The growing demand, therefore, is for a much more thorough organisation of the home front. We cannot afford to leave any one idle. The critics observe that the economic weapon is quite inadequately represented in the structure of the Government. The War Cabinet contains no economic expert—for Sir John Simon, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is not a professional financier—though it contains four Ministers for the fighting services, one for each of them and Lord Chatfield as Minister for Co-ordination of Defence.

* * *

It is therefore suggested that some Minister, who would co-ordinate the innumerable branches of economic effort, as Lord Chatfield co-ordinates the armed forces, ought to have a place in the Cabinet. If this demand is successful, it might be the prelude to a fundamental re-organisation, under which the War Cabinet would become a small committee each member of which would

have a general supervision over one phase of the national war effort, but no departmental responsibility. Such a scheme would resemble, though it would not be identical with, that set up by Mr. Lloyd George in the last war.

* * *

“Events may occur within a few weeks or even a few hours which will re-shape the history of the world.” So says the Prime Minister, and it may be taken as certain that before very long now the present deceptive lull will give place to a terrific death-grapple with Germany. By way of preparing the people for the formidable ordeals and the heavy sacrifices that lie ahead the leading members of the Government are embarking on a campaign of platform speeches throughout the country, the theme of which is to exhort us all to set our teeth and stiffen our backs. The opening speeches by Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Halifax were both admirable. At the same time it should be said that the resolution of the country needs no enhancement by oratory, and the real doubt felt in some quarters is whether our statesmen are throwing themselves into the conflict with a wholeheartedness commensurate with the determination of the people. The danger is that they may ask too little of the country, not too much.

* * *

However, if both leaders and followers are urging one another on to more intense effort, that is no bad sign.

* * *

There has been another severe “scare” about a possible German invasion of the Low Countries. The melodramatic episode by which a German airman made a forced landing in Belgium and tried to destroy some papers he carried, which turned out to contain plans for the invasion, can obviously be read in two ways. Was the whole “accident” planned from Berlin as part of the war of nerves, and is the real German outbreak to be expected in some quite different part of Europe? Wherever it comes Great Britain and France are ready to meet it.

West Indians on Service

MR. L. MARCH, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.), son of Mr. A. March of Old Harbour, Jamaica, has been gazetted a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Dental Corps.

DR. O. L. WALLEN, of Trinidad, has been gazetted a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He is now on duty on an ambulance train at a large sea port.

MR. EDWARD DOUGLAS ROSS, son of Mr. D. Foster Ross, of Antigua, has joined the Royal Air Force as Aircraftsman No. 2. He was previously in the service of Imperial Airways.



FELLING FOR PIT PROPS IN THE FOREST OF DEAN

RUM
AN EMPIRE PRODUCT

IS USED BY
ALL THE
FIGHTING
FORCES

1940

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*If you're feeling
cold or glum
Why not take a
tot of*

RUM

BUY A BOTTLE OR POCKET FLASK

A SHOWCARD FOR **RUM**

THIS attractive showcard measuring 10 ins. x 8 ins., printed in Red, White and Black, is offered to you free on application.

The display of this will link you up with the Press. In addition to this and other Sales Aids, advertisements regularly appear in eight leading National Dailies and twenty Provincial Papers. Rum Sales are showing a very marked increase. Be sure you are well stocked.

AMPLE STOCKS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

RUM PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE, 40, NORFOLK STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR **RUM**

All through the winter months a National advertising campaign will be carried out in the principal daily publications. Here is a selection of some of the advertisements which are already appearing

Be sure you are stocked to meet the steady, increasing demand . . .

STOCK NOW!

For Sales Aids apply to :—

RUM PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE, 40, NORFOLK ST., LONDON, W.C.2

The demand for Rum
has greatly increased

[See page 18

An Empire of Freemen

Striking Unity of Aim and Effort

"CIVIS Romanus sum" has come down from history as the expression of a man's pride in his citizenship of a great Empire. We, however, are sometimes prone to take our British Empire as accepted fact and to forget that we too have an excellent cause for pride. Nothing, therefore, could have been more timely than the inspiring address which was given recently in a broadcast talk by Lord Snell of Plumstead, who took as his theme "The British Empire in War and After." Lord Snell's eloquence and deep knowledge of his subject will not surprise those who, in 1927, listened to his masterly address to many members of the West India Committee on the economics and problems of British Guiana.

In his broadcast, Lord Snell said :—

The striking unity of aim and effort of the whole British Commonwealth of Nations in this hour of common danger is a landmark in the history of the Empire, and provides an impressive answer to those apostles of brute force and oppression who saw in the very freedom of the British Dominions to choose their own destiny such an unmistakeable sign of our decadence. What a marvellous justification of the British tradition of freedom the Empire presents at the present time! It seems to possess some strong, yet invisible, quality which always—but especially in the times of danger—binds it together. What is the secret of this unique power of cohesion? We have known other Empires which boasted of their strength. Yet they passed away and are now only tragic memories. Why, since they died, does the British Empire live? What quality sustains it that they did not possess? Is it not the binding, consoling and sustaining spirit of freedom which endows it with an inner strength; which gives to all its members an enduring trust, because it is based upon a common purpose and inheritance? There have been many Empires both ancient and modern; but—saving only the British Commonwealth of Nations—there has never been one that had the insight and the courage to stake its life upon such intangible, yet such sure, foundations. The British Empire is united, not through fear or compulsion, but through common institutions, purposes and ideals.

The British Commonwealth of Nations is the greatest association of free political communities that the world has seen. It is the most diversified yet the most unified; its material resources are immense. . . . Do not assume, however, that within the Empire there are no grievances to remedy, or that conditions within it are perfect. They are not. But whatever may be its shortcomings, there is not a race within its territories that would prefer the rule of Herr Hitler to that of King George. There are no fugitives from the British Commonwealth. On the contrary, thousands of agonised men are standing at its gates asking for sanctuary and for peace.

In the conflict in which we are engaged we have behind

us this vast reserve of material and moral strength, and we are further fortified by the knowledge that we are fighting in order to establish a new world. What kind of world do we wish to produce? Let us be quite clear about this, because upon it may depend the future of mankind. . . . We shall have to build our new world from the very foundations, and the peace that we must aim to secure must represent the beginnings of a new world order.

What should such a peace include? The Labour Party has its own proposals and it believes that they are such as even the German people could, without humiliation, accept. They recognise the principle that the German people have the same right to live in the world as have the British or any other people. But they also insist that the small nations have as much right to live as Germany.

The British Empire would neither wish, nor tolerate, a vindictive peace; but it does desire a peace that will be more than an armed truce.

The principles which I have briefly indicated are tolerant, essential and wise. Based, as they are, upon both right and the world's need; they need no special commendation. They are justified as soon as they are stated. The German people must, however, realise beyond all question that a satisfactory peace must include the acceptance by them of the principle of international law and the renunciation of force as a national policy.

The British Empire is willing to co-operate in a world effort to establish a new world order. Let no one mistake the significance of the present position. We are "wandering between two worlds, one dead, the other powerless to be born." We are at the end of an epoch: the old shibboleths and the old programmes will no longer save us; in this supreme crisis they are as futile as the twitter of sparrows on a roof. We shall not be able to meet the needs of the post-war twentieth century with the sorry limitations and prejudices of the eighteenth.

Finally, the British Empire is in a position to make a decisive contribution to the new world order desired. Its own structure and experience suggest the method to be followed. It is itself a loose federation of many States; it illustrates the way in which particular, and often apparently divergent interests can be made consistent with the common good. War between its separate nations is not merely impossible: it is unthinkable. It is in itself a successful League of Nations.

Fully conscious of its own shortcomings; and recognising its own urgent need for growth and development, it believes that the principles of personal freedom, mutual trust and individual responsibility which it has worked out through centuries of effort, could serve the world on a wider scale, and it offers its experience to the suffering nations at this time as a brazen serpent which, were it but looked upon and accepted, would bring to them both peace and healing.

The West Indies and the War

ANTIGUA

Red Cross Work. Besides the fetes and fairs organized by the War Charities Committee, systematic work is being regulated in aid of the soldiers and Red Cross. Certain ladies gave one afternoon each week to attend either a knitting or a sewing bee. A small subscription is paid towards expenses, and in the latter case, the materials required are being bought locally to help stimulate trade.

BARBADOS

Food Production. The Acting Governor, Major W. H. Flinn, has expressed in a broadcast address his appreciation of the readiness of estate owners and managers to comply with the orders for the planting of food crops although he knew that such crops may not always pay so well as those they have replaced. He also hoped that every one who had a plot of land would try to grow more vegetables in order to increase the food supply and so render the Colony more independent of imported supplies.

BRITISH GUIANA

Red Cross Donation. We are indebted to the Colonial Office for the information that the gift of £2,000 to the Lord Mayor's Fund, reported in the CIRCULAR of December 14th as from the Government of British Guiana, was "from the people of British Guiana by public subscription." The note in the London Press merely stated, forwarded by the Government, hence the mistake.

JAMAICA

New Import Restrictions. Under an Order issued on December 6th by the Competent Authority, goods wholly or partially manufactured in a foreign country and sent to Jamaica from an Empire country will be regarded as "foreign imports." As in the case of foreign imports, licences will have to be obtained for goods imported from Great Britain and other Empire countries which have been even partially manufactured or produced in a foreign country.

Marketing and Trade Commissioners. The Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has appointed Mr. F. E. V. Smith and Mr. E. G. Whitbread to be Marketing and Trade Commissioner and Deputy Marketing and Trade Commissioner respectively.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Whilst the Colony cannot economically be self-sufficient in the matter of food it can be far more self-supporting. Mr. E. J. Wortley, the Director of Agriculture, points out in the Trinidad Guardian Christmas Magazine, that what was a desirable economy before the war is now an essential duty. The slogans of the Government Food Production Committee are "Grow more food" and "Eat more local food." The Director details ways in which locally grown foods can be used and makes a special appeal to the consumer because although he has every confidence that more food will be grown he is not so confident that the con-

sumer has yet determined to keep pace with the producer by substituting home grown products in increasing quantities for imported foods as local supplies become available.

WINDWARD ISLANDS

ST. VINCENT

Volunteer Reserve. An Ordinance (No. 22 of 1939) has been passed to authorize the establishment of a Volunteer Reserve for service in the Colony for the purpose of defence or internal security. The primary object of the Reserve is to supplement the cadres of the Volunteer Force when called out for actual military service.

Colonial Rifle Shooting

THE CIRCULAR is informed by Major-General Alan Hunter, secretary of the National Rifle Shooting Association, that the Overseas .303 Full-Range Postal Match will be held this year as usual.

It is open to one or two teams of eight British subjects resident in any Colony or Protectorate. If two teams are entered, one must use Rifles S.R.(a) and the other Rifles S.R.(b), but no member of a team may fire or in any way take any part in both classes. Members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Regular Army, Royal Air Force, Local Forces, Police and civilians are eligible.

The Match was instituted, and has been conducted since 1934, by the Association and among the Colonies which have entered teams regularly each year are the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and Windward Islands.

It is hoped that in spite of the exceptional conditions prevailing, every encouragement will continue to be given to the teams in the several Colonies.

The results of last year's Colonial small-bore match have just been announced by the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs. The range was 25 yards, and the teams of eight fired 20 shots each, with .22 rifles. The scores (out of a possible of 1,600) were:—

Aperture sights.—Jamaica, 1,579; Fiji, 1,577; Trinidad, 1,570; Kenya, 1,559; Maseru (Basutoland), 1,558; Gambia, 1,487; Bahamas, 1,462.

Open sights.—Gibraltar, 1,391; British Guiana, 1,375; Trinidad, 1,372; Penang, 1,369; Kenya, 1,309.

Canadian Sugar Trade

No person other than the Sugar Administrator may import or export from Canada any sugar except under the authority of a permit issued by the Sugar Administrator for the purpose. Collectors are instructed that entries for the exportation or importation of sugar are not to be accepted unless accompanied by Foreign Exchange Control Board Form B or E, stamped "Approved on behalf of the War Time Prices and Trade Board" and signed by or on behalf of the Sugar Administrator. The above regulations do not apply to casual importations not exceeding 100 lb., nor to maple sugar.

British Guiana Rice

The Hon. E. F. M. David, Colonial Treasurer of British Guiana, has been appointed by the Governor a member and chairman of the Rice Marketing Board. Mr. R. V. Evan Wong has resigned his position as chairman, and Mr. W. A. D'Andrade, Comptroller of Customs, his appointment as a member of the board.

Under regulations made by the Governor the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board control the purchase, sale and distribution of all rice manufactured in the Colony. On November 11th the board announced that they intended to fix the minimum price for padi at \$1.20 per bag of 140 lb. net, and that they would purchase rice, per bag of 177 lb. net delivered at their Georgetown warehouse, at the following prices: super, \$5.00; No. 1, \$4.20; No. 2, \$3.60; No. 3, \$3.40. "In the board's view the prices for the higher grades of rice set out above should enable millers to pay for padi capable of making No. 1 rice not less than \$1.44, and for padi capable of making super-rice not less than \$1.80."

Our honorary correspondent wrote on November 30th that the Director of Agriculture, replying recently in the Legislative Council to uninformed criticisms of his department, said the exact position of the rice industry was that, notwithstanding a low price level along with consecutive unfavourable seasons, exports during the present decade had been three times those of the previous ten years. The autumn crop would be one of the best ever harvested, the quality was excellent and the new regulations for the control of the industry would give the grower a better deal than he had ever had.

This is good news for all concerned, seeing that in view of the war the West Indian Islands may have to look largely to British Guiana for their requirements in rice, while an opportunity would be afforded the Colony of building up an important export trade in the cereal. The new regulations to which reference is made above have been passed as a war measure and will make it possible for the rice industry to avoid all those factors that have hitherto stood in the way of an expanded and valuable export trade.

Cane Farming in Trinidad

Cane farmers have been urged to increase their production for the 1940 crop. In a pamphlet, which has been widely distributed, the Director of Agriculture states that the farmers are to receive contracts for the average quantities they produced in 1936 and 1937, which amounted to 612,000 tons. In 1938 they delivered 573,000 tons, but in 1939 only 385,000 tons. Whilst adverse weather in 1938 was directly and indirectly largely responsible for the big decline in 1939, Mr. Wortley says that other contributing causes were lack of intensive cultivation, the small quantity of fertilizers used and insufficient drainage. In many instances there has been too great dependence on ratoons and failure to replant. The small proportion of plant canes in recent years has contributed in large measure to the poor crop of 1939 and the poor promise for 1940,

Standard Sickness Returns

For Tropical Industries

The absence, up to the present time, of any standard method of returning figures of sickness from industrial concerns in the tropics has added greatly to the difficulties of the Ross Institute in its efforts to obtain a true picture of the state of health in the many industries that seek advice. In his annual report for 1938-39, Sir Malcolm Watson, the Director of the Institute, says the general acceptance of certain standard indices for measuring the degree of sickness of industrial populations and labour forces would be of the greatest value, not only to the Institute but also directly to industry, as then the cost of sickness and the economic soundness of preventive measures could be more easily assessed. Health returns that have been sent to the Institute in London, or placed before its advisory officers are prepared by such diverse methods that they often convey very little information of the actual state of health of the community with which they are dealing. During the past year careful attention has been given to drawing up a standard form of report. This scheme has been drafted primarily for the tea estates in India, but it is hoped that, with modification to meet varying local conditions, it may serve as a basis for health reports from industry in other parts of the tropics and that it will be widely adopted.

Trinidad Sugar Quotas

By an order made by the Governor in Council on December 6th, the quotas which each sugar manufacturer shall between September 1st, 1939 and August 31st, 1940, be permitted to export, or sell for consumption in the Colony, are as follows:—

	<i>Export tons</i>	<i>Local sale tons</i>
Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd. ..	47,940	3,599
Caroni Ltd. ..	41,090	3,176
Woodford Lodge Estates, Ltd. ...	18,930	1,721
Gordon Grant & Co., Ltd. ...	12,880	1,327
Trinidad Sugar Estates Ltd. ..	10,390	1,168
Reform Estates (1928) Ltd. ..	3,880	744
Alfred Lawrie, Esq. (Hindustan) ..	860	550
Eric Murray, Esq. (Craignish) ..	810	545
Joseph B. Fernandes, Esq. (Forres Park) ..	1,220	570
	138,000	13,400

Each manufacturer may sell not more than one half of his quota between September 1st last, and January 31st, 1940, and the balance in the remaining months of the quota period. The Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd., is authorised to sell in addition to its quota not more than 250 tons of sugar to the Co-operative Citrus Growers Association for use in fruit canning.

WE were glad to learn from Sir Claud Hollis, who has been ill with pneumonia for the past three weeks, that he is a little better and hopes to be well enough to leave hospital at the end of the month.

The West India Committee

Meeting of the Executive

A MEETING of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on January 18th, 1940, under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson. There were present: Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Sir Alfred Sherlock, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. Evan R. Campbell, Mr. J. Alan de Pass, Mr. James du Buisson, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. Lauchlan Rose, Mr. M. S. Moody Stuart, Mr. H. A. Walker and Mr. E. J. King (secretary).

The following candidates were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
HIS HONOUR MR. EDWIN PORTER ARROWSMITH (Turks & Caicos Islands)	Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E.
MR. HARRY CONWAY (Grenada)	Mr. J. Alan de Pass.
MR. FRANK OSWALD GONZALEZ (Tobago)	Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Jonas Browne & Son, Ltd.
MR. B. G. MONTSERIN, B.S.A., M.S.C., (Tobago) PH.D.	Mr. Kenneth Reid. Captain Cyril A. Turpin.
MR. MAYOW HERBERT SHORT (Tobago)	Mr. Kenneth Reid. Captain Cyril A. Turpin.
MR. JAMES LYDEN HENTON (Country)	Mr. Kenneth Reid. Captain Cyril A. Turpin.
MR. ROBERT LOUIS KINGHAM (British Guiana)	Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc. Mr. H. J. J. Freeman.
MR. L. S. BIRKETT (British Guiana)	Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Mr. C. H. Thorley.
	Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Mr. C. G. Goodsell.

Following a discussion on the decisions of the Canadian Preference Pool Committee, the chairman made a statement on the general sugar position with particular reference to the probable requirements and production of sugar at the end of the war. It was unanimously agreed that the Government should be asked to define its policy regarding production and to issue a statement on such matters as Colonial certificates, as it was felt that an early clarification of outstanding points, in so far as this was possible, was essential to the industry.

In regard to cocoa Mr. H. J. J. Freeman expressed the view that the position for the moment was satisfactory to West Indian producers, but that it required careful watching.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed to those who were assisting the Committee by introducing new members. The chairman pointed out that while the Committee was receiving grants from certain Colonial Governments for trade and other specific services rendered, the ability of the Committee to carry out these services and its many other activities mainly depended on its individual membership.

Among other questions discussed were the entry of Japanese goods into the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Trade Representation of Jamaica and Trinidad and the work of the War Services Committees. It was agreed that what might be described as "subsistence work" was outside the scope of the West India Committee. Its War Services Fund had been subscribed to assist those who were in need of help as a result of enemy action, e.g., the British West Indian survivors of the s.s. Simon Bolivar, or for providing

medical supplies or "comforts" to West Indians in H.M. Forces, and the Committee had neither the machinery, nor the staff to deal with other cases.

It was announced that the Minister of Supply had appointed Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott to be Controller of Costings to the Ministry. Mr. Cassleton Elliott, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, is the senior partner of the firm of Cassleton Elliott and Co. He was president of the Society of Incorporated Accountants from 1932 to 1935 and is chairman of a committee of the Ministry of Health.

Votes of thanks were passed to Miss Olive Wade for a book entitled Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies, and to Mr. Ralph J. Whiteman for the volume Hexton: A Parish Survey.

Rum Weather

The censor will not allow The CIRCULAR to publish information regarding the weather, but the following paragraph will give our readers overseas some idea of the climatic conditions which have prevailed recently.

Dealers are experiencing an active demand at firm prices and their travellers, who cover every town in the country, report that there is definite evidence of an increase in consumption. The majority of football matches arranged for last week-end had to be cancelled.

Reference was made in last issue to the distribution by the Rum Propaganda Committee, of calendars, leaflets, window bills, counter cards and rubber mats. We now reproduce (on page facing 15) three examples of the means employed. The two advertisements have appeared regularly in the "trade" press and are self-explanatory. The other illustration shows the back and front of the calendar for 1940, many thousands of which have been distributed.

War Services Fund

The following donations to the War Services Fund are gratefully acknowledged by the West India Committee:—

	£	s.	d.
Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.	5	0	0
Lady Rutherford	5	0	0
Lady Cordeaux	2	2	0
Previously acknowledged	809	16	0
Total to date ..	£821	18	0

The existence of the Fund permitted an expenditure of approximately £164 being made immediately in providing for the urgent necessities of the survivors of the Simon Bolivar disaster. In addition about £93 has been expended on general purposes including Christmas gifts and parcels to serving West Indians and to survivors of the Simon Bolivar still in hospital.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"BY-AND-BY" very long rope.

* * *

THE HON. E. COCHRANE, M.D., has been appointed a temporary Captain in the Grenada Volunteer Corps and honorary medical officer to the local forces.

* * *

THE next meeting of the Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826) will be held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, W.C., on Tuesday, February 6th, at 5 p.m.

* * *

THE Grenada ordinance relating to compensation to agricultural tenants for improvements came into force by Proclamation of the Governor on December 1st, 1939.

* * *

THE Crop Estimates Committee of the Gold Coast, at a meeting in Accra on November 14th, decided to make no change in the estimate of 250,000 tons, for the Colony's main cocoa crop of 1939-40.

* * *

DR. H. P. S. GILLETTE, District Medical Officer, St. Lucia, has been selected for appointment as a Medical Officer of Health in Trinidad. Dr. Gillette was one of the survivors of the Simon Bolivar disaster.

* * *

RECENT visitors to the new offices of the West India Committee have included the following: Sir Reginald St.-Johnston, Mr. W. U. H. Lawrence, of Barbados, Mr. and Mrs. Hopper, formerly of Antigua, His Honour A. P. Arrowsmith, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Hastings, Miss O'Reilly, of Trinidad, and Mr. R. L. Clarke.

* * *

THE West India Committee's map of the West Indies has formed the basis for the one to be published with the Report of the West India Royal Commission. The Committee has received from the Commission an expression of warm appreciation of its action in this matter which has rendered possible the preparation of a very useful and satisfactory map.

* * *

MRS. ISABELLA GIBSON, who we regret to learn, died at Port-of-Spain, on January 15th, at the age of 60, was the wife of Mr. J. C. Gibson of Georgetown, British Guiana. Mr. Gibson, for whom much sympathy will be felt in his loss, was for many years manager of Plantation Port Mourant, Berbice, and is now chief planting attorney to Bookers Demerara Sugar Estates.

* * *

MRS. MARY MAITLAND, who was born in Trinidad, attained her hundredth birthday on January 3rd, at Ayr, Scotland, when she received a message of hearty congratulations and good wishes from the King and Queen. Mrs. Maitland, the widow of Mr. John Maitland, a West Indian merchant, is the daughter of a Scots father and a French mother. Her maternal grandfather fled from France to escape the French Revolution.

TWENTY-SIX members of the crew of the British oil tanker Inverdargle (9,456 tons), which was sunk by enemy action off the south-west coast on January 16th, were West Indians, having all been signed on at Trinidad. It is feared that all hands have been lost. Thus, once again, the West Indies, although so remote from the main theatre of war, have been brought within its orbit. To their relatives and friends in the West Indies we offer our sincere sympathy.

* * *

THE Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund passed the £900,000 mark on December 29th. The principal donations on that day were £1,000 from the Trinidad and Tobago Central Council of the Red Cross and £250 from Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd. The next day the Fund was increased by £3,000 largely by a donation of £2,500 from the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee, making a total of £22,500 contributed by that body.

* * *

THE export from Canada of fertilizers of every kind, with the exception of calcium cyanamide, is prohibited unless recommended by the Canadian Minister of Agriculture. In making this announcement in the Leeward Islands Gazette on November 16th, the Administrator of Antigua states it is understood that until further notice no certificate of export will be granted for nitrate of soda, nitrate of potash, nitrate of calcium nor potash salts of any kind.

* * *

THE Governor of the Leeward Islands recently presented the Insignia of the Order of the British Empire to the Hon. Mr. Clement Malone and the Hon. Dr. D. P. Walling, both members of the Legislative Council of the Colony. Sir Gordon said that in the courts and councils Mr. Malone's voice had always been heard full of good sense, dignity, reason and a thorough and sincere desire to do everything he could by his clients and the people of the community.

* * *

ADDRESSING Dr. Walling the Governor said they could picture him sailing on rough seas in small boats from island to island and going on rough ponies over rough mountain roads to visit the sick, and for some five years now administering the affairs of the Virgin Islands to the great acceptance of the people of that Presidency.

* * *

PERMISSION has been given by the Canadian Government for Mr. F. W. Fraser, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Kingston, to place his services at the disposal of the Government of Jamaica for the purpose of assisting in the regulation of imports and exports, necessitated by war conditions. The request for Mr. Fraser's services from the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica is, says Canada's Weekly, regarded at Ottawa as a gratifying tribute to the calibre of the men in the Commercial Intelligence Service of Canada.

Correspondence

The views expressed by correspondents in these columns from time to time are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and should not be regarded as such.

Loyal Jamaica

To the Editor,

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,

I would like to place on record in the CIRCULAR, the circumstances which urged me in a letter to The Times under the above heading to draw the attention of the general public over here to the patriotism which is being shown by Jamaica, in this wretched and nonsensical war.

I was pony manager to the Hurlingham Polo Team which visited Jamaica in 1937-1938 under the captaincy of Lord Louis Mountbatten.* From the start in the Jamaica Producer until our return in the same ship—the advance party, myself and two grooms—were guests of Jamaica, and never could any three strangers have been more overwhelmed with hospitality.

The amazing interest and desire to assist, which was immediately forthcoming from my native "boys" who could have only the vaguest knowledge of Hurlingham or even the British Isles was as touching as it was surprising. Their pride at being selected to look after the English ponies and their adaptability and willingness to learn new customs, was the first pointer to the feeling of wonderful loyalty these cheery black boys have towards the Mother Country. Many examples were to come to my notice, of which there can be no time or space to tell—for instance a set of leg bandages "disappeared" (it happens in the best regulated stables!). A few words to the boys assembled in the tack room and the bandages "returned themselves." The light-fingered gentleman was "sacked" by public vote, unknown at the time to me, and never appeared in the yard again! Jamaica trainers and others may not believe this, but it is true, and I reckon that it was loyalty to us as guests, that caused the delinquent to be hounded out. Two little sisters aged nine and four years respectively came to the yard at 5.30 a.m. daily to sell fruit. On being asked how she would spend a proffered sixpence, the older would give half to "picni" and a new exercise book would nearly expend the remaining comparative fortune.

At home, here, war signs are on every hand and evidence of defence and offence is eternally before our eyes. In the West Indies, except for the news of the daily papers, life must be progressing much as usual. A call comes for cash—good, hard earned solid cash—to help the Allies in their war against despotism, which has little enough to do with Jamaica in all conscience. The call goes out—British men and women must help each other. The answer is:—

"Jamaica's War Fund, the First £100,000" made up from the threepences, the sixpences of individuals, the collective £ s. d. of Sunday Schools and charity collections, and the sacrifices of a people amongst

whom unemployment is unfortunately prevalent. Typical examples are: Keziah Roberts, 1s. 3d.; Thos. Sergeant, 1s.; Zacca, 2s.; James, 6d.; Adelaide, 6d.; Miss Ama Jones, 1s.; Richmond Hill Sunday School, £1 10s. Individuals, like myself, are proud to have been privileged to work side by side with these loyal subjects of our King. The sportsmanship of Jamaicans is world-famous. Ask the racing folk, polo, football, cricket, tennis, golf and many other visitors to the island who have been entertained there so lavishly. May prosperity be theirs in the future.

Yours faithfully,

TERENCE IRVINE,
Captain.

January 18th, 1940.

The Seaforth Highlanders.

Obituary

MAJOR M. DE W. MALCOLM

We have learned, with great regret, of the death, on January 2nd, of Major Maurice Malcolm, of Knockalva, Jamaica.

Maurice de Wivelslie Malcolm was born at Murcheston Grove, Edinburgh, on August 10th, 1877. He was the fourth son of Colonel Edward Donald Malcolm of Poltalloch, Argyllshire, and was educated at Clifton College. In 1907 he married Henrietta Fairfax, younger daughter of Mr. R. P. Copeland, D.L., of Kibblestone Hall, Stone, and had two sons, John Neill, who survives him, and David Fairfax who died in infancy.

Major Malcolm served in the Boer War (medal with 4 clasps) and in the Jamaica Corps of Scouts from August, 1914 until disbanded, and retired with the local rank of Major. He was a Justice of the Peace for the parish of St. James, and had been a member of the West India Committee for many years. To the members of his family The CIRCULAR extends its sympathy.

MR. D. C. VAZ

Mr. David Charles Vaz, J.P., a former Mayor of Kingston, died, we regret to learn, in Jamaica on December 18th. Mr. Vaz was born on May 14th, 1874, in Spanish Town where he also received his education. He later lived in Kingston where he became prominent as a business man. Mr. Vaz served as an Alderman on the Council of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation for a considerable period and was elected Mayor during his term of office. He was a member of the West India Committee for many years.

Mr. Vaz took a leading part in Masonic affairs and was a Past Master of The Glenlyon Lodge. He was also keenly interested in racing and was formerly a Director of The Kingston Racing Association.

Mr. Vaz is survived by his wife and by a son, Dr. C. E. Vaz, of Vere, in Clarendon and a daughter, Mrs. Arnold. To them and to his other relatives we tender our sincere sympathy.

* See THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Vol. LII, No. 1022, page 474.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Trinidad's Largest Budget — Broadcasting in Jamaica
British Guiana Cattle Industry

BRITISH GUIANA

Death of a Centenarian. The death occurred on November 3rd of Mrs. Esther Nichols of Queenstown, Essequibo, at the ripe old age of 103. Up to the very end Mrs. Nichols was able to read and sew without the aid of glasses and maintained a cheerful disposition. She was buried at her request in her wedding dress which had been preserved for 71 years.

Amalgamation of Government Departments. Once again the suggestion has been put forward in the Legislative Council that the Forestry Department should be amalgamated with the Department of Lands and Mines. Apart from the practical objection that under the terms of Mr. B. R. Wood's appointment as Conservator of Forests he cannot be compelled to take over the administration of two departments, there are other sound reasons, writes our correspondent, against the suggested amalgamation. The President of the Council in closing the discussion said that his view was that the duties of the post of Conservator of Forests demanded an officer of very specialised training and experience but the specialised staff of the Forest Department should confine itself to Forest duties. He regretted that for those reasons he was unable to accept the suggestion that had been put forward.

Livestock Industry. Dr. D. W. Duthie, Chemist-Geologist of the Department of Agriculture and Mr. H. A. Fraser, Government Veterinary Surgeon, recently travelled up the Berbice river as far as Waranama and Anchor Ranch to survey the cattle-grazing area in the neighbourhood where experiments in rearing cattle will be carried out by Government in conjunction with the Rupununi Company and Mr. R. V. Evan Wong.

JAMAICA

Assistance to Poor Children. At the first annual meeting of The Save the Children Fund Committee of Jamaica, held in Kingston on December 7th, the title of that organisation was changed to the Jamaica Save the Children Fund Society. The valuable social work which had been performed on behalf of the poor children of the Corporate area during the first eighteen months of the existence of the committee was reviewed by Mrs. F. A. Norman, wife of the Labour Adviser, who was elected chairman.

Broadcasting in Jamaica. Sir Arthur Farquharson has been so impressed by the excellence of the first Jamaica broadcasts that he has appealed for funds to provide wireless sets for public centres, such as schools, court houses and church halls, "so that those otherwise unable to enjoy the benefits of the local and other broadcasts may be enabled to do so." He has set a fine example by giving a donation of £25 for this purpose. If this proposal gets the support which it deserves,

broadcasting may be expected to play an important part in education in Jamaica in the future.

Jamaica Women's League. Another form of philanthropic activity in Jamaica is represented by the opening of a campaign by the Jamaica Women's League with a view to collecting funds for the relief of those rendered destitute as a result of the recent severe storms and war conditions. An appeal has been issued by the chairman, Mrs. Michael de Cordova, and a fund has been opened.

Death of Mrs. E. F. Latrielle. Jamaica has lost an indefatigable worker on behalf of women's welfare in the island by the death of Mrs. E. F. Latrielle. She was active in the formation of the Women's Social Service Association in 1918 and was the secretary of that body up to the time of her death. She was deeply interested in child welfare work and was also secretary of the Child Welfare Association.

Production of Cassava Starch. It is reported that a company is about to be formed under the Companies Act in consequence of the juncture which has been effected between Starch Products, Ltd., of England, and Jamaica Welfare, Ltd., in connexion with the production of starch from cassava. A factory is in course of construction at Bartons, St. Elizabeth, which is a centre of cassava cultivation.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

War Budget. The expenditure of \$16,725,451 during the year 1940 was approved by the Legislative Council on December 9th. As foreshadowed in the Governor's Message to the Council, referred to in the CIRCULAR of December 28th, nearly one million dollars is provided for the defence of the Colony, with the consequential imposition of emergency taxation. In moving the adoption of the largest Budget ever presented to the Legislature, the Treasurer said that even though provision had to be made for extraordinary expenditure due to the war, the Government was endeavouring not only to maintain social services at the previous level but wherever possible to increase those services. The total estimated expenditure on education, health and social services during 1940, amounted to \$8,300,353.

Mr. Arthur Evelyn is acting as Dean of the Consular Body of Trinidad in succession to Dr. A. P. Perez, Consul-General for Venezuela, who has been appointed Consul-General in Barcelona. Mr. Evelyn is the Consul for Norway.

Assistant Industrial Adviser. Captain A. G. Scott Madrell, who has served in the Port and Marine Department of the Colony as master of a coastal steamer and also as Assistant Harbour Master, has been appointed Assistant Industrial Adviser.

Island Resort for the Governor. In order to

provide the Governor with a seaside resort to which, as the Colonial Secretary said, he might go during his few hours of leisure, the Legislative Council unanimously passed a supplementary vote of \$2,500 for renting and repairing a house on Kronstadt, one of the Five Islands near Port-of-Spain.

Working Girls Hostel. When opening the new building in Port-of-Spain, which has been erected and equipped at a cost of approximately £5,000, Lady Young described it as a delightful and quite modern hostel in which girls who came to the city to work would feel that they were in a happy home. The Governor said that the building combined provision for health, agriculture and education, the three main subjects singled out by the Government for continued expenditure in the estimates for 1940.

Captain M. Harding-Finlayson

Captain Morgan Holroyd Maynard Harding-Finlayson, we regret to learn, died in London on January 5th, at the age of 79. After leaving school, he obtained a commission in the Militia, but after a short service, went out to Trinidad in the early eighties to take up an appointment in the Treasury Department.

In 1889 he married Miss Kate Finlayson and they made their home at Tranquillity Square, Port-of-Spain. During this period he managed his own cocoa estate at San Carlos and also had extensive holdings in the Trinidad Pitch Lake of which his father-in-law was part owner and an original director.

About 1900 he came to England and resided at Southsea where he became a keen and successful yachtsman serving on the Committee of the Royal Albert Yacht Club, Southsea, and as a delegate of the Yacht Racing Association.

In 1911 he made his home in Cowichan Bay, V.I., Canada, but returned to England in 1915 at the age of 54 and joined the R.A.S.C. as a second lieutenant eventually rising to the rank of Captain. In 1919 he was invalided out through ill health contracted on active service.

West Indian Passengers

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Jamaica, in the s.s. Carare (Captain A. W. Legge) —

Mr. & Mrs. E. Arrowsmith	Rev. & Mrs. E. P. Hiscock	Miss C. Murray
Mr. R. P. Bengry	Miss M. B. Huxley	Dr. & Mrs. P. Pau
Miss P. M. Buckell	Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Gordon	Mrs. R. H. R. ngdahl
Rev. E. Castledine	Jones	Miss K. A. Sinclair
Rev. E. L. Evans	Mrs. Percy Lindo	Dr. K. A. Sleen
Mr. & Mrs. J. Fox	Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Lindo	Mr. R. L. Solyom
Major C. C. Furness	Mr. H. M. McCreedy	Mr. G. Sutherland
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Hart	Dr. & Mrs. H. McDonald	Mr. D. F. Wilshin
Mrs. M. Haynes	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Montague	Mr. T. Wood

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in the s.s. Ariguani (Captain R. A. Thorburn, R.D., R.N.R.) :—

Mr. O. M. Armstrong	Mr. D. Longe	Mr. F. W. Reville
Mr. J. H. Edwards	Mr. J. C. Luke	Mr. J. H. Thompson
Mr. T. H. Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. A. Moore	Mr. R. P. Whalley

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Sailings to the West Indies, in the s.s. Stuyvesant :—

Mr. E. Cattan	Mr. & Mrs. Hodgson	Miss G. L. Roberts
Dr. & Mrs. N. J. Dias	Miss J. M. Hodgson	Mr. A. M. Samuels
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Green	Mr. M. W. Jowett	Mr. P. Stovold
Mr. F. Heymann	Mr. C. E. Lowe	

Colonial Appointments

RECENT appointments, promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service include the following :—

First appointments :—

CAUCHI, F. J., M.D., Resident Surgeon, St. Vincent, Windward Islands.

PAU, P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Health Officer, British Guiana.

Promotions and transfers :—

BROWNE, H. R. E. (Assistant District Officer, Nigeria), Assistant Colonial Secretary, Barbados.

SQUIRE, F. A. (Entomologist, Windward and Leeward Islands), Entomologist, Sierra Leone.

THOROLD, C. A. (Plant Pathologist, Kenya), Plant Pathologist, Department of Agriculture, Trinidad.

BEAUBRUN, I. C., O.B.E. (Treasurer, Grenada, Windward Islands), Deputy Collector of Customs and Excise, Trinidad.

FRETZ, W. T. S. (Assistant Judge, Zanzibar), First Puisne Judge, British Guiana.

GRIFFIN, J. B. (Attorney-General, Bahamas), Solicitor-General, Palestine.

SCOTT GILLET, A., F.R.C.S. (Superintendent, Cunningham Hospital, Basseterre, St. Kitts), Senior Medical Officer, Dominica.

NEWBOLD, C. E. (Executive Engineer), Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, Trinidad.

ROBERTS, C. H. P. (Constable, Bermuda), Chief Inspector of Police, Gambia.

TURNER-SMITH, B. W. (Works Manager), Locomotive (Carriage and Wagon) Superintendent, Trinidad Government Railway.

Trinidad Income Tax

IN a letter dated December 15th Mr. E. C. Buck writes: "In reference to the CIRCULAR of November 2nd, I note on page 440 that Mr. Malcolm MacDonald has given the various rates of income tax, etc., for Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad, but you have evidently copied the information wrongly in connexion with Trinidad because, in the case of an individual, there is a personal allowance made of \$1,200 before the application of the 1½ cents is made, and this makes all the difference to the severity of the tax. The foregoing tax is made on the entire income from all sources, less the \$1,200, apparently in a similar manner to that of Jamaica."

The data given in the CIRCULAR were taken verbatim from Hansard and a check with the original shows that Mr. Buck's conclusion that we had evidently copied the information wrongly is without foundation. Any possible misunderstanding would have been avoided if the data in Hansard had included the headline to the Schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance (No. 34 of 1938), namely "Scale of rates of income tax payable on the net chargeable income." The chargeable income is that remaining after allowing for all appropriate deductions and exemptions. Mr. Buck mentions the personal allowance of \$1,200. This, however, as will be seen by reference to the Ordinance, is only one of several deductions allowed in ascertaining the chargeable income of an individual. The Trinidad tax is thus not levied as Mr. Buck states on "the entire income from all sources less the \$1,200 dollars."

Company Reports and Meetings

Angostura Bitters, Ltd.

The net profit for the year ended September 30th, after providing for income tax, was £19,688, which added to £1,226 brought forward makes a total of £20,914. Interim dividends of 4 per cent. on the preference shares, and 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares were paid in April, absorbing £5,950, leaving £14,964 for appropriation.

The board recommends final dividends of 6 per cent. on the preference shares and 7 per cent. on the ordinary, absorbing £11,050, and the payment of a bonus of £900 to the staff, leaving £3,014 to be carried forward.

Trinidad Sugar Estates, Ltd.

In their report for the year ended September 30th last the directors state that the crop for the year under review was 9,750 tons, compared with 11,155 tons in the preceding year, the tonnage of canes crushed being 85,631, compared with 109,505. Estate canes showed a decrease of 8,500 tons, and farmers' canes 15,350 tons. The wet weather experienced in the previous year seriously affected the crop for the year under review.

A large demand was experienced for yellow crystallised sugars before the outbreak of war, which was met, and resulted in small stocks on hand and increased liquid balances at the balance sheet date. The 1940 crop has been sold to the Ministry of Food on the basis of 10s. 3d. per cwt. f.o.b. for refining sugars, and the usual difference in price for yellow crystallised sugar.

The net profit for the year, after providing for all charges, depreciation and taxation, amounts to £20,868, which added to the balance brought forward of £2,523 makes a total of £23,391. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent. was paid on October 31st, 1939, absorbing £4,875 and the directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent., making a total of 7½ per cent. for the year absorbing £9,750. After transferring £5,000 to the reserve for re-housing estate workers there remains £3,766 to be carried forward.

Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd.

Mr. J. B. Talbot-Crosbie, moving the adoption of the report and accounts (reviewed in last CIRCULAR) at the annual meeting, held in Glasgow, on December 27th, said that the cane reaped during the year amounted to 97,929 tons, and produced 10,294 tons of sugar. The 1938 figures were 102,365 tons of cane and 9,848 tons of sugar. The average weekly output was 605.4 tons of sugar, and the highest weekly output 750 tons. The cultivation costs again showed a slight increase, 3d. per ton of cane, but the factory costs had decreased by 1/7 per ton of sugar. The total f.o.b. cost in Jamaica showed a decrease of 8/6 per ton of sugar compared with 1938.

They were fortunate in being able to report a slight rise in the price of sugar, which took effect towards the end of their crop. The net average selling price per ton was £11 0s. 1d., compared with £9 12s. 2d. in 1938.

"Under the situation as it exists to-day," continued Mr. Talbot Crosbie, "it is impossible for me to make

any forecast as to the result of the current financial year. The Sugar Division of the Ministry of Food have taken over the task of providing the country with sugar. They have purchased the whole of our next season's crop at a price slightly over the average of last year. If no unforeseen difficulties arise, we should be able to repeat this year's satisfactory results.

"The whole question of restriction of output to which I referred last year is now in the melting pot, and it is not possible to say what our allotted share of Empire sugar may be in the future. We are making the necessary arrangements, however, to meet any call for increased production in the near future. . . .

"In view of the increased profit and the improved liquid position of the company, the directors have confidence in recommending a dividend of 7½ per cent., which, it must be remembered, is less than 2 per cent. on the unwritten down capital."

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

The preliminary accounts were published in last CIRCULAR, and showed oil profits of £417,957 for the year ended September 30th last. In their report, published as last issue was going to press, the directors state that the production for the year amounted to 536,133 tons, of which 526,810 tons (against 562,942 tons) was crude oil and 9,323 tons casing head gasoline. This brought the total production of crude oil from the property up to approximately 6,900,000 tons.

A sum of £151,483 was written off wells during the year and up to date 94 per cent. of the original cost has been amortized. The capital expenditure for the year, including cost of drilling, was £229,811.

Mr. George R. Airth, a joint managing director from the formation of the company, has retired from the board and Mr. F. R. Cottell has been appointed a director. Mr. Walter Maclachlan has retired from the position of joint managing director, but will continue to act as chairman, and Mr. F. R. Cottell and Mr. Malcolm Maclachlan have been appointed joint managing directors.

In the course of his speech at the annual meeting on January 18th, Mr. Maclachlan said: "On previous occasions I have referred to difficulties in the labour situation in Trinidad; unfortunately these to a certain degree continue to exist.

"The award of the recent Arbitration Tribunal, which was given after the most exhaustive inquiry into the cost of living and other relevant matters, in effect gave the employees an increase of 2 cents per hour. Subsequent to the award, it was found that certain employees were at a disadvantage under its terms and the oil companies voluntarily remedied this by bringing their pay into line with that of other employees.

"Immediately after the award, the Government Industrial Adviser in Trinidad arranged a meeting between the Employers' Association and the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, in order to evolve an agreed procedure to regulate the future relations between the parties, and provide for negotiating machinery for

dealing with disputes. At this meeting the Industrial Adviser pointed out that the Employers' Association and the Trade Union had each indicated their mutual desire to reserve the method of strikes and lock-outs as last resources, and that agreed procedure would provide the necessary opportunity for carrying out this policy. The Trade Union, however, in spite of every effort by the Industrial Adviser, now insisted upon the right to strike at any stage of a dispute and the negotiations broke down. The employers, whilst wishful for negotiating machinery to be agreed upon, consider it useless to establish the form or procedure whilst either party reserves the right to dispense with it should it think fit.

"More recently, the Trade Union approached the employers on the grounds of an increase in the cost of living since the start of the war and have claimed a substantial rise in wages out of all proportion to such increase. The cost of living index published by the Trinidad Government shows the increase since the arbitration to have been only $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., whereas the claims by the Union would involve in some cases an increase in wages of as much as 54 per cent., and would in some cases have raised the rates above those paid in this country for similar hours and work although, due to the effect of the kindlier climate, the cost of living for equivalent standards is certainly 25 per cent. less in Trinidad.

"The oil companies have expressed their intention of meeting any substantial rise in the cost of living, but the examples I have given will serve to show the difficulties with which they are faced in their negotiations with the Trade Union. We can only hope that with more experience the Trade Union will appreciate that the best results can only be obtained from the Trade Union system if co-operation is shown by all parties."

DEATH

GIBSON at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on January 15th, 1940, at the age of sixty. Isabella Gowans, beloved wife of J. C. Gibson, of Georgetown, British Guiana. Home and Colonial papers please copy.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There are no supplies of Handpressed; the value is 37/6 per lb., ex wharf. Distilled is selling slowly at 16/- per lb. with a firmer tendency. **Lime Juice.** The demand for Concentrated appears to be satisfied after small sales at £8 per pipe. Fine Jamaica Raw with full oil content and top pulp would be worth 2/9 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. There is no demand for Sweet. Bitter is in limited request, but there is no supply; the value is about 8/- per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** is quiet and unchanged with sellers at 95/- c.i.f. London for parcels afloat or near at hand and at 88/- c.i.f. for January shipment. Spot London is quoted at 11½d. per lb. ex Store. **Ginger** is quiet and unchanged at: No. 3, 52/6 to 54/- ex wharf; No. 2, 57/6 to 60/-; medium No. 1 to bold, 65/- to 75/- according to quality. **Nutmegs** are quiet and prices show no change at: defectives, 6½d. to 7d.; sound unassorted, 8d. to 8½d.; sound 80's, 9d. to 10d.; and sound 65's, 11d. **Mace** is also unchanged at: mixed red to pale, 2/6 to 2/7; choice pale, 2/8 to 2/9; and dark to mixed red to pale pickings, 1/2 to 1/10.

Round the Markets

January 23rd, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. It was announced on January 17th that the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44, will be repaid on July 1st next. About £350,000,000 is outstanding. Holders are offered, as an alternative to being repaid in cash, a 2 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1943-45. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Jan. 8th	Jan. 22nd		
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$ value	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$ "	4/11.6
France	176.52	176.52	Fr. "	-1.4
Holland	7.54	7.55	Gu. "	2/7 8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Div. for latest year		Price	
2½	Consols (yield £3 9s. 0d. per cent.)	72	73
3½	War Loan	97	98
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6	
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/-	
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	5	½
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/- ..	26/-	27/-
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A" ..	34/-	38/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ..	1½	1½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2 ¼	2 ¼
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1 ¼	1 ¼
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ..	1/1	
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/6	2/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	½	1 ¼
15	Corentyne Sugar Co.	7/9	8/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9	3/9
8	Kern River Oilfields 5/- ..	3/-	4/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d.	1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1	2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	14/-	15/-
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3	7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	6d.	1/6
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. ..	44/6	45/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	6/-	7/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/3	8/3

SUGAR. The Ministry of Food announced last night that sugar for manufacturing purposes is to be rationed. The percentage allocations, which will be kept constantly under review are as follows: drugs, 100; condensed milk, 75; liquid sugar, 70½; syrup and treacle, 70; jam, 70; chocolate, 70; sundry beverages, 65; other confectionery, 60; cake and biscuits, 60; bakers' and flour confectionery, 60; bottling and canning, 50; miscellaneous manufacturers (ice cream, jellies, coffee essences, custard powder, etc.), 50; mineral waters, 25; candied peel, 25.

RUM. The market condition is discussed on page 18.

COCOA. A small business has been done in the limited supplies available. Fine Grenada has sold at from 65/- to 67/6, in bond, but the demand is now quieter with sellers at the higher figure. Fine Trinidad is quoted at 72/6 to 75/-, London landed terms, and the first "three marks" at 58/6 c. & f., February-April shipment. The "control" price of West African is 30/3 c.i.f.

BALATA. There is very little doing in Demerara sheet, and supplies are small. The nominal value is 2/- to 2/1 spot.

COTTON. West Indian Sea Island continues in demand and prices are firm.

HONEY is quiet but firm. There is a good demand for Jamaica and with only small supplies offering on the spot in London, values range from 70/- to 85/- per cwt. landed terms, for the dark liquid to smooth set pale.

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. FEBRUARY 8th, 1940. No. 1079.

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February 7th, 1940.

Food Production in War and Peace

"THE provision of food is one of the most important elements in the defence of the Realm." This statement made by MR. LLOYD GEORGE in the House of Commons on January 25th during the debate on Food Supply is true not only of the United Kingdom but also of the British West Indian Colonies. The inhabitants of both are very largely dependent on imported foods. The need for increased food production in the West Indies which before the war was desirable economy is now a vital necessity. The West Indies were faced with the same problem in the last war but in some respects the position is more difficult now than then, and the need for effective action consequently all the greater. As is well known the United Kingdom is obtaining supplies of war and other material from the United States of America, but the purchases have to be made on what is termed the "cash and carry" system which means they must be paid for in gold or by the sale of repatriated securities. In order to conserve the necessary exchange imports from non-sterling countries have been limited to absolute essentials. We find that in the West Indies also restrictions have been placed on importations from non-sterling countries including Canada and Newfoundland. In normal times the United Kingdom is, like Canada, an important source of food-stuffs for the West Indies, but in order to conserve her home supplies the export of foods from the United Kingdom is now strictly controlled and a limit has been placed on supplies to individual Colonies based on their essential minimum requirements.

Particulars of the steps taken in several of the West Indian Colonies have been given in the CIRCULAR and need not be detailed now. These naturally vary not only with the needs of individual Colonies but also with what is possible owing to their great diversity of conditions such as density of population, soil and climate. The problem in Barbados with nearly 1,200 people to the square mile is obviously very different from that in Jamaica or Trinidad each with less than a quarter that population density. In almost all the Colonies active steps are being taken to increase food crops. Greater production is not however enough and already in the West Indies, as in England, attention has been called to the need for organised marketing. This is not a new problem and as VISCOUNT ASTOR and MR. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE have pointed out in British Agriculture "the difficulties of small holders in making a financial success are increased by the cost of time and money involved in marketing their produce." This difficulty, a very real one, was eased in Trinidad during the last

CONTENTS

	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—	
FOOD PRODUCTION IN WAR AND PEACE	25
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	26
COCOA CONTROL SCHEME	27
TRINIDAD OILFIELDS AGREEMENT	27
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	28
WAR SERVICES FUND	28
SIR GEORGE GATER	28
SETTLEMENT IN BRITISH GUIANA	29
CAMBRIDGE EXPEDITION TO JAMAICA	29
ONE SUPREME COURT	30
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRADE	30
SACCHARINE AND SUGAR DUTIES	30
LEEWARD ISLANDS	30
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!	30
PALESTINE CITRUS CROP	30
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	31
A JAMAICA RED CROSS AMBULANCE	31
THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	32
TRINIDAD SUGAR ESTATES, LTD.	34
VOODOO GODS	35
HANDBOOK OF JAMAICA, 1939	35
CARIBBEAN READERS	35
THOSE WILD WEST INDIES	35
FOOD PRODUCTION IN JAMAICA	36
ROUND THE MARKETS	36

war by the establishment of a Government Ground Provisions Depot to which a man could send even a single bag of sweet potatoes or yams from his railway station, and receive a fair price in cash through the Station Collector. Started as a war measure the Depot has become a permanent institution and immediately after the outbreak of war it was announced that its activities would be extended.

This war may well lead to permanent improvements. Thus whilst increased production of ground provisions can readily be secured, there will remain the need for large quantities of wheat flour particularly for bread and the substantial biscuits which are manufactured in local factories. The British West Indies import annually some 1,100,000 bags of flour; over one half comes from Canada, and nearly a quarter from the United Kingdom. Supplies from both countries are now subject to licence and although licences are sure to be granted as long as circumstances permit, it has to be recognised that these may change and it would be of permanent advantage if these large imports of flour could be reduced. The British Guiana Department of Agriculture has recently shown that a very palatable and acceptable bread can be made with 25 per cent. rice flour to 75 per cent. of wheat flour. Similarly it was demonstrated in Trinidad during the last war that bread can be made with an admixture of banana meal, which is very nutritious and is highly recommended in the United States for use in various ways.

There seems opportunity here also for the production possibly in Jamaica of a good marketable article. Black-eye peas, to instance another valuable food, can in some areas be readily grown on a large scale for example as a rotation crop with rice. In fact, by specializing in say rice flour in one Colony, banana meal, black-eye peas, sweet potatoes, or yams in others, intercolonial trade might well be developed. Such an interchange amongst the British West Indies of food-stuffs which one area can produce in abundance and another needs would help not only to meet war demands but also to solve peace time problems of malnutrition and be of assistance in developing land settlement schemes.

Some of the war measures now being taken may thus prove to be of permanent value. As the Administrator of Antigua said on December 15th, in words of wide application in the West Indies, the call broadcast to the Colonies by the Secretary of State to mobilise to the full their agricultural resources for the essential provisioning of the Empire was not only the challenge of the war to Antigua, but penetrated to the very heart of their permanent problem and pointed to their only true salvation now and hereafter.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THAT ancient irrepressible, the English climate, has won a notable victory over the censorship. From the outset of war the newspapers were forbidden to make the slightest allusion to the weather, lest enemy raiders should glean useful information. Forecasts disappeared; when sporting events had to be cancelled no reason might be stated; such functions as skating championships could not be mentioned. Foreign weather, of course, was another matter; and so, as the bitterest winter of the century closed its grip upon Europe, the papers were full of reports of the arctic conditions prevailing from Finland to the Danube, but with never a word to suggest that England had experienced a chilly day.

* * *

About the end of January, apparently imagining that the worst was over, the censorship relaxed its ban to the extent of allowing the papers to print retrospective accounts of the great frost. The permission, however, almost coincided with very heavy falls of snow throughout the country; railway services between London and Scotland were running twelve hours or more late, and many others were cancelled altogether. As a result the floodgates of the censorship broke down altogether, and a spate of news relating indiscriminately to the past weeks and the immediate moment filled the columns of the press.

* * *

We now know—what our icicles, frozen pipes, and shivering bones had distinctly hinted to us—that we have endured the severest winter since 1895. The Thames near London was frozen over for eight miles of its course; London itself had more than twenty degrees of frost; and in places in the Midlands the thermometer fell below zero Fahrenheit.

* * *

Unprecedented as these conditions are in the memory of most of us, we have to be reminded that our recent weather would rank almost as a heat wave in those bleak latitudes where the Finns are maintaining their wonderful resistance to the hordes of the Soviet. The admiration felt throughout England for this heroic people passes all bounds. At a service of intercession for Finland, held in St. Paul's Cathedral last week, the Archbishop of Canterbury appealed to the Government to give speedy practical help to the Finns, for whom the supreme crisis may be expected to come in May, when spring weather will deprive them of the protection afforded by their climate to counterbalance overwhelming numbers.

* * *

The appeal undoubtedly represents popular feeling. But as a matter of fact very much more aid is being sent to Finland than can be specifically stated without helping the enemy. The Finns do not ask for men, who, unless born and bred to Arctic life, would be useless. If it were permissible to reveal in print what we are sending in the way of war material (supplementing the steady stream of supplies from many neutral countries, especially Sweden and the United States) it would be

agreed that the British contribution to this noble struggle for freedom is one of which we need not be ashamed.

* * *

Possibly the cold weather, with its added difficulties for our defensive aircraft in coping with sudden attack, has encouraged the recent intensification of air activities round our coast. As usual, the German bombers have avoided military and naval objectives, preferring the safer sport of sinking merchant and fishing vessels, mostly neutral at that, and even descending to the destruction of lightships. When interrupted in this work by the R.A.F., they have seldom been inclined to show fight. However, a score of raiders who attacked on February 3rd were successfully intercepted, and at least three destroyed. One of these was brought down in Yorkshire, the first hostile machine to fall on land in England, although Scotland accounted for one in October.

* * *

An unpleasant episode in Anglo-Japanese relations seems now about to yield to tactful handling. A British naval officer stopped and searched a Japanese ship for contraband, and took off it twenty-one Germans, of military age, and said to be experts in submarine warfare, who were trying to return to their fatherland. There is no question that he was within his rights in international law; but the Japanese Foreign Office protested strongly, and there has been a violent wave of anti-British agitation in Japan. Apparently the Japanese anger is directed less to the act of the British captain in taking prisoner the young Germans than to his having done it almost on the doorstep of Tokyo; for in Japanese tradition the national honour and dignity is apt to count for more than legal rights. The friction is thus between the European notion of the rule of law and the Far Eastern conception of the importance of "saving Face." Happily Mr. Chamberlain has recognised that this is the essence of the situation and there are already signs that the dispute will be amicably settled.

* * *

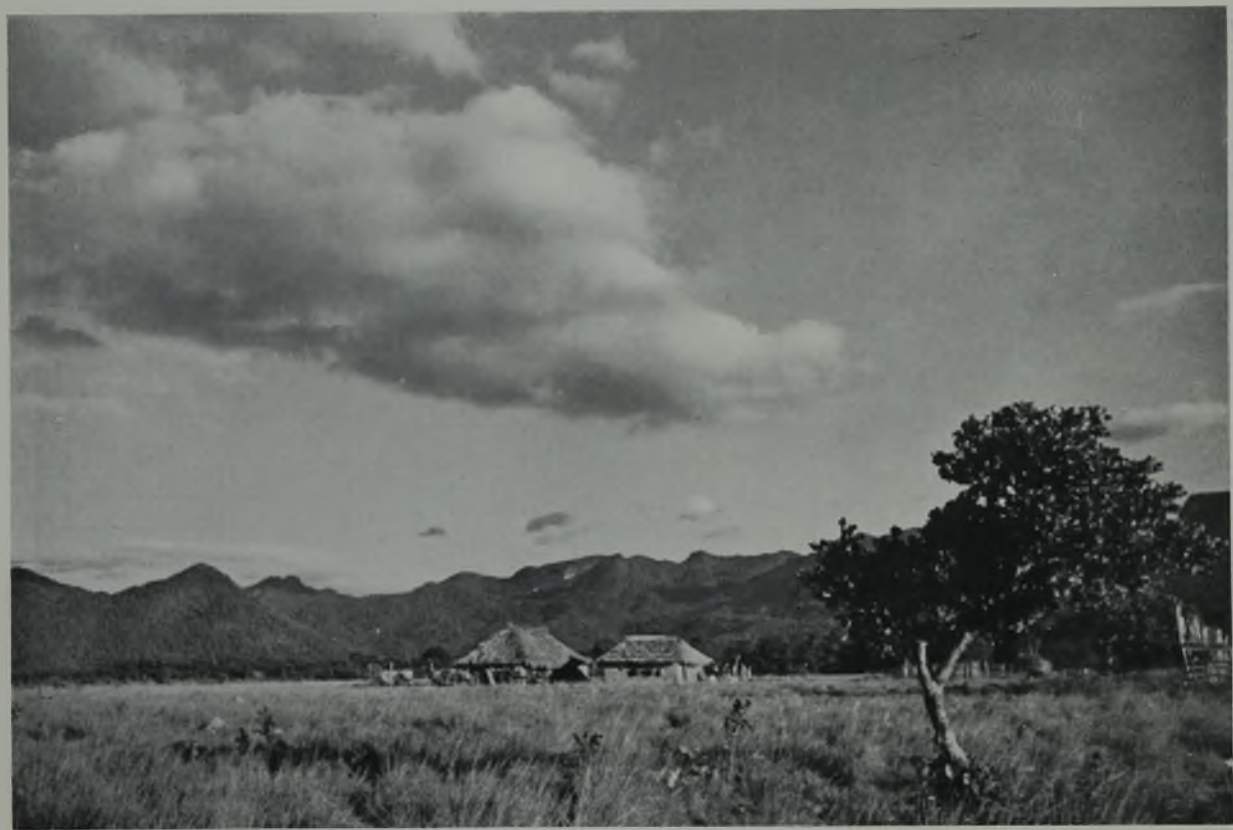
After debate in the House of Commons, the demand for a Minister in the War Cabinet, charged with the co-ordination of economic war effort, has been parried for the time being. The Prime Minister's objection is, in effect, that the proposed task is work for a superman, of the type that exists only in romantic imagination. Instead, he has consented to the creation of a committee, including eminent representatives of industry and the trade unions, together with Lord Stamp, the Government's chief economic adviser, to press the expansion of our export trade. This meets a large part of the case of the Government's critics, but not the basic contention that the War Cabinet is too large and too much encumbered with departmental duties. The believers in a small Cabinet of four or five members, all of them released from the supervision of departments of state in order to give their whole time to the direction of the war, are as numerous as ever, and are likely to go on pressing their case.



ON THE HIGH SEAS.—A BRITISH CONVOY SEEN FROM THE AIR



AERIAL VIEW. KANUKU MOUNTAINS AND SOUTHERN SAVANNAHS BEYOND
IN FOREGROUND AN OLD CLEARING TO LEFT OF RUPUNUNI RIVER



INDIAN SETTLEMENT ON THE SAVANNAH NEAR KANUKU MOUNTAINS
THE SITE SELECTED FOR THE FIRST TRIAL SETTLEMENT

THE RUPUNUNI DISTRICT OF BRITISH GUIANA

[From photographs by Sir Geoffrey Evans. See page 29

Cocoa Control Scheme

Application to the West Indies

ON November 13th, the Colonial Office announced that, as a war measure, the Government had undertaken to purchase the whole 1939-40 crop of West African cocoa and to offer to purchase maximum quantities, based on past normal shipments, of cocoa produced in Trinidad and Tobago, the Windward Islands and Ceylon, at prices determined in relation to those paid for West African cocoa.

When particulars of the scheme were given in the CIRCULAR of November 16th, the comment was made that writing on the day after the publication of the announcement, it could be said that the trade awaits further developments in regard to the scheme, its practical working and some indication of how it will affect trading in the London market.

EXPORT LICENCES AND PRICES

More details regarding the application of the scheme to Trinidad and the Windward Islands have been received from the Colonial Office in a statement dated January 25th which reads as follows:—

Individuals and firms engaged in the trade will be free to trade through normal channels, subject to provisions made in the following paragraphs:—

(1) In so far as shippers from these countries [Trinidad, the Windward Islands and Ceylon] to the United Kingdom are concerned, the local Governments will issue export licences freely until shipments of cocoa of domestic origin during the period October 1st, 1939 to September 30th, 1940 reach the following amounts:—

	Tons
Trinidad and Tobago	1,650
Windward Islands (Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent)	1,861
Ceylon	700

The figures do not include cocoa transhipped in the United Kingdom in bond. Responsibility for allotting export licences amongst the various shippers will lie entirely with the local governments concerned.

(2) In the event of the amounts stated above being exhausted before September 30th, 1940, it will be open to the local governments to approach the Central Control concerning the issue of further export licences to the United Kingdom, and to the extent that earlier shipments have been re-exported from the United Kingdom, the Central Control will be prepared to consider whether licences for further exports should be issued in the light of the circumstances existing.

(3) In the event of the United Kingdom price for cocoa shipped from Trinidad or the Windward Islands falling below reasonable level compared with the port of shipment prices fixed for cocoa in British West Africa, the Central Control will offer to purchase such cocoa as may be tendered to it at whatever premium over the buying price for British West African cocoa may be appropriate to the grade of cocoa offered for sale. Any such offer to purchase will apply only to

first sales of quantities shipped within the period covered by the Control Scheme.

(4) If during the 12 months preceding September 30th, 1940, shipments to the United Kingdom from any of these Colonies are below the figure set out in (1) above, then, provided unsold stocks remain in the countries concerned, the Control will offer to purchase sufficient cocoa to bring shipments for the twelve months up to the specified totals.

(5) The Central Control will not purchase under the foregoing provisions cocoa of lower quality than fair average for the season for Plantation Trinidad and Good Estates Grenada. It will be open to the Central Control and the seller to demand that any disputes as to the quality of cocoa offered for sale shall be taken to arbitration according to the rules of the Cocoa Association of London.

(6) The Control reserves the right to resell at any time any cocoa bought.

GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Rt. Hon. W. S. Morrison, the Minister of Food, has appointed an Advisory Committee on Raw Cocoa whose functions are indicated by the following terms of reference

“To consider and advise on all questions referred to them by the Minister of Food and, in particular, on all matters affecting the purchase and disposal of the cocoa crop from British West Africa during the season ending September, 1940, and the supplies of raw cocoa, of any description and origin to, or in the United Kingdom.”

Mr. F. A. Greenaway, a director of Frame and Co., Ltd., the London agents of the Cocoa Planters Association of Trinidad and Tobago and hon. treasurer of the Cocoa Association of London, has accepted the invitation of the Minister of Food to serve on this Advisory Committee. Mr. Greenaway, who is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee will, in the interests of the Grenada producers, enjoy the close co-operation of Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, deputy chairman of the West India Committee, who is a director of the firm of Jonas Browne and Son, Ltd., and managing director of A. Hubbard and Co., Ltd., of that Colony.

Trinidad Oilfields Agreement

By an agreement signed on February 2nd, all field workers get an increase of 2 cents an hour plus a war bonus on an official cost-of-living index figure. The appointment of a conciliation board and a “no stoppages” clause are the main features of the agreement. The new wage rates are unalterable “during the period of the war and six months thereafter, or during the period of two years, whichever shall be the longer.”

The West Indies and the War

BAHAMAS

Red Cross Donation. It has been announced in the London Press that on January 30th, the Bahamas Citizens' Committee cabled a gift of £6,000 to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John's Fund.

BRITISH GUIANA

Imports of Food-stuffs. By an Order which came into operation on December 18th, 1939, the importation of food-stuffs of every description from the United Kingdom is prohibited except under special licence, which the Comptroller of Customs may issue at his discretion.

Increased Export Duties. The following additional duties have been imposed on exports from British Guiana. Precious stones 15c. per carat; gold 1½ per cent. of the value of each ounce of pure gold or where the value exceeds \$35 per ounce, a duty equivalent to 25 per cent. of such excess whichever duty is the greater; bauxite 20c. per ton; all other goods, articles and products (except agricultural and forest products) 1½ per cent. of their value.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Import Restrictions. The importation of corn (maize) meal and corn grits, except under license, has been prohibited as from January 1st.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Second £1,000 for Red Cross. The local Branch of the British Red Cross Society forwarded in December a second donation of £1,000 to the headquarters of the Society in England.

Foreign Securities. The Treasurer has notified the public that under the Defence (Finance) Regulations the proceeds from foreign securities realised must be surrendered to an authorized dealer to be held for and on behalf of the Government.

WINDWARD ISLANDS

GRENADA

Message to the King. The Legislative Council at a meeting held to commemorate the inclusion of Dominica in the Windward Islands group, passed a resolution assuring the King of their unshakable resolve to share in every sacrifice which the free peoples of the British Empire may be called upon to make for the attainment of victory.

Facilitating Imports. Merchants who wish to ensure that their exports from European countries are not delayed or detained as a result of His Majesty's Government's action against the enemy's exports are advised in a notice published in the Government Gazette, to obtain Certificates of Origin and Interest from a British or French Consular Officer in the European country concerned. They should arrange for these certificates to accompany the goods on board the vessel.

ST. LUCIA

National Service Work, writes Mr. E. T. Ward, has been organised under a Central Committee, with sub-committees in all parts of the island. Public meetings have been held to explain the objects which the central committee has in view and the manner in

which it is proposed to carry them out. At a mass meeting held on November 28th an enthusiastic audience listened to an inspiring address by the Administrator, and the Hon. Garnet H. Gordon, chairman of the Castries sub-committee.

A War Comforts Committee, Ladies' Voluntary Nursing Committee, and a Red Cross Entertainment Committee have also been formed and are actively at work.

Increased Taxes and Duties. The rates of succession duty have been increased by 20 per cent. The succession of persons who died previous to December 8th, 1939, when the Ordinance was passed, will not be affected.

The rate of income tax on individuals whose chargeable income does not exceed £1,000 is increased by 20 per cent., and over £1,000 by 30 per cent. Chargeable incomes of less than £100 will not be affected. On companies the increase will be 25 per cent. The rates of postage on all letters (not postcards, printed papers, packets, etc.) leaving the Colony have been increased by one penny, an entertainments tax has been instituted, and alterations made under Ordinance No. 19, 1939, in the export duties on coco-nuts and copra. An export tax has also been imposed on honey.

ST. VINCENT

Increased Income and Land Taxes. Under Ordinance No. 25 of 1939, which came into operation on January 1st, the following increases have been made on the rates of tax previously paid on chargeable incomes: £201 to £400, 5 per cent.; £401 to £600, 7½ per cent.; £601 to £800, 12½ per cent.; £801 to £1,000, 25 per cent.; over £1,000, 50 per cent. For companies the additional rate will be sixpence on every pound of their chargeable income.

An addition of sixpence per acre is imposed on the first five acres of land in excess of five acres owned by any one person, and, subject to certain provisos, 1s. 6d. per acre on all land in excess of ten acres owned by any one person. In Mustique the addition is sixpence per acre, and in Bequia three pence per acre.

War Services Fund

Since the publication of the last list of donations the following sums have been received and are gratefully acknowledged:—

	£	s.	d.
Trinidad Branch of the British Red Cross Society	100	0	0
George F. Huggins & Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Mrs. A. C. McCuaig	1	1	0
Previously acknowledged	821	18	0
	<u>£947</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>

Sir George Gater

Sir George Gater, clerk of the London County Council, who, as reported in the CIRCULAR of July 27th, had been selected to succeed Sir Cosmo Parkinson as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, took up his new appointment on February 1st. On the same date, Sir Cosmo Parkinson entered on his duties as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

Settlement in British Guiana

Sir Geoffrey Evans' Lecture

THE Planters Group of the Royal Empire Society, whose activities have been interrupted by the war conditions, held its first meeting of the present Session on February 1st. Mr. W. G. Freeman, the Chairman, welcomed Sir Geoffrey Evans, formerly Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, who gave a very interesting lecture on the possibilities of agricultural settlement in the Rupununi District of British Guiana. Sir Geoffrey was nominated by the British Government to accompany the United States Commission which visited British Guiana last winter to investigate the possibilities of making the Colony one of the homes for Jewish refugees.

Sir Geoffrey said the Rupununi Savannahs, about 4,500 square miles of open grassland, are an extension of the vast plains that spread for hundreds of miles westwards into Brazil and Venezuela. In these Savannahs and on the foothills around them live the present day inhabitants. The mountain ranges are to all intents and purposes absolutely uninhabited. The only industry is cattle raising and the dozen or so ranchers own about 50,000 head of cattle, which range the plains in a semi-wild condition. The aboriginal Indians number about 9,000, and besides helping with the cattle, grow a certain amount of food crops by a primitive method of shifting cultivation.

A preliminary problem was that of reaching the area, which is some 350 miles from Georgetown. Navigation of the Essequibo River, the main means of access at present, is hampered by the numerous cataracts, thirty-five of which must be negotiated between Georgetown and Annai, and the journey takes six weeks. An alternative route is by way of the Berbice River for 100 miles or more, then along a cattle trail for a further 200 miles. A third means of access, adopted by Sir Geoffrey and other members of the Commission, comprised an arduous journey of 125 miles by motor lorry along the Ketara road to the goldfields, and a hazardous flight in a small flying boat over the forest-clad mountain ranges to Bon Success on the Brazilian border. Thence the country was explored on horseback and on foot.

Sir Geoffrey exhibited wonderful views taken from the air of the forest-clad hills, and of the escarpment with the magnificent Kaieteur Falls, 810 feet high and about three times the width of the Thames at Richmond.

In the forest area rain is almost continuous, but on the Savannahs there are distinct wet and dry seasons the latter characterised by the prevalence of a strong north-east breeze. Although the elevation is not more than 400 feet, and the lowest temperature about 71°F. the atmosphere feels bracing.

The Savannahs form a white sandy plain covered with sparse and very poor grass with occasional shrubs and small trees which can resist fire. The lack of minerals in the soil is very serious, and cattle often chew bones for the sake of the phosphates, and take five years to reach a marketable size. In the valleys of the wooded Kanuku Range the soils are better, possibly some of the

best in British Guiana, though still short of phosphates, and in the few places in which they are cultivated, yield good crops of tobacco, papaw and maize.

Sir Geoffrey then gave an interesting account of the present inhabitants, of their villages and ranches, mode of life, and methods of ranching and cultivation. He concluded by reviewing the considerations affecting the question of settlement. There was any amount of room. The present sparse population of aboriginal Indians, a pleasant, shy and not unintelligent people, would welcome the settlement of Europeans, and there were no political difficulties. From a health point of view the area was satisfactory. There are good soils in the foothills and valleys of the Kanuku Range, and communal settlements at the foot of the valleys, from which the settlers could cultivate the valleys and foothills, and run cattle ranches on the plains, were a feasible proposition. Obstacles were the present difficulty of access and the probable high cost of opening communication; the fact that the settlers would have to be supported for one or two years; the extreme poverty of the Savannah soil, and the distance from both supplies and markets; the absence of indigenous labour; and the possible psychological effect of the monotony of existence.

The Commission had recommended the establishment of a small trial settlement only as a commencement, and this proposal was under consideration when the European war started in September.

The discussion was opened by Mr. F. H. Dixon who had made a trip up the Bartica River into the Imataca Mountains. Sir Herbert Matthews said he had come full of questions, most of which had been answered by Sir Geoffrey. From one left, however, he obtained the information that ranching alone would not maintain settlers as after taking five years for a bullock to be fit for market its value is only \$22. Dr. Tempany said the crux of the question seemed to be transport, as for a settlement to flourish there must be exports. Dr. E. Snellen, formerly Director of Agriculture in Surinam, referred to a proposal made three hundred years ago, when what is now British Guiana was a Dutch colony, for a settlement in the Rupununi District. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by the Chairman, who said that, in Trinidad, agriculturists discreetly avoided similar, though smaller, savannah areas although easily accessible.

Cambridge Expedition to Jamaica

In a brief report on the work of the Cambridge University Expedition to Jamaica, an account of whose programme was given in the CIRCULAR of June 15th, 1939, Dr. V. J. Chapman, the leader, says: "The primary object of the expedition was to study the development of the cays and of the shoreline, especially in the neighbourhood of Kingston, and also the rôle of the plants and animals concerned in the process."

In the course of these investigations it became evident that the Morant Cays form an independent group fundamentally different in structure from the cays nearer the coast: the vegetation, too proved to be different.

One Supreme Court

Windward and Leeward Islands

The preamble of an Act passed by the General Legislative Council for the Leeward Islands on December 9th, stated that "it is deemed expedient that there should be established for the Colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands one Supreme Court of Record in place of the Supreme Court of Grenada, the Royal Court of St. Lucia, the Supreme Court of St. Vincent and the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands, to be styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands."

The Act (No. 2 of 1939) conferred power on His Majesty to establish by Order in Council a Court or Courts in place of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands.

The new Court was established by His Majesty's Order in Council dated December 20th, 1939, and it was announced in the Leeward Islands Gazette for January 4th that Sir George C. Deane, late Chief Justice of the Gold Coast, and formerly Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, had been appointed Chief Justice and Mr. W. M. Wigley, late Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and Mr. G. E. F. Richards, late Chief Justice of St. Lucia, Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands. On February 5th the Colonial Office announced that Mr. J. H. Jarrett, Colonial Secretary, Bahamas, had been appointed Chief Justice of the Court.

Trinidad and Tobago Trade

During the first nine months of 1939, the value of domestic produce exported from Trinidad and Tobago amounted to \$25,815,241, a decrease of \$1,118,067 or 4.8 per cent. compared with the same period of 1938. The principal items in 1939 were:—

		QUANTITY	VALUE
Cocoa—Raw	cwt.	122,796	\$931,551
Sugar	..	2,286,882	\$5,087,024
Coffee—Raw	..	5,239	\$31,957
Molasses	..	338,463	\$136,420
Rum	.. per gal.	55,856	£39,836
Bitters	..	6,071	\$59,372
Asphalt	.. ton.	70,885	\$952,407
Grapefruit	.. No.	986,370	\$44,461
Copra	.. cwt.	103,163	\$166,300

In comparison with the first nine months of 1938, Sugar decreased in quantity by 9.5 per cent. and increased in value by 2.6 per cent.; cocoa decreased in quantity by 6.4 per cent. and in value by 56.5 per cent.; copra decreased in quantity by 58.4 per cent and in value by 9.0 per cent.

Saccharine and Sugar Duties

In reply to Mr. Graham White who suggested the advisability of reducing the import duty on saccharine to encourage its use as a substitute for sugar, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster said that the duty on saccharine was directly related to that on sugar by reference to sweetening power, and in view of revenue considerations the suggestion could not be adopted.

Leeward Islands

Governor's New Year Message

Sir Gordon Lethem, the Governor of the Leeward Islands, in a New Year's Message said that the active dangers of war had so far passed by the Leeward Islands. The menacing failure of crops had been greatly retrieved. The last days of the year had seen indication of improved markets and prices for export crops.

After stressing the share of the Colony in the successful prosecution of war, in the form of public and private economy, His Excellency said that the endeavour would demand patience, tolerance, and a readiness to accommodate habits to new circumstances. The islands had moreover a remarkable opportunity to better many aspects of their economy, particularly in the local production of food.

The beginnings of these efforts were not simple and easy. We have, he said, "a period of trial and experiment in front of us which is our opportunity, modest though it may seem, to serve in the common cause. In 1940, we shall be able to weigh the balance of our effort.

"Still greater calls may or may not come. In the meantime may the Leeward Islands find the spirit to carry on in the year before us in such a way that our contribution to that common cause may be one of which to be proud."

That's the Spirit!

There was a young lady of Port-of-Spain,
Who flew to the Arctic and back again,
And stepped from the 'plane to the aerodrome
As fresh as she was when she left her home.

The island Pressmen crowded round
Almost before she touched the ground,
"Tell us," they cried, "Why you survive!"
"We never expected you back alive."

The daring girl eyed them with cold disdain,
And said: "Must it needs be proclaimed again
"That those who survive such a hectic time
"Are those who take RUM, with a dash of LIME?"

L. O. PELTIS.

Palestine Citrus Crop

Mr. T. Willams asked the Minister of Shipping on January 23rd whether he was aware of the serious situation that might arise in Palestine unless adequate shipping accommodation were provided for the citrus crop; and whether, in view of the importance to every section of the community of this crop, he would provide the means of transport and ensure economic stability in Palestine. Sir A. Salter replied that arrangements had been made for freighting a substantial portion of it. The possibility of making some further tonnage available would be considered sympathetically.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"DE chip neber fall too furr from de block."

* * *

MR. H. G. KLEINWORT, the senior partner in Messrs. Kleinwort, Sons & Co., has retired. The business will be continued by the remaining partners.

* * *

MAJOR O. ST. A. DUKE has resigned his membership of the Federal Executive Council and of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands.

* * *

By a slip in the Homeward Mail on page 21 of last issue Mr. Arthur Emlyn, who is acting as Dean of the Consular Body of Trinidad, was referred to as Mr. Arthur Evelyn.

* * *

THE American Clipper inaugurated a one-day service from the United States to Europe on February 3rd. Hitherto the flights have taken about thirty hours. Starting from Miami, passengers and mail were taken on board at Charlestown whence the Clipper left for Bermuda en route for Lisbon.

* * *

THE K.L.M. continue to fly on their normal routes between Curaçao and Trinidad, Barbados, Barranquilla, Maracaibo, La Guaira, and other West Indian and South American cities.

* * *

THE HON. SIR HERBERT MARLER, K.C.M.G., who was Canadian Minister in Washington from 1936 to 1939 died in Montreal on January 31st at the age of 63. Sir Herbert was chairman of the Committee on Transportation in the negotiations which resulted in the Canada and West Indies trade agreement of 1925.

* * *

THE effect of the additional duty of 1d. per lb. on sugar has, it was officially stated in the House of Commons on January 23rd, raised the cost-of-living index figure by approximately 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ points.

* * *

NAVAL officers and others in Trinidad have subscribed the nucleus of a fund for the benefit of the dependents of men from the Colony who were lost in the tanker Inverdargle, which was blown up on January 16th off the south-west coast of England.

* * *

MR. JOHN HUNTER was, on January 25th, received in audience by the King and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Honduras. His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

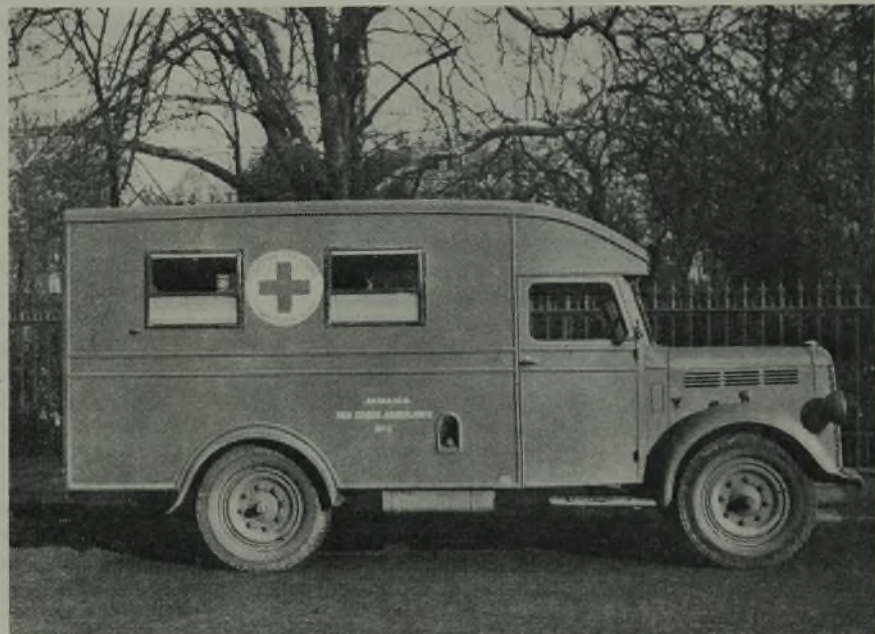
* * *

MR. H. A. DE FREITAS, of Trinidad, a student at the Royal School of Mines, London, delivered a lecture

on Trinidad to his fellow students on Tuesday, February 6th, at 3.30 p.m. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides lent by the Trinidad and Tobago Section of the West India Committee.

* * *

THE annual production of oranges in the United States, about 75,000,000 boxes, is now equal to that



A Red Cross Ambulance given by Jamaica

of the whole world twenty years ago. During the same period the production of grapefruit in the States has increased from 6,000,000 to 41,000,000 boxes, about 90 per cent. of the world's output.

* * *

It is announced in the December issue of Indian Opinion, the official organ of the British Guiana East Indian Association, that public meetings will be held throughout the Colony to obtain the views of those directly affected in order that a memorial on the rice industry may be prepared for presentation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The same issue contains a draft of the proposed memorial.

A Jamaica Red Cross Ambulance

In October, 1939, a first contribution of £2,000 was made to the Red Cross from The Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee with a request that this money should be utilised for the purchase of ambulances to be marked and known as "Jamaica Red Cross Ambulance No. ——" We reproduce, on this page, a photograph of the first of these ambulances. It is hoped that it may be possible to give further particulars of this generous gift from Jamaica in a later issue of the CIRCULAR.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Sugar Crop Prospects in Barbados and St. Lucia — Old Age Pensions —
Help for Colonial Students in England



BARBADOS

Sugar Cane. The Department of Agriculture, in its useful monthly notes, reports that the rainfall in November was high and well distributed throughout the island. As a result, the recovery of the crop noted in October continues. Growth was rapid and, provided showers are frequent and well distributed up to the end of the year, a crop equivalent to between 100,000 and 110,000 tons of sugar should be obtained in 1940.

Food Crops. In accordance with the requirements of the Vegetable Production (Defence) Control Order, 1939, five per cent. of the total arable plantation acreage has been "thrown-out" for purposes of growing ground provisions to cope, in part, at least with any likely shortage in imported foodstuffs. The five per cent. represents approximately 2,600 acres. These have largely been planted in sweet potatoes, which will be harvested gradually up to the end of September, 1940. The plantations are co-operating well in this scheme and it is to be hoped that the people in the island will play their part in this war-time measure by eating sweet potatoes in preference to comparable imported foodstuffs.

Moth Borer Control. The propagation and distribution of the new parasite *Metagonistylum minense* during November has been highly satisfactory; the total liberated this year has reached 5,416 females and 2,855 males. A large proportion of the flies were crosses between the Sao Paulo strain and the Amazon strain, and this cross appears to be very vigorous and strong. With the improvement in the weather conditions, and in the character of cane growth, this new parasite should have every chance of becoming established. Parasites were liberated during November on 35 estates and also given to the Senior Peasants' Agricultural Instructor for distribution in tenancies. Field work so far has shown surprisingly low depositions of moth-borer eggs, which, it is hoped, may be an indication of a lessening amount of borer damage.

Corn (Maize) and Moth Borers. Attention has frequently been drawn in past years to the fact that corn is heavily infested with the same moth borer that infests and damages the cane crop. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that corn provides a favourable breeding ground for moth borers, and that if it is allowed to dry out in the field owing to delay in breaking out the ripe corn, or through being left after breaking out the corn, then it is bound to be a source of danger to the sugar crop. If reaped and destroyed as soon as possible, consistent with obtaining dried cobs, then it traps and destroys the moth borer. In view of the possible increase of corn planting for food purposes, the danger of allowing corn stalks to dry out in the field must be strongly emphasised.

BRITISH GUIANA

Sir John Waddington, Governor of Barbados, who has been acting as Governor during Sir Wilfrid Jackson's absence on leave has resumed his substantive duties. Writing on December 14th, our honorary correspondent informed us that at the last meeting of the Legislative Council before his departure, in responding to the felicitations of members on his acting regime, His Excellency said he had received in British Guiana kindness of a quality which it was not easy to forget and he appreciated it very much. He wished to extend very good wishes to the Colony which had given him much happiness for a number of years.

New Route to the Kaieteur Fall. By the recently completed new route, the arduous ascent of the last few miles to the top of the Fall can be avoided. Travel along the new route has been described as being as easy as walking on the Georgetown esplanade.

Miner Buried Alive. On December 7th, a miner named G. Barclay, working in the Potaro District near Garraway Stream, was buried alive when tons of sand broke away from the sides of a mining pit and fell upon him. His dead body was dug out two and a half hours later. Another man was covered with sand up to his waist but escaped serious injury.

City Fires. On December 8th, Georgetown had the unusual experience of two large fires in one day. The first which broke out between 2 and 3 p.m. resulted in the total loss of the house facing Vlissengen Road, occupied by Mr. G. Roddam, Engineer of the Sewerage and Water Commissioners. Mrs. Roddam and a child who were asleep in the upper storey were saved by Mr. Roddam who brought them down a blazing stairway. All sustained slight injuries, Mr. Roddam's hair being singed and his right arm rather badly burned. In the second fire which occurred at 11.30 p.m., several small buildings on the outskirts of the Anglican Cathedral oval were completely destroyed, bringing disaster on a number of poor people who lost their all.

A Colonial Students' Advisory Committee has been appointed by the Governor to assist students who intend to leave the Colony to pursue educational courses in the United Kingdom. Our Honorary Correspondent writes that in addition to supplying information the Committee will advise students whether their preliminary educational qualifications are in order for the particular course in view, ascertain what financial resources are necessary, and help with applications for entry to the selected educational institution. The Committee will also arrange with the Victoria League to meet students on arrival and assist them in finding lodgings. General help and friendly counsel will be given and arrangements made for hospitality and social

contacts. These services, which are free of charge, will be special value during the first six months which is frequently a difficult period for the Colonial student.

Civil Servants' Bonus. From January 1st, 1940, Government employees will receive a temporary war bonus at the rate of 10 per cent. on salaries and wages up to \$40 *per mensem*. Salaries between \$40 and \$44 will be increased to \$44. The term "Government employees" includes policemen, teachers in primary schools, transport workers, casual workers and indeed anyone employed by the Government.

Simon Bolivar Disaster. The Legislative Council approved on December 20th of the payment to Government officers who were on board the Simon Bolivar when she was sunk by enemy action of the amount they have had, or will have to spend on return passages, including the loss of their tickets by the Simon Bolivar, and over and above the pre-war cost of return passages. In the case of other officers the amount above pre-war rates will be refunded.

Mayor of Georgetown. The Hon. P. C. Wight has been re-elected Mayor of Georgetown for the year 1940, and the Hon. Joseph Gonsalves re-elected Deputy Mayor.

Question of Old Age Pensions. A Government committee has been appointed consisting of Mr. G. Sharp, Postmaster-General (chairman), Hon. E. G. Woolford, K.C., Hon. C. R. Jacob, Hon. C. V. Wight, the chairman of the Poor Law Commissioners, the Deputy Colonial Treasurer, and Major Austen of the Salvation Army, "to consider the possibility of making further provision for the poor and/or aged inhabitants of the Colony of British Guiana and more especially the introduction of the provisions of the law relating to old age pensions as pertain in the British Empire."

JAMAICA

Information Officer. The Hon. B. H. Easter, Director of Education, has been appointed Information Officer.

Recent Deaths. Mr. Alexander Hopwood, a prominent planter, died at Lilyfield, Bamboo, St. Ann, on December 31st. Mr. Hopwood, who was born in 1853, leaves a widow, four sons and four daughters. The funeral of Miss Edith McLaverty, of Greenwich House, Newcastle, took place at Half-Way-Tree Church on January 7th. Miss McLaverty was over 90 years of age at the time of her death.

Mr. T. H. Mayers. Mr. Thomas H. Mayers, a Resident Magistrate and, at present, acting Solicitor-General has been appointed a Crown Counsel in Nigeria. Mr. Mayers, who has lived in Jamaica since 1936, was born in Barbados in 1907.

New Income Tax Order. An order has been issued providing for the payment in Jamaica of income tax on any interests paid to a person resident elsewhere than in Jamaica. The tax is 2/- on every pound of the interest to be paid to the person resident abroad.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

The Transfer of Dominica. In their reply, published in the Gazette of December 14th, to the Address by the Governor at the opening of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands on November 29th, the Unofficial Members stated: "We note with

satisfaction that this meeting will conclude the long period of negotiations which have been necessary to bring about the transfer of Dominica to the Colony of the Windward Islands, and we are glad to observe from the Estimates before us that the cost of the Federal Government to the remaining partners of the Federation will not be increased thereby. We express the hope that the transfer of Dominica to the Windward Islands will result in the improvement of economic conditions in that island and will make for closer collaboration between the West Indian Colonies as a whole."

ST. LUCIA

Sugar. On December 21st, our honorary correspondent, Mr. E. T. Ward, wrote that during November good rains had been reported from all parts of the island, and there had been a general drop in temperature. The canes were looking well and the prospects were most encouraging, a revised estimate for the 1940 crop being 10,000 tons. New areas were being brought into cultivation and planting was in progress. A few peasant cattle mills had been making syrup for local consumption.

Limes. The re-planting programme for the year had been completed. The manufacture of lime juice and distilled lime oil was slowing down with the approach of the end of the crop. Green lime sales were slow although there had been a further increase in the local price to 15/- per barrel.

Other Crops. The shipment of coco-nuts and copra continued actively. Increasing interest was being taken in cocoa and there was promise of a good dry season crop on some estates. Two shipments of bananas had been made during the month, bringing the total for 1939 to 68,873 stems, as compared with 137,795 for the same period in 1938. Efforts were being made to reduce the percentage of rejects so as to maintain export production as high as possible. Small shipments of grapefruit and oranges had been made to Bermuda. Some 30-35 acres had been planted to cotton and the crop was developing very satisfactorily.

Cold Storage Plant. Official notice was given that the Government Cold Storage Plant would be closed down on December 31st. The sale of the existing stocks of ice would be continued and the Government was endeavouring to arrange for the plant being operated by private enterprise until it can be disposed of.

ST. VINCENT

Weather. In his notes for October and November, Mr. C. K. Robinson records that the mild weather broke towards mid-October and continued very wet in November, in which month the total rainfall was 16.1 in., compared with an average of 11.7 in.

Arrowroot. A number of estates commenced lifting and processing operations in October and by the end of November practically all factories were at work. The yield per acre was, as usual at this time of the year, somewhat low; the quality of the starch had also suffered as a result of the weather and mostly lower grades were being turned out. The total receipts at the Arrowroot Pool to the end of November were 347 barrels. Buyers in St. Vincent continued to show a very active interest and the exports for October and November amounted to 5,008 and 3,335 barrels respect-

ively, bringing the total exports for 1939 to 50,909 as compared with 34,366 barrels in 1938.

Cotton. Some 5,500 acres have been planted for the 1939-40 crop. Germination was excellent and growth very good until abruptly checked by the heavy rains which also induced a fair amount of boll shedding and, in the more advanced fields, boll rotting. The incidence of secondary angular leaf spot had been higher than usual in spite of a generally low incidence of primary angular leaf spot; in at least one case the black-arm phase caused some damage. A wilt disease had also caused some loss, especially on poor hillsides.

Other Crops. The production of bananas continued to decrease, the total sales to the end of November being 34,657 stems compared with 70,440 in 1938. There had been a good demand at very fair prices for cassava starch in the Trinidad and other inter-colonial markets and growers were showing more interest in this crop. A relatively large area was being devoted to the cultivation of sweet potatoes and practically the whole of the cotton area had been interplanted with maize.

Export Duties Increased. From January 1st, the export duties on Sea Island cotton (including stained), arrowroot, copra and coco-nuts have been increased, under Ordinance 26 of 1939, by 75 per cent.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Agricultural Society. Mr. T. I. Potter, whose impending retirement from the post of secretary of the Agricultural Society has previously been mentioned in the CIRCULAR, has been succeeded by Mr. H. V. Laughlin, hon. secretary of the Cocoa Growers' Association.

Arsenic in Imported Sugar. The rumours of deaths in Trinidad due to the presence of arsenic in a consignment of imported sugar fortunately proved to be without foundation. An official communication issued on January 7th states:—

"Cases of arsenical poisoning as a result of consuming brown sugar, commonly known as Demerara sugar, were reported to the Director of Medical Services yesterday afternoon.

"The rumours of deaths from poisoning are wholly unfounded as no case of death has been reported," the Director of Medical Services stated. "Steps were immediately taken yesterday to trace and seize the entire consignment of contaminated sugar. The matter is well in hand but the public is warned against consuming brown Demerara sugar until further notice.

"There is no need for panic and the situation will be kept under complete control if the public take heed of this timely warning."

(Continued from next column)

the weather conditions had been adverse, and also there had been some damage through Froghopper attacks.

As mentioned at the last meeting, Mr. P. C. Mordan and Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott visited the estate during last crop, and they were able to report that they found the cultivation in very good order and a general improvement in conditions on the estate and in the factory. The past few years had been difficult ones for those in Trinidad, especially on the labour side. Efforts were being made in Trinidad to sponsor Trade Unions, but considerable patience would have to be exercised before Labour and their leaders realised the responsibilities as well as the advantages of Trade Unionism.

Trinidad Sugar Estates, Ltd.

Annual Meeting

Sir Edward Rosling, the chairman, was unable, owing to transport difficulties, to reach London on January 30th, to preside at the annual meeting. His speech was read by Mr. B. A. Glanvill, who, after referring to the report and accounts (reviewed in last CIRCULAR) said that the price of sugar fluctuated considerably during the 1939 crop period, and owing to the reduced amount available for export under the quota scheme the price rose from 6/3 at the date of the meeting last January to 8/- at the end of April. Eventually releases were made by the International Sugar Council from excess stocks to relieve the shortage, and at the end of July the price for December position was again down to 6/3. This rise in price did not benefit their company fully as owing to the short crop all the refining sugars had been sold prior to the greater part of the rise. One result of the increase, however, had been a bonus payment to cane farmers in Trinidad of 25 cents per ton of cane, as the price they receive was based on the average price ruling for sugar during the half-year to June. It was hoped that this bonus would prove an incentive to farmers to improve and maintain their cultivation.

The average price realised for their sugar during the year under review was £12 14s. 11d. compared with £11 1s. 1d. in 1938. Part of this increase was due to the quick sale of Yellows and the resultant saving in rents and charges. On the other hand costs of production rose from £8 12s. 10d. to £9 7s. 2d., the increase being due to the smaller crop and the bonus to farmers. The net result, however, was that their profit in Trinidad showed an increase of £6,000 for the year. Unfortunately nearly all that additional profit earned in Trinidad disappeared in the amount required for taxation reserve, this being due to the increase in income tax, and the estimated provision required for National Defence Contribution and excess profits tax.

No work had been started in connexion with the proposals for re-housing the estate workers, as the authorities in Trinidad had not yet agreed on a satisfactory specification. The directors recommended that a further £5,000 should be transferred to this reserve, which would make a total of £10,000, and it was hoped that this sum would cover the major part if not the whole of the amount required.

In common with other Empire and Colonial producers they had sold the whole of their sugars available for export for 1940 crop to the Ministry of Food at the price of 10/3 per cwt. f.o.b. for refining sugars. This was a slightly higher price than that ruling prior to the outbreak of war, but costs of supplies and labour were bound to show a substantial increase. The labourers in Trinidad had recently been granted an increase in wages of approximately 10 per cent. to meet the rise in the cost of living, and the price of some supplies had already risen considerably, but the full effect of higher costs would not be felt until next year. The indications were that the new crop would again be a small one, as

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

Voodoo Gods

It is claimed on the jacket of this disturbing though interesting book* that Miss Hurston, belonging as she does to the Negro race, was able to see what no white man has ever seen, when as holder of a Fellowship of the Guggenheim Foundation she spent two years in the islands, the worst side of whose customs and mysteries she describes with a practised pen.

Since Sir Spencer St. John wrote his memorable "Hayti. The Black Republic" in 1884 Obeah and Voodoo worship have been favourite themes of seekers after the sensational. That famous explorer and anthropologist the late Sir Harry Johnston in a lecture which he delivered at the West India Committee Rooms after a visit to Haiti about a quarter of a century ago characterised stories about Voodoo worship as "exaggerated nonsense" and ridiculed the "bosh" talked about cannibalism in that republic. Whilst they were in Haiti the U.S. Marines proved a civilising influence and one cannot believe that the peasants have drifted into a state of barbarism since their departure.

A Haitian authority consulted about Miss Hurston's book writes that while he is not prepared to admit that the Voodoo cult is non-existent he considers that most of the books dealing with that unsavoury topic (including the latest) give a far too highly coloured account of the state of affairs in Haiti.

In 57 pages devoted to Jamaica Miss Hurston deals with the perennial colour problem, the practices followed by "specialists" who prepare young girls for love, magic in Accompong (the Maroon Settlement), and Pocomania, a semi-religious craze, and the "Nine Night" an African revival resembling the Irish Wake. If half of what she writes is true the Churches and Government of Jamaica should redouble their efforts to check the vicious and too often lewd and erotic practices so vividly described in this book.

The illustrations are good but not convincing to those who know how suspicious the Negro is of the camera-man, and one of them is quite disgusting. The book is well-indexed and the author has thoughtfully provided a glossary of words which would otherwise be meaningless.

A.A.

Handbook of Jamaica, 1939

The Handbook of Jamaica† for 1939 has recently come to hand. The most recent edition of this invaluable book of reference, for which the late Mr. Frank Cundall had for so many years made himself responsible, has been edited by Mr. W. A. Cover, of the Colonial Secretary's Office. All the usual features of the Handbook (which has now reached its fifty-seventh year of publication) appear to have been retained and the present edition maintains worthily the high standard which has characterised the long line of its predecessors.

* VOODOO GODS. An Inquiry into Native Myths and Magic in Jamaica and Haiti. By Zara Hurston. Pp. 290; 24 illustrations; 2 maps. London: J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 15/- net; or from the West India Committee, 15/6 post free.

† THE HANDBOOK OF JAMAICA FOR 1939. Edited by W. A. Cover. 8/6 post free, obtainable from the Publications Department of the West India Committee.

Caribbean Readers

It is a generally accepted maxim in modern educational theory that the education of children should be related closely to their experience and environment. This has not always been the case in the past. A rigidly classical education was often a better preparation for life in ancient Greece or Rome than in the world in which those who received it were actually living. To an only slightly lesser degree has this criticism been valid with respect to an almost exclusively English education in many of the British Colonies.

The two Readers* under review provide admirable examples of books whose subject matter is closely related to the life of the children for whom they are intended. There are descriptions, interestingly but simply written, of everyday things in the life led by children in the West Indies. There are folk-tales, such as the Annancy stories, which are Jamaican with an ultimate Ashanti origin. Life in Africa, in India, and in China are described, while accounts are also given of the exploits of the European discoverers of the Western Hemisphere. In this way the varied racial composition of the West Indies is taken into account.

By the use of such school-books as these, the foundations, upon which a truly West Indian culture may, in the future be based, are reinforced and extended, and Mr. Newman and Mr. Sherlock are to be complimented upon their production. The illustrations by H. Radcliffe Wilson enhance the usefulness and attractiveness of the books.

Those Wild West Indies

The principal countries pilloried in this book‡ are Guatemala and Honduras. Port Royal is put in the dock and six pages of scrappy thumb-nail sketches are devoted to Jamaica. The sordid side of Havana is stressed and an account is given of a visit to King Christophe's remarkable citadel—La Ferrière—on La Bonnett à l'Evêque in Haiti, but of the rest of the West Indian islands there is no mention whatever.

In his opening paragraph the author warns the "mentally adolescent" to spare themselves by not straying farther afield than that. "M.A.'s" who disregard the warning will learn from a later paragraph that he intends to relate stories about "the drinking, courting, singing, fighting, merry-making, sport and dissipations of the whites and the browns in tropical America." Descriptions of the "binges" indulged in by white overseers in Central America may be of interest to those who took part in them, but they will certainly not appeal to the general reader. The illustrations and especially those of Christophe's citadel are good, but the book is frankly unpleasant. It certainly cannot be regarded as a serious addition to the literature of the West Indies.

* THE CARIBBEAN READERS. Books I and II. Ginn and Co., Ltd., London. Price 1/6 and 1/9 net, or obtainable from the West India Committee, 1/8 and 1/11 post free respectively.

‡ THOSE WILD WEST INDIES by Edmund S. Whitman, pp. 255. 35 illustrations. London. Jarrolds Ltd. 12/6 net. Obtainable from the West India Committee, 13/- post free.

Food Production in Jamaica

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN THE WEST INDIES

IN view of the possibility of a long war the Government of Jamaica has taken steps to increase food production. A Food Production Board recommends a greater growth of corn, peas, beans and rice. Owners of land are asked to register, with a view to the purchase by the Government of their products at a fixed figure. With regard to bananas a restriction of the market in Great Britain and Europe may result in the utilisation of considerable areas for other crops.

In this food production rearrangement the Department of Agriculture, the Jamaica Agricultural Society, a semi-official body, and the Land Settlement Department, will co-operate. The assistance of the last-named is likely to be effective and important, because it is in charge of a scheme of land colonisation to cost £650,000 lately undertaken by the Government in order to relieve unemployment. The increase of local output will be in line with official efforts to improve the nutrition of the masses of the people, for which a campaign was launched about three years ago. The Board estimates that to produce the suggested extra supplies of maize, rice, peas, escallion and potatoes, 218,880 acres would have to be planted with 60,489 cwt. of seed, costing £37,600.

It is expected that there will be a shortage of butter unless supplies from New Zealand are available. It is therefore recommended that encouragement be given to dairies already established and, where possible, to new ones. Butter substitutes are now made in a small way from coco-nut oil. A shortage of condensed milk is also anticipated. The local condensed milk factory now being built is expected to be in operation in March. A large increase in the use of fresh milk is deemed unlikely except in towns where distribution is easy. The rearing of goats is suggested for meat as well as for milk.

No immediate shortage of meat is expected. Large quantities of canned and pickled meats are imported. The Board suggests that the rearing of goats, pigs and poultry should be encouraged.

Lime Juice for Ptomaine Poisoning

Mr. E. B. Smith, of Woodford Lodge Estate, Chaguanas, Trinidad, has sent us the following information with regard to the value of lime-juice as an antidote for ptomaine poisoning:—

"It is only known to comparatively few medical men that a cocktail-glass of raw lime juice, either plain or diluted in half a tumbler of water, is a perfect antidote for ptomaine poisoning and, now that the war is on and tinned fish is likely to be consumed in greater quantities, I should like to make this discovery more generally known. The knowledge was passed on to me by the wife of the late Dr. Charles Manning, of Barbados.

"The custom of serving a slice of lime with fish or oysters provides a very great safeguard against ptomaine poisoning."

Round the Markets

February 6th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Jan. 22nd	Feb. 5th.		
Canada ..	4.45	4.45	\$ value	4/5.9
U.S.A. ..	4.03	4.03	\$ "	4/11.6
France ..	176.52	176.62	Fr. "	-/1.4
Holland..	7.55	7.55	Gu. "	2/7.8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are —

Div. for latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 4d. per cent.)	73½ 74½
3½	War Loan	98½ 99½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/-
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	5
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	25/- 26/-
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	37/- 41/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ..	1½ 2½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ..	1/3
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/6 2/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	½ 1½
15	Corentyne Sugar Co.	7/9 8/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3/- 4/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	13/9 14/9
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/6 7/6
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/- ..	6d. 1/6
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. ..	43/- 44/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/7½ 6/1½
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/3 8/3

RUM is a firm market especially for "available" which is scarce. A good business has been done in "forward" at unchanged prices.

COCOA. Practically no business has been reported in West Indian kinds and prices are nominal. Fine Grenada is unchanged at 65/- to 67/6, spot, and fine Trinidad at 72/6 to 75/- spot. The first "three marks" of Trinidad are quoted at 56/- to 58/6 c. & f.

BALATA. There is still very little doing in Demerara sheet and supplies remain scarce. The nominal value is 2/3 c.i.f.

HONEY. There is a good demand for Jamaica f.a.q. with no guarantee of colour at 70/- c.i.f. London, for prompt shipment. Values on the spot range from 72/6 to 85/- per cwt. landed terms, for the dark liquid to smooth set pale to white.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There are still no supplies of Handpressed, the value is unchanged at 37/6 per lb., ex wharf. Distilled is firm with sales made at 16/- per lb. Holders are now asking 17/6 per lb. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand for Concentrated and Raw is steady but quiet with the value at 2/6 to 2/9 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. The nominal value for Sweet is 6/- per lb. and Bitter 7/6 per lb.

West Indian Passengers

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in the s.s. Cavina (Captain S. Browne):—

Rev. & Mrs. W. A. Aitken

Mr. J. M. O'Conner

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. FEBRUARY 22nd, 1940. No. 1080.

Telephone:
TEMPLE BAR 8922
Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.
February 21st, 1940.

Recommendations of the Royal Commission

IN a few words, spoken in the House of Commons on the afternoon of February 21st, the Secretary of State for the Colonies heralded a new era for the British West Indies and indeed for the Colonial Empire as a whole. MR. MACDONALD said the House would expect him to say something about two important papers which were being published that day. One was the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission, the other a White Paper containing a statement of the Government's attitude to those recommendations and of their policy on development and welfare in the Colonial Empire generally. As the contents of these documents were not officially "released" until after most of the CIRCULAR had gone to press we can only present, very briefly, some of the more fundamental of the wide-reaching recommendations of the Commissioners.

The Secretary of State said that the Government had decided not to publish at this time the full Report of the West India Royal Commission, which was unanimous. But they would carry out the pledge which they gave when the Commission was appointed that they would act without delay on the findings of the Commission. The comprehensive nature of those recommendations was the best tribute to the thoroughness and the constructive spirit in which the Commissioners had performed their important task, and he would like to take that opportunity of expressing the Government's sincere gratitude to them.

MR. MACDONALD stated that in the White Paper (above mentioned) the Government accepted in principle the Commission's main recommendation for the creation of a special organisation under a Comptroller to develop the social services throughout the West Indies, and for the provision by the United Kingdom Exchequer for this purpose of funds of the order of £1,000,000 a year. They also accepted the recommendation for the appointment of an Inspector-General of Agriculture. The other recommendations, which were numerous and far-reaching, were under active consideration in consultation with the Governors, and the Government expressed their intention to act as early as possible in the spirit of the recommendations as a whole.

In support of their fundamental recommendation for the establishment of the Welfare Fund the Commissioners state that there is a pressing need for large expenditure on social services and developments which not even the least poor of the Colonies can hope to undertake from their own resources. The objects of

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		WEST INDIANS ON ACTIVE	
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE		SERVICE	42
ROYAL COMMISSION	37	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	43
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	38	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL..	44
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE	39	WEST INDIANS ON THE ALTMARK	45
A STAFF ANNIVERSARY ..	39	OBITUARY ..	45
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	40	THE TRANSFER OF DOMINICA ..	46
COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	40	WORLD'S SUGAR CROP ESTIMATES	47
HOUSING IN THE WEST INDIES ..	41	LOW PRICE OF COPRA ..	47
THE COLONIAL OFFICE ..	42	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER ..	48
CANADA—WEST INDIES TRADE	42	ROUND THE MARKETS ..	48

the Fund should be to finance schemes, the main features of which are indicated, for the general improvement of education, the health services, housing and slum clearance, the creation of labour departments, the provision of social welfare facilities and land settlement. The administrative expenses of the new organisation may, when the scheme is fully developed, amount to £100,000 a year, which should also be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. The Commissioners consider it reasonable that the West Indian Colonies should make their contribution by bringing the rates of income tax more in line with the pre-war rates payable in the United Kingdom.

Turning to economic problems, the Commissioners preface their recommendations by pointing out the radical difference between the difficulties which face the West Indies to-day and those they had to encounter in the last century. Development of new productive areas in the world has been carried so far that in the case of many, if not most, tropical agricultural commodities there is a tendency towards over supply and consequent depressed prices. In the West Indies the rapid growth of population is also a factor of profound importance. They regard it as essential in the West Indies to secure on the one hand an intensification of the agricultural system through a re-orientation in the direction of mixed farming with far greater production of foodstuffs and on the other to take whatever steps are possible to improve the position of the agricultural exporting industries. As to the latter, the Commissioners say they have considered various proposals for giving increased preferential assistance but only in respect of sugar are they able to make any definite recommendations at this juncture. They regard it as of vital importance to secure an increase in the basic export quota assigned to the Colonial Empire and make detailed suggestions regarding the West Indies which must be left for future discussion in the CIRCULAR.

In the section dealing with agriculture the most pressing need is stated to be the development of peasant agriculture entailing far-reaching reform of the basic methods now in vogue

Space will not allow reference to all of the important recommendations. Enough has been said, however, to indicate how widely the home Government, in undertaking to act on the main proposals of the Commission, have departed from the old principle that a Colony shall have only those services which it can afford to maintain from its own resources. We trust that this step will bring far-reaching benefits to all classes in the British West Indian Colonies.

From a Londoner's Notebook

FOR more than a fortnight we have been watching from afar one of the most furious battles in the history of the world; not even the attack on Verdun surpassed in intensity the tremendous Russian assaults in mass upon the Mannerheim Line. All Britain has followed with the utmost admiration the heroic resistance of the Finns, who, though so desperately hard-pressed by overwhelming numbers, may, it is hoped, hold out until they gain temporary relief, first from the March falls of snow, and then from the spring thaw, which makes the country impassable to mechanized troops. After that they will need all the help they can get from the nations of the west. Hitherto no recruits except trained winter sportsmen have been of much use; but in the summer British volunteers may be invaluable.

* * *

A recruiting office for Finland has now been opened in London, and many men are offering their services in the cause of the freedom of a small but gallant people. Mr. D. N. Pritt, apparently the only remaining friend of the Soviet in the House of Commons, has challenged the legality of these proceedings under an Act of 1870, prohibiting the enlistment of British subjects for service against a friendly power. But it turns out that this Act allows the Government to give licences for such enlistment, and a licence has been duly given to the Finnish recruiting office.

* * *

Since Sweden holds it incompatible with her neutrality to permit the passage of troops across her territory, the volunteers will presumably not travel as military units, but go to Finland as individual civilians and be formed into regiments there.

* * *

Two sequels to the battle of the River Plate have stirred the public imagination this week. The Exeter and the Ajax have come home, and the veil of the censorship has been lifted to allow of their being given a rousing reception at Plymouth. The First Lord of the Admiralty met them with an eloquent speech of welcome, and the Lord Mayor of London invited the ships' companies to a civic luncheon at the Guildhall.

* * *

The day after the arrival of the Exeter came the thrilling story of the rescue, from the German auxiliary cruiser Altmark, of the 300 men captured from British merchantmen by the scuttled battleship Admiral Graf Spee. The brilliant manoeuvre of the destroyer Cossack, which set these men free, involved entering Norwegian territorial waters, which the Altmark was illegally traversing in the attempt to bring her prisoners home to Germany. The Norwegian Government has presented a protest, no doubt acting under the blackmailing pressure of the Nazis, whose habit of sinking neutral ships in neutral waters does not prevent them from straining any point of international law that they think can be twisted in their favour.

But in fact our legal position is solid enough. International law lays down clearly that if a belligerent ship enters neutral waters any prisoners she may be carrying must be immediately released (as was done at Montevideo by the gallant Captain Langdorff). If the belligerent commander does not conform to this law, the neutral power must insist. In this case the Norwegians did not order the release, since the search they conducted at Bergen, incredible as it may seem, failed to discover the 300 captives. But the British Admiralty well knew the men were there. Since neither the Germans nor the Norwegians had performed their duty under international law, the British commander was fully justified in taking it upon himself. Very reasonably, the Foreign Office has addressed a counter-protest to Norway against the inadequacy of the search of the Altmark and the failure to prevent her abuse of territorial waters.

* * *

A strong wave of anti-English sentiment has swept Eire in consequence of the execution of two members of the Irish Republican Army for murder. The two men were convicted of placing a bomb in the streets of Coventry, the explosion of which killed five passers-by. Petitions and protests against the carrying out of the death sentence were passed by every kind of official and private body all over Ireland, and Mr. de Valera, the Prime Minister, instructed his High Commissioner in London to intercede with the Home Secretary. The offence, however, was a cold and callous crime, and if ever the death penalty was justified, it was in this case. We are unable in England to see how a political motive can palliate the murder of innocent people, quite unconnected with the subject of the controversy. Mr. de Valera has said that the incident will poison Anglo-Irish relations for many years. Even if that were so, justice would have to be done. To some of us the most disastrous part of the affair seems to be that it has led Mr. de Valera, by his formal request for a reprieve, to seem to associate himself with the criminal conspiracy of the I.R.A., which he has so often condemned.

* * *

The dispersal of children from the big towns, which was so swiftly and smoothly carried out at the beginning of the war, has not been so successfully maintained. The heavy air-raids, which everyone expected, have not as yet happened, and consequently parents have lost patience and brought back much more than half of the dispersed children. Yet we are officially assured that the danger is not one whit less than on the outbreak of war; and if raids should come it will be much less easy than it was in September to send the children back into the country again. The Government, however, has been compelled to formulate a fresh plan for rapid dispersal, to be put into operation if there should be severe and persistent attacks on the towns. This time, however, parents whose children are given sanctuary in the country will be required to give an undertaking not to bring them back into the danger zone without permission.

The West India Committee

Monthly Meeting of the Executive

A MEETING of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on February 13th. Mr. H. J. J. Freeman presided in the unavoidable absence of Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson. There were present: Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. R. Beaumont, Mr. Evan R. Campbell, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. J. M. du Buisson, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. T. H. Naylor, Mr. Lauchlan Rose, Mr. H. A. Walker, Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, Mr. T. Souness (acting secretary) and Mr. Hugh Paget (secretariat).

The following candidates were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MRS. FANNIE A. EDGHILL (Country)	{ Mr. F. A. Greenaway. Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
MR. JOHN WILFRED FREEMAN (Grenada)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E.
MR. HENRY ALBERT HAHN, (London) B.SC.	{ Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C. Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.SC.
MR. HENRY ANSELM DE FREITAS (London)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C.
MR. F. R. COTTELL (London)	{ Lt.-Col. H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Mr. R. Beaumont.
MR. MALCOLM MACLACHLAN (London)	{ Lt.-Col. H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Mr. R. Beaumont.

The chairman reported that it had not been possible to arrange the informal luncheon to which the Hon. A. J. Hunter, the newly appointed Governor of British Honduras, had been invited owing to Mr. Hunter's very short stay in England.

The chairman urged the necessity for increasing the membership of the West India Committee with a view to improving the financial position. He would like to see one thousand new members.

With reference to the Government's purchase of cocoa the chairman said that on February 6th, an informal meeting of members interested in cocoa production had been held to consider a Colonial Office statement on the Colonial Empire Cocoa Control Scheme. According to a letter from the Colonial Office, dated February 6th, export licences for West Indian cocoa would be granted freely up to the average over the last three years. A cable had been received from the Grenada Chamber of Commerce requesting that the Committee should make representations to the Secretary of State with a view to getting an increase in the quota to be exported from that Colony. It had been agreed that this should be done and the situation would be further discussed.

In regard to shipping facilities the chairman said that the Committee had been fighting hard to get satisfactory travelling facilities to and from the West Indies. The Committee was in correspondence with the Colonial Office with reference to the restoration of the passenger service operated by the Harrison Line steamers *Inanda* and *Inkosi*.

The question of the Government purchase of sugar as affected by increased cost of production was fully discussed. A letter, dated January 18th, had been received from the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd., stating that they had been advised by the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica that, in response

to a cable from the Governor asking for a decision in the matter, a cable had been received from the Secretary of State stating that he regretted that it was not possible to give an assurance that the increased cost of production would be taken into account in fixing the price of sugar and adding that an explanatory despatch was being forwarded by mail. It was pointed out that the Government had given a guarantee with respect to increased costs of production to beet-growers in the United Kingdom. It was agreed that the Committee should write to the Colonies for detailed statements of costs of production for the 1938-39 crop and as far as possible for the 1939-40 crop. It was very desirable that these figures should be received by the middle of May at the latest.

With reference to the Canadian Preference Pool the chairman reported that cables had been received from British Guiana and Jamaica stating that they considered the arrangements made by the West India Committee as satisfactory.

After reporting the generous contribution by the Trinidad Red Cross Society of £100 to the Committee's War Services Fund, the chairman paid a tribute to the unremitting work of Lady Davson on behalf of the Ladies Committee.

Of special importance to the West Indian citrus producing Colonies was the reply received to a letter which the Committee had written at the instance of the President of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce to the Under-Secretary of State about Palestine's representations for a reduction in the duty on citrus fruit. The reply, dated February 12th, received from the Colonial Office assured the Committee that no change in the existing preference on citrus fruit was at present in contemplation.

Mr. W. G. Freeman reported on his visit as representative of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to the Ministry of Information. He outlined the aims which the Ministry had in view and indicated the ways in which the Committee would be of assistance.

A Staff Anniversary

Mr. George P. Osmond, chief clerk, of the West India Committee, has been the recipient of many congratulations on having completed 40 years service with the West India Committee.

When he joined the staff on February 19th, 1900, the Committee's offices—or office, to be more accurate, as there was only one room, and that was shared by the Anti-Bounty League—were in Billiter Square Buildings, where they remained until 1903 when premises were taken in Seething Lane.

Mr. Osmond was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List of 1932 for his services in connexion with the repatriation of distressed West Indians.

THREE lectures on the Social and Economic Development of the British Colonial Empire are to be given at the Royal Society of Arts on February 26th, March 4th and 11th. The lectures will start at 4 o'clock on each occasion, and will be given by Sir William H. McLean. Tickets are obtainable from the secretary, at John Street, Adelphi.

The West Indies and the War

BAHAMAS

£20,000 for Imperial Defence. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has accepted, on behalf of the Government, the sum of £20,000, which the Legislature of the Bahamas voted as a gift towards Imperial Defence. Mr. MacDonald has asked Sir Charles Dundas, the Governor, to convey to the Legislature and people of the Bahamas the Government's high appreciation of this contribution towards the common cause.

BRITISH GUIANA

Higher Income Tax. Under Ordinance 45 of 1939 increases estimated to yield \$140,000 a year have been made in the income tax. The new rates on each dollar of the chargeable income of everyone other than a company are:—

For the first	...	...	...	...	\$1,200—04 cents.
" " next	...	...	...	...	\$1,200—06 "
" " "	...	...	...	...	\$1,200—08 "
" " "	...	...	...	...	\$2,400—10 "
" " "	...	...	...	...	\$2,400—15 "
" " "	...	...	...	...	\$4,800—20 "
" " "	...	...	...	...	\$9,600—25 "
" " "	...	...	...	...	\$24,000—30 "
For the remainder of chargeable income	...	...	...	...	—40 "

The new rate for companies has been fixed at 15 per cent. of the chargeable income excepting life insurance companies who will pay 5 per cent. The tax on interest payable to a non-resident company has been raised from 12½ per cent. to 15½ per cent.

JAMAICA

Gifts to St. Dunstan's. Active help is being given for blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen in response to the overseas appeal made by Sir Ian Fraser, the Chairman of St. Dunstan's. Jamaica stands high in the list of gifts acknowledged in The Times of February 7th, with two allocations amounting to £1,000.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Code Telegrams. The Telegraphic Censor in Antigua has given notice that telegrams may be sent in any of the following codes: Bentley's Second Phrase, Bentley's Complete, A.B.C. Sixth Edition and Petersen's Third Edition. Senders will be required to deposit decodings with their telegram and to indicate the code used in abbreviated single word form. A surcharge of one shilling will be made on all outward coded telegrams.

Rice Imports Control. From February 1st, the importation of rice into the Colony from sources other than British Guiana has been prohibited except under special licence granted by the Governor.

ANTIGUA

Men for the Merchant Service. Over 300 applications have been received in Antigua, writes Miss Helen Goodwin, in response to the call of the British Mercantile Marine Service for deck hands to fill the places of those who have left the merchant service to join the Royal Navy.

War Charities. A fancy dress dance held by the War Charities' Committee on December 27th cleared

£30. The following financial statement to the end of 1939 issued by the hon. treasurer shows the receipts of the committee as £172 0s. 8d. and disbursements £127 5s.

	£	s.	d.
The Red Cross through Mr. R. Bryson..	77	5	0
St. Dunstan's through H. E. the Governor	30	0	0
Overseas League Tobacco Fund ..	20	0	0
	127	5	0
Balance in hand	44	15	8
	£172	0	8

Red Cross Calendar. Mrs. R. S. D. Goodwin has compiled a Red Cross Calendar for 1940 similar to one she did during the last war. Each member of the community was asked to send in a quotation and the sum of 1s. 6d. which paid for one copy of the calendar. Extra copies have been printed and may still be obtained.

WINDWARD ISLANDS

GRENADA

Import Licences. By notice given in the Government Gazette, the General Import Licences issued in November have been cancelled and will be of no avail with respect to all orders dated on or after January 10th. Special applications for licences will consequently be necessary for all importations into the Colony. Orders for all foodstuffs from the United Kingdom must be submitted in triplicate to the Competent Authority for approval before despatch.

Use of Code Telegrams. For messages from Grenada to the United Kingdom and all Colonial Dependencies the following codes may be used: Bentley's Second Phrase and Complete, A.B.C. Sixth Edition and Petersen's Third Edition. Senders will be required to deposit decodes with their telegrams. The official announcement states that Southern Rhodesia and Newfoundland will admit all four codes and the decisions of the Dominion Governments, India and Burma will be notified when known.

Increase in Estate Duty. By the Estate Duty (Surtax) Ordinance, No. 29 of 1939, when the principal value of the estate exceeds £3,000 and does not exceed £10,000 the duty payable is increased by one quarter; between £10,000 and £40,000 by one half and when the value is over £40,000 the amount payable is doubled.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service include the following:—

- DEAN, H. E. (late Treasurer, Dominica), Treasurer, St. Lucia.
- DEVAUX, J. L. (Attorney-General, Trinidad), Chief Judge, Mauritius.
- O'CONNOR, E. S. (Principal Officer, Secretariat, Trinidad), Deputy Colonial Treasurer, British Guiana.
- SMEATHERS, R. (Assistant Conservator of Forests, Tanganyika Territory), Assistant Conservator of Forests, Trinidad.
- VERITY, J. (Puisne Judge, British Guiana), Chief Justice, Zanzibar.

Housing in the West Indies

Summary of Local Problems and Progress

THE important question of housing in the Caribbean Colonies is dealt with in the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples. The publication of the reports for 1938 having recently been completed it is possible to give here a summary of the various problems met with and the measures which are being taken to solve them. It will be understood of course that various developments have taken place subsequent to the period covered by the reports.

BARBADOS

About 68 per cent. of the entire population live in cottages of less than three rooms and very few are provided with sanitary arrangements which can be considered even moderately satisfactory. The Housing Board appointed under the Bridgetown Housing Act 1936 submitted a scheme in November 1938 for the approval of the Legislature.

BRITISH GUIANA

The problems and difficulties of the housing question are discussed very fully in the report. The cardinal trouble in the organized districts is gross overcrowding of what are considered suitable building sites, largely determined by the effectiveness of the main drainage. Some settled sites are however entirely submerged for a portion of the year, or subjected to regular tidal flooding. Houses on stilts are thus a common feature of the Colony.

Another problem arises from the archaic system of land division. A man may own a strip of land several thousand feet long, but too narrow to permit the meanest house being erected in compliance with the by-laws which are often thus rendered futile.

After dealing with the problems of urban areas those of the sugar estates are discussed. These arise from the needs originally associated with the accommodation of indentured labour in "range" dwellings. The economic life of many ranges having been passed most estates have had to undertake a policy of replacement. Some have found it possible to re-house labourers in simple standardized cottages. This type of housing is more expensive to build and to maintain. The erection of new ranges has been authorized, within restrictive specifications, by the Central Board of Health under a policy in operation since 1936. More recently, and without definite obligations, some estates have improved on the minimal requirements of the regulations so as to afford greater domestic privacy and more satisfactory individual ventilation of the family units.

JAMAICA

The first scheme under the Slum Clearance Law of 1937 was finally approved early in 1938 and improvements in Smith Village and Trench Pen are being made under the Central Housing Authority.

Resulting from a survey of the principal plantations an intensive campaign was carried out requiring owners to improve their barracks. Interim reports indicate gradual progress. The programme of Rose Hall estate continues satisfactorily and the West Indies Sugar Co. have started reconstruction work.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. With very few exceptions the wage earning class own their houses. There are no barracks, compounds or tenement houses and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings, although some are in very poor condition. There is no property tax and no building law.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

ANTIGUA. The Housing Scheme, financed originally from the Colonial Development Fund, has improved the type of house used by the poorer classes. Similar houses to those in the model village have been erected in other localities. The scheme has given incentive to artisans and peasants to build and a much improved type of house is appearing in many parts of the island.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS. Some estates provide a few wooden houses free of rent to their more reliable labourers. In 1930 improvements in Basseterre and Sandy Point were commenced with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund. Sixty-one model concrete cottages, costing £122 each, have been constructed.

MONTERRAT. Many new houses of reinforced concrete or wood now replace the old earthquake-damaged houses and many others are being built. Nearly all the new houses are provided with adequate sanitation.

VIRGIN ISLANDS. The housing conditions although not ideal are described as considerably better than those prevailing elsewhere in the Leeward Islands. The average house of the peasant is a sturdy wooden building, about 20 ft. by 15 ft., with an acre or so of arable land.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The building of houses for the working classes is realized to be an important and urgent task. During 1938 the Slum Clearing and Housing Ordinance, the Town and Regional Planning Ordinance, and the Land Acquisition Ordinance were passed. The Government recommended that \$4,800,000 be provided, over five years, to meet the costs of acquisition of land, road construction and the erection of houses under the control of a Housing Commission. The hope is expressed that private enterprise will follow the example thus set. Many of the sugar estates and oil companies continue to develop the provision of modern and sanitary accommodation for their workers.

WINDWARD ISLANDS

GRENADA. The houses of the working-classes and agricultural labourers as a rule leave much to be desired. Of domestic sanitation there is none and, owing to

universal and chronic overcrowding, contagious infections, particularly yaws, spread very rapidly and are most difficult to check. The Government appointed a committee to go into the whole question in 1938, and as a result model houses are being built. Legislation is being prepared to empower a Housing Board making loans to peasants and others for the erection of new, or the improvement of existing, houses and in all cases to provide suitable sanitation. One estate, owned by absentee proprietors, has set a fine example by using local timber to build new houses for the resident workers.

ST. LUCIA. Progress in housing, especially in the working class areas, has been very slow. The two larger sugar factories are continuing with their schemes for the housing of labourers on modern lines. Illustrations of new concrete bungalows and the old type of wooden huts they are replacing on one of the sugar estates will be found in the CIRCULAR for September 3rd, 1937.

ST. VINCENT. In the programme of public health improvement the problem of the proper housing of the poorer classes gives place, in the measure of its urgency, only to the need for providing adequate supplies of pure drinking water to certain districts.

The housing problem is unusually difficult owing to accumulated errors of the past, the reluctance of owners to sell land, the increasing cost of building material and the limited forest resources of the Colony. One hundred cottages were erected in 1931 from Colonial Development Funds but since then no large scale housing has been attempted. A "tapia" house has been built as an experiment to find a type of peasants' cottage at once relatively cheap, durable and sanitary. At the very successful Health Week held in October, 1938, great attention was attracted to two models—one a higgledy-piggledy village with the common sanitary defects and the other a well laid out modern settlement.

DOMINICA.* The great defect in the housing accommodation in many areas lies not in the house itself but in the surroundings and the lack of sanitation. There is marked congestion especially in the towns and villages of the Leeward coasts. In Roseau and Portsmouth there are building by-laws.

BAHAMAS

Wage-earners of the labouring class are found only in Nassau. Their houses, owned by them or rented, are on separate plots, and there are no slum areas. The most urgent need is the replacement of houses of such poor construction that they cannot withstand winds of hurricane velocity. Over 100 hurricane-proof houses were built to replace those destroyed in 1929 hurricane. The cost, £45 to £75 each, was to be recovered over four years. Difficulty in collecting the weekly instalments has, however, prevented further developments.

BERMUDA

The question of finding a more economical mode of construction is being investigated with a view of enabling inexpensive but substantial houses to be built for the labouring community.

*Dominica was a member of the Leeward Islands during the period dealt with.

The Colonial Office

Increase of the Economic Department

During the debate on the question of a supplementary vote for the Colonial Office on February 7th, the Secretary of State said the advent of war had somewhat altered the work which was carried on in the Colonial Office with regard to economic questions affecting the Colonies. At the beginning of the war the work of the Colonial Marketing Board was suspended because the conditions under which colonial products were sold in the markets of the world had been altered by the war. The Government had become purchasers of many Colonial products, such as sugar, cocoa, ground nuts and wool, and in that connexion a good deal more work had fallen upon the Economic Department which was, of course, working in close consultation and co-operation with the Ministry of Food, the Ministry of Shipping, the Treasury, and other Departments which are occasionally concerned. Although that was not the whole explanation of this enlargement of the Economic Department—because he should have proposed an enlargement in any case, on account of the great importance which he attached to the developing work of that Department—nevertheless the advent of war made an increase of officers in that division of the Colonial Office still more urgent. A good deal of the extra money required under the Sub-head A of the vote was wanted for the salaries of extra officers in the Economic Department. Mr. MacDonald said he had appointed a new Assistant Under-Secretary of State, who would devote a great deal of his time to looking after these economic questions. He had added an additional Principal to the Department and had increased a good deal the clerical staff.

Canada—West Indies Trade

The Agreement Continued

Official notice has been given in the West Indies that information has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that His Majesty's Government in Canada passed an Order-in-Council on December 28th last continuing the present Canada—West Indies Trade Agreement in effect on and after January 1st, 1940, subject to the right of either party to terminate the Agreement on six months notice.

West Indians on Active Service

MR. DONALD BRANCH of Antigua has joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

MR. RICHARD DEAN, son of Mr. L. Hare Dean of Trinidad, has joined the Army Dental Corps.

MR. ANTHONY BAYNES, son of Mr. Edward Baynes, formerly Administrator of St. Lucia, is a corporal in the Royal Fusiliers.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"CHRISTIAN forgib freely and forget freely."

* * *

MR. G. W. HENLEN has succeeded Mr. W. J. Daines as secretary of the Colonial Sugar Committee.

* * *

MR. W. KIRKPATRICK of Kingston, Jamaica, has passed the preliminary examination of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

* * *

MAJOR H. W. PEEBLES, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed an additional Aide-de-Camp (unpaid) to the Governor of Barbados.

* * *

MR. A. W. CARDINALL, C.M.G., Commissioner of the Cayman Islands since 1934, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands.

* * *

MR. P. W. A. MACKEY, son of Mr. F. A. Mackey, a director of Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd., British Guiana, has enlisted as a Cadet in "B" Company 165th Officer Cadet Training Unit.

* * *

THE League of Coloured Peoples, of which Dr. Harold Moody is the founder and president, will hold its annual general meeting at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, March 15th.

* * *

WE regretted to learn from a note received from Sir Claud Hollis on February 7th that he had not progressed as favourably as was hoped and was not likely to leave hospital for another two to three weeks.

* * *

MR. HUMPHRY CRUM EWING, who has been suffering from bronchial trouble at North Berwick, is leaving very shortly for Caymanas, his estate in Jamaica, where he hopes, and we share his hope, that he may rapidly recuperate.

* * *

The following have been among the recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms: Sir Mayson Beeton, Mr. W. A. Becker, Miss Peggy Cox, Sir Geoffrey Evans, Mr. H. Lisle Smith, Mr. Edward Baynes and Mrs. Geraldine Mozley.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Mr. J. Davidson Pratt, O.B.E., and Miss Anne Jones, who is a niece of the Venerable Archdeacon Massiah. Miss Jones was born in Jamaica, but has lived recently in Barbados. The marriage will take place at Easter.

* * *

WE have been asked by Sir Geoffrey Evans to state that the photographs of the Rupununi District of British Guiana which were reproduced in last issue were not taken by himself but by Mr. D. Holdridge, the secretary of the Refugee Settlement Commission.

* * *

It was notified in the St. Lucia Gazette that by virtue of a Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual the Hon.

Gregor McGregor Peter, O.B.E., had been authorised to wear the Insignia of Chevalier, First Class, of the Order of Vasa which had been conferred upon him by His Majesty the King of Sweden.

* * *

MRS. HAROLD HAMEL SMITH, we regret to learn, died at her home at Chaldon Common, Surrey, on February 14th. She had suffered a long illness, and was in her 71st year. Mr. Hamel Smith, for whom much sympathy will be felt, is a well known figure in Mincing Lane, and was the founder of Tropical Life.

* * *

DURING a discussion at a meeting of the Southgate Town Council on essential and non-essential foodstuffs, the Mayor asked one Councillor, a Scotsman, not to give up porridge. His reply was that if he was to continue his porridge he must have a supply of Barbados sugar, which was the proper thing to go with it.

* * *

MAJOR E. E. TURNER, Chief of Police and Superintendent of Prisons in Grenada, retired on December 31st. After serving in the South African war, the South African Constabulary, and the Royal North West Mounted Police of Canada, Major Turner was appointed to the police and defence force of the Bahamas in 1916. He became Chief of Police in St. Lucia in 1923 and of Grenada in January, 1927.

* * *

MR. STEPHEN HENRY CROWDY, elder son of the late Lieut.-Colonel James Dunscombe Crowdy, and of Mrs. Crowdy, of Pinner, Middlesex, was married on February 3rd, at St. Luke's Church, Kew, to Miss Joan Gertrude Evans, elder daughter of Sir Geoffrey and Lady Evans. Mr. Crowdy is a lecturer in mycology at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, of which seat of learning, Sir Geoffrey was principal from 1927 to 1938.

* * *

THE Drum which Sir Francis Drake took with him from Plymouth in 1577 on his voyage round the world was displayed in the Guildhall in that City on the occasion of a civic reception on February 16th in honour of the men of H.M. Cruisers Exeter and Ajax, victors in the Battle of the River Plate. Also conspicuous was a naval Rum tub inscribed as usual "The King, God bless him"—a further reminder of the spirit of the Royal Navy.

* * *

THE Glasgow steamer Chagres, owned by Elders and Fyffes Ltd., was sunk by enemy action off the north-west coast of England on February 9th. The Captain of the ship was Captain Hugh Roberts, who when in command of the Mopan gave a German U-boat "a run for its money" and escaped after being chased for over four hours. As reported in the CIRCULAR for November 16th, he was awarded the O.B.E. for his great courage, resolution and skill in saving his unarmed ship from the raider.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Licences for Cocoa Exports — Red Cross in Tobago
Health Drive in British Honduras



BRITISH HONDURAS

The "Battle Field." War news released by the B.B.C. is, writes Capt. M. S. Metzgen, relayed at Belize at 7 p.m. from the verandah of the Magistrate's Court, by means of a loud speaker. Each night, a large number of the inhabitants who cannot afford their own radios, gather on the area locally known as the "Battle Field" to hear the progress of the war.

Chocolate Factory. Steps are being taken to establish a chocolate and confectionery factory at Belize. During 1938, 1,353 cwt. of confectionery were imported into the Colony at a value of \$28,966.

Legislative Council. The question of payment of salaries to unofficial members of the Legislature was recently raised by the Hon. S. B. Vernon, representative for the Toledo District. The motion was not seconded and therefore dropped. There was, however, considerable debate in various quarters and it would not be surprising if, at a subsequent meeting, the issue were revived.

Health. A programme has been launched by the Senior Medical Officer in the general interest of health with particular reference to sanitation, nutrition and child welfare. The lectures to, and subsequent examinations of, the nursing staff and sanitary officers by Dr. R. L. Cheverton and his Assistant Medical Officers are bound to produce good results.

Mahogany. Contracts have been made in the Colony for approximately 14,000,000 superficial feet of mahogany during 1940, representing \$1,400,000 or £350,000 sterling. There is a large supply of sawn mahogany lumber on hand at the mill of the Belize Estate and Produce Company, Ltd., and shortly the storage space for their continued output will have to be increased.

JAMAICA

Black-out in Kingston. A trial black-out was staged successfully in Kingston and Lower St. Andrew on January 15th. Traffic, however, came practically to a standstill.

Mr. Foster Sutton. Mr. Stafford William Powell Foster Sutton, K.C., Solicitor-General of Jamaica, has been appointed Attorney-General of Cyprus. Mr. Foster Sutton will be greatly missed in Jamaica, where he has rendered valuable services to the island in difficult times. Mrs. Foster Sutton is a daughter of Mr. J. H. Allwood, of Brown's Town, St. Ann.

Rhodes Scholar. Mr. Ronald B. Martin, formerly of Wolmer's School, who is now taking a course in engineering in England, has been awarded the Rhodes Scholarship for Jamaica. Mr. Martin won the 100 yards and the 200 yards in the London University Sports

in 1939 and he represented the University in France where he won the 400 metres race.

Colonel W. E. Clark. The many friends of the late Colonel William Eden Clark, retired Inspector-General of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, will have learnt with deep regret, of his death on January 19th, at the age of 77.

New Arrivals in Jamaica. On January 24th, two recent visitors to the West India Committee's rooms at 40, Norfolk Street, landed in Jamaica. Miss Phyllis Buckell arrived to take up her duties as the new principal of the Deaf and Dumb School and Mr. Edwin P. Arrowsmith, accompanied by his wife and daughter, arrived for a short stay in Jamaica before taking up his appointment as Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

St. Andrew by-election. Dr. Oswald E. Anderson is the new representative of St. Andrew in the Legislative Council. In a by-election, rendered necessary by the resignation of the Hon. G. Seymour Seymour, held on January 17th, he secured 1,559 votes out of 3,387 cast. There were four other candidates, one of whom, Mr. N. N. Nethersole (974 votes) was the first candidate to be presented by the People's National Party. Dr. Anderson's seat on the Corporation Council now becomes vacant, and two candidates are already in the field.

Vocational Education. The Governor, Sir Arthur Richards, opened a new dormitory and class-room at the Holmwood Practical Training centre, on January 25th, and distributed the awards to the graduating students. Lady Richards presented the prizes. The Director of Education, the Hon. B. H. Easter, said that a second training centre had recently been established in another part of the island, and that it was hoped to form a third shortly.

ST. LUCIA

Export of Cocoa. The following notice was issued by the Government on January 13th:—

"It is notified for general information that exporters are requested to furnish the Treasurer with a return of the quantity of cocoa shipped to the United Kingdom during the period October 1st, 1938 to September 30th, 1939.

"The exportation of cocoa to the United Kingdom is now prohibited except under licence, and exporters are also requested to file a return with the Treasurer stating the quantity of cocoa shipped to the United Kingdom from October 1st, 1939, as well as the quantity which they desire to ship to the United Kingdom to the end of the 30th September, 1940.

"This information is required in order to enable arrangements to be made for the issue of the necessary licences, and exporters are therefore asked to forward

these returns with as little delay as possible, so as to avoid any inconvenience to shippers."

TOBAGO

Better Cocoa Prospects. The cocoa crop this season, is, writes Mr. Kenneth Reid, likely to be good and, with more normal prices, planters are beginning to see possibilities of liquidating overdrafts to some extent. It will, however, take many years of moderate prices to put the industry on its feet.

The Governor and Lady Young spent a week at Government House, Tobago, accompanied by their three sons and by Mrs. J. Huggins, the wife of the Colonial Secretary, and her daughters. Lady Young spoke at a meeting of the local branch of the British Red Cross Society and outlined the progress made in the Colony. Steps are being taken to start classes with a view to raising a V.A.D. unit in Tobago.

The Bishop of Trinidad was due in Tobago on January 20th for the purpose of Confirmation and to bless the new building which has been erected at St. Paul's, E.C. School. Funds for this building have been provided by the Government, by the Bishop and by the people of the district and it is a tribute to their zeal for education that so much has been subscribed and so much voluntary work done.

The Rainfall for 1939 was below the average but was well distributed. In July, there were heavy falls and again in September and some damage was done by the river floods. This year, the dry season started early and there are indications that it will be more normal.

TRINIDAD

Banana Ships to Carry Citrus. The Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association was able to arrange that the banana ships of the Jamaica Producers' Association would call at Port-of-Spain during January to March to take up citrus fruit. The ships will also call at Trinidad on their outward voyage.

Agricultural Society. Mr. Harold Robinson of Woodford Lodge Estates has been elected president of the Agricultural Society, in succession to the Hon. Vernon Wharton who has been made an honorary vice-president. Mr. Joseph de Verteuil has succeeded Mr. J. Stanhope Lovell as vice-president.

West Indians on the Altmarek

ON learning that there were some West Indian seamen amongst those so gallantly rescued by the Royal Navy from the Altmarek, the West India Committee immediately got into touch with the British Seamen's Society—and with the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society in order to co-operate in rendering assistance in any way possible if desired.

In consultation with the Governors of other West Indian Colonies the Governor of Trinidad proposes to establish a fund open to public subscriptions for the relief of the dependents of West Indian seamen who lose their lives in the war, and has appointed a committee to advise him as to its scope.

Obituary

SUB-LIEUT. J. S. G. COMFORT

IT was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Sub-Lieutenant J. S. G. Comfort, R.N.V.R. He was among those missing when H.M.S. Sphinx, minesweeper, foundered on February 4th while being towed into port after being damaged by enemy air attack.

Mr. Comfort had recently been appointed a director of Previté and Co., Ltd., whose service he entered in 1917. He accompanied Major Kenneth Previté on a visit to Trinidad in 1930.

A keen Mason, Mr. Comfort was senior warden of the Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826), and for many years had been a popular member of the West Indian Club.

He leaves a widow and two children for whom much sympathy will be felt in their sad loss.

DR. J. H. CONYERS

It was with great regret that we learned of the death, on February 4th, at Hove, of Dr. James Hill Conyers, M.B., C.M.

Born in British Guiana in 1864, he was educated in the Colony, and won the Guiana scholarship. He proceeded to Edinburgh University where he secured his medical degree and medals for chemistry and physiology. Dr. Conyers entered the Colonial Service and in 1894 was a medical officer in the Gold Coast; three years later he was transferred to British Guiana.

In 1905 he was appointed assistant resident surgeon of the Georgetown Hospital, and two years later surgeon of the New Amsterdam Hospital. He later returned to Georgetown as resident surgeon of the hospital, and in 1919 became Surgeon General of the Colony. Dr. Conyers retired two years later, owing to ill-health, and came to live in England.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Conyers, her son and daughter in the great loss they have sustained.

MRS. ALLEYNE

Mrs. Elsinora Alma Alleyne, who passed peacefully away at her residence, 20, Winchester Road, Oxford, on February 7th will be affectionately remembered by the older generation in the West Indies and especially Barbados.

She was the widow of Mr. Forster McGeachy Alleyne, Barrister-at-Law, member of the Legislative Council of that Colony from 1902 to 1908, Chancellor of the Diocese, and the devoted honorary correspondent to the West India Committee, whose death occurred in 1913. It may be recalled that Mr. Alleyne was the direct lineal descendant of Colonel Reynold Alleyne who, with Colonel Drax, led the Parliamentary party in the long struggle between the Cavaliers and Roundheads which ended in the submission of Barbados to Sir George Ayscue on honourable terms in January, 1652.

Born eighty-five years ago, Mrs. Alleyne was the daughter of Mr. Bridges Taylor, H.M. Consul at Elsinore, Denmark and in her childhood she was a playmate of the Danish Princess who was to become Queen Alexandra.

In 1896 Mr. Alleyne, accompanied by his wife and several of their children, went out to Barbados in the hope of retrieving the family fortunes which had been threatened by foreign sugar bounties. They took up

their residence at Porters, the historic house where Dudley Woodbridge the director of the Assiento Company once lived, on the fringe of one of the last remnants of the mahogany forest which once clothed Barbados. There Mrs. Alleyne, a charming hostess, dispensed much kindly hospitality and entertained many distinguished visitors to Barbados. She possessed a most engaging personality and a singularly gentle manner which endeared her to all classes.

The abolition of the bounties came too late and in 1908 the Alleynes, compelled to give up an unequal struggle, returned to England. Thereafter they lived happily in Kensington a few doors away, by a coincidence, from Lady Briggs, the widow of Sir Graham Briggs of Farley Hill, but after her husband's death Mrs. Alleyne made her home at Oxford, with her devoted daughter Frieda who had secured an appointment there.

Mrs. Alleyne had a family of six and is survived by her son, Lieut.-Colonel Charles Forster Alleyne, and four daughters, Mrs. Simey, wife of Dr. Athelstan Simey, Miss Thyra Alleyne, Warden of College Hall in London, Miss Frieda Alleyne, County Visitor to the Blind at Oxford, and Mrs. Weeks, whose elder son is in the Royal Air Force, and the younger in the Royal Artillery, and one daughter, a Queen Alexandra nurse. Mrs. Alleyne's youngest daughter Dorah died in 1919.

To the family we extend our sincere condolences. A.A.

MR. A. C. K. TIBBITS

Mr. Arthur Charles Kent Tibbits, who we regret to learn died suddenly in St. Kitts, on January 10th, was one of the best known figures in the Leeward Islands.

Born in 1877, he entered the Colonial Service in 1894 as a clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua, and after serving in several other Departments, became, in 1907, Postmaster of Antigua, and Federal Postmaster of the Leeward Islands. He held this office until 1925, during which time he was the chairman of several boards and committees, and for a period, acting Commissioner of the Virgin Islands. In the latter year he was appointed Warden of Nevis and retired in 1937, after acting on two occasions as Commissioner of Montserrat.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Tibbits, a daughter of the late Rev. M. J. Drinkwater, and her three daughters—one of whom, Evelyn, is the only woman ever to have won the Leeward Islands Government Scholarship—in their great loss.

THE REV. H. B. VERITY

The Rev. Heron Beresford Verity, who died at Mandeville, Jamaica, on January 25th in his 78th year, had held many important cures in the Church of England in Central America and in Jamaica. He had been Canon of St. John The Baptist Cathedral, Belize, British Honduras, from 1912 to 1918 and, in the latter year, had gone to Jamaica where he had become successively Rector of Linstead and Rector of Chichester, in Hanover. Since his retirement in 1925, Mr. Verity had lived at Port Maria and, latterly, at Mandeville.

Mr. Verity is survived by three sons, Mr. D. J. Verity, manager of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd., the Hon. Mr. Justice Verity, Chief Justice of Zanzibar, and the Rev. G. B. Verity, who lives in England. To them and to the other members of the family the CIRCULAR tenders its sympathy.

The Transfer of Dominica

Messages of Welcome and Co-operation

THE transfer of Dominica has been marked by the receipt by the Administrator of the following official messages of congratulation and good wishes for her future both from the Leeward Islands, of which she was recently a member, and the Windward Islands Group to which she has returned with her old status of a Colony.

The Governor of the Leeward Islands (December 31st, 1939).

I send my warmest congratulations to Dominica on her entry on to a new chapter of her history. It has been my happiness in these three years to further in some degree plans for her progress and especially those for her new venture on which she now embarks.

I am confident her bright spirit will carry her through present difficulties and maintain her as a worthy West Indian daughter of the Empire.

The Governor of the Windward Islands (January 1st, 1940).

I have this day taken the oaths of office under the new constitution.

Please convey to the people of Dominica my congratulations upon their island's re-attainment to Colony status and my heart-felt wishes for their future prosperity and happiness.

Grenada.

The members of the Legislative Council of Grenada, to-day met to commemorate the reunion of the island of Dominica with the Windward Islands Group, send a hearty greeting of welcome to their fellow members of the Legislative Council of Dominica and an assurance of their fixed determination to co-operate with the representatives of the three sister Colonies of the Group in all matters that may appear likely to further the interests and to advance the welfare and happiness of their people so that these historic islands may become still brighter jewels in the crown of that great Empire in which they have the honour to claim fellowship.

January 1st, 1940.

Colonial Secretary.

St. Lucia.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by Executive Council and Legislative Council of St. Lucia to-day. St. Lucia offers to Dominica a cordial welcome to the Windward Islands and looks forward to future friendly co-operation with your Colony and is confident that our closer association now effected will be a source of increasing mutual benefit and gratification to Dominica, St. Lucia and the other Colonies of the Windward Islands.

January 1st, 1940.

Administrator.

St. Vincent.

On the occasion of Dominica becoming a Colony of the Windward Islands Group, the members of Executive and Legislative Councils of St. Vincent, on behalf of inhabitants of this Colony, have desired me to convey to the Colony of Dominica a message of welcome and of good wishes for future prosperity within the Group.

January 1st, 1940.

Administrator.

World's Sugar Crop Estimates

A Large Increase Anticipated

ACCORDING to the preliminary estimates of Willett and Gray, published in their journal of January 18th, the world's sugar crop of 1939-40 will amount to the record total of 30,409,000 long tons. This will represent an increase over the preceding crop of 1,756,820 tons. Their estimates, in detail, appear below:—

CANE CROPS.			
	1939-40	1938-39	1937-38
	Tons	Tons	Tons
United States—			
Louisiana	375,000	436,276	357,243
Florida	88,000	81,753	50,789
Puerto Rico...	982,000	760,678	961,720
Hawaiian Islands ...	850,000	855,000	819,628
Virgin Islands, W.I.	7,000	5,300	3,503
Cuba	2,793,000	2,758,552	3,017,718
British West Indies—			
Trinidad	125,000	128,455	133,627
Barbados	110,000	136,257	89,118
Jamaica	114,000	117,946	118,318
Antigua	14,000	22,517	22,225
St. Kitts	27,000	37,336	27,935
Other B.W.I.	10,000	8,682	10,339
French West Indies—			
Martinique ...	60,000	68,404	54,565
Guadeloupe ...	50,000	47,000	47,809
Dominican Republic ...	445,000	431,705	418,804
Haiti	44,000	40,665	40,178
Mexico ...	300,000	346,969	298,508
Central America—			
Guatemala ...	35,000	33,648	34,132
Salvador	14,000	13,925	16,244
Other Central America	40,000	45,500	48,756
South America—			
Demerara ...	190,000	187,000	196,502
Colombia	45,000	44,912	47,201
Surinam	15,000	18,000	14,421
Venezuela ...	22,000	22,000	22,142
Ecuador	18,000	19,000	21,652
Peru	400,000	372,169	337,860
Argentine	520,000	465,630	371,152
Brazil	1,112,000	1,080,831	984,865
<i>Total in America</i>	8,805,000	8,586,110	8,566,954
British India (Gur) ...	3,300,000	2,888,708	3,778,964
" (White)	900,000	813,200	1,099,200
Java ...	1,566,000	1,543,430	1,376,868
Japan ...	1,482,000	1,663,750	1,203,018
Philippine Islands	990,000	876,934	945,398
<i>Total in Asia</i>	8,238,000	7,786,022	8,403,448
Australia ...	825,000	822,744	809,852
Fiji Islands	135,000	134,878	140,773
<i>Total in Australia and Polynesia</i>	960,000	957,322	950,625
Egypt ...	155,000	162,053	160,211
Mauritius	270,000	315,926	313,816
Reunion	80,000	85,735	79,878
Natal ...	425,000	466,723	452,874
Mozambique ...	72,000	63,500	64,369
<i>Total in Africa</i>	1,002,000	1,093,937	1,071,148
Europe—Spain	13,000	13,124	12,222
<i>Total Cane Sugar Crops</i>	19,018,000	18,436,515	19,004,397

	BEET CROPS		
	1939-40	1938-39	1937-38
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Europe—			
Germany	2,415,000	2,145,141	2,383,659
Czecho-Slovakia	524,000	530,474	741,187
Hungary	130,000	127,288	111,015
France	1,150,000	858,892	975,038
Belgium	260,000	194,852	241,816
Holland	245,000	212,580	246,445
Russia and Ukraine	2,500,000	2,300,000	2,500,000
Poland	430,000	540,378	562,052
Sweden	307,000	292,380	345,194
Denmark	246,000	190,957	250,860
Italy	450,000	398,778	352,111
Spain	111,000	135,000	151,111
Switzerland ...	15,000	13,000	12,100
Bulgaria	28,000	19,761	32,430
Roumania ...	162,000	155,446	75,676
Great Britain*	540,000	289,435	377,133
Ireland*	60,000	53,891	81,944
Yugoslavia ...	125,000	85,869	37,370
Other Countries	185,000	122,636	150,247
<i>Total in Europe</i>	9,883,000	8,666,758	9,627,388
United States— Beet*	1,435,000	1,485,024	1,147,185
Canada— Beet*	73,000	63,883	53,796
<i>Total Beet Sugar Crops</i>	11,391,000	10,215,665	10,828,369

GRAND TOTAL—CANE AND BEET...			
BEET...	30,409,000	28,652,180	29,832,766
Estimated Increase in the World's production ...	1,756,820	1,180,586†	18,843

* Refined sugar. † Decrease.

It will be noted that of the estimated increase of 1,756,820 tons, cane accounts for only 581,485 tons. The largest increases are looked for in Puerto Rico, Argentine, British India (whose crops have fluctuated considerably in recent years) and the Philippine Islands, but these are offset to some extent by decreases in Louisiana, Mexico, Japan, Mauritius and Natal.

Beet is expected to yield, in 1939-40, an increase of 1,175,335 tons. Nearly all the European countries show a larger output, but there is a decline in the United States.

As recently as 1913-14, the world's sugar crop amounted to only 18,436,478 tons, of which cane accounted for 9,801,536 tons and beet 8,634,942 tons. Germany was the largest producer that year with 2,617,937 tons, Cuba taking second place with 2,597,732 tons and India third with 2,291,500 tons.

Low Price for Copra

The information on copra and coco-nut oil, given in the CIRCULAR for December 14th, p. 476, was timely, writes Mr. Kenneth Reid, of Tobago, on January 19th, as the price for copra in the Trinidad controlled market had dropped to \$1.60 per 100 lb. This, says Mr. Reid, is much too low for profitable coco-nut planting except in very favourable small areas. No doubt things will improve but it is impossible to meet the demands for higher wages and other costs with copra at that figure.

West Indies at Westminster

The Royal Commission Report

ON February 7th, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, in reply to questions by MR. RILEY, MR. SORENSEN and MR. PALING, said that the report of the Royal Commission on Conditions in the West Indies was completed towards the end of December and had since been receiving the Government's careful consideration. He was not able to make any further statement at present, but he would keep in touch with the hon. Members and let them know when he would be in a position to make a statement at an early date. MR. RILEY then inquired whether the report would be issued as a Parliamentary Paper. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that, as he had indicated, he would be prepared to make a statement at an early date and thought he had better not anticipate it.

MR. CREECH JONES asked how soon he expected to be able to make a statement. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied that he thought at any rate the week after next.

Colonial Defence Regulations

On February 14th, MR. SORENSEN asked whether the right of public meeting and the publication of newspapers could be exercised in all British Colonies; how many publications had been suppressed; and whether native, political and industrial organisations could function freely.

In reply, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that apart from Defence Regulations, which follow in the main those brought into operation in the United Kingdom, there had, so far as he was aware, been no change since the outbreak of war in Colonial legislation affecting the matters referred to in the first and third parts of the question. Nor was he aware of any instance of the suppression of a publication since the war.

Trinidad Labour Dispute

In reply to MR. JAGGER, who asked whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies could make a statement with regard to the dispute between the Trinidad Electricity Board and its employees, and why the principle of collective bargaining was ignored and a decision forced upon the employees by the action of the Government and the municipality of Port-of-Spain; MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said the hon. Member was presumably referring to certain recent negotiations between the Trinidad Electricity Board and representatives of employees of the Board regarding rates and conditions of service. These negotiations were still in progress, and no action of the nature suggested in the second part of the question had been taken either by the Government of Trinidad or by the municipality of Port-of-Spain.

(Continued from next column)

Nutmegs business has been done at 5½d. c.i.f. United Kingdom port for defectives; on the spot sound unassorted are quoted at 7½d. and sound 80's at 8½d. **Mace** is quiet with spot quoted at 2/4 to 2/5 for the usual mixed red to pale and at 2/7 for pale to choice.

Round the Markets

February 20th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Feb. 5th.	Feb. 19th.	\$ value	
Canada ..	4.45	4.45		4/5.9
U.S.A. ..	4.03	4.03		4/11.6
France ..	176.62	176.62	Fr.	-/1.4
Holland ..	7.55	7.55	Gu.	2/7.8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend latest year.		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 10d. per cent.) ..	73½ 74
3½	War Loan	98½ 98½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	½ ½
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	24/6 25/6
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	37/- 41/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ..	1½ 2½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ..	1/6 1/7½
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/4½ 1/4
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	½ ½
15	Corentyne Sugar Co. \$1 ..	7/9 8/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4 ..	3/- 4/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/10½
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madelaine Sugar	13/9 14/9
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/6 7/6
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/- ..	6d. 1/6
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. ..	43/3 44/3
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/- 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/9 7/9

RUM. Dealers continue to report a very good all-round trade. Stocks in first hands are almost exhausted, and prices remain firm.

COCOA. Only a small business has been reported in this market and supplies are low. Fine Trinidad is quoted at 72/6 to 75/- spot, while sellers of the first "three marks" are asking 56/- c. & f. Fine Grenada is unchanged at 65/- to 67/6 in bond. There have been no further forward sales in West African, owing to the temporary absence of freight space. The "uncontrolled" price of old crop is 31/3 c.i.f.

COTTON. A considerable business has been done in West Indian Sea Island at firm prices.

HONEY. Jamaica on the spot continues to be quoted at 72/6 to 85/- per cwt., landed terms, for the dark liquid to smooth set pale to white. F.a.q. with no guarantee of colour is quoted at 70/- c.i.f. London for prompt shipment.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** There are no supplies of Handpressed and the nominal value is unchanged at 37/6 per lb. ex wharf. The small supplies of Distilled are firmly held. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand for Concentrated, and Raw is valued at 2/6 to 2/9 per gallon, but the demand is slow.

ORANGE OIL. The nominal value of Sweet is about 6/- per lb. and Bitter should be worth 7/6 per lb., but there are no supplies.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** is dull with sellers at 87/6 c.i.f. for February shipment but buyers are holding off; spot is easier closing 10½d. ex store. **Ginger** is dull and easier and quoted at: spot, 52/6 to 55/- for No. 3; 57/6 to 62/6 for No. 2; 65/- to 70/- for medium No. 1; and 75/- for bold bright No. 1. In

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

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A New Deal

THE work of many Commissions can be summed up in the words "*parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.*"* Their offspring, if not still-born, have after a short and precarious existence found their way to some crematorium in Whitehall. It is to the credit of MR. MACDONALD that a lusty infant which is the progeny of the West Indian Royal-Commission will escape interment or cremation.

The recommendations of the Royal Commission are themselves evidence of the thorough manner in which the Commission carried out an investigation of the many and complex problems with which the Administrations of the West Indian Colonies are faced and of their anxiety to find solutions for those problems.

It is evident that the Commission realised that the root cause of the distress in the West Indies was to be found in a long period of uneconomic prices. This fact had been represented frequently not only by Colonial Governors but by others. The Olivier Commission which visited the West Indies in 1929 made clear the needs of the sugar industry; in 1933 a deputation from the cocoa-growing Colonies of Trinidad and Grenada put the desperate condition of the cocoa industry before the Colonial Office. An effort to induce all cocoa-producing countries to rationalise the industry failed, and nothing further was done by the Imperial Government to check the drift into bankruptcy which threatened West Indian estates. An attempt made to assist the copra industry by the establishment of local factories was discouraged, and was to a large extent frustrated by the operations of powerful vested interests in England.

LORD MOYNE, in his broadcast on February 20th, pointed out the serious effect on the West Indian Colonies of the competition of other tropical countries which can ship their products to European and American markets in bulk. The problem of stabilising prices at an economic level not only in the case of sugar but also of other West Indian products must be solved, for otherwise the expenditure of grants from Imperial funds on the improvement of health and educational services will merely prove to be a palliative and not a remedy for the present distress. Closely connected with this problem, and indeed part of it, is the provision of the regular transport of West Indian products at reasonable rates. In past years the freight rates which had to be met by producers in the West Indian islands have, except

* A free and alliterative translation offered us is: "The mountains mate; there emerges a mouse."

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	56
A NEW DEAL ...	49	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD	
THE ROYAL COMMISSION	50	MAIL	57
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	51	WEST INDIAN GIFTS FOR THE	
PURCHASE OF GOLD COAST COCOA	52	FORCES ...	58
SIR CHARLES KENNEDY-PURVIS	52	PURCHASE OF SUGAR, 1939-40 ...	59
MR. W. L. HEAPE'S NEW		WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER...	59
APPOINTMENT ...	52	OBITUARY...	60
CASHEW NUTS IN INDIA...	52	SOME COMPANY REPORTS	60
ROYAL COMMISSION'S RECOM-		WEST INDIAN PASSENGERS	60
MENDATIONS	53	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	60

in the case of sugar, been considerably in excess of the freight rates paid by producers in Brazil and West Africa. It is to be hoped that in future neither the transport of produce from our West Indian Colonies, nor the freight rates charged for that transport, will be in any way dependent on Hamburg.

It is possible that many who have no knowledge of the West Indies will, on reading the recommendations of the Commission, assume that those regarding health, housing, education and land settlement have as their object the initiation of new schemes, whereas in actual fact they represent the views of the Commission on the best method of improving existing services, for there is not one single proposal which will, in actual fact, initiate a new service. It must, however, be admitted that there is a vast amount of leeway to be made up, more particularly in the smaller islands where funds have not been available to maintain social services in a state of efficiency.

The Commission has quite rightly placed education first in its programme of reforms. Lack of funds and lack of co-operation amongst the smaller islands have caused a serious lag in educational development. Those who have had experience of primary education in the West Indies know that the condition of many of the schools, particularly in rural districts, is deplorable. Too often, overcrowded and insanitary buildings have had a depressing effect on both teachers and children, yet it is through the schools that the best approach to better living conditions can be made. The much needed improvement in the whole education system can only be achieved if the present facilities for teacher training are extended and made available for teachers throughout all the islands. It is to be hoped that the different Colonies will realise the importance of co-operation and that centralised institutions for teacher training will take the place of a number of small and less efficient institutions established in different Colonies.

It is impossible in the space of a short review to deal with all the suggestions made by the Royal Commission. Whether effect can be given to them must depend largely on the goodwill of the West Indians themselves. The proposal that there should be some "unification" of the Medical Service will, if adopted, do much to improve its efficiency. This is equally true of other branches of the Civil Service. In the past many promising officers in the smaller islands have worked with no hope of promotion outside their own Colony in which, for financial reasons, they are often called upon to fill responsible posts at salaries which are less than those paid to men who are merely carrying out routine duties

in the larger Colonies. It is not surprising that in some cases the feeling of stagnation and frustration ultimately affect the efficiency of men who in more fortunate circumstances would have remained valuable public servants.

In dealing with the important question of re-housing, it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to utilise local materials, and that the possibilities of buildings in "tapia" in rural districts will not be overlooked. In the urban areas, slum clearance presents a difficult problem where autonomous local authorities exist which are largely controlled by owners of slum property. It is, in fact, doubtful whether the proposals of the Royal Commission can be effectively carried out without direct intervention by the Central Executive.

The recommendations for improving agricultural methods throughout the West Indian islands and to provide funds for extending the valuable work of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture will meet with universal approval. As regards land settlement schemes, it must be clearly recognised that in some of the islands the demand for land cannot be satisfied. LORD MOYNE in his broadcast speech pointed out that during the last forty years the population of the West Indies had increased by 50 per cent. and was still increasing. The provision of an outlet for the surplus population of Barbados is briefly referred to in the recommendations, yet anyone who is conversant with the present situation in that Colony must realise how urgent is the need for such an outlet. If, as the Commission has recommended, a larger sugar quota can be secured for the West Indian Colonies and part of the increase were earmarked for the recently established sugar industry in British Honduras, it might be possible to arrange for the transfer of Barbadian labour to that Colony.

In the past many West Indians have felt that there has been inadequate consideration given by the Home Government to the needs of the West Indies. Granted that there has been justification for such a feeling it must be realised that the immense care and thoroughness with which the Royal Commission has carried out its investigation of West Indian conditions, and the readiness of the Secretary of State to take immediate action on these recommendations, give conclusive evidence that a forward and constructive policy will be followed in the future. The British taxpayer is being called upon at a time when the war entails unprecedented sacrifices to supply large sums, not only for the improvement of living conditions in the West Indies, but also to finance schemes of development throughout the whole of the Colonial Empire from which the West Indian Colonies will also benefit.

The inauguration by MR. MACDONALD of a New Deal for the West Indian Colonies will inspire the latter with new hope for the future, and the most effective help which can be given by West Indians of all classes is ready co-operation in this great effort to achieve economic prosperity and a fuller life. Personal interests must be subordinated to the common good and any prejudices which would interfere with full co-operation amongst the different Colonies must disappear if the New Deal is to achieve the success hoped for, not only by the Secretary of State, but by all those who have the interests of the West Indies at heart.

The Royal Commission

West Indian Opinion

WITH the object of being able to place on record their opinion of the Recommendations of the Commission the West India Committee cabled on February 23rd to the Chambers of Commerce in the West Indies and to the Imperial Association of Jamaica that a brief expression of their views would be appreciated for publication in the CIRCULAR.

The following replies have been received:—

GRENADA

Chamber of Commerce

Before receipt of the Committee's request the Chamber had cabled on February 23rd:—

"Please convey to Imperial Government thanks and grateful appreciation of prompt and generous approval of recommendations of Royal Commission for betterment of conditions in the West Indies."

This was supplemented by the following:—

"Chamber welcomes and deeply appreciates far-reaching businesslike recommendations of Royal Commission which, in masterly disregard of time-worn precedents, clears the way for constructive and progressive work for moral, social and economic well-being of the inhabitants of these islands. Imperial Government's prompt action has already created atmosphere of confidence."

JAMAICA

Imperial Association

"The Imperial Association learns with great appreciation Imperial Government's decision based on the recommendations of the Royal Commission to vote £1,000,000 annually for at least ten years for welfare work in the West Indies and also to appropriate £500,000 annually to deal with Colonial research, development and welfare. The Association, while feeling that this generous gesture on the part of the Imperial Government will do much to assure West Indies of England's determination to assist West Indian progress and welfare, emphasises that an increase in the sugar industry far larger than that proposed is imperative to meet the decline of other agricultural industries owing to diseases and other causes."

ANTIGUA

Agricultural and Commercial Society

"Greatly appreciate recommendations of Royal Commission which have resulted from thorough study of all conditions. Also greatly appreciate generosity of Imperial Government in carrying through recommendations in their own hour of need."

BARBADOS

Chamber of Commerce

"Most grateful for generous treatment accorded by the Mother Country to the West Indies, especially in this time of national emergency."

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE Colonial Empire, which certainly enjoys less of the parliamentary limelight than its importance deserves, has during the last fortnight held the centre of the political stage. The basis and inspiration of Mr. Malcolm MacDonald's weighty and courageous statement of Colonial policy has certainly been the report of the Royal Commission on the West Indies, although the full text of this document is not to be published until after the war. The Commissioners pride themselves on having compiled a completely frank report, setting forth the good and the bad facts concerning social conditions in the islands with equal absence of reserve. That being so, the Foreign Office is obviously right in refusing to make a present of the volume to Dr. Göbbels, who would undoubtedly select only the worst features and use them in propaganda for all they were worth and a good deal more. What matters is that a determined attempt be made to remedy the evils that have been discovered; and this the Government have pledged themselves to do, by publishing the recommendations of the Commissioners and promising to give immediate effect to their main principles.

* * *

The recommendation on which all the rest depend is that for the creation of a development fund, financed by a grant of a million pounds a year from the British Treasury, and administered by a Comptroller who will be independent of all the Colonial governors. I am tempted to envy this dignitary, who will be in a position to visit every Government House in the Colonies in the capacity of the rich uncle from whom all have expectations. Here in London, however, we are asked to regard the West Indian Welfare Fund merely as a part of a larger scheme for Colonial development. Colonies and Mandated Territories alike will share in the benefits of an annual grant of £5,000,000, to be invested for their benefit on much broader lines than any such fund has been in the past. A very old imperial principle, that a Colony may only have such social services as it can afford to maintain out of its own revenues, is now formally repudiated. Henceforth the Colonial Empire will be regarded, from the point of view of finance, not as a collection of isolated units, but as an organic whole; and each Colony will be entitled to share in the benefits of the imperial connexion in proportion, not to its resources but to its needs.

* * *

All parties have applauded the announcement of this policy. Their approval may have steeled Mr. MacDonald's resolution to face the storm of criticism aroused a few days later by his proposals for dealing with the land question in Palestine. The problem in this unhappy country is created by the rapid expansion of a comparatively rich race, the Jews, at the expense of a poorer race, the Arabs. The Jews, supported as they are by the capital supplied by their co-religionists in Europe and America, can make land pay that the Arabs, with less resources, find unprofitable. Hence there has been a steady tendency for Arabs to sell out

to Jews, generally at a good price, but with the result that the country is threatened with the growth of a landless Arab proletariat. The administration of Palestine has now decided that the time has come when, over most of the country, there is no longer room for the further expansion of Jewish holdings; and the Colonial Secretary has accordingly decided to forbid, in these areas, any future transfers of land from Arabs to Jews.

* * *

Warning of this policy was given as long ago as last May; but the disappointment of the Jews at this frustration of some of their most cherished hopes is none the less bitter. We are pledged by the Mandate, subject to the rights of other races, to "encourage the close settlement of the Jews on the land," and the Jews and their friends argue that the new regulations violate this clause. On that point the League of Nations is being invited to pronounce. But to discriminate between races in this way is at all times repugnant to British ideas, and can only be justified as an emergency measure. That an emergency now exists seems, however, certain. Nevertheless, opinion in England would be less uneasy if these regulations could be quickly merged in a larger settlement of the great constitutional questions about the future of the country, which the best-informed critics now think should preferably be planned on federal lines.

* * *

The Budget lies a month ahead, and there is much discussion of the basic principles of war finance. Owing to the immense needs of the fighting forces, there will obviously be a much diminished supply of consumable goods in the market. On the other hand the greatly increased Government spending is putting more money into the pockets of the people. With more to spend and less to buy the natural consequence is a general rise in prices, a higher cost of living, a demand for still higher wages, and so the vicious circle that we call inflation.

* * *

The famous Cambridge economist, Mr. J. M. Keynes, propounded some time ago, and has now developed in book form, a striking plan for meeting this threat. He proposes to remove the excessive spending power from the market, partly in the ordinary way by taxation, but over and above that by a system of deferred pay, which is practically what the Yorkist sovereigns called a "forced loan." According to a graduated scale a part of all wages and salaries will be withheld in the hands of the Government and credited to the earners, to be paid after the war, when a levy on capital will be made to meet the debt.

* * *

This bold and original proposal stands at present only in the name of a distinguished private citizen. But Lord Hankey, a member of the War Cabinet, has told the House of Lords that it is under close examination by the Government, and has not as yet been rejected.

Purchase of Gold Coast Cocoa

Statement by Mr. M. MacDonald

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies was asked by Mr. Creech Jones why, in purchasing the entire cocoa crop, 1939-40, of the Gold Coast, His Majesty's Government fixed the price at a figure equivalent to £16 16s. per ton at Accra, which was below the cost of production; why, since this price was fixed and agreed to by the Gold Coast farmers, the export duty on cocoa had been raised by the Gold Coast Government by 18/8 to 42/- per ton; and what he proposed to do so that these measures would not inflict serious loss on the Gold Coast farmers and tend to impoverish the Gold Coast Colony.

In a written reply of February 22nd, Mr. M. MacDonald stated that the purpose of the arrangements made at the beginning of the war for the purchase by His Majesty's Government of the entire British West African cocoa crop for the season 1939-40, was precisely to ensure that serious loss was not inflicted on the cocoa farmers with the consequent impoverishment of the Gold Coast and, to a lesser degree, Nigeria.

Before the war, Germany was an important market for cocoa, her annual consumption representing about 15 per cent. of total world consumption. The effect of the loss of the German market and of the dislocation of other markets in Central Europe, together with the difficulties of finding shipping space in war-time for a relatively unessential commodity like cocoa, would beyond doubt have been to drive the price of cocoa in West Africa down to a very low level, while at the same time a very considerable proportion of the crop would have been left unbought in growers' hands. In the war of 1914-18, the price of cocoa in West Africa fell as low as £4 a ton.

In guaranteeing to purchase the whole crop, at a port price fixed in advance for the season, the Government had not only to take account of probable subsequent rises in freight and other carrying costs, but had also to envisage the possibility of being compelled to hold a considerable unsold surplus of cocoa beyond the end of the present crop year. In spite of the probable heavy loss involved, the Government, recognising the importance of maintaining to West African growers a steady return on cocoa sales and of allowing some margin to cover increased costs of imported goods, fixed their buying price at roughly £2 per ton above the average port price obtaining throughout the whole of the last main-crop season. In addition, an undertaking was given that, in the unlikely event of a net profit being made in disposing of the crop, the Government would share this profit with the West African Governments concerned.

It was impossible, in view of the peculiar conditions in West Africa, to determine, even the approximate cost of production of cocoa, but it was generally accepted that a price of £16 16s. per ton at Gold Coast ports was a very fair price for growers, particularly when it was guaranteed for the whole main-crop season. Mr. MacDonald considered that the Government had acted most generously and that the arrangements would confer considerable benefits on West African cocoa

farmers. The Governors had assured him that this was appreciated in West Africa, and he had had no reports of any general dissatisfaction at the price at which cocoa was being bought.

As regards the second part of the question, the Governor of the Gold Coast explained, in a statement made in December last on the cocoa purchase scheme, the reasons for which he considered it necessary to impose, as a war measure, a surcharge of 18/8 per ton upon the cocoa export duty. Mr. MacDonald was having a copy of the Governor's statement, together with a copy of the statement on the scheme made by the Governor of Nigeria placed in the Library of the House.

Sir Charles Kennedy-Purvis

For America and West Indies Station

The King has approved the appointment of Vice-Admiral Sir Charles E. Kennedy-Purvis, K.C.B., to be Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies, in succession to Admiral Sir Sidney J. Meyrick, K.C.B.

Vice-Admiral Kennedy-Purvis has been president of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and Vice-Admiral Commanding the Royal Naval War College since 1938. From 1936 to 1938 he commanded the First Cruiser Squadron, Mediterranean Fleet.

Sir Sidney Meyrick has held the America command since May, 1937, when he succeeded Admiral the Hon. Sir Matthew Best, K.C.B., D.S.O.

Mr. W. L. Heape's new Appointment

Mr. W. L. Heape, Colonial Secretary, Grenada, has, the Colonial Office announces, been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary, the Bahamas, in succession to Mr. J. H. Jarrett, whose appointment as Chief Justice of the Windward and Leeward Islands was announced recently.

Mr. Heape, who is a member of the West India Committee, entered the Colonial Service in 1919 as Assistant Secretary, Somaliland, where he served until appointed to Tanganyika Territory in 1929. He became Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General of Grenada in 1935 and acted as Administrator of St. Vincent in 1938.

Cashew Nuts in India

The cashew nut industry of Southern India, although of recent origin, has expanded so rapidly that over one hundred factories, employing some 200,000 people, mostly women and children, are now in operation throughout the year. In addition to the produce of very large areas in India, to extend which even coco-nuts on estates have been cut down, dried nuts in the shell are imported from Portuguese East Africa, and British East Africa. An experimental factory was started in Ceylon two years ago, but the Ceylon Trade Journal says the local supplies of nuts were not sufficient to run it. At least 1,000 tons a year of raw nuts are required to maintain an economic unit.

Royal Commission's Recommendations

(A) The Welfare Fund and Social Services

In order that the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission shall be readily accessible to all members of the West India Committee, they will be reprinted in full in the CIRCULAR, in three instalments—(A) Welfare Fund and Social Services; (B) Economic Problems, Agriculture and Land Settlement; (C) Communications, Constitutional, Administrative and Miscellaneous Questions.

1. West Indian Welfare Fund and Comptroller

1. There is a pressing need for large expenditure on social services and development which not even the least poor of the West Indian Colonies can hope to undertake from their own resources. We therefore recommend the establishment for this purpose of a West Indian Welfare Fund to be financed by an annual grant of £1,000,000 from the Imperial Exchequer for a period of 20 years, and of a special organisation to administer this fund under the charge of a Comptroller. The objects of the Fund should be to finance schemes for the general improvement of education, the health services, housing and slum clearance, the creation of labour departments, the provision of social welfare facilities, and land settlement, apart from the cost of purchase of land.

2. We consider it essential that the new organisation should be set up within the West Indies but be independent of the local Governments. Its head, the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund, should constantly review the social problems of the West Indies, be available to advise the colonial administrations on their problems, and submit an annual report which would help to focus public attention in this country on progress in the West Indies. The Comptroller should be responsible to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and have the right of direct access to him. His principal duties would be:—

(1) to work out, with the aid of experts to be attached to him and in consultation with the local Governments concerned, long-term programmes of social reform for submission to the Secretary of State;

(2) to consider similar schemes submitted by local Governments whether on their own initiative or after consultation with his experts;

(3) to control the West Indian Welfare Fund and to approve

grants from it for expenditure by West Indian Governments on schemes which he has accepted as conforming to the general programme approved by the Secretary of State;

(4) to supervise, through his staff, the administration of these grants; and

(5) to submit annually to the Secretary of State a report, in form suitable for presentation to Parliament, on the work carried out under his supervision during the preceding year.

3. It will be seen that, subject to conformity with schemes approved by the Secretary of State, the Comptroller will have wide discretion in the allocation of funds from the West Indian Welfare Fund, and his operations will not be subject to such detailed scrutiny by the Treasury as are the estimates of colonies which are in receipt of grants-in-aid. This we regard as of great importance, and we consider that the aims of effective social development and in the long run of true economy will best be served by choosing a capable and experienced administrator for the post of Comptroller and giving him wide power to settle points of detail without reference. Any steps should in general be taken which would obviate delay without impairing a proper system of financial control.

4. Although the exact composition of his staff will vary from time to time according to the nature of the schemes

on which it is decided to embark, we should expect them to include from the outset experts on education, finance, health, housing, income tax, labour and social welfare, a civil engineer and a statistician. We assume that in the consideration of appropriate schemes full use would be made of the services of the Inspector-General of Agriculture, whose appointment we recommend elsewhere.

5. The expenses of the new organisation, which may, when the scheme is fully developed, amount to £100,000 per annum, should not be borne by the West Indian



LORD MOYNE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

Welfare Fund itself but by the Imperial Exchequer. At the same time, we consider it reasonable that, in view of the great disparity between the rates of direct taxation in the West Indies and in this country, the West Indian Colonies should make their contribution by bringing their rates of income tax more into line with the pre-war rates payable here. We do not recommend that further burdens should be laid on the payer of indirect taxation.

6. This is in our view a fundamental recommendation, and is intended to provide the machinery and funds for accomplishing the objects of social policy which follow.

2. Social Services

(i) EDUCATION

7. The objectives of Educational policy should be as follows :—

(a) Steps should be taken to ensure that all teachers have had an adequate training at some properly organised training college. This will involve the provision of facilities at the training colleges in the larger Colonies for students from those Colonies (the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands and British Honduras) for which separate training colleges on an adequate scale are not a practical proposition. In consequence, steps should be taken to eliminate the pupil-teacher system and, to cover the period until all teachers have been trained, supervisory teachers should be employed to superintend and advise the untrained teachers already in employment.

(b) The provision of sufficient school accommodation should be actively proceeded with, special attention being paid to questions of design, the preservation of a balance between the needs of urban and rural areas, the use of local materials where possible, the provision of playground space and of water-supply and adequate sanitary equipment.

(c) Additional equipment should be provided for many schools, and in some places the complete replacement of badly-designed equipment is necessary. The supply of equipment for physical training should not be overlooked. Text-books and school stationery should at once be provided free, costs being reduced by direct large-scale purchase by Education Departments.

(d) The literary curriculum in the primary schools requires to be simplified and brought more into relation with the environment of the children. Stress should be laid on the formation of habits of clear and connected speech. The primary curriculum should in its later stages include instruction in hygiene, including diet; manual and agricultural teaching for boys; and domestic training and child welfare instruction for girls. More junior secondary schools should be established giving training in practical subjects: these schools to be treated on an equal footing with the more academic secondary schools as regards accommodation, equipment and teaching staff.

(e) The use and production of educational films should be investigated. Consideration should be given to the formation of a library of suitable films in, say, Trinidad, for use throughout the West Indies, and to the employment for a period of an expert on the production of documentary films who could visit the West Indies and instruct local personnel on the production of simple films of local subjects.

(f) In order to enhance the value of the West Indian wireless transmitter or transmitters recommended elsewhere, school receivers should be provided, which could also play an important part in adult education.

(g) In the special circumstances of these Colonies, the schools should play an important part as the centres for adult education in the ordinary sense, for instruction in agriculture and hygiene and for lending library services.

(h) Educational policy as a whole should be under the supervision of some one officer in each Colony, and should be an important charge of the official Standing Committee for Social Welfare of which the establishment is recommended elsewhere. In addition, education boards, which should be advisory only, and include a strong unofficial element, should be formed for the mutual enlightenment of Government and public opinion.

(i) The primary school age should be restricted to 6-12, but only conditionally on, and side by side with, the establish-

ment of junior secondary schools for ages 12-15 and of play centres or, in certain cases, of nursery schools for children under 6.

(j) The literary curriculum should remain the same for girls as for boys, but girls' vocational training (domestic science, child welfare, etc.) should begin at a somewhat earlier stage. In secondary education, provision should be made to enable girls to compete for scholarships on equal terms with boys. Facilities should generally be provided for post-primary vocational training for girls on the lines of the Carnegie Trade School in Georgetown, British Guiana.

(k) There should be general provision of school meals, free where the economic circumstances of the children warrant it, and it should be possible to supply clothes for poor children. Some of these might be made at the schools.

(l) In schools at present managed by the Denominations, if salaries are paid by the Government, complete control in staff matters should be assumed by Government; and new schools provided wholly from public funds should be in all respects administered by Government. The existing facilities for religious instruction in Government schools should be maintained.

(m) The staff of the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund should include an educational expert.

While some of these recommendations should be put into effect at an early date we recognise that many of them can only be applied gradually and may require modification in the light of experience.

(ii) PUBLIC HEALTH

8. We recommend :—

(a) the appointment of a Medical Adviser to the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund. He should advise on health policies for the West Indies; and the unification of medical services and the co-ordination of other health activities as recommended below should be among the first subjects to engage his attention;

(b) the unification of the medical services of the British West Indies, with the object of affording a better career to members of that service, rendering possible an increase in the number of specialists and a wider use of their skill, providing a more efficient and more economically run medical service both for the prevention and for the cure of disease and fostering a comprehensive view of the health problems of the entire area;

(c) the centralisation of certain medical institutions, not only within each colony but as between neighbouring groups of Colonies, should be undertaken, both to secure greater efficiency and economy in the treatment of the sick and to render possible much better training facilities for all classes of medical personnel in curative medicine. This reform would involve the organisation of the outlying hospitals as collecting stations, and the provision of adequate ambulance and stretcher services. There is a special need for the centralisation as between colonies of mental and leper institutions;

(d) the creation of at least one School of Hygiene in the West Indies, for research and teaching in preventive medicine and particularly for the training of sanitary inspectors and health visitors;

(e) the formulation of long-term health policies, which should form part of the wider social welfare programmes of the various Colonies, and should be framed not by the Medical Departments in isolation, but in consultation with other Departments, particularly of Labour, Agriculture and Education and with Social Welfare Officers;

(f) the partial reorganisation of the medical services to secure the development of a preventive outlook, the provision of a relative increase in well-trained auxiliary staff such as sanitary inspectors, health visitors, district nurses and dispensers, the centralisation of medical institutions (see (c) above) and the provision of better facilities for medical treatment in the rural areas and for certain sections of the urban population. In this connexion the possibility of an extension of contributory health insurance schemes on the basis of a carefully selected membership should be studied by the Medical Adviser (see (a) above) in consultation with Governments;

(g) immediate progress with certain definite preventive measures, including improved housing, general sanitation, the control of malarial areas, the development of maternity and

child welfare work, venereal disease clinics, school medical services, and the better education of the public in health, including nutrition, both in and out of school;

(h) that greater attention should be paid to providing a better balanced diet for the population in general, and in this matter the public health, agricultural and education departments should co-operate closely. It will be necessary in particular to increase the output of meat, milk, poultry, eggs, fish and fresh vegetables;

(i) that increased attention should be paid to the training of nurses by such methods as the appointment of sister-tutors and the centralisation of training institutions.

(iii) HOUSING

9. We recommend :—

(a) generally, that, where they do not exist, powers should be taken to control the siting of new housing and that this control should be exercised with regard to considerations of health, sanitation and water-supply; and that great care should be taken to maintain a balance between rural and urban housing;

(b) for urban housing, that powers should be taken, where they do not already exist, to condemn and clear bad slum housing, no compensation being paid except in cases of proved and extreme hardship and then only under rigid safeguards; that legislation and procedure should follow those of the United Kingdom, unless it is certain that United Kingdom provisions are inappropriate; that West Indian Governments should have easily-applied powers for the compulsory acquisition of land for housing;

(c) for rural housing, that in the case of estate housing, estates should provide the land, including vegetable plots, and give reasonable security of tenure, and the houses should be built under approved schemes financed by Government at low rates of interest, rent being charged against a corresponding increase in wages in those cases where, as is usual, rent is now only nominal. As between ranges and separate cottages, while on general grounds we prefer cottages, ranges are suitable for unmarried men and small ranges limited to four dwellings might be permitted for families where there are strong health or other reasons for this course. A survey of estate housing should be made and where possible peasant housing should be included in it; and demolition of peasant's houses not ordered unless either the peasant can afford to replace or Government is prepared to help with rebuilding;

(d) that, since the large programme recommended will require supervision by persons with qualifications not available in the West Indies, the following appointments should be made to the staff of the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund :—

- (1) (temporary) an expert to organise enquiry into methods of building and types of houses;
- (2) a permanent advisory officer with wide knowledge of town planning;
- (3) an officer in charge of the actual building having initiative, drive, and experience of large-scale building in the United Kingdom.

(iv) LABOUR AND TRADE UNIONS

10. We recommend :—

(a) as regards Trade Unionism, the enactment, where they are not already in force, of laws to protect Unions from actions for damages consequent on strikes, the legalisation of peaceful picketing (pickets being given access in reasonable numbers to workers both at the gates of the factories and at their homes), the compulsory registration of Trade Unions and audit of their funds (the latter duty could reasonably be undertaken free of charge by Governments);

(b) to cover the period before Trade Unions are developed to the point at which they can play a decisive part in the regulation of wages and conditions of employment, action by Governments in this direction through the medium of Labour Departments or Officers. These organisations should be assisted by Advisory Boards representative of employers and employed with an impartial Chairman;

(c) that the staff of the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund should include a Labour Adviser who should maintain close liaison with the Labour Officers and Departments in all the West Indian Colonies;

(d) that a Labour Department should be established within the Colonial Office, and a Labour Advisory Committee appointed

composed of persons with expert knowledge of labour and colonial questions;

(e) that Wages Boards should be created in any colonies in which they do not already exist. The enactment of satisfactory legislation providing for the establishment of such Boards should be a condition of the participation of any colony in the arrangements proposed below for the assistance of the sugar industry, and the allocation of shares in these benefits to individual concerns should depend on the full execution of the decisions of the Wages Boards. Differences arising in industries not covered by Wages Boards should be handled by the staff of the Labour Departments or by arbitration panels. An Industrial Court should be established for the West Indies as a whole;

(f) that West Indian Governments should set an example in labour matters by forming Whitley Councils for civil services, and the principle should be extended to subordinate staff and to teachers;

(g) that the Governments of the larger colonies should examine carefully the possibility of establishing some arrangement for unemployment insurance in the case of those undertakings which are organised on a system of regular employment and with exemptions for those industries where, owing to the intermittent character of employment, a scheme based on that obtaining in Great Britain would be impracticable;

(h) that adequate factory inspection should be undertaken and factory legislation should be closely co-ordinated with the laws and regulations relating to public health. In the larger territories a Medical Inspector should be seconded to the Labour Department and everywhere the closest co-operation should be maintained between the medical and social welfare authorities and that Department;

(i) that West Indian Governments should consider carefully the possibility of adopting schemes of Workmen's Compensation based on the system in operation in Ontario since 1915 and subsequently adopted in other Canadian Provinces. This is compulsory and covers manual and non-manual workers in public and private undertakings. Exclusive administrative authority is vested in a Board of three members nominated by Government. The arrangement may be one of collective liability, under which the contributions of all employers, assessed by the Board, are paid into an Accident Fund; or of individual liability, in which case the employer concerned may be required to deposit adequate security with the Board, or to insure his liability. The advantages of this system are speed and certainty in operation, the elimination of litigation with its consequences of delay and expense, and the existence of an authority (the Board) which is well placed to undertake preventive work and propaganda. Whether one Board be set up for the West Indies, or Boards for individual Colonies or groups of Colonies, is a matter for consideration. In any event, the Labour Officer in each territory could act as agent of the Board concerned in dealing with claims.

(j) that the Government of each Colony should be invited to take early steps, in consultation with the sugar producers, with a view to the imposition of welfare levies at the rate of 2s. per ton of sugar produced, to finance welfare schemes similar in their main principles to those organised in Great Britain by the Miners' Welfare Committee.

(v) OTHER SOCIAL NEEDS AND SERVICES

11. Our recommendations are :—

(a) That each Government should appoint a Social Welfare Officer and form a Social Welfare Committee of representatives of each Department concerned, however indirectly, in the evolution of a programme of social welfare; that a social welfare expert should be a member of the staff of the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund, and that the appropriate members of the staff of the Comptroller should form themselves into a Social Welfare Committee which would be the central counterpart of the local Committees;

(b) that provision should be made for the training of social welfare workers for service in the West Indies. Care must be taken to supplement and support, and not replace, the valuable work now being done by voluntary organisations;

(c) that women should be eligible for appointment to all Boards and local authorities and that, where the representation of women's interests has not been secured through election, the desirability of nominating a woman or women for membership (if the power exists and if well-qualified persons can be found)

(Continued at foot of next page)

Notes of West Indian Interest

"GOOD conscience better dan big wage."

* * *
THE Canadian Transport Co., Ltd., of Vancouver, announce that Mr. Gerald McBean has been appointed manager of the company.

* * *
LIEUT.-COLONEL D. GORDON SMITH, O.B.E., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the 1st Battalion of the Trinidad Local Forces.

* * *
MR. F. H. COLLIER has been appointed Legal Adviser to the Governor of the Leeward Islands in conjunction with his appointment as Attorney-General of Grenada.

* * *
THE Governor of the Leeward Islands has appointed the Hon. H. A. O. O'Reilly, and the Hon. D. H. Semper to be Commissioners of the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands.

* * *
As we go to press we learn, with deep regret, of the death of Mr. Duncan Elliott Alves, of Bryn Bras Castle, Caernarvonshire. He was a Life Member of the West India Committee.

* * *
THE largest shipment of grapefruit ever received from the West Indies (19,000 cases), arrived from Trinidad on February 19th. They were in beautiful condition—characteristic of Trinidad fruit nowadays.

* * *
THE average rainfall at 37 stations in St. Kitts for the year 1939 was 45.69 inches, which is 9.14 inches below the average of the last 26 years. The extremes during this period were 77.27 inches in 1932 and 34.58 inches in 1923.

* * *
A DAUGHTER was born on February 14th to Mrs. T. H. Naylor, at Ashton, near Chester. Mr. T. H. Naylor is a director of the Demerara Co., Ltd., of Liverpool, and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee.

* * *
MAJOR A. V. LANGTON has retired from the Department of Overseas Trade where he has been in charge of the West Indian Department since his return to England, after being from 1928 to 1930 Deputy Trade Commissioner in Trinidad.

* * *
We learn from Captain J. O. Cutteridge, Director of Education in Trinidad, that the West Indian Cookery Book by Miss P. Clarke, referred to in the CIRCULAR of December 28th, has not yet been published but that its issue is under consideration.

* * *
LORD HARLECH is on a visit to Portugal, the British Council having arranged that he should give a series of lectures in Lisbon, Coimbra, and Oporto. Some of his lectures will deal with British Colonial policy and

administration of which he has such wide knowledge and experience. * * *

THE Para Rubber Report and Statistics 1939, issued by Lewis and Peat Ltd., shows that during the year the price of plantation Para advanced almost steadily from 7½d.—8½d. in January to 11d.—1/0½ in December. The record prices are given as 1½d. in June, 1932, and 12/10 in April, 1910.

* * *
It may not be generally known that Sir John Moylan, Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District and Police Courts, is a son of Grenada. He was born in that Colony in 1882 and his father was the late Mr. Edward Kyrán Moylan. Sir John, who took a first class at Cambridge, is in effect the Chancellor of the Police Exchequer.

* * *
MR. ALEXANDER DUCKHAM, chairman and managing director of Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd. and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has presented Rooks Hill House, a large country residence at Sevenoaks, to the Royal Air Force benevolent fund for use as a home for children of personnel who lose their lives while flying.

* * *
THE engagement is announced of Mr. Raymond H. T. Beaumont, Assistant Superintendent of Police, British Guiana, only son of the late Captain T. S. Beaumont and of Mrs. F. Bryant of Kingston Hill, Surrey, and Miss Mildred Ruth Humphrey, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Humphrey, of Georgetown. The marriage will take place shortly.

* * *
WE are glad to learn that the British Honduras Agricultural Journal, formerly edited by the late Mr. Edward H. Aikman and temporarily suspended after his death, has been revived under the editorship of Captain M. S. Metzgen. The first quarterly issue of 1940 was expected early in February but it is hoped that later it will be financially possible for the Journal to be published monthly without increasing the annual subscription of \$1.00 within the Colony and \$1.25 abroad.

(Continued from foot of previous page)

should be borne carefully in mind; that women should be equally eligible with men for appointment as magistrates and for service as jurors; that the same procedure should be followed in appointments to the civil service for women as for men; and that more hostels should be provided for women workers;

(d) that an organised campaign should be undertaken against the social, moral and economic evils of promiscuity, the success of which will mainly depend on the extent to which the combined authority of the Churches is behind it.

(e) That certain improvements should be introduced into the penal system. These include the increased use of probation, the introduction of modern methods of dealing with young offenders, the abolition of ticket-of-leave, the establishment throughout of Prisoners' Aid Societies and Boards of Visitors and the improvement of conditions for women prisoners.

(To be continued)

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Production for Home Use — A Noteworthy Jubilee

Weather and Crops in Barbados



BARBADOS

SUGAR Crop Prospects. The Director of Agriculture in the notes for December issued by his Department on January 18th, states that the rainfall for December was disappointing and below average in most districts. The cane, which was green and growing after the excellent conditions of November, would have continued to respond with a good December and January. Instead, the crop was showing signs of ripening and before the end of next month harvesting would probably have commenced in many districts. An estimate of the crop, based on the acreage under cane and the estimated tonnage of cane about to be reaped, gave a total equivalent to about 108,000 tons sugar.

Local Food Supply. A large acreage had been planted under sweet potatoes as a war-time measure and everyone was asked to support the Government and the planter by eating sweet potatoes in preference to imported foods. It had to be remembered that all foodstuffs imported meant a bigger call on shipping tonnage which was needed for other purposes in these times. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food for the people, the planters had co-operated with Government in growing ground provisions and every effort should be made to consume these crops so that no waste should occur. Imported and home grown seeds of a large variety of vegetables had been distributed to peasants and schools. Some roots of artichoke had also been distributed and it was hoped to encourage a more extended planting of this high yielding and remunerative crop.

BRITISH GUIANA

Governor's New Year Message. Our Honorary Correspondent wrote on January 17th that Sir Wilfrid Jackson, the Governor, delivered an inspiring New Year message to the people of the Colony on January 1st. He spoke from the British Guiana United Broadcasting Company's Station, and in the course of his remarks, emphasised the essential importance of strengthening the Colony's internal economy as a great part of its contribution to the common cause. Sir Wilfrid said that for the present our task was to make the fullest contribution we could in the economic sphere. That was as vital as any other, for this was a war on all fronts and it might well be that it was the economic strength of the Empire that was going to be the decisive factor. British Guiana sugar, rice, bauxite and timber were all valuable contributions, and it should be remembered also that development of production for our own internal use—thereby saving in shipping and, what was equally important, in exchange and finance—was just as important as the increase in output of exports. The more we could develop our resources in foodstuffs, the greater would be our contribution to the general war economy.

JAMAICA

Legislative Council. The Governor, addressing the Legislative Council at the opening of its Spring Session on February 6th, said that it would not be possible to reduce expenditure to any appreciable extent without cutting essential services; nor would additional taxation be desirable in view of the fact that taxation had been increased so heavily in the past eighteen months.

A Munificent Gift. The Governor also announced that Mr. Percy Junor had presented the Government with £10,000 towards the construction of a public hospital in the Christiana-Spaldings area; the donor had also offered a suitable site for the erection of the hospital.

Trout Hall Fire. On January 26th, the Trout Hall citrus canning factory and packing house, of Mr. G. Sharp, of Clarendon, was almost entirely destroyed by fire. Some 1,200 boxes of fruit are said to have been destroyed.

Mr. T. H. Mayers. The services of Mr. Mayers who, as stated in the CIRCULAR of February 8th, was appointed Crown Counsel of Nigeria, have been retained for Jamaica. He has been appointed Solicitor-General in place of Mr. S. W. P. Foster Sutton, now Attorney-General of Cyprus.

TRINIDAD

Juvenile Farm Club. At a meeting of the Trinidad Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Mrs Rose read an account from THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR (1939, p. 473) of the progress made by the Juvenile Farm Club of Tobago, the only one of its kind in the West Indies. Mrs. John Huggins, the wife of the Colonial Secretary then suggested that steps be taken to form a similar club in Trinidad.

Jubilee of a Friendly Society. Fifty years of successful work done by the Good Samaritan Friendly Society were reviewed during the celebration on January 26th of the Jubilee of the organisation. The Trinidad Guardian reports that the society which is one of the largest and most progressive in the island has 1,442 members.

Export of Cocoa Regulations. Notice was given on January 30th, by the Treasurer of the Colony, as the Competent Authority, that the quota for shipment of domestic cocoa shipped to the United Kingdom between October 1st, 1939 and September 30th, 1940, has been fixed at 1,650 tons. Shippers must apply for a licence for all cocoa shipped to the United Kingdom. They are free to trade through normal channels and licences will be issued freely up to the quotas notified already to shippers. Cocoa, shipped in bond to London or other United Kingdom ports in transit for Continental ports is not included in the quota fixed for the United Kingdom.

[Owing to great pressure on our space several contributions to this page have been held over.—ED.]

West Indian Gifts for the Forces

Lady Bridgeman's Appreciation and Thanks

DURING the last few weeks, gifts for His Majesty's Forces have been arriving in large quantities from the West Indies. The room at 40, Norfolk Street put at the disposal of the War Services Committee has been, at times, almost literally filled with packing cases containing comforts, medical supplies, preserves and other gifts.

Large consignments have been received from the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee consisting of some forty cases of bandages, slings and other Red Cross supplies, woollen comforts and preserves. One consignment of woollen comforts, consisting of admirably knitted scarves, socks, pullovers, helmets, mittens and body belts, was particularly noteworthy. Each article had attached to it a card bearing some message such as "Greetings from Jamaica" and decorated with attractively painted pictures of Jamaica people, scenes, flowers or other subjects of local interest. One showed a Rum bottle, which should remind the grateful recipient that the island which produces skilfully knitted socks is also famous for its production of Rum. One portraying a microphone was no doubt a topical allusion to the recent inauguration of broadcasting in Jamaica. Amongst the flowers and plants illustrated were noticed poinsettias, amaryllis lilies, sugar cane and cactus. So attractive a display did these gifts make that a Daily Express reporter who came to look at them wrote an article on the subject, accompanied by an illustration of one of the cards, which appeared in the issue of that paper of February 13th. Another of these charming cards is reproduced on this page.

1,550 cases of citrus fruit (992 cases of grapefruit and 578 cases of oranges) which were also sent by the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee have now been landed and have also been handed over to the War Office for despatch to the British Expeditionary Force.

The promptness with which gifts have been sent from the Bahamas has been no less remarkable. Reference has already been made in the CIRCULAR of January 11th, to some of the parcels of comforts received from the Bahamas Central Council Branch of the Red Cross Society and from "The Wool Gatherers" Group of the Bahamas Development Board. More parcels of bandages, swabs and knitted goods, etc., have since been received from the former body and also parcels of hospital supplies from the West Hill Group of Workers, Nassau.

On February 15th, Lady Bridgeman, vice-chairman of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem paid a visit to 40, Norfolk Street, and inspected the gifts then on view in the War Services Committee's Room. She expressed her admiration for the work which had been done, in the following letter to Lady Wilson, deputy-chairman of the Ladies Committee, dated February 16th, 1940:—

"I am writing to express to you our very warmest thanks for the truly magnificent gifts of hospital supplies which you showed me yesterday at your offices and which I understand you are forwarding to our Central Hospital Service Store to-day.

"It really was most wonderful to see all those many cases, stacked on one another, filled with bandages and other hospital necessaries, and to realise the amount of hard work they had entailed, and the generous unselfish spirit which lay behind this great effort.

"We should be most grateful if you could convey to the depot and work parties our gratitude for this volume of practical help. The support we are receiving from all parts of the Empire is truly inspiring and encouraging."

Orders for wool have also been received from Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas and St. Lucia, and large quantities have

already been despatched.

The work of The War Services Committee is being facilitated by the fact that the Board of Trade has granted a licence authorising the importation into the United Kingdom of goods subject to import restrictions. The Port of London Authority have also kindly agreed to waive their port rates and dock charges and Messrs. Kaye, Son and Co. have generously agreed to handle, free of charge, all consignments of gifts sent to the War Services Committee for H.M. Forces.

The Ladies Committee is endeavouring to obtain all the information available in connexion with the specifications and requirements of the various organisations concerned in this country with a view to keeping the voluntary organisations in the British West Indies fully informed on this subject.

The services which the Ladies Committee (under its indefatigable chairman, Lady Davson) are rendering are indeed invaluable. A tribute must also be paid to Mrs. V. Hoyle, a Voluntary War Services worker, who is devoting all her time and energies to this important work.



Purchase of Sugar, 1939-40

Risks of Rising Costs

Beet. The assurance to the English sugar beet growers that the Government assumed all the risks of a rise in cost of producing beet has been reported in the CIRCULAR, November 30th, p. 464, and December 28th, p. 480. This assurance was reaffirmed even more explicitly in a message from Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, the Minister of Agriculture, in the British Sugar Beet Review for February. Sir Reginald wrote:—

"The Government attach the greatest importance to securing an increase in the area under sugar beet in 1940. Now that we are at war we want more sugar produced in this country in order to release shipping for other important purposes, and we want the largest possible supply of sugar beet pulp and tops to augment our supplies of home-grown feeding-stuffs.

"My advice to those who can grow beet is to seize the opportunity now as a really sound proposition. The 1940 contract, freely negotiated between the National Farmers' Union and the British Sugar Corporation, is generous in its terms and represents an increase in price, on beet of the normal average sugar content, of nearly 5s. a ton of beet over the price in 1939.

"I would remind producers, too, of a Government assurance—the details of which were published in the December issue of the British Sugar Beet Review—which accompanies the 1940 contract. This assurance has the effect of covering whatever increases might occur in the cost of producing beet between the time when the 1939 beet contract was negotiated, and the time when the 1940 beet harvest is completed.

"Thus the grower is safeguarded against increased costs of production, and need not fear that his labour will not be rewarded fairly and adequately.

"Finally, if sugar beet growers still have fears that sufficient labour will not be forthcoming to harvest the crop in 1940, I would say this: Farmers may depend on it that every effort will be made by the Government and by the bodies concerned with the industry to ensure that adequate labour will be available from one source or another to enable the increased acreage asked for to be harvested."

Cane. In a Parliamentary question to the Secretary of State, Captain Plugge asked why, in view of the Government's undertaking to the United Kingdom beet-sugar industry to meet the risk of rising costs a similar undertaking was not given to Colonial sugar producers having regard to their acceptance of a price no greater than that considered reasonable on a pre-war basis of production costs. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied on February 22nd that the undertaking of His Majesty's Government to the sugar-beet growers was in respect of the crop to be planted this spring and harvested later in the year. The price for Colonial crops, which were in the ground when the war broke out and had been or were now being harvested for delivery during the next few months, was fixed on the assumption that costs would be in excess of the pre-war level. The hon. Member could rest assured that full consideration would be given to the question of costs in fixing prices for the new contract starting next September.

West Indies at Westminster

Empire Sugar Policy

The Minister of Agriculture was asked by Mr. R. MORGAN whether, in view of the Government's intention to assist world economic improvement at the conclusion of the war, he had considered the possibility of the present effort to increase production of uneconomic sugar-growing in the United Kingdom as being likely to present grave difficulties in the future; and whether he would review this policy, having regard to the ample scope for supplying the country's sugar requirements from Empire sources where sugar-production was a more economic proposition.

In a written answer on February 22nd, SIR R. DORMAN-SMITH stated that he did not think the present effort to increase the production of home-grown sugar was likely to create difficulties for the future. Our pre-war consumption of sugar was about 2,080,000 tons, of which 1,130,000 tons were supplied from Empire sources and about 400,000 tons were produced at home. The remainder came from foreign sources.

West Indian Sugar Production

MR. JAGGER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware of the growing apprehension among the sugar planters of the British West Indies in regard to the absence of a clear indication of policy in future production; and what steps he was taking to allay this. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied on February 22nd that he was not aware of any general apprehension on this matter. The recommendations of the Royal Commission that the export quotas of the West Indian Colonies should be increased were receiving active consideration in relation to the probable needs of the United Kingdom in war conditions and the reactions which such an increase would have on other Empire producers; and an announcement would be made as soon as possible. In fact all sugar-producing Colonies were advised some months ago to aim at an increase of production next year of 20 per cent. above their basic export quotas, which was roughly equivalent to the increase of 120,000 tons for the West Indies recommended by the Royal Commission.

British Guiana Refugees

MR. DAVID ADAMS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 28th what numbers of refugees were now domiciled in British Guiana; and when it was expected that settlement might become available there for large numbers of refugees.

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD in reply said that his latest information was that up to September 30th last about 40 persons who might be classified as refugees had obtained admission to the Colony. With regard to the second part of the question, as he indicated in replies to questions on this subject on September 20th and October 25th last, owing to the war the refugee organisations had been obliged to suspend action in regard to the experimental scheme which had been suggested by the Commission which visited the Colony in the early part of last year.

Obituary

Mr. W. W. CRAIB

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mr. William Watson Craib. He died at his home at Croydon, on February 21st, in his 76th year.

Born in Scotland, and educated at the Aberdeen Grammar School, he went out to British Guiana at the age of 18 to take up an appointment on a sugar plantation, and later became manager of Blairmont Plantation. In 1909 he went to Cuba to become general manager of the Guantanamo Sugar Co., and a few years later he was appointed general manager of the Cuba Co. He retired in 1917, but in 1919 became a member of the Indian Sugar Committee, which for over a year made a tour of India, Burma, the Malay States and Java.

Mr. Craib had been a Member of the West India Committee for many years, and a few months ago called at its offices to obtain information regarding a proposed trip to Jamaica.

Much sympathy will be felt for his daughter, Mrs. Collins, and his son, Mr. Frederick Craib, in the loss which they have sustained.

Some Company Reports

The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.

The trading profit for 1939 was £881. After adding the balance brought forward of £98, and deducting directors' fees and depreciation, there remains a sum of £785. The directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent. (same as for 1938) which will absorb £500 and leave £285 to be carried forward.

The Bank of Nova Scotia

The net profit for the year 1939, after payment of \$559,191 for Dominion and Provincial taxes, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amounted to \$2,033,333 which added to \$1,021,227 brought forward makes a total of \$3,054,560.

This has been appropriated as follows: dividend at 12 per cent. per annum \$1,440,000; contribution to officers' pension fund \$190,000; bank premises account \$250,000 leaving \$1,174,560 to be carried forward.

West Indian Passengers

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Jamaica in the s.s. Cavina (Captain S. Browne):—

Miss P. N. Barrett	Mr. I. Haas	Mrs. P. L. Mollison
Mr. T. G. Bird	Mrs. P. J. Hewett	Mr. K. Murray
Mr. H. Buckley	Miss B. Hewett	Miss B. Newill
Miss E. E. Butt	Mrs. A. J. Hossack	Mrs. E. V. O'Sullivan
Miss S. Campbell	Dr. H. C. James	Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Perkins
Mrs. E. J. Casswell	Miss E. B. King	Capt. C. P. Seymour-
Mr. C. F. Charter	Mr. & Mrs. R. Leach	Higgins
Mrs. M. Cronin	Miss S. F. Leach	Mrs. E. H. Sherlock
Dr. & Mrs. I. J. Cruchley	Mr. & Mrs. F. Markstein	Miss C. M. Shoubridge
Dr. R. J. de Carteret	Mr. & Mrs. E. Matthews	Mrs. M. Taylor
Miss C. O. Forbes	Mr. J. F. Mitchell	Miss K. Usher
Mr. I. E. Forde	Mr. J. S. Mitchell	Mrs. E. P. Walker
Mr. J. Garwood	Miss E. R. Mohrman	Mrs. K. W. Youngman

Home arrivals from Jamaica in the s.s. Carare (Captain A. W. Legge, R.N.R.):—

Mr. D. L. Abrahams	Eng.-Com. B. Hocken	Mr. H. A. Toynbee
Corporal J. Blyth	Mr. J. Hocken	Mr. B. E. Verley
Miss R. E. Boswall	Mr. J. Miller	Mr. F. S. Ward
Mr. P. T. Chivers	Mr. F. M. Piele	Sgt.-Major F. E. Welsh
Mr. R. Halligan	Mr. G. S. St. E. Riddell	Mr. A. J. Williams
Mr. H. G. Heale	Mrs. M. E. Seton	Mr. J. L. Wilson

Round the Markets

March 5th, 1940

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend latest year.		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 10d. per cent.)	73½ 74
3½	War Loan	99½ 99½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	8 8
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	26/9 27/9
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	37/- 41/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	1½ 2½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1/6 1/6½
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/4½ 1/10½
6	Caroui Ltd. 6% Pref.	1 1½
15	Corentyne Sugar Co. 81	7/8 8/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3/10½ 4/4½
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	15/6 16/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	7/- 8/-
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	6d. 1/6
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 4
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	46/3 47/3
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/3 6/3
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/9 8/9

RUM. No business has been done in first hands, and there have been no new arrivals during the fortnight. Dealers report a good steady trade.

COCOA. A small business has been done in fine Grenada at 65/- and 66/- in bond. Trinidad on the spot is nominal in the absence of supplies, with sellers of ordinary plantation "to arrive" at 55/- c. & f. A good business has been done in West African at 32/- c.i.f., and at 34/- to 34/6 on the spot, according to quality.

BALATA. Only a small trade is passing, with Demerara sheet and Venezuelan block valued nominally at 2/4 landed terms.

COTTON. The demand continues for West Indian Sea Island, but owing to the scarcity of stock only a small business has been done. Prices are firm.

HONEY. There is a good demand on the spot for Jamaica descriptions at prices ranging from 75/- to 90/- for the dark liquid to smooth set pale.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There are still no supplies of Handpressed, and nominal value is unchanged at 37/6 per lb. Distilled is firmly held and supplies are small. **Lime Juice.** There is a limited inquiry for Concentrated, and the value is about £8. Raw is quietly steady at 2/6 to 2/9 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is nominally unchanged at 6/- per lb. and Bitter continues to be quoted at 7/6 per lb.

SPICES. There are sellers of **Pimento** at 87/6 c.i.f. London for March-April shipment, but buyers are holding off; sales on the spot have been made at 10½d. per lb. ex store. **Ginger** is quiet and unchanged at: spot 52/6 to 55/- for No. 3; 57/6 to 62/6 for No. 2; 65/- to 70/- for medium No. 1; and 75/- for bold bright No. 1. Small sales of **Nutmegs** are passing on the spot in the usual West India at 6½d. for defectives; 8½d. for sound unassorted, and 11d. to 1s. for sound 80's. **Mace** is quiet and unchanged at 2/4 to 2/5 for the usual mixed red to pale, and at 2/7 for pale to choice.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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March 20th, 1940.

Some Vital Problems

AT the outset of their Recommendations on economic questions, agriculture and land settlement which will be found elsewhere in this issue the members of the West India Royal Commission state that the rapid growth of population is a factor of profound importance of which it is vitally necessary all sections of West Indian opinion should be aware. They then proceed to recommend how the excessive growth of population can be absorbed. First place is given to more intensive agriculture reorientated in the direction of mixed farming with a far greater production of foodstuffs. Their second recommendation is that all practical steps be taken to improve the position of the agricultural exporting industries. Regarding the latter they say they have examined various proposals for achieving the desired end by increased preferential assistance but can only make definite recommendations with respect to sugar. These are briefly that the basic quota to the Colonial Empire be increased and certain changes made in the supplementary preference to Colonial producers. Other proposals include the development of orderly marketing methods for both minor export products and for foods grown for local markets. They also recommend the fostering by Governments of certain local industries even if this runs counter to a general British commercial policy. The recommendations of the Commission, in the absence of the full Report, naturally deal only very briefly with essential principles. How they can be put into practice will be the task of the local governments with the great benefit of the additional expert advice and financial resources recommended by the Commissioners and promised by the Imperial Government.

At this juncture it is certainly of interest and may, we trust, be of practical value to consider whether the economic and social problems due to increasing population are peculiar to the British West Indies or whether they exist in other tropical countries and if so what measures are being taken to solve them.

Let us take first a West Indian island, Puerto Rico, one of the Divisions of the United States of America. Puerto Rico is largely dependent on sugar. Cane occupies 40 per cent. of the arable land, produces living for well over half the people and brings in about \$4 out of every \$5 the island receives for its exports. Puerto Rico has faced the problems of developing other industries than sugar, and of reducing her dependence on imported foods. An interesting discussion of the results by the Director of the Puerto Rican Trade Council will be found in Facts about Sugar for last

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE	
LEADING ARTICLE—			
SOME VITAL PROBLEMS ..	61	WEST INDIANS ON ACTIVE SERVICE ..	69
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK ..	62	INCREASED COCOA QUOTA ..	70
WEST INDIES SUGAR EXPORTS ..	62	BARBADOS SETTLERS ..	70
1940 ..	62	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD ..	71
ROYAL COMMISSION'S RECOM- ..	63	MAIL ..	71
MENDATIONS ..	63	COLONIAL PROBLEMS ..	72
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ..	65	JAMAICA SUGAR AND RUM ..	73
WEST INDIAN PASSENGER ..	65	TRINIDAD COCOA IN 1939 ..	73
SERVICE ..	65	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS ..	73
THE SUGAR POSITION ..	66	THE WEST INDIES AT WEST- ..	74
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR ..	66	MINSTER ..	74
JAMAICA FINANCES AND TRADE ..	67	PROPHYLAXIS ..	75
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ..	68	ROUND THE MARKETS ..	76
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST ..	69	THE CANE MOTI-BORER IN 1775 ..	76
		COMPANY REPORT ..	76

month. Experimental work, he states, shows that large scale food production will not pay. Also that whilst in several cases the development of other crops, which has been seriously prosecuted, will fulfil expectations, it is not anticipated that all of them will add up to a very large total. He concludes that the belief is now general that "increased sugar production is the only available means of providing substantial relief from the critical social and economic problems which exist."

Let us turn to the case of Java, the most important of the Netherlands East Indies. Java, as is well known, is one of the most densely populated of tropical countries, with some 800 people to the square mile. Even during the last ten years the population has increased by about 500,000 annually, to the present total of close upon 45,000,000.

As stated by Mr. D. J. HULSHOFF POL in the International Review of Agriculture for February, the authorities have since the beginning of this century pursued a policy of encouraging and improving the native production of foodstuffs. The results have been very satisfactory and Java is almost self-supporting as regards essential foods. As apparent from the accounts of those who have visited Java agricultural methods are intensive, and every opportunity is taken to combine the production of foodcrops with those for export. Java is also practising another recommendation of the Royal Commission and fostering local industries. Both food production and the development of local industries are regarded as essential. The case was well put by Dr. C. ROTHE in a paper published in the Bulletin of the Colonial Institute of Amsterdam for November, 1938. As regards food, he said, exports form such an important part of the people's income, and since considerable increase cannot be expected in the near future a way to maintain the level of prosperity must be sought in increasing production for home consumption. The significance of industrial production for domestic use stands out, he states, as one of the growing possibilities to assist the country in coping with its population problem and maintaining or even raising the standard of living for the people.

Java has developed on lines very similar to those recommended by the Royal Commission for the West Indies. Some of the West Indian Colonies may be able to do likewise so far as circumstances permit. Others, like Puerto Rico, may pin their faith to increased sugar production. In either event we trust methods will be found, with the stimulus and help afforded by other recommendations of the Royal Commission, to attain a greater measure of economic prosperity and social well-being.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THAT the glorious, even miraculous, fight of the Finns against gigantic odds should have ended in failure after all has cast a gloom over England. Nor is it possible to deny that the overwhelming of this heroic people has been in effect a success for Germany as well as Russia. There have been not a few to blame Great Britain and France for not intervening on a large scale in time to save Finland. Nevertheless, the explanation of their policy laid by Mr. Chamberlain and M. Daladier before their two Parliaments is unanswerable.

* * *

There has in fact been ready for several weeks an Anglo-French expeditionary force of 50,000 men, ready to go at once to the relief of the defence if the Finns should ask for it and the Scandinavian countries, over whose territory it must pass, should consent. The Finnish Government was officially informed of this. Though Great Britain and France waited hourly for the request, it did not come. The Finnish Government, it is now clear, heroically as they had resisted, were reluctant to call upon help at the probable cost of involving their country in the main European War. But the Swedes were justifiably apprehensive lest the transit of Allied troops should be made a pretext for a German attack upon them, and were, therefore, ready to insist on the rigour of their neutrality. The great Powers of Western Europe could, no doubt, have overborne them by a demonstration of superior force. But that would have been to violate international law, which, in however good a cause, British and French policy will not tolerate.

* * *

The first great financial test of the war has given an imposing exhibition of British strength. Sir John Simon set out to borrow 300 million pounds at the low rate of 3 per cent. (in the last war we paid as much as double that rate). As I write the details are not yet complete, but it is known that the issue has been substantially over-subscribed. It is evident that the credit of the country is still a sure rock of defence.

* * *

Parallel to this in the political sphere may be put the result of the by-election in East Leeds. The British Union, the Fascist body led by Sir Oswald Mosley, put forward an anti-war candidate against the Conservative Professor Craik Henderson, who, under the party truce, was unopposed by Labour.

* * *

By voting 23,882 for the Government, and only 722 for the malcontent, East Leeds gave unchallengeable evidence of the unanimity with which the people are backing the national effort against Hitler.

* * *

Political assassination is the rarest of crimes in England; and the tragic affair at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, in which Sir Michael O'Dwyer was shot dead and three other men of high distinction in Indian government were injured, has shocked India as much as

this country. Mr. Gandhi himself has voiced his countrymen's reprobation of the crime. Pending judicial proceedings, it is impossible to say whether the murder is in any way connected with the affair at Amritsar twenty years ago, when troops were ordered to fire on a threatening mob and 400 Indians lost their lives. Sir Michael O'Dwyer was Governor of the Punjab at the time, but the inquiry showed that, if anyone was to blame, it was not he but the officer in command of the troops. Sir Michael, though a conservative in Indian politics, had given his whole life to single-minded work for the good of India.

* * *

The rationing scheme is complete for the time being, meat having been added to sugar and butter in the list of rationed goods. The allowance in this case is not by weight but by price; we are allowed to spend 1/10 a week per head on "butcher's" meat. This is in addition to the unrationed meats, such as all poultry and "offal," by which not very seductive name the Ministry of Food describes liver, kidneys, sweetbreads and so forth. We may also have unlimited hares and rabbits. The object of the rationing by price is to enable the poor, who habitually buy the cheaper joints, to compensate themselves in quantity for what they lose in quality.

* * *

On one week's experience meat rationing seems to have made surprisingly little difference to the routine of life; and at the end of the week the butter ration has been raised from a quarter to half a pound per person weekly, which is positive luxury.

* * *

The crossing of the Atlantic by the Queen Elizabeth is certainly the most original maiden voyage in history. The most remarkable feature of it is that, though thousands of people must have had wind of it, there was no breath of gossip until the great ship was well past the danger zone—a fine tribute to the ability of humble people to keep a secret.

West Indies Sugar Exports 1940

The following statement of the estimated exports of sugar from January 1st to August 31st, 1940, summarizes information received by the West India Committee from the Colonies at the beginning of this month. A previous estimate of the exports, but for the period October 1st, 1939 to August 31st, 1940, was published in the CIRCULAR November 16th.

<i>Estimated Exports January 1st to August 31st, 1940.</i>			
	tons		tons
Barbados ...	70,395	British Guiana ...	94,518
Jamaica ...	96,280	British Honduras	250
Trinidad...	89,900		
Leeward Islands	42,000	Total	401,903
Windward Islands	8,560		

The estimated exports of Barbados fancy molasses for the same period amount to 27,000 tons.

Royal Commission's Recommendations

(B) Economic Problems, Agriculture and Land Settlement

The last issue of the CIRCULAR contained a verbatim reprint of the West India Royal Commission's Recommendations on (A) The Welfare Fund and Social Services. The last instalment (C) Communications, Constitutional, Administrative and Miscellaneous Questions will appear in next issue.

3. Economic Problems

12. There is a radical difference between the economic difficulties that face the West Indies to-day, and those that they had to encounter in the nineteenth century. In the case of many if not most tropical agricultural commodities, the development of new productive areas has been carried so far that there is a prevailing tendency towards a condition of over-supply in world markets and a consequent tendency towards a depression of prices. Subject to the possibility that the war may cause a partial and temporary improvement in the prices of some tropical products, these tendencies are likely to prove persistent. Behind them lie influences of a fundamental character, notably the rapid improvement of agricultural technique throughout the world, and the radical change that has taken place in the relation between the growth of population in tropical countries on the one hand, and in the industrial countries that represent their principal markets on the other. The rapid growth of population is indeed a factor of profound importance in the various economic and social problems of the West Indies, and it is vitally important that all sections of West Indian opinion should be fully aware of this fact.

13. In order to provide the means of absorbing this excessive growth of population it is essential on the one hand to secure an intensification of the agricultural system through a reorientation in the direction of mixed farming with far greater home production of essential foodstuffs, and on the other to take whatever steps are practicable to improve the position of the agricultural exporting industries. We have examined various proposals made to us for achieving the latter purpose by increased preferential assistance. It is, however, only in respect of sugar that we are able to make any definite recommendations at this juncture

for increased assistance in this particular form.

14. The problems of the sugar industry fall under two main heads (1) the volume of production, (2) the level of prices. There was a very large expansion in the production of sugar in the West Indies between 1932 and 1937. But this expansion has been checked by the operation of the International Sugar Agreement which came into force in 1937, and which limits the amount of sugar that can be exported from the Colonial Empire to an assigned quota. In view of the need of the West Indies for expanding employment outlets and the unfavourable outlook for most branches of export agriculture, this restriction is, or at any rate would have been but for the outbreak of war, a most serious matter for the West Indian Colonies. We regard it, therefore, as of vital importance to secure an increase in the basic export quota assigned to the Colonial Empire. We recognise on the other hand the force of the objections that can be urged from various standpoints against a large expansion of Colonial sugar production.

15. After surveying the needs of the various Colonies in the light of these objections, we had reached the conclusion before the outbreak of war that the basic export quotas

allocated to the West Indian Colonies should be increased by about 120,000 tons. An increase of this magnitude would be mainly required to avert the under-employment of plant and labour in districts where sugar is already grown. This increase is equivalent to about 20 per cent. of the combined export quotas of these Colonies. In allocating this increased quota among the various West Indian Colonies, regard should be paid, of course, to their varying needs. The claims of Jamaica to an increased quota are, in our judgment, especially strong, and we think that Jamaica should be allotted an additional quota of not less than 50,000 tons.



SIR EDWARD STUBBS
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

The claims of British Guiana rank next in importance while at the other end of the scale we do not consider that there is any urgent need to increase the quota of Trinidad. In general, however, we think it best to leave over for subsequent consideration the manner in which the increased quota that we have suggested should be allocated. If the other sugar Colonies were treated on an equal footing, it would be necessary to secure an increase in the basic export quota of the Colonial Empire of fully 200,000 tons. The war, however, transforms the immediate outlook; and it is reasonable to assume that no artificial restrictions will be retained during the war period on the output of Colonial sugar. The extent to which production is increased during the war will obviously be a material factor in the problem that subsequently emerges.

16. All Empire sugar, Dominion as well as Colonial, receives in the British market the benefit of a preference of £3 15s. per ton of 96° sugar. In addition a supplementary preference is given to Colonial as distinct from Dominion producers upon a limited quantity of "certificated" sugar. We propose certain changes in the arrangements regarding this supplementary preference with a view to improving and stabilising the price received by Colonial producers. These proposals may be summarised as follows:—

(1) The amount of certificated sugar eligible for the supplementary Colonial preference shall be calculated in future for each Colony in any year so as to represent one-half of the total exports from that Colony in that year.

(2) The certificates shall be distributed among the different factories in each Colony on the basis of their permitted production or exports for that year, whichever may be most appropriate.

(3) The amount of the supplementary preference payable on "certificated" sugar shall be 3/- per cwt. as at present, but shall be reduced or increased in any year by 4d. per cwt. for each complete 3d. per cwt. by which the world price of sugar, for the average of the first six months of the year, exceeds or falls short of 7s. per cwt.

17. These proposals have been framed in the light of pre-war conditions, and on the basis of the pre-war purchasing-power of sterling. We leave open the questions how far they can be applied under war-time conditions and how far they may need modification when the war is over. It seems probable that our various proposals with regard to sugar would cost the British Exchequer upwards of £1,500,000 a year; though less than two-thirds of this sum would be attributable to the West Indies.

18. Orderly marketing methods are a condition of the successful development of many of the minor agricultural products of the West Indies. They are important in connexion not only with export trade but also with the development of food production for the local market. The experiments in orderly marketing now being undertaken in Jamaica deserve encouragement. So far as the export trade is concerned, however, it is important that close contact should be maintained between marketing organisations in the West Indies and the Colonial Empire Marketing Board, when reconstituted.

19. As regards non-agricultural industries, we do not recommend that West Indian Governments should conduct or finance speculative industrial enterprises. There are, however, certain possible projects which Governments might do well to foster: e.g., the establishment of a cement works in Jamaica, possibly in co-operation with British manufacturers, and the develop-

ment of the local manufacture of coco-nut products in Jamaica and elsewhere. The system of quantitative restriction of imports, coupled with safeguards for the consumer against an undue increase of price, may prove a satisfactory method of fostering local industries, and schemes based on this method ought not to be disallowed because they run counter to a general principle of British commercial policy, nor should any dislike of this method be permitted to prejudice the fair consideration of such schemes on their merits.

4. Agriculture

20. Agriculture is the principal source of sustenance and wealth in the West Indies and the standards of life must largely depend on the intensive use of the soil. The outstanding agricultural need in the West Indies is more intensive use of the land with increased production of food in order to support a rapidly growing population. The most urgent need is the development of peasant agriculture, but substantial progress among both peasants and estates is dependent upon far-reaching reform of the basic methods now in vogue. The practice of shifting cultivation by peasant farmers must be abandoned and replaced by an organised system of permanent mixed farming; the present policy of those larger proprietors who grow a single crop continuously must be modified by the development of mixed farming in a measure which will vary from place to place with local circumstances. Neither of those reforms can be successfully carried through until new knowledge, which is obtainable only by scientific investigation, has been secured. War conditions will give an opportunity, of which advantage should be taken, for making an immediate start with both measures of reform.

21. Our recommendations are:—

(a) Administrative reforms including:—

(i) the appointment of an Inspector-General of Agriculture for the British West Indies, who should not be a member of the staff of the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund, but should be readily available for consultation regarding any schemes under consideration by the Comptroller which have an agricultural bearing;

(ii) the adjustment of the specialist staffs of Agricultural Departments in conformity with the proposals in (b) below;

(iii) the assumption by the Director of Agriculture in Barbados of responsibility for the Leeward and Windward Islands; and by the Director of Agriculture in Jamaica for British Honduras;

(iv) provision for holding Agricultural Conferences every two or three years.

(b) The centralisation of all major research and investigation at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, which would thus add to its present functions the duty of serving as a research station for the West Indies. The money required for this extension of the functions of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture should be provided by Parliament, which should be invited to ensure the continuance of the scheme for a definite term. The work of Colonial Agricultural Departments should be concentrated on local replications of the central investigations and on advisory and educational work.

(c) The provision at the Hope Agricultural School, Jamaica, of facilities for all the West Indian Colonies for agricultural education at the stage immediately preceding that of the Diploma courses at the Imperial College which should continue to serve all its present educational purposes.

(d) The institution of the following inquiries:—

(i) A comprehensive soil survey;

(ii) topographical survey to settle questions of land ownership;

(iii) survey of peasant agriculture, and investigations for

the purpose of devising better peasant farming systems based on mixed farming and the complementary use of livestock and crops ;

- (iv) experimental investigation into the introduction of mixed farming methods into estate cultivation ;
- (v) a survey of, and investigation of preventive methods against, soil erosion ;
- (vi) investigations on methods of maintaining soil fertility ;
- (vii) investigation of the marketing of estate and peasant produce ; of the possibility of joint action by all the Dependencies in both the marketing and the allocation of production of certain products ;
- (viii) investigations of possible systems of mixed farming in connexion with sugar and other estate crops and study of husbandry practices such as drainage, cultivation and manuring for such crops as bananas, limes, cocoa, etc. ;
- (ix) surveys of agricultural indebtedness and credit with a view to bettering the present position.

(e) Closer attention should be given to policy in agriculture and that the steps set out in the circular despatch concerning agricultural policy from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated August 23rd, 1939, should be adopted.

(f) Expert investigation of the arrangements for promoting soundness and continuity of forest policy in British Guiana, British Honduras and Trinidad, and for assisting the Governments of those Colonies to find local and overseas markets for their forest products.

(g) Since from a medical point of view a better-balanced diet is everywhere necessary, one of the first aims of agricultural reform must be a great increase in home production of foodstuffs which are not only adequate in quantity but suitable in quality, and should include milk, fish, eggs and green vegetables.

(h) Certain special measures for special territories as follows :—

- (i) If the campaign against banana diseases in Jamaica cannot be financed locally, further assistance should be afforded by His Majesty's Government ;
- (ii) the displacement of share-cropping by land settlement in Nevis on the basis of mixed farming with sugar as the chief crop ; a sugar quota gradually increasing to at least 3,500 tons per annum ; and the erection by means of assistance from Imperial funds of a small sugar factory, failing which special assistance would be required, e.g. by the provision of transport at uneconomical rates ;
- (iii) both capital works and maintenance of drainage in British Guiana should be the charge of a central Board ; in order to secure effective co-operation with the existing Sea Defence Board, the Director of Public Works and Sea Defences should be chairman of both Boards. The initial cost of drainage in British Guiana may have to be treated as an irrecoverable charge ;
- (iv) the adoption of the proposal to establish on the Essequibo Coast of British Guiana a central rice mill to be financed by the Government of the Colony ;
- (v) the Trinidad cocoa subsidy should be put on a new basis under which its objective would be the rehabilitation of the industry ;
- (vi) subject to full consideration of recommendations made as a result of the recent survey of the cocoa industry in Grenada, assistance should be granted to it on the lines proposed for Trinidad, but should be paid for by His Majesty's Government.

22. The investigations mentioned above will doubtless show the need for a scale of expenditure far beyond the resources available to the Colonial Governments. We recommend, therefore, that a substantial sum should be allocated by the Imperial Exchequer for the strictly agricultural work. Expenditure could begin as soon as the first of the surveys recommended has been completed.

5. Land Settlement

23. This is no more than an orderly plan for settling considerable numbers of people on the land as smallholders and providing them with certain forms of assistance. It is only one of several ways by which the number and yield of peasant holdings may be

increased, and is in the West Indies expensive in relation to the number of persons settled. Mixed farming and not specialisation on export crops must be the basis of land settlement ; this involves a change in outlook and methods, and in the habits and tastes of the consuming public and in commercial organisation. At least equal attention must be paid to improving the husbandry of existing smallholders and to providing additional lands for their sons.

24. We recommend :—

(a) That the order or procedure should be, first, the improvement of the husbandry of existing smallholders, in the light of the results of some of the inquiries recommended in paragraph 21(d) above ; then, the improvement of existing land settlements and the establishment of new settlements.

(b) That Governments should not regard themselves as committed to the grant of freehold tenures, but should experiment with both freehold and leasehold tenures. The grant of freehold rights should be subject to appropriate conditions to prevent fragmentation of the land and to suitable safeguards of good husbandry including the prevention of erosion and the maintenance of soil fertility.

(c) That Governments should take powers for the compulsory acquisition of agricultural land needed for land settlement and similar purposes.

(d) That it should be firmly impressed on settlers and others that, while credit facilities will generally be required in the early stages of any scheme of land settlement, their success depends in the last resort on their own exertions and that Government cannot continue to provide financial support indefinitely.

(To be concluded)

The Royal Commission West Indian Opinion

The following further replies have been received by the West India Committee in answer to the telegram sent to the West Indies, on February 23rd, asking for a brief expression of views on the Recommendations of the Royal Commission :—

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

" Summary of Commission Report favourably received. Work appreciated. Further comments reserved until announcements regarding local application of Recommendations."

Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

" The Chamber committee appreciates Royal Commission's Recommendations for financial assistance, particularly under present conditions, for recognition of need for economic reform and for development of agriculture particularly sugar but in absence of full details prefers reserve comment on other aspects."

West Indian Passenger Service

The shipping facilities to and from the British West Indies and British Guiana have engaged the active attention of the West India Committee since August 24th, when a special meeting of the Executive was held to consider the situation. We are glad to announce that the Committee was informed by the Colonial Office on March 11th, that it is intended to continue to run the Inanda and Inkosi in the Leeward Islands, Windward Islands and British Guiana passenger service at monthly intervals as before the war.

The Sugar Position

THE possible effects of the war on consumption of sugar and of increased Colonial quotas are giving much food for thought to all who are connected with the industry. The subject is not one on which it would be safe to dogmatise but a study of the statistical position discloses certain possibilities which should be borne in mind when attempting to forecast the post-war situation.

In 1938 the United Kingdom consumption was about 2,300,000 tons. Of this 300,000 were home-grown; net imports from foreign countries, allowing for exports at raw value, accounted for 800,000 leaving a balance available to preferential sugar of some 1,200,000 tons. In that year the United Kingdom was still at peace and producers were bound by the International Sugar Agreement of 1937 which had at least stemmed the steady decline in price though it had so far failed to raise it to the desired level. Now, however, the Agreement is officially in abeyance; the Empire is at war and sugar is rationed in the United Kingdom.

Rationing, on its present scale, is expected to reduce the quantity which the United Kingdom must import for consumption to about 1,200,000 tons or exactly to the amount which, in the absence of crop failure and shipping losses, the preferential supply on the 1938 basis would cover without any assistance from foreign sugars. At the same time the Colonies have been encouraged to increase their exports to 20 per cent. over their basic quotas under the Agreement and it is understood that 20 per cent. over their actual exports when the basic figure has been exceeded may be shipped.

With some 1,270,000 tons from the Colonies and 606,000 from the Dominions and assuming that Canadian requirements from these sources did not fall below 400,000 tons there should be some 1,470,000 tons available for the United Kingdom from Empire sources alone and the United Kingdom "sugar ration" would be provided for and even slightly exceeded. In time of war a margin is not only desirable but necessary. But the demand for imported sugar will, without doubt, be substantially lower after the war than it was in 1938. Rationing tends to alter the taste of the consumer; high taxation with its effect on family budgets, will not disappear over-night when peace is declared; and the home beet industry should have seized its chance to expand—otherwise it will have failed in its most important mission—and be unlikely to revert suddenly to its low pre-war figure.

A reduction in the United Kingdom consumption of little over 10 per cent. in the 1938 figure—not an excessive estimate—coupled with an increase of home grown sugar to the permitted amount would mean that preferential sugar satisfied the absorptive capacity of the United Kingdom, foreign sugar being only admitted to cover exports. In other words, saturation point would have been reached. So close observers argue, much against the grain as it may be to many of them. How far they are correct still remains to be seen but at least it seems clear that no great opening for the resumption of the importation of foreign sugar is in sight since the potential absorption of the United Kingdom is not unlimited and that limit is being approached rapidly.

The West Indies and the War

BARBADOS

Licences for Imports. Under an Order made on January 13th, no person shall import any goods into the Colony except under licence granted by or on behalf of the Governor and upon complying with any conditions and limitations set out in the licence. The Order does not apply to goods proved to have been ordered on or before January 22nd.

BRITISH GUIANA

Food Controller. The Hon. W. A. D'Andrade, Comptroller of Customs, has been appointed Food Controller and a Competent Authority for the purpose of No. 44 of the Defence Regulations 1939. As Food Controller he will be concerned primarily with regulating the import and export of foodstuffs into and from British Guiana at the Supplies Control Branch of the Customs Department.

ANTIGUA

Increased Income Tax. By Ordinance No. 15 of 1939, the rates on each pound of the chargeable income (gross annual incomes of less than £50 being exempted) will be as follow:—

								s. d.	
From £1 to £100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
on the next £100	viz.	£101 to £200	...	...	...	...	...	0	6
" " "	£200 "	£201 "	£400	...	...	...	...	1	0
" " "	£200 "	£401 "	£600	...	...	...	...	1	6
" " "	£200 "	£601 "	£800	...	...	...	...	2	0
" " "	£200 "	£801 "	£1,000	...	...	...	...	2	9
" " "	£200 "	£1,001 "	£1,200	...	...	...	...	3	9
" " "	£300 "	£1,201 "	£1,500	...	...	...	...	5	0
On every pound above beyond	£1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	0

In the case of companies the tax will be 3/6 on each pound of the chargeable income.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Red Cross and St. John Fund. It was reported in the Press that on February 23rd the Lord Mayor's Fund rose to £1,133,000. The principal gift received that day was a third donation of £1,000 from the Trinidad and Tobago Central Council, bringing their total contribution to £3,000.

The Navy Fund. Amongst the survivors of the Simon Bolivar were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Short of Point Fortin. After their safe return to Trinidad Mrs. Short suggested the raising of a fund intended primarily to compensate officers and men of His Majesty's ships which took part in their rescue for personal losses incurred in giving clothes and other personal belongings to the survivors. Any money available afterwards will be added to the King George Fund for sailors.

The Seamen's Fund. This fund to assist British West Indian seamen and their dependents who are in want as a direct result of enemy action was opened on February 12th, the first contributors being the Governor and Lady Young. In an appeal issued by the Governor, he asked for \$10,000 and expressed his hope that at least this sum would be raised by Easter Sunday. For the purpose of the Fund the term "British West Indian seamen" includes all seamen born in Trinidad and Tobago and all seamen born in British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward and the Leeward Islands who sign on or are domiciled in Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica's Finances and Trade

Budget Shows Large Deficit



SIR ARTHUR RICHARDS, Governor of Jamaica, opening the Spring Session of the Legislative Council on February 6th, said that the Colony had been peculiarly unfortunate in that a period of reconstruction and of attempted social progress had coincided with the stringencies of war and the paralysing effects of a hurricane. The severe "Norther" of January had still further damaged banana cultivations and further retarded their recovery.

In accordance with the practice he had initiated in 1938, he had laid on the Table his budget address, a copy of which had been confidentially in the hands of members for some days.*

The Budget anticipated a deficit on the year's working of £326,000, but the future was so uncertain and so much at the mercy of factors over which they had no control that he could only offer the figures as a not too optimistic forecast.

"I shall be asked," continued His Excellency, "why I have not cut expenditure ruthlessly in order to narrow the margin between our means and our desires; or alternatively I may be asked why I have not proposed additional taxation for the same purpose. My reply to the first question is that I cannot cut expenditure to any appreciable extent without cutting what I regard as essential services. I do not propose to do that until circumstances become so adverse that it is the lesser of two evils, and I hope that such a situation will never arise.

"My reply to the second question is that during the past 18 months taxation has been so heavily increased in Jamaica that any further immediate additions would defeat their own purpose and by increasing the burden on industry too suddenly exceed its capacity to sustain. I do not mean that the taxable capacity of the country has reached its final limit, but I do mean that any present addition to the burdens recently imposed would probably result in diminished returns. A period of adjustment is necessary to enable business of all kinds to stabilize its position in the trying circumstances of to-day. It is vital to remember that trade is hampered in every direction by war conditions and war restrictions, and that overburdening industry can only end in the disaster of diminished employment.

"I do not intend to lay before this Council at this Session any proposals for increased taxation. Sacrifices in war-time there must be—and hardships too—but the Government has tried to plan them consciously and to distribute them equitably. In my opinion the sacrifices demanded of the tax-payer in this country, and the restrictions imposed on trade, have been borne with commendable patriotism.

"The next task is by hard work and the elimination of waste to make our homes and our industries more

efficient. There is no greater deterrent to a rise in wages than shirking or going slow. The productive capacity of a country is determined by the volume of man power and its productivity. I am well aware that there is another aspect of the question, which is that there is a surplus of labour in this country, that there are many unemployed who want work and cannot find it. The Government is doing its best to create conditions in which work will become available, but let me say once more that those who encourage the worker to demand wages or conditions which the industry cannot reasonably pay or concede, or who encourage him to give less than a fair day's work for a fair day's wage, are not helping to solve the unemployment problem. If we are to solve it at all we must have peace in industry and the willingness to submit any disputes to arbitration and loyally to accept its awards.

"We have now a Labour Department and there is no excuse for failure to lay disputes before it and to invoke its aid before thinking of the disastrous remedy of strikes. . . . We have wide plans for improvement of social services in this country. Such services must be financed by increased revenue and if we cannot have industrial peace the revenue will not be forthcoming and the services will not eventuate. I am anxious that labour should be fairly treated and paid, but I cannot blind myself to the fact that if industry is paralysed by impossible or unreasonable demands social progress will become impossible. The welfare of a community must be measured not only in terms of money wages but also in terms of social amenities provided by the State, such as free facilities for health, recreation and education.

"It is because I am anxious to help the worker to find work that I cannot countenance the disorder and strife in which all hopes of expansion fade away. The cost of living has risen, but many of the wild assertions of the extent of the rise are not borne out by investigation or by the prices of the Food Controller. I am carefully considering the point, but I am not prepared to be hurried into hasty action. In any case it will not be possible to insulate Jamaica entirely from the effects of the war during the war.

"Whenever it is possible and reasonable, if the cost of living rises appreciably above the average of recent years, the Government will study the possibility of specific increases, taking each industry and trade into separate consideration, but I want to make it clear that in no case is the increase likely to set off completely the rise in living costs since the outbreak of war, at which time the price of many staples was low relatively to that of recent years. The Labour Department has been studying the cost of living figures over the period August 2nd to November 25th, 1939, and their report will shortly be published. It shows a rise of about 14 per cent. over that period."

* This document gives a comprehensive review of the economic and social progress of the Colony. It is impossible to deal with it adequately within the confines of the CIRCULAR, but a copy of it may be seen at 40, Norfolk Street.

The West India Committee

Meeting of the Executive

A MEETING of the Executive of the West India Committee was held at 40, Norfolk Street, on March 14th. There were present Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson (in the chair), Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. Evan R. Campbell, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. James du Buisson, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. F. A. Greenaway, Sir Alexander Roger, Mr. H. A. Walker, Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, Mr. E. J. King, secretary, and Mr. T. Souness.

Proposing the election to the Executive of Mr. Cecil W. Murray, D.F.C., managing director of George Fletcher and Co., Ltd., the chairman said that the suggestion that Mr. Murray might be elected had emanated from Barbados which he already represented on the Colonial Sugar Committee. The West India Committee on its part had welcomed this suggestion as Mr. Dudley Leacock, unfortunately, was seldom able to attend meetings owing to his residence in Barbados and the closer personal link between the Colony and the Committee, now in view, would be very valuable.

Mr. J. Gordon Miller seconded the proposal and Mr. Murray was unanimously elected a member of the Executive of the West India Committee.

The following candidates were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
SANDBACH PARKER & CO., LTD. (British Guiana)	{ Sir Alfred Sherlock. Mr. Evan R. Campbell.
MR. CHRISTOPHER EDWARD (Country) TINNE	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G.
MR. ARTHUR GIBBS (Country)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G.
MRS. PERCY (DOROTHY) LOWE (London)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G.
MRS. M. E. (DORIS ANNETTE) (Country) TOLLER	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G.
MRS. MARY ELLIOT PARKER (Country)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G.
JAMAICA SUGAR ESTATES LTD. (Country)	{ Mr. R. W. Jerratt. Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E.
MR. NEVILLE MODERATE (Country)	{ Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.S.C. Mr. H. A. Walker.
MRS. ADA B. CONYERS, M.B.E. (Country)	{ Sir Alfred Sherlock. Mr. Evan R. Campbell.
MAJOR ARTHUR VICTOR (London) LANGTON	{ Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E. Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.S.C.
LADY ASPINALL (Country)	{ Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E. Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
THE CORENTYNE SUGAR CO., (British Guiana) LTD.	{ Sir Alfred Sherlock. Mr. Evan R. Campbell.
CAPTAIN G. H. SMELLIE (British Guiana)	{ Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Mr. A. M. Armour.
MR. ROLPH S. GRANT (Jamaica)	{ Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C. Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.
CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED (London)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.
JOHN CROSS (Country)	{ Lt.-Col. H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Mr. James du Buisson.

As this was the first meeting of the Executive since the publication of the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission much of the time of the meeting, as might be expected, was devoted to the discussion of this outstandingly important subject. It was agreed that the thanks of the West India Committee should be conveyed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for accepting on behalf of His Majesty's Government the Recommendations in regard to welfare and research, particularly at a time when a weaker course of action might have been excusable in view of the national emergency. Apart from any views which might come to be held regarding the several Recommendations, this was a fine achievement. At the same time the attention of the Government would be drawn to certain points of great importance to the West Indies as, for example, the omission of any reference to the citrus industry. It was furthermore agreed by the Executive that a letter should be addressed to Lord Moyne, the chairman of the Royal Commission, in recognition of the completion of a great and difficult task.

The chairman stated that the Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago had informed the Committee that it had been agreed to continue the existing trade representation during the war.

The Committee was in communication with the Ministry of Food with a view to space being reserved for cocoa from Trinidad and Grenada when steamers were loading sugar for shipment to the United Kingdom. The action which the Committee had taken in regard to Grenada's request for an increased quota under the Colonial Empire Cocoa Control Scheme was reported, and is referred to on page 70 of this issue.

Among other matters discussed at the meeting were costs of sugar production, the generous gift by the people of Jamaica of £2,000 for men of the Mercantile Marine which the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee had asked the West India Committee to apply to the best advantage, and large consignments of fruit received from the same source as gifts for men of the fighting forces. A more detailed reference to these subjects will be published in the next issue of the CIRCULAR.

Indian Farming

The well-known bi-monthly journal Agriculture and Live-stock in India has been replaced by Indian Farming, which will appear monthly. The first number contains a message of welcome from the Viceroy and Governor General, in which he says that the interest taken is now so widespread that the time has come to give out the results of scientific research in agriculture and animal husbandry in a more popular form.

Indian Farming is intended principally for cultivators and those who are furthering the work of rural development, but the Viceroy believes it will have attractions for an even larger public. The new Journal, which is very well illustrated, is issued at 9s. 6d. per annum, or 9d. for a single copy, inclusive of postage in India.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"MAN in debt like bird in net."

* * *

THE British West Indies were the subject of an interesting lecture given recently by Mr. S. J. Milton to the Southall Townswomen's Guild.

* * *

MRS. FAULKNER is on her way back to the West Indies to join her husband, Mr. O. T. Faulkner, the principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

* * *

MR. J. H. JARRETT, Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, is expected to assume office as Chief Justice of the Windward and Leeward Islands about the end of this month. Pending his arrival, Sir George Deane is acting as Chief Justice.

* * *

THAT the sugar-cane industry is of public utility and essential to the life of the community and shall be deemed to be an "essential service" has been declared by the Governor of the Windward Islands in an Order under the Defence of the Colony Regulations.

* * *

"TEACHING CIVICS IN JAMAICA" is the subject of a short article by Mr. A. G. Fraser, Headmaster of Munro College, in the March number of The Colonial Review. It is condensed from the report of a vacation course lecture in the Jamaica Union of Teachers Magazine.

* * *

CIVICS is described as the subject most directly concerned with producing good citizens; it is therefore of prime importance that it should be well and conscientiously taught. Mr. Fraser provides an outline syllabus for a four years course in elementary civics.

* * *

DEEP regret will be felt by very many residents in the West Indies and by others no longer there at the news that Captain T. R. Coffin, the genial Commodore of the Canadian National Steamships fleet, died on January 11th between Boston and Bermuda on board the Lady Nelson.

* * *

MISS JOAN ALICE HAWKINS, whose engagement to Mr. John Lyndon Grier was announced recently, is the younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Hawkins, of Pine Plantation, Barbados. Mr. Grier, a 2nd Lieutenant in the R.A.S.C., is the only son of Mr. J. A. B. Grier, of Budleigh Salterton.

* * *

THE Brewer and Wine Merchant notes that "a body corresponding to our West India Committee, which has rendered yeoman service to developing trade between Britain and the British West Indies, has been set up in Holland to promote trade between the Dutch West Indies and the Mother Country."

* * *

DONORS of "comforts" for the Forces are asked to note that the Military Forwarding Organisation states that preserves and other edible products should be sent

in packages of not less than 15 lb. or more than 56 lb. in weight. These limits do not apply to woollen articles, medical supplies and similar gifts.

* * *

THE annual pre-war consumption of sugar for domestic purposes, and in the form of manufactured articles, such as jams, biscuits, confectionery and condensed milk, was approximately 100 lb. refined value, per head of the population. The rationing of sugar to domestic users and to manufacturers will at the current rate reduce this consumption to about 75 lb. per head annually.

* * *

THE "Sea Floor" post office in the Williamson photosphere on the floor of the Bahamas ocean, the world's first and only undersea post office will be reopened on May 6th. This is the day on which the philatelic world is celebrating the introduction of the first adhesive stamp, the famous "Penny Black" of Great Britain, by Sir Rowland Hill.

* * *

DR. A. J. R. O'BRIEN, C.M.G., M.C., who, we learn with regret, died on March 9th, had been Chief Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office since 1938. In 1930, he was commissioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to visit those West Indian Colonies, which at that time were considering proposals in respect of public health for which assistance was desired from the Colonial Development Fund.

* * *

MRS. BOWEN, who, we regret to learn, died on March 1st, was the widow of Lieut.-Colonel A. S. Bowen, whose death at Port-of-Spain was reported in the CIRCULAR of November 16th last. Mrs. Bowen, before her marriage, was Miss Luisita Fitt, daughter of the late Mr. George Fitt, the owner of San Salvador estate, and for some years an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

West Indians on Active Service

Mr. Lisle Percy Cox, of Trinidad, who came over from Barbados to join up, and enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver on October 20th, has been with the British Expeditionary Force since January 28th.

Mr. Kenneth Goellnicht, of Trinidad, "passed out" of the O.C.T.U. on February 24th. A fortnight later he joined the Green Howards as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Lieut. John Henry Eaden, R.N., who recently won the D.S.C. while in command of H.M. Submarine Spearfish, is the son of Mrs. Eaden and the late Mr. J. H. Eaden of Lyons Estate, Dominica. His two sisters are also serving, the elder Mrs. Joan Barker-Mill as a French Government chauffeuse, the younger Miss Norah Eaden as a member of the A.T.S.

Increased Cocoa Quota

For Trinidad and Windward Islands

EARLY in February, the West India Committee received a cable from the Grenada Chamber of Commerce pointing out that owing to the cocoa quota of 1,720 tons being retrospective from October 1st, 1939, licensed dealers had already shipped quantities far in excess of their average for the last three crops, with consequent hardship to many producers who were now unable to secure their rightful quota. The Chamber asked the West India Committee to make strong representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to an increase of 500 tons for this crop being granted.

A special meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in the cocoa industry of Trinidad and Grenada was held on the day the cable was received, when it was decided to forward the cable to the Secretary of State and to inform him that the Committee was making investigations regarding the shipments from Grenada.

On March 6th the Colonial Office was supplied with the results of these inquiries and the hope was expressed that the Secretary of State would have the position in Grenada examined further with a view to ensuring that planters would be enabled to make use of their rightful share of the quota.

The West India Committee had now been informed by the Colonial Office that it has been found possible to authorise an immediate increase of 50 per cent. in the quotas allocated to Trinidad and the Windward Islands of 1,650 tons and 1,850 tons respectively. The Governors of the Colonies have, however, been informed that the arrangements under which the United Kingdom Government undertook to guarantee a remunerative price for West Indian cocoa, as set out in the statement issued by the Colonial Office on January 28th (see the CIRCULAR of February 8th) would cease to operate immediately the original quotas were fulfilled. The hope is expressed that the increased quotas now granted would facilitate the removal of any difficulties which may have arisen in connexion with individual assessments.

PUBLICATION of the Agricultural Journal of British Guiana will be suspended as an economy measure for the duration of the war. Number 4 of volume X recently issued contains two important papers by Dr. D. W. Duthie, the chemist of the Department of Agriculture. The first is a report on the soils of the area examined by the British Guiana Survey Commission, and the second deals with the question of mineral deficiency and cattle raising in the Colony.

(Continued from next column)

Although the land was in a derelict condition the factory was efficient. The directors express their gratification that, purchased for £6,000 and with relatively little expenditure during the year, the average recovery from old ratoons, many of Co. 213, was 9.13 tons of cane per ton of sugar. The present factory can apparently manufacture a maximum crop of 3,000 tons without any great expenditure on the existing plant.

Barbados Settlers

First Year's Work in St. Lucia

THE report of the directors of the Barbados Settlement Co. Ltd., issued as a supplement to the Official Gazette of January 25th, describes the work done up to June 30th, 1939, in developing the Vieux Fort estate in St. Lucia, as a home for some of the surplus population of Barbados.

The same mail which brought this report brought also the February number of the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society containing the first part of a reprint of Professor C. Y. Sheppard's paper on "British West Indian Economic History in Imperial Perspective." It is of great interest to note that he records how "in 1664, the Governor of Barbados, seeking an outlet for his surplus population, despatched over 1,000 settlers to St. Lucia to establish an organized Colony."

The present venture is administered by a Board of Directors with Dr. S. J. Saint, the Director of Agriculture Barbados, as chairman. When the Company took over the estate in May, 1938, most of the arable land, about 2,500 acres, was derelict, and overgrown with trees and weeds. There were some 374 acres of canes, mostly second and third ratoons. From these, plus 998 tons of purchased small holders' canes, 701 tons of sugar were manufactured, yielding a gross revenue of £7,926. During 1938 the land under the ratoons was cleaned and another 380 acres of old cane land brought into cultivation and planted. In the early months of 1939 work was in progress preparing 400 more acres for planting. Much expense has been incurred in clearing and repairing the fine system of irrigation canals which the estate possesses.

The directors have used every endeavour to commence the settlement of small holders from Barbados at the earliest possible date. Malaria is prevalent mainly owing to the presence of three swamps and the Legislature decided that no settlers should be sent until these were drained. The measures taken to deal with this difficulty are described. Sites have also been selected for the settlers' village and model houses built in order to decide on a suitable type and obtain estimates of costs. It is reported that in the original scheme "settlers" houses were estimated to cost £15 each, but it is possible that the cost will be nearer £50." The Legislature subsequently agreed to allow fifty families to emigrate towards the end of 1939 and arrangements were being made to plot out four acre holdings and erect the necessary houses.

The auditors point out that any attempt to compute production costs for the year would only be misleading. The railway expenses for example includes the cost of renewing 14,000 sleepers. The loss of approximately £4,255 on the first year may they state be regarded as rehabilitation costs. Other capital expenditure not anticipated in the original scheme has also had to be provided for, and the directors propose that the capital of the company shall be increased from £43,000 to £50,000.

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Barbados and St. Lucia Sugar Crops—Value of Air Service
Local Industries in British Honduras*



ANTIGUA

Royal Commission. Miss Helen Goodwin informs us that, at a meeting of the Legislative Council on February 20th to which the general public was invited, the Administrator, in the absence of the Governor in St. Kitts, read the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission. Those who were unable to attend listened with interest to the B.B.C. broadcast.

Red Cross. On February 23rd the Antigua Turf Club held a gymkhana race meeting at Cassada Garden in aid of the Red Cross. The programme of a very pleasant afternoon consisted of three straight races and four gymkhana events. The day was proclaimed a Bank Holiday to enable everyone to be present.

BARBADOS

Sugar Crop Estimate. The Department of Agriculture reports that January had been another dry month and the sugar-cane in all districts was rapidly maturing. Several factories in the low rainfall areas had commenced grinding and by the middle of February most factories would be in action. Based on returns received from the factories the total crop is estimated at about 106,500 tons sugar, compared with the previous one of 108,000 tons. (See CIRCULAR of March 7th).

Mosaic-resistant Cane. Plants of the mosaic-resistant high-yielding variety, B.35187 had been distributed to peasants in mosaic proclaimed areas in the higher rainfall districts. It was of interest to record that thousands of plants for this purpose were bought from peasants who had previously been given plants by the Department.

Root borer and Brown Hard Back. During December, 31,690 root borer beetles were collected, making 889,500 reported for the year. No brown hard back beetles were reported collected in December, so the total remains at 2,989,250 for the year. As these totals represent the organised efforts of the majority of plantations in the Island, and as part of the money expended on beetle collections is recoverable from the Government subsidy of £250, it was reasonable to conclude that the annual decrease in beetles collected is a strong indication that these pests, particularly root borers, are being brought under control. It was worth recalling that in 1931 eight million root borer beetles alone were reported collected, and there was then no subsidy.

BRITISH GUIANA

Murder of Mr. W. T. Swingler.* On December 22nd, Mr. W. T. Swingler, resident engineer of Port Mourant sugar estate, was fatally shot in the mess room of the manager's house when attending the usual

Christmas dinner given to the staff. Mr. Swingler, who was sitting with his back to an open window, was shot from the dark outside at close range. A doctor who was present gave immediate aid, while later other medical men arrived from New Amsterdam and Georgetown, but nothing could be done to save his life and he expired at 4 o'clock the next morning. An extensive search of the grounds and surrounding lands, made soon after the crime, disclosed no trace of the assailant. Later a .22 rifle with a spent cartridge was found in a trench about 300 yards from the scene of the crime.

Practical Use of Local Air-Service. The three-year old daughter of Mr. T. Melville, a rancher and Government ranger in the Rupununi district, living near the Brazilian frontier was seriously injured when a dynamite detonator with which she was playing exploded and blew off two fingers and the thumb of her left hand. Assistance was summoned by radio to the Air-service base in Georgetown. A plane left immediately for the scene of the accident taking the Surgeon-Specialist of the Georgetown hospital, and after receiving medical attention the child and her mother were flown to Georgetown where she was admitted as a patient at the public hospital. British Guiana Airways Ltd. has been giving new year flights around Georgetown at very reasonable charges, and advantage has been taken of these joy-rides by a large number of residents.

Common-Sense of a Magistrate. Mr. J. H. S. McCowan, a Georgetown stipendiary, after listening to a number of technical submissions by counsel for the defendant, in a recent case of profiteering, gave a refreshing exhibition of sound common-sense. Addressing counsel he referred to Mr. Justice Darling's statement in a court of law that in a time of crisis like this everybody must play the game, and pointed out that it was his duty to interpret all war legislation in the spirit in which it had been enacted. In such cases as the present one the lawyers could not expect to get all the "niceties" of the law which would be applicable in other cases.

Mrs. Isabella Gibson, the wife of Mr. J. C. Gibson, Planting Attorney of Bookers Demerara Sugar Estates Ltd., British Guiana, and former Manager of Port Mourant in that Colony [whose death at Port-of-Spain on January 15th was reported in the CIRCULAR of January 25th] had been in poor health for some time and had proceeded to Trinidad two weeks before, when, her condition growing worse, Mr. Gibson and Miss Nora Gibson left British Guiana by plane for Port-of-Spain on January 11th. The body was taken to British Guiana by plane on January 18th and buried the same afternoon.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Soap Factory. Some years ago, writes Captain M. S. Metzgen, the Agricultural Advisory Committee

* A brief report of the murder was given in the CIRCULAR of January 11th.

appointed by the late Sir Harold Kittermaster strongly advocated the establishment of a coco-nut factory for the manufacture of soap, lard and lard substitutes, butter and butter substitutes and oil. Mr. C. W. W. Greenwich, the chairman of the committee, who had the economic development of the Colony very much at heart, left no stone unturned to impress the Government as well as the business people of the excellent potentialities of the scheme. Two small factories have been established at Belize during the last six months, one by Mr. Juan Bosch and the other by Maestre and Co. Mr. Bosch is from Spain and Mr. Maestre from Syria. In this connexion, it is interesting to note the following imports into British Honduras during 1938:

Butter, 614 cwt. (\$22,201); butter substitutes, 2,414 cwt. (\$26,785); lard and lard substitutes, 6,171 cwt. (\$63,539); soap (common), 8,023 cwt. (\$45,653). Total \$158,178 or £39,544. The annual yield of coco-nuts is approximately 15,000,000 of which one third are exported.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Cotton. By an Order made by the Governor on February 12th, the levy on all cotton exported from the Presidency will be one and a half farthings per lb. The Government will make the following advances to peasants in Nevis for satisfactorily clean Sea Island cotton grown in Nevis and delivered to the ginney at Charlestown: clean dry cotton 4d. per lb., stained $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

Sugar-Cane Control. A copy has been received of the draft Sugar-Cane Control Ordinance 1940, the object of which is to control the supply of sugar-cane intended for manufacture so as to avoid the production of sugar in excess, to any considerable extent, of the amount fixed by the sugar quota. The procedure adopted to achieve this purpose is that of allotments of supply by the Governor in Council upon recommendations of a Board constituted under the Ordinance.

ST. LUCIA

In his notes for December, our Honorary Correspondent, Mr. E. T. Ward, the Agricultural Superintendent records that, whilst extremely dry weather, accompanied by drying winds, had been experienced in all parts of the Colony, especially the coastal areas, temperatures had remained pleasantly low.

Sugar. The cane crop received a setback in the drier districts and some reduction of juice content was anticipated. Consequently the estimate for the 1940 crop had been lowered to 9,800 tons. Plant canes were also suffering in these areas.

Limes. The crop was practically over and the indications were that the 1939 crop was much below average. Lower recoveries of lime oil were also reported from some estates. The local price of green limes was 12/- per barrel.

Other Crops. The 1939 coco-nut crop was certain to show a considerable increase over the previous year. A fair crop of cocoa was being picked and encouraging prices were maintaining interest. Two shipments of bananas had been made during the month. Sales to the Canadian Banana Company amounted to 5,409 stems, bringing the total for the year to 73,434 stems, about 51 per cent. below that for 1938.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Suggested Labour and Wages Returns. A request from the Labour Adviser that the planters should supply labour and wages returns was considered by the Agricultural Society on January 25th. A motion was passed informing the Adviser that to comply with his request would entail a staff of book-keepers for large estates the staffs of which due to the economic depression had already been reduced to a minimum and could not be increased. As far as the small proprietor was concerned, the suggestion was practically impossible as most of them could neither read nor write, and certainly could not afford to pay a book-keeper.

Colonial Problems

France and Britain Collaborate

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, Secretary of State for the Colonies, paid an official visit to Paris during the week-end, and on his return to London, the following statement was issued:—

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, and his French colleague, Monsieur Georges Mandel, who had already conferred together at length on the two previous days met again on March 18th and agreed upon further measures to be taken to perfect collaboration between the British and French Colonial Empires. In many parts of the world their colonial territories are neighbours and the two Ministers feel that both Governments have much to gain from the experience of the other.

They have therefore decided that the Colonial Office and the Ministry of Colonies should henceforward keep in constant touch, and that an organisation should be created both in London and in Paris to maintain a permanent liaison between the two departments.

This collaboration, which must have as its principal object the greater wellbeing of the colonial peoples, will be extended to the Colonies themselves. There will be conferences from time to time between the Governors of neighbouring British and French colonial territories. This contact will also be established between the administrative and specialist officers of the territories. For instance, the heads of the medical services in the Colonies are receiving instructions to exchange information and co-ordinate their activities on matters of common concern.

As regards matters affecting the successful prosecution of the war, there has already been much co-operation between the colonial authorities of the Allied Powers. The two Ministers resolved to perfect this. Thus, in the economic field, they agreed to examine the possibility of framing a co-ordinating programme of production and marketing of various colonial products, the object being to make the fullest possible use of their joint resources. French and British experts will meet very shortly for this purpose.

Meanwhile officers of the Colonial Office who accompanied Mr. MacDonald have taken advantage of their visit to Paris to settle with their French colleagues a number of common problems regarding production, trade and communications.

Jamaica Sugar and Rum

Weather and War Difficulties

Two welcome letters, of January 30th and February 17th, from Mr. D. J. Verity arrived close together and have to some extent been combined to form the following interesting article.

In his letter of January 30th, Mr. Verity said that the torrential rains and high winds early in November did great damage to bananas crops. The rains continued on and off, long enough to put back the start of the sugar crop in a number of districts, and at the time of writing, only seven factories had commenced, i.e. Kew, Bybrook, Appleton, Holland, Raheen, Hampden and Sevens. The mid-year drought affected most of the northside estates to such an extent that it would be as late as April before they all started. Some were "going about" in March, but one or two would probably not commence before the first week in April.

By February 17th, seven more sugar factories were grinding: Frome Central, Monymusk, Serge Islands, Barnett, Retreat, Caymanas and Worthy Park, making 14 out of the total of 27, and Innswood was scheduled to start next week, a week later than originally intended owing to poor juice. Bernard Lodge had also put off their start for the same reason and was then expected to grind on the 27th. Almost everywhere juices were poor this year as compared with last.

The weather of the second half of 1939 had been altogether unfortunate, resulting in a further drop in the 1939-40 crop estimates, which at the end of January aggregated 113,330 tons.

Preparations for the sugar shipping season were in full swing by the end of January. Mr. R. W. Youngman, the Jamaica manager of Messrs. Thomson Hanky and Co., was the representative of the Canadian Sugar Administrator, and the Sugar Manufacturers' Association was the Local Authority, or Co-ordinator, communicating with the Ministry of Food, Sugar Division and allocating the sugars to be shipped amongst the various factories. "Collaboration, Co-operation and Co-ordination" were the order of the day, and with everyone "backing up" and aiming at a common goal, it was confidently expected that the complications and difficulties inherent in the present combination of circumstances would be successfully dealt with. These would possibly be more marked in Jamaica than in most sugar Colonies by reason of there being 27 factories and 11 shipping ports, whereas in most other Colonies the factories, and in all of them, the ports, are much fewer.

Certain factories, as was known, have been accustomed to produce, for the German market, the type of rum known for the past few years as Continental flavoured rum. Common clean rums have also been imported into Germany in substantial quantities in the past. The official figures of exports of rum of both types from Jamaica to German ports during the first eight months of last year show 180,000 liquid gallons, or approximately 1,500 puncheons. The loss of this market, for the duration of the war at least, was not a light matter, especially as the Continental flavoured rums command a higher price than any of those known in Britain as "Home Trade" types; and although the combined

efforts of the Rum Propaganda Committee and the weather were having their due effect, the loss of the Continental trade has not yet been made up.

A strike or "walk-out" of some duration at Serge Island, and a similar short-lived occurrence at Sevens were called off on Ash Wednesday after a conference, presided over by Mr. Norman, the Labour Adviser, between officials of the Bustamente Industrial Trade Union and the directors of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association. A second conference attended by the same parties was held on the 14th and an agreement was reached on three points covered in a press statement made by the Labour Adviser and published on February 17th in the Gleaner.

Trinidad Cocoa in 1939

Large Decline in Exports

THE exports of cocoa from Trinidad in 1939 amounted to only 16,753,267 lb.—the smallest total since 1891. Excessive rainfall reduced the crop to a fraction of the average output, and prices during the greater part of the year were unremunerative. As far as the Colony's cocoa industry is concerned, 1939 was probably the worst year in its history.

The following table shows the destination of the cocoa shipped from the Colony during the past three years:—

	1939	1938	1937
	lb.	lb.	lb.
United States ...	8,117,885	19,445,160	11,856,704
France ...	584,799	1,221,944	1,858,052
United Kingdom ...	2,011,254	3,522,989	4,100,142
Germany ...	682,340	5,438,173	2,576,512
Netherlands ...	1,550,888	1,612,908	1,447,668
Danzig ...	38,500	114,800	29,600
Australia ...	35,799	258,257	428,456
Canada ...	1,996,125	5,838,075	1,410,238
Belgium ...	832,712	3,469,252	1,174,540
Italy ...	119,024	109,135	138,000
Norway ...	116,000	289,600	120,000
Sweden ...	120,000	362,700	241,900
Denmark ...	172,854	124,554	4,400
Argentine Republic ...	100,020	264,900	329,600
New Zealand ...	76,244	237,864	266,968
South Africa ...	42,366	560,662	90,442
Other countries ...	156,457	128,874	185,000
Total ...	16,753,267	42,999,847	26,258,222

Colonial Appointments

RECENT appointments, promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service include the following:—

First appointments:—

KING, Miss J., Assistant Matron, Trinidad.
MILNE, Miss I., Matron, Trinidad.

Promotions and transfers:—

ALLEN, H. P. (Clerk of Courts), Resident Magistrate, Jamaica.
JARRETT, J. H. (Colonial Secretary, Bahamas), Chief Justice, Windward and Leeward Islands.
KIRBY-TURNER, J. G. (Constable, Palestine), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.
LEACH, R. (formerly Mycologist, Nyasaland), Plant Pathologist, Jamaica (temporary).
SANGUINETTI, S. T. B. (Clerk of Courts), Resident Magistrate, Jamaica.

The West Indies at Westminster

Colonial Research Advisory Committee

MR. M. MACDONALD in reply to a question put by DR. HADEN GUEST on March 6th said that the appointment of a Colonial Research Advisory Committee must await the enactment of the legislation which would be necessary to give effect to the Government's statement of policy. He was giving consideration to the constitution of the committee, but was not yet in a position to make any statement.

Political Constitution of Jamaica

Replying to MR. CREECH JONES on March 6th, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that consideration of the petition from the Federation of Citizens Associations in Kingston presented last summer had been postponed until the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission were available. As the hon. Member was aware, certain of the recommendations of the Commission were concerned with constitutional development in the West Indian Colonies, and the desirability of making any change in the political constitution of Jamaica would now be further examined in the light of those recommendations and other relevant considerations.

Barbados and Peaceful Picketing

On February 21st MR. CREECH JONES asked the Secretary of State whether peaceful picketing was permitted under the new Trade Union Bill recently considered by the House of Assembly in Barbados. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied that the Bill, which was presented to and passed by the House of Assembly, contained provisions relating to peaceful picketing identical in character with those contained in the United Kingdom Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Acts of 1906 and 1927, but he had been informed by the Governor that this particular section was deleted by the Legislative Council. He was awaiting a despatch from the Governor explaining the reasons for this action by the members of the Council.

MR. CREECH JONES then asked whether the Secretary of State would keep in mind the recommendation of the Royal Commission in which it was asked that peaceful picketing should be an established thing in the West Indian Colonies. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied: "Yes, that principle has my entire support."

West Indian Colonies (Income Tax)

SIR W. SMILES asked what were the present rates of income tax and surtax in the West Indian Colonies compared with the pre-war rates of the United Kingdom, basing the comparison on the joint income for man and wife, with one child of under 14 years of age, with a total income of £2,000 per annum. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD in a written answer of February 28th stated that for the purposes of comparison, the total income of £2,000 had been taken as earned income, and only earned income relief, married allowance and allowance for one child had been taken into account. The figure for the United Kingdom was from the table

in Command Paper 6107. The figures for the West Indian Colonies took into account the emergency taxation imposed since the outbreak of war.

Income Tax and Surtax payable by a married man with one child under 14 years of age and a total earned income of £2,000 per annum.

United Kingdom (pre-war rates)	..	..	..	375	12	6
Barbados (present rates)	..	..	..	137	10	0
British Guiana (present rates)	..	..	..	118	10	0
*British Honduras (present rates)	..	..	..	112	6	6
Jamaica (present rates)	..	..	..	113	7	6
Leeward Islands (present rates)—						
Antigua ..	..	..	..	266	15	0
Montserrat ..	..	..	..	181	4	2
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	..	..	..	322	2	6
Trinidad and Tobago (present rates)	..	..	..	177	0	0
Windward Islands (present rates)—						
Dominica ..	..	..	..	425	0	6
Grenada ..	..	..	..	230	12	6
St. Lucia ..	..	..	..	226	8	4
St. Vincent ..	..	..	..	282	4	3

* Converted at \$4.03 to the £

Colonial Business Adviser

Asked by MR. JOEL whether he would state exactly the functions of the business adviser to the Colonial Office, who was to be appointed under paragraph 12 of the statement of policy on colonial development and welfare, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied on February 28th that he had already appointed Mr. Clifford Figg, who had great experience in questions of Colonial trade and had patriotically agreed to serve as honorary and unpaid business adviser for the period of the war. Mr. Figg maintains a liaison between the Colonial Office, other Government Departments which are purchasers of Colonial produce, and the business community. He also assists Colonial Governments and producers to solve business problems created by the war. It would be for consideration at the end of the war whether it would be desirable to continue such an appointment in peace time.

Qualifications for New Appointments

In reply to MR. RILEY, who on February 28th asked the Secretary of State whether, in considering the appointment of a Comptroller and an Inspector-General of Agriculture in connexion with development work in the West Indies he would bear in mind the importance of securing if possible, highly qualified men with a wide experience of West Indian social and economic conditions, and also the desirability, in making the appointments for the Comptroller's department, of drawing no distinction between white and coloured candidates where qualifications were equally satisfactory. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said the hon. Member might be assured that the considerations he mentioned would be taken into account in making selections for these posts.

MR. RILEY then asked whether the representative council of the West Indies would be consulted, or would information be sought from them, in regard to the appointment of a Comptroller and an Inspector-General before an appointment was made, and, further, whether coloured as well as white people would be eligible for

these positions. Mr. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied that the answer to the second part of the question was in the affirmative. With regard to the first part, he did not think there would be any formal consultation, though he would not rule out the possibility of informal consultation.

Schools and the Colonies

SIR J. LUCAS asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education on March 4th whether he would endeavour to obtain an extension of instruction in the schools on Britain's work for Colonial Development and her future responsibilities, in view of the proposed financial aid to be granted and as an appreciation of the way in which the Empire rallies to the aid of the Mother Country in time of trouble. MR. LINDSAY replied that in consultation with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, they were considering how the teaching in the schools on this question might be made more alive and imaginative and might contribute to a fuller understanding of the Empire, its opportunities and its problems.

Cocoa Exports to Scandinavia

MR. SORENSEN asked the Minister of Food whether he was aware that, owing to unsatisfactory arrangements, considerable quantities of cocoa might be left on hand, and that exports to Scandinavia might be lost; also what action he was taking to avoid the necessity of Scandinavian purchasers securing supplies elsewhere. In a written reply of March 5th, MR. W. S. MORRISON stated that the total crop of raw cocoa produced in British West Africa during the current season was being purchased by the Government and was now being sold in the world markets. The hon. Member would appreciate that in making sales regard must be had to the exigencies of economic warfare and the demands of other commodities on shipping space. Quantities of raw cocoa sufficient to meet the normal requirements of Norway, Sweden and Denmark were being shipped to Scandinavian ports.

Cocoa: Shippers' Expenses

MR. SORENSEN asked the Minister of Food whether he would make inquiries respecting the supply and wholesale cost of cocoa; whether he was aware that cocoa had been purchased through large shippers who receive 4½ per cent. and a contribution towards overhead expenses, and through small shippers who receive 2½ per cent.; what portion of cocoa was and is bought through large and small shippers, respectively; and what action he was taking to prevent undue profits to shippers and unnecessary increases of price to consumers. MR. W. S. MORRISON replied that the Government had undertaken to purchase the total crop of raw cocoa produced in British West Africa during the current season which ends on September 30th, 1940. The actual purchasing was done by the shippers who receive varying rates of remuneration according to the services they perform. He was satisfied that these rates of remuneration did not afford undue profits to the shippers. During the last season small shippers handled approximately 8 per cent. of the total crop, and it was estimated that this year they would handle about 9 per cent. The large shippers handle the remainder. There was

at present no indication of any unnecessary increase in price to the consumers of raw cocoa, but the situation was kept constantly under review.

MR. SORENSEN then inquired, why if 2½ per cent. sufficed for the small shippers, the large shippers could not receive the same percentage and was the Minister aware that the large shippers were mainly under the control of one combine, which used the whole trade to its own financial advantage. In reply, MR. MORRISON stated that these shippers received varying rates of remuneration, and they did not quite work out at the flat figures suggested in the question. The rule was that each shipper was remunerated according to the services which he performed. Some shippers perform greater services than others and had to be remunerated accordingly.

Colonial Sugar Production

MR. JAGGER asked how the Secretary of State reconciled the fact, recently announced, that all sugar-producing Colonies were advised some months ago to aim at an increase of production next year of 20 per cent., with the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission that Jamaica had the strongest claim to any increase, and that it should be at least 50,000 tons; and whether he would make an exact statement of the Government's policy on this matter. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD in a written answer of February 28th said the advice to Colonies to increase production by 20 per cent. was given some months before the recommendations of the Commission were received. The views of the Commission would of course receive full weight but the particular claims of Jamaica could not be settled without reference to the interests of other Colonies in the West Indies and elsewhere. A full announcement would, as already promised, be made as early as possible.

Prophylaxis

Sandy MacTavish, a venturesome Scot,
Left the cold North for a Tropical spot,
Where men either shrivel, because it's so hot,
Or else put on flesh and end up in the pot.

In more ways than one Sandy found the folk queer,
They couldn't stand whisky, they didn't like beer.
He tried them with gin, but they still looked severe,
And one day the cannibal chief said: "Come here! . . .

"You've fattened quite nicely, and soon you'll be prime.
"We'll have a big feast in a month or two's time . . .
".?"

* * *

MacTavish still thrives in that Tropical clime.
The reason?

You've guessed!

He produced RUM AND LIME.

L. O. PELTIS.

Round the Markets

March 19th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Mar. 4th.	Mar. 18th.	\$ value	4/5.9
Canada ..	4.45	4.45	\$	4/11.6
U.S.A. ..	4.03	4.03	Fr. "	-1.4
France ..	176.62	176.62	Gu. "	2/7.8
Holland ..	7.55	7.55		

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are —

Dividend latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 2d. per cent.)	72 72½
3½	War Loan	98½ 98½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	3 3
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	25/- 26/-
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	36/- 42/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ...	1 2½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ..	1/9 1/10½
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/4½ 1/10½
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1 1½
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3/6 4/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
7	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	1 1
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/9 7/9
15	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	47/6 48/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/3 6/3
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	8/9 9/9

RUM. Dealers report an active demand, but there is nothing doing in the first-hand market owing to the lack of offers.

COCOA. More trade has been passing in this market and prices generally are firm. Business has been done in good plantation Trinidad on the spot at 75/-, and in "to arrive" at 56/- c. & f. for the first three marks and other plantation cocoa. The demand for Grenada is very slow with sellers of fine estates at 65/- in bond. Fair sales of West African have been made at 32/- to 32/3 c.i.f. United Kingdom for March-April shipment, and at 35/- spot for new crop.

BALATA. Demerara sheet and Venezuelan block continue to be quoted at 2/4 landed terms, but only a very small business has been reported.

BANANAS. The demand for Jamaicas is fair to good according to district. Prices are firm at £22 5s. per ton delivered London, and £22 delivered Provinces.

COTTON. A moderate business has been done in West Indian Sea Island during the fortnight at hardening rates.

HONEY continues in good demand and only small supplies are offering. Jamaica dark liquid to pale amber is quoted at 75/- to 85/- per cwt. according to quality, and pale to white at 90/- ex wharf.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** The nominal value of Handpressed is unchanged at 37/6 per lb. and Distilled is firm but quiet. **Lime Juice.** Buyers show no particular interest in Concentrated at the moment and Raw is quietly steady and valued at 2/6 to 2/9.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is nominally worth 6/- per lb. Bitter is wanted at about 8/6 per lb.

SPICES. There has been a better demand for **Pimento** on the spot in London, with business done at

10½d. ex wharf. March-April shipment from Jamaica is quoted at 90/- c.i.f. London. Consumers have been showing more interest in parcels of **Ginger** on the spot, and sales have been made on the basis of 50/- per cwt. ex wharf for the No. 3 quality. Medium No. 2 has been sold at about 55/- while bold bright No. 1 is in demand at 70/- to 75/-. West India **Nutmegs** are quoted at: defectives 6½d., sound unassorted 7½d., sound 80's 10d. to 11d., sound 65's 1/-, landed terms London. **Mace** continues very quiet, with small sales reported on the spot at prices ranging from 2/2 to 2/4 ex wharf for the mixed red to pale. Choice pale is quoted at 2/6 to 2/7.

The Cane Moth-Borer in 1775

A very early reference to the sugar-cane moth-borer is contained in a letter of August 29th, 1775, from Sir Edward Hay then Governor of Barbados to the Secretary of State. We are indebted to Dr. K. S. Wise for a copy of the following interesting extract from this letter which has been issued as Publication No. 411 of the Historical Society of Trinidad and Tobago:—

"The Island of Martinique is so much overrun with Ants that the inhabitants offer a reward of a million livres in Martinique currency to any person of whatever nation soever who shall effectually extirpate them. The Comte de Nozieres, Governor-General of the French Islands, sent me the proposals which I have laid before the Council and Assembly but I believe no additional reward will be offered from here.

"The Ant is not the greatest evil our planters complain of, nor are they so numerous as formerly, but there is what is called the Borer which is a worm in the inside of the cane and which entirely destroys it; and the Green Fly which occasions a blast. If these evils do not prevail to any degree this year, there is a prospect of a very fine ensuing crop."

Company Report

L. Rose and Co., Ltd.

After making provision for income tax, National Defence Contribution, excess profits tax and depreciation, there was a profit for the year 1939 of £37,279, which, with the balance of £11,980 brought forward, makes a total of £49,259.

Out of this dividends on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares for the year 1939, and on the 8 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares for the half-year ended July 31st, 1939, have been paid. Taking into account the interim dividend of 6d. per share paid on the ordinary shares, there remains a balance of £33,715 which the directors recommend should be allocated as follows: Dividend on the 8 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares for the half-year ended January 31st, 1940, £3,000; final dividend on the ordinary shares of 9d. per share, making a dividend of 1/3 per share for the year ended December 31st, 1939, £12,066; transfer to general reserve, £5,000; transfer to trustees of staff pension fund, £2,000; leaving to be carried forward to 1940 £11,649.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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April 3rd, 1940.

West Indian Cocoa

AFTER a year of uneasy peace we have now had seven months of war and the position of the more important West Indian industries is, if not stabilised, at least clarified to some extent. By this it is not suggested that these industries are prosperous or free from anxieties of many kinds, but we can now obtain a rather clearer view of the situation than was possible twelve months ago. Trinidad and the Windward Islands produce a high-grade cocoa which prior to the war gave employment directly and indirectly to 100,000 persons in Trinidad alone. At that time the local industry was in jeopardy as a result of prices so low as to be under the cost of production. General trading and healthy competition were curtailed by war-nervousness, by the barter system ruling in countries within the German economic orbit, by an over-abundant supply of cocoa in the world's market and by other factors little less damaging in effect. Thus the outlook was obscure and depressing.

The outbreak of war swept some of these difficulties away—only to replace them by others.

The value of cocoa as a food in war-time is well-known. Those who have marched and fought for a day on a small slab of chocolate will wonder how HOMER came to nod when MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, replying to a question in Parliament on February 22nd relegated cocoa to the category of "a relatively unessential commodity." Its importance to thousands of producers in the Colonies, however, is not in dispute and was not overlooked by the British Government which in November last announced its Colonial Empire Cocoa Control Scheme. Under it the Government undertook to purchase the whole 1939-40 West African crop and to offer to purchase maximum quantities, based on past normal shipments to the United Kingdom, of West Indian cocoa at prices determined in relation to those paid for West African supplies.

Arising from this arrangement the local Governments were authorised to issue export licences up to 1,650 tons in the case of Trinidad and Tobago and 1,851 tons for the Windward Islands. Subsequent representations, in which the West India Committee participated by request of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce, for an increase in the Grenada quota met with gratifying success and an extra 50 per cent. in the whole West Indian quota was granted. This was, however, accompanied by a stipulation that the arrangements under which the United Kingdom Government undertook to guarantee a remunerative price for West Indian cocoa would

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		
WEST INDIAN COCOA...	77	WEST INDIES AND THE FORCES... 84
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	78	THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR 84
ROYAL COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS	79	WEST INDIAN COTTON ... 85
TRINIDAD'S SUGAR INDUSTRY ...	81	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER... 85
THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE	81	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL 86
DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ...	82	OBITUARY... 87
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	83	WEST INDIAN PASSENGERS ... 87
		ROUND THE MARKETS ... 88
		SOME COMPANY REPORTS ... 88

cease to operate directly the original quotas were filled. Nevertheless, it is clear that the authorities are sympathetic to the industry within the rigid limits imposed by war conditions and more pressing problems of national defence, and the inclusion of a West Indian representative in the Advisory Committee on Raw Cocoa which the Minister of Food recently set up has given much satisfaction.

Moreover the Ministry of Food, Sugar Division, as a result of representations made by the West India Committee, has once more evidenced its readiness to give a helping hand to producers of another commodity by agreeing to an average shipment of cocoa of up to 500 tons per month in ships carrying sugar from the West Indies.

In regard to the crop position the ravages of witch-broom in Trinidad have had a disastrous effect which at one time appeared to threaten the very existence of the industry in that Colony. In addition, adverse weather conditions seriously affected the crop which, last year, was the smallest for just on half-a-century. To some extent the witch-broom situation is now in hand and, as the Trinidad Department of Agriculture points out, the disease can be controlled if sufficient funds are available. Given economic prices to enable them to carry out the necessary measures of control, planters might therefore look forward to the future with some degree of confidence. It is to be hoped that following the Recommendations of the Royal Commission something will be done to assist the planters in their campaign for the eradication of this and other diseases. A specific reference to this point would have been very welcome and the hope which the Commission expressed that the industry may be restored to a sound economic basis does not take one very far unless energetic steps are taken to implement it. What the cocoa planters earnestly desire is a fair price for their produce to enable them to pay a fair wage to their labourers, interest on their mortgages and an annual amount in reduction of their capital expenditure and to leave them with a sufficient surplus on which to live in a reasonable degree of comfort and security.

THE Colonial Office announce that Mr. J. D. Harford, Administrator, Antigua, and Federal Secretary, Leeward Islands, has been selected for appointment as Administrator, St. Kitts-Nevis, in succession to the late Mr. D. R. Stewart, C.M.G. Mr. Harford is being succeeded in Antigua by Mr. H. Boon, M.B.E., Treasurer, St. Kitts-Nevis.

From a Londoner's Notebook

WITH the advent of spring there is a general sense that a new and more eventful chapter of the war may open at any moment; but, although most people expect dramatic happenings, it is still not clear whether they are more likely to take the form of a large-scale clash of armaments or of revolutions in the diplomatic sphere. In many places there seems to be a clearing of the decks for action. The general election in Canada has given a heartening demonstration of the Dominion's single-minded resolve to prosecute the war to the utmost. M. Reynaud, marked out from the beginning as the most militant personality in M. Daladier's Cabinet, has taken office as Prime Minister of France with a programme of "total war." One of his first acts was to bring some of his civil and military chiefs over to London for what has been the most significant meeting yet held by the Supreme War Council of the Allies.

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The Solemn Declaration issued after the meeting is a much more significant and far-reaching document than that to which it has been compared, the agreement made by Great Britain, France and Russia early in the last war that none of them would make a separate peace. By the new declaration, in the first place, Great Britain and France pledge themselves to accept neither peace nor armistice except in conjunction. Not only this, but they will not even discuss possible terms of peace with the enemy or with neutrals until they have first considered the proposals between themselves and determined upon a common policy; nor will they accept any terms unless they are agreed that the security of both Powers is thereby effectively and lastingly guaranteed. German propaganda has seized upon this clause and emphasized the fact that it makes no mention of victory. But there is here no sign of weakness. An effective and lasting guarantee of security, as British and French statesmen have repeatedly pointed out, is not conceivable without the total overthrow of the whole Nazi gang.

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So far, the Solemn Declaration deals only with the fighting of the war, and with the manner of its conclusion, which it defines as the concern of Great Britain and France, working together as an inseparable unit. It then goes on to consider, as a distinct and subsequent act, in which the assistance of other nations must be sought, the reconstitution of international relations, with a view to substituting law for force in the dealings between states and to eliminating the fear of war. There is to be no repeating the mistake made at Versailles, when the Treaty of Peace and the Covenant of the League were inextricably woven together, to the great weakening of both. Any new peace organization to be set up after this war will be no part of the settlement between the Allies and Germany, and it will be negotiated by a different and wider body than the Peace Conference. But into this phase of diplomacy the present close collaboration of Great Britain and France is to be extended. They will take part as a single unit

with a common policy in discussions of the new world order; and indeed, it is thought by most of us that the present sharing of sovereignty in certain economic and other fields, as well as the military, which has been achieved by these two countries, itself constitutes the most hopeful model on which a larger number of nations might build up the nucleus of a supra-national state.

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Though there was no official announcement it is understood that another decision of the Supreme Council was to take a firmer line henceforward with the neutrals. From various small neutral Powers Great Britain and France have received a succession of protests relating to minor and accidental breaches of international law, while the total disregard of all law by the Germans goes in practice unchecked. There seems to be a tacit assumption that, as between Germany and the Allies, a double standard of behaviour to the neutrals is to be taken for granted. Norway, for instance, complains formally about such slight matters as the occasional unintentional flight of a British aircraft over territorial waters, and the falling of a British shell on a piece of wasteland on the Norwegian shore. No allowance is made for the fact that the activity of British ships and aircraft is the only effective protection for Norwegian merchantmen against the Nazi pirates, who since the outbreak of the war have sunk 60 Norwegian ships and caused the death of 400 Norwegian sailors. No Norwegian ship or man has been harmed by the Allies. In these circumstances, though we remain scrupulous to observe the substance of international law, we are entitled to be impatient with protests based on technicalities.

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All the time that Norwegian ships are being torpedoed or mined by Germans on the high seas, cargoes of iron ore from Swedish Lapland are creeping down the North Sea coast within the protection of Norwegian territorial waters. One of the elements of the new vigorous handling of the neutral question will certainly be a move to stop this traffic.

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In one of his stirring broadcasts last Saturday, Mr. Winston Churchill drew attention to another one-sided action of the neutrality rules, whereby a British airman who had strayed inadvertently over Holland was being shot down by the Dutch just when British sailors were landing the half-drowned Dutch victims of a typical Nazi assault upon unarmed neutrals at sea. The explanation of these anxious efforts to prove neutrality in German eyes is no doubt the presence, also revealed by Mr. Churchill, of a great Germany army, a million strong, posted along the frontiers of the Low Countries, and capable of sweeping across at very short notice. Here is one of the danger spots where the main clash of armies might easily be precipitated.

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On the other hand, the powder magazine in the Balkans may flare up first.

Royal Commission's Recommendations

(C) Communications, Constitutional, Administrative and Miscellaneous

The following instalment completes the verbatim reprint of the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission. The two previous issues of the CIRCULAR contained the Recommendations on (A) The Welfare Fund and Social Services and (B) Economic Problems, Agriculture and Land Settlement.

6. Communications

25. We recommend:—

(a) That on a return to normal conditions His Majesty's Government should consider whether they should not offer a subsidy for the maintenance of a regular British passenger service to some of the West Indian Colonies, since British shipping is handicapped by the competition of subsidised foreign shipping.

(b) That two small sea-going ships should be provided at the cost of His Majesty's Government for trade between the smaller islands. Whether such a service should be operated by Government or be entrusted to private enterprise in return for a subsidy is a matter for further consideration.

(c) A regular air service should be provided from St. Kitts to Trinidad and covering Barbados and all the principal Leeward and Windward Islands.

(d) That the Jamaica Government should consider whether a concession in respect of the island telephone service should not be granted to Telephone and General Trust Limited, subject to the inclusion of satisfactory safeguards, and on acceptance by the Company of an undertaking to assume responsibility for the telephone services in the smaller islands under a definite obligation to expand and improve these services.

(e) That a wireless telephone service within the West Indies should be provided as soon as possible for the furtherance of economic development and administrative convenience.

(f) That the Empire services of the British Broadcasting Corporation should be supplemented, particularly as regards educational broadcasts, by the establishment of a wireless transmitter or transmitters in the Caribbean area, the initial cost being met by His Majesty's Government and the maintenance costs by the Colonial Governments jointly, in proportion to their average annual revenue. The incidence of the cost of school receivers, etc., would have to be decided after requirements are known; where Colonial Governments cannot, from their own resources, provide adequately for these needs, the cost might be defrayed from the Colonial Development Fund or from the West Indian Welfare Fund.

7. Constitutional and Closer Union

26. We do not support either of the extreme proposals put before us for the grant of immediate and complete self-government based on universal suffrage, or for a wide increase of the authority of Governors which would convert the existing system into a virtual autocracy; the one because it would render impossible the financial control necessary if, as we consider to be inevitable, substantial assistance is to be afforded by His Majesty's Government through the West Indian Welfare Fund and otherwise; the other because it would be politically a retrograde step. More, and not less, participation by the people in the work of government is a real necessity for lasting social advancement. At the present stage, we attach more importance to the truly representative character of Legislative Councils than to any drastic change in their functions.

27. Political federation is not of itself an appropriate means of meeting the pressing needs of the West Indies. Nevertheless, it is the end to which policy should be directed.

28. We recommend:—

(a) That care should be taken to ensure that all important sections and interests of the community receive adequate representation in the Executive Councils;

(b) That consideration should be given to the adoption of a Committee System on an advisory basis to give elected representatives an insight into the practical details of government;

(c) That official representation in Legislative Councils should be confined to the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer and the Attorney-General, and the resulting vacancies filled by nominations in the spirit recommended in (a) above;

(d) That in order to secure that the elected element in Legislative Councils shall be as truly representative as possible, the object of policy should be the introduction of universal adult suffrage. Some of us hold that this should be introduced forthwith; others that it should be reached by gradual stages and to this end recommend the appointment of local committees to consider the extension of the franchise, both for local and for central government. Such committees should keep in close touch with their counterparts in other West Indian Colonies, and should consider carefully whether, as is strongly desirable, their recommendations would assure substantial equality as between the sexes;

(e) That in all West Indian Colonies a careful examination should be made at an early date of the possibility of reducing substantially the margin between the qualifications for registration as a voter and those for membership of the Legislative Council, the latter being in many cases unnecessarily high;

(f) That a practical test of the advantages of federation should be made by combining the Leeward and Windward Islands in one federation on the lines of that existing in the former group;

(g) That means be found for devoting more Parliamentary time to the discussion of colonial affairs and, if it is decided to proceed with the establishment of a Standing Parliamentary Committee to consider Colonial affairs, to devise means for the association of delegates from the Colonies concerned with the work of that Committee.

8. Local Unification of Services

29. We recommend:—

That West Indian Governments should be invited to accept the principle of local unified services and, if that is generally accepted, should address themselves to the task of giving practical effect to it at the earliest possible date. It should not be difficult to make a start by establishing a Unified Medical Service for the West Indies.

9. Administration and Public Opinion

30. We recommend:—

(a) As regards the attitude of public opinion, that Governments should adopt a much more positive policy of bringing their point of view before the mass of the people, and of explaining in sufficiently simple terms the reasons which lie behind their decisions on major problems; and that the active assistance of all persons of standing, and of all available means of publicity, such as broadcasting, should be enlisted in an organised attempt to prevent any further extension of colour prejudice.

(b) As regards conditions of service for officers appointed from outside the West Indies—

(i) that West Indian Governments should reconsider their attitude on the question of the grant of passages to such officers both on first appointment and when proceeding on leave.

- (ii) that West Indian Governments, particularly those of the larger Colonies, should review the salaries of their senior officers.

In the review of these questions it must be borne in mind that, unless salaries and other conditions of service conform more closely to the general Colonial level, it must become increasingly difficult to fill the higher administrative and professional appointments with men whose training, experience, and ability will fit them (1) to discharge their duties and (2) to co-operate effectively with the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund and his staff in schemes for the social betterment of the West Indies.

(c) That the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund should be empowered, subject to the consent in each case of the employing Government, to grant a certain number of scholarships each year to serving officers for the purpose of study leave and to meet other costs of that leave where these cannot be borne by local funds.

(d) That the Colonial Office should, where possible, avoid the dislocation of public business caused by too frequent changes in the holders of higher appointments.

10. Miscellaneous, Local and Sectional Questions

31. *Individual Indebtedness*: Increase of combined effort, e.g., by arranging for selected estates to act as central agents for the processing and sale of certain products, and the encouragement of voluntary co-operation.

32. *Census and other Statistics*: One of the earliest duties of the statistician who we propose should be attached to the staff of the Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund should be that of evolving, in concert with both the local Governments and the Colonial Office, methods whereby every important return emanating from these Colonies, whether rendered to him or to some other authority, is prepared on a common basis. It should also be recognised that the omission of a census, as in several Colonies in 1931, is a false economy and deprives Government of knowledge essential for the satisfactory formulation of policy.

33. *The Press*: In view of the very important and growing influence which many organs of the Press in the West Indies now exercise in the relations between the public and the Civil Service, and on the important questions of colour prejudice and colour discrimination, we consider it most important that the value of restraint and moderation should be fully appreciated by those responsible for the conduct and tone of the Press.

34. *Fisheries*: If the cost of a full investigation of the possibility of development is beyond the resources of any Colony, and there is presumptive evidence that such an inquiry might meet with success, there is a strong claim for assistance from the Colonial Development Fund or by a direct grant from Imperial Funds.

35. *Barbados*: The claims of this overcrowded Colony must rank high for favourable consideration in connexion with any project for the transfer of populations within the West Indies.

36. *British Guiana*: Outstanding loans-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer should be converted into free grants, outstanding obligations on account of the work of the Boundary Commission and of loans from the Colonial Development Fund should be remitted, and in future loans-in-aid should be avoided. Special measures should be taken to protect the Amerindian peoples of the remote hinterland. Some initiative is required of Government to ensure the proper organisation under the Local Government Law of all rural and village communities, wherever situated, and whether

or no they have happened to express a desire to be brought within the scope of the Local Government Board.

37. *British Honduras*: (i) Special measures are necessary to ensure sanitary living quarters for forest workers, and also steps to regulate the method of payment of wages and to ensure the disappearance of any traces of the truck system.

(ii) In addition to the more general recommendations given above regarding Education, arrangements should be made for the training in Jamaica of teachers for British Honduras; the present scholarship system should be replaced by one under which scholarships would be awarded in strict accordance with merit and without reference to the denominations by which the schools are managed. Any funds released to the denominations by our immediately following recommendation should be expended on the maintenance and improvement of existing schools, Government undertaking the direct provision of new schools.

(iii) British Honduras finances are burdened with debt charges amounting to about 20 per cent. of the Colony's revenues. This is roughly equivalent to the annual grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer. If therefore, responsibility for these debts were assumed by His Majesty's Government there would be no loss to the Imperial Exchequer, and British Honduras would be able to balance its own budget and be freed from its present unhealthy sense of dependence on external aid. If this is done, there should be substantial alleviations with regard to the Hurricane Loan.

(iv) Special steps should be taken to safeguard the interests of the aboriginal Mayan and Carib inhabitants.

38. *Jamaica*: The evolution of a systematic public works programme, to replace the present ill co-ordinated system of relief works, and to be correlated with future agricultural and land settlement developments. Consideration should be given to the suggestion that the Jamaican dependency of the Turks and Caicos Islands should be amalgamated with, or at least administered from, the Bahamas.

39. *Leeward Islands*: Provision of water supply in Anguilla, drainage in Antigua and roads and drainage in Dominica.

40. *Windward Islands*: Steps should be taken to secure the use of the military buildings in St. Lucia, should such accommodation become required as a result of certain of our other recommendations. In St. Vincent improved water supply is very necessary on the Leeward Coast. The better organisation of water supply is also required in Grenada and the Grenadines.

41. *East Indian Questions*: In order to ensure substantial equality in the consideration of the problems of East Indians, we recommend that some officer or officers, preferably members of the Labour Departments, should specialise in East Indian questions and, if suitable candidates are forthcoming, should be East Indians. We also strongly recommend that the possibility of the appointment of suitable East Indians to posts in the Government service should be carefully borne in mind by Colonial Governments.

42. We find ourselves in full sympathy with the complaints regarding the arrangements for legitimisation and validation of East Indian marriages, and recommend that these marriages should, so far as the

law is concerned, be put on exactly the same footing as other marriages. That is to say, the onus of registration should be placed, under penalty, on the priest or other religious functionary performing the ceremony; failure on his part to register the marriage should not, as at present, result in its invalidation at law. The selection of priests, etc., to act as marriage officers should not present undue difficulty, especially if carried out in conjunction with responsible representatives of the Indian community. There was a further complaint in British Guiana that the local law does not provide for the recognition of divorces according to Moslem usage. This recognition has been accorded in Trinidad and, we were assured, works satisfactorily. We recommend legislation where necessary on the Trinidad model to meet this grievance. The question does not arise for Hindus, whose religion does not permit divorce.

43. Numerous complaints were made to us that Hindus were unable to dispose of their dead in accordance with their religious custom, by cremation. Witnesses were unable to point to any enactment limiting their freedom of action in this matter; and Government officials assured us that there was no intention to prohibit cremations, subject to certain reasonable sanitary and other conditions. It seems to us that these complaints are largely based on misunderstanding, and we recommend that Governments take steps to make the legal position plain and to ensure that, subject to necessary safeguards, no obstacle should be placed in the way of the practice.

Trinidad's Sugar Industry

Appointment of Board and Committees

It was announced in the Royal Gazette of February 22nd that the Governor had appointed the reconstructed Joint Sugar Board to consider and advise Government on all questions relating to the sugar industry of the Colony. The Governor himself is chairman of the Board and the other members are the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Director of Agriculture, the Industrial Adviser, Professor C. Y. Shephard, the Hon. A. C. Rienzi (president of the All Trinidad Sugar Estates and Factories Workers' Trade Union), Mr. K. Simpson (president of the South Trinidad Cane Farmers' Association) and Captain W. F. Watson (president of the Sugar Manufacturers Association).

The following committees have also been appointed. The Cane-Farmers Price Control Committee, with the Treasurer as chairman, to examine the third schedule (scale of prices for canes) of the Cane Farming Control Ordinance of 1938 and to report whether any amendments are necessary thereto or to other sections of the Ordinance. The Sugar Cultivation Committee, of which the Director of Agriculture is chairman, to consider general questions relating to sugar cultivation and to submit recommendations to the Joint Sugar Board. The Sugar Wages Committee, under the chairmanship of the Treasurer, to inquire into the wages to be paid for the crop season of 1940 and to report to the Joint Board.

The Imperial College

Important Banana Developments

THE annual report for 1939 on the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture affords tangible evidence of growing recognition of the work of the institution inasmuch as three Colonial Governments, one being Jamaica, are new contributors to its funds, and seven others have increased their contributions. The Governing Body announces with great regret the resignations of two of its original members, Viscount Elibank and Sir John Farmer, both of whom have rendered great services to the College. The Principal's report is written for the first time by Mr. O. T. Faulkner who succeeded Sir Geoffrey Evans in November 1938.

Mr. Faulkner pays a high tribute to the work of Mr. G. A. Jones, who left the College in December, 1938 to take up the post of Director of Agriculture in Jamaica. During ten years, first as Assistant Commissioner and from 1933 as Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. Jones had, he says, become a most important factor in the agricultural administration of the Leeward and Windward Islands, achieving wonders by a combination of driving power with much tact and apparently limitless patience.

The work of the Sugar Technology department was expanded during the year. Various sugar producers in the West Indies provide funds to enable more research work being undertaken. New contributors during 1939 were the Sugar Manufacturers Association of Jamaica, and the Hon. F. G. Grant and Mr. E. A. Robinson of Trinidad. Now except for the one or two in Barbados, all the large factories in the British West Indies now subscribe to the College fund. The appointment of an Assistant Technologist rendered possible a much more ambitious programme of research. Important results were obtained and promptly communicated to the subscribers by means of mimeographed memoranda. That the quality of the practical training in sugar technology has gained recognition is shown by the fact that the demand for men who have had the training exceeds the supply.

Another section of the Report of particular interest to the West Indies is that on the Low Temperature Research Station. As the outcome of research carried on by Dr. Wardlaw and his colleagues it seems certain that it will be possible to improve the overseas transport of bananas by refrigerated gas storage. This when translated into practice ought, the Principal says, to mean savings and increased profits for the industry, running into very large figures. For the consumer it should mean bigger and better bananas.

Much work on cocoa has as formerly been conducted by the departments of botany and economics. The experiments in rehabilitation and replanting are reported to be approaching the stage when they will provide data of the greatest economic significance to the industry. Evidence has already been obtained that rehabilitation on suitable soils can arrest the prevailing and alarming decline in yields and reduce costs of production.

Development and Welfare

The Lords Discuss West Indian Problems

THE Government's statement of Policy on Colonial Development and Welfare and the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission were debated in the House of Lords on March 20th. The debate, which covered a very wide field, occupies over twenty-three pages of the Official Report*, so that it is only possible to give briefly a few of the more important points of West Indian interest made by some of the speakers.

LORD SNELL, who opened the debate, said that the two documents seemed to him to stand out like a good deed in a naughty world and that he was not proposing to embarrass the Government by any specific criticism. His desire was that Parliament might have the very earliest opportunity of assuring the Colonial Empire that it was behind the statement on Colonial policy and that it intended with satisfaction and with all convenient speed to apply the principles that were therein laid down.

The Commission's report, Lord Snell said, seemed really to show that additional revenues were required for the West Indian services. There appeared two ways in which these problems could be dealt with. The first was a rise in the price of commodities. Sugar was the hard factor of the situation and in 1929 the Olivier Commission had recommended that the preference be raised. He noted that the Government had not committed themselves on that aspect of the Moyne report. The other way was the introduction of new capital from the United Kingdom.

In conclusion, Lord Snell said the Commission's report appeared to underestimate the importance of the political factors in the West Indies and he thought there was an increasing urgency for the absorption of native talent into the Administration of those Colonial areas.

VISCOUNT SWINTON, formerly Secretary of State for the Colonies, pointed out that whilst in these times there was practically no limit to what agriculture and primary industry could produce, there was a very definite limit to what could be sold for export. He was sure, as was plain in Lord Moyne's Report, that the West Indian Colonies, with their growing populations, must depend more and more on the development of local consumption. Their economic problem could not be solved merely by looking to increased exports.

LORD MOYNE, the chairman of the Commission, first touched on political discontent and said that it was evident to all the members of the Commission that this was primarily due to poverty caused by deep-seated economic reasons. There was no reason to think that a different system of government could have altered the economic situation and though they had made certain

political recommendations they were of relatively minor importance.

Similarly the root of discontent with the conditions of labour was very largely economic. Industrial trouble was greatly due to a low standard of life and the insufficient wages which were all that impoverished West Indian industries could, under present conditions, provide. Given this unfavourable background, industrial peace had often been prejudiced by the lack of proper facilities for settling wages and the conditions of employment. Lord Moyne pointed out that whilst great prominence had been given to the Commission's welfare recommendations, you could not possibly separate social conditions and welfare needs from the economic problems and economic improvement must be the key to the whole of these social problems. Social unrest had been rooted in economic difficulty. The communal services which could be provided out of local resources, and a satisfactory standard of individual life, must eventually depend, and only depend, on what wealth can be produced within the community.

Lord Moyne dealt at considerable length with the sugar industry on which he thought the West Indies had probably always depended far too much. The fluctuations in the price of sugar had led to there being a very slippery foundation of any adequate standard of individual life and had offered very slight stability to government revenue. He hoped an early decision would be reached on the recommendations made for securing a modest price increase to the producer because there was a great deal of unhappiness in the West Indies with present prices and the sooner this could be ended the better for the economic position.

LORD BEAVERBROOK said that the best thing the United Kingdom could provide for the West Indies was a market for their produce, then they would prosper and many of their social problems would be immediately solved.

THE MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied to the debate. The Government had, he said, accepted the major recommendations of the Commission and the Governors of the Colonies had been asked to furnish, by the end of April, their views on the other recommendations. In the first place on those which could be carried out quickly, and secondly on the fundamental recommendations which were going to change and re-orientate the whole social structure, notably the question of changing over from being a one-crop exporting community to mixed farming, which gives far greater security. The Government were in hearty agreement with all the recommendations, which were mostly developments of existing policy. Not the least valuable part of the Commission's report were the suggestions as to the actual administration of the machinery necessary to carry them out.

*PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES. HOUSE OF LORDS, OFFICIAL REPORT. Vol. 115. No. 34. March 20th, 1940. H. M. Stationery Office. Price 6d. net.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"BAD name neber kill darg."

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CAPTAIN G. D. MANDRELL has resigned his post as Assistant Labour Adviser, Trinidad and Tobago.

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THE Hon. W. C. Roy has been appointed an official member of the Executive Council of the Virgin Islands.

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MR. A. C. G. PALMER, Inspector of Schools, St. Vincent has been permanently appointed to St. Lucia in a similar capacity.

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HIS Honour T. E. P. Baynes has been appointed an official member of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands.

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THE Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh has been elected president for 1940 of the British Guiana East Indian Association in succession to the Hon. C. R. Jacob.

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MR. F. L. BROWN, Assistant Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who is in this country on leave, called at the West India Committee's Rooms on March 28th.

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PAYMENT of 6d. each for monkeys and 2d. each for mongoose and rats destroyed after March 1st is announced in the St. Kitts and Nevis Official Gazette.

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DR. GEORGE WILLIAM AUGUSTUS LYNCH, who died on March 22nd, at the age of 78, had a distinguished career in the Colonial Medical Service. He was a son of the late Mr. W. H. Lynch, barrister, of Georgetown, British Guiana.

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DR. E. P. MASSON, who recently obtained the Diploma of Psychological Medicine, left London at the end of March for Trinidad where he is Assistant Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospital. He is the eldest son of Dr. G. H. Masson, of Port-of-Spain.

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MR. C. W. W. GREENIDGE, whose name, we regret, appeared incorrectly in last CIRCULAR, has been Solicitor General of Nigeria since 1936. During the four preceding years he was Chief Justice of British Honduras and his work there is still remembered with gratitude throughout the Colony.

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MR. IGNATIUS SCHAFRINGER, who we regret to learn died on March 4th, at the age of 63, was the founder and proprietor of the British Sugar Beet Review. He was responsible for planning and establishing the beet factory at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, which is now the largest in Britain and probably in Europe.

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DR. C. W. WARDLAW, pathologist and officer-in-charge of the Low Temperature Research Station, Trinidad, has been appointed by the Council of Man-

chester University to the Barker Chair of Cryptogamic Botany in succession to Professor W. H. Lang. He will take up his new post, it is hoped, in the autumn term.

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MR. W. MINSHALL, of Trinidad, writing on January 21st, said: "The Port-of-Spain Gazette to-day quotes a paragraph from THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of December 14th about British Guiana's cosmopolitan law courts, which revives pleasant memories of cricket in the South American Colony some five years ago as a member of the Y.M.C.A. team.

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"THE exact composition of the eleven is on record somewhere, but as far as I recall the team included a Portuguese fast bowler, a Chinese wicket-keeper, four all-rounders of African descent, two East Indians, and three Englishmen representing Cornwall, Yorkshire and Lancashire. Modesty deters me from writing 'Lancashire and Yorkshire,' which is, of course, the traditional and proper order."

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THE prospects of producing firewood in Barbados have been discussed by Dr. A. E. S. McIntosh, the Assistant Director of Agriculture. At present about 12,500 tons of firewood, mainly British Guiana wallaba, are imported annually, at a cost of about 25/- a ton. Dr. McIntosh suggested that the requirements of the Colony could be profitably met by planting Casuarina.

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IN the monthly notes for January, of the Department of Agriculture, it is reported that the Department had so far received orders for plants to plant approximately 300 acres, and that these were being supplied free of charge. The Casuarina tree, or Whistling Pine, is grown for firewood in some other tropical countries thriving in dry places and near the sea.

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DR. P. L. GIUSEPPI, of Felixstowe, was awarded first place and the Farrer Memorial Medal for a pan of *Kalmiopsis Leachiana* which he exhibited at a show arranged recently by the Alpine Garden Society. Dr. Giuseppi, who was born in Trinidad, and is an old Member of the West India Committee, has received numerous awards for his Alpine plants.

West Indians on Service

MR. WALTER D. K. FRANKLIN, of Constant Spring, Jamaica, is a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force.

MAJOR H. F. JOSLEN, son of Dr. H. Joslen, of Claremont, Jamaica, is serving with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

MR. HOWARD LISLE SMITH, of Barbados, who has been serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment, has been transferred to the 162nd Officer Cadet Training Unit.

West Indies and The Forces

Distribution of Generous Gifts

THE work of the War Services Committee has, ever since its inception, continued to increase in scope and to become more varied in character. Immediately after the formation of the Ladies Committee, the Simon Bolivar disaster afforded an opportunity of doing work of great urgency and importance. Since that time, the Committee has become concerned primarily with the reception and despatch of gifts sent from the West Indies for the men of His Majesty's Forces. Consignments have come in steadily since the last account was published in the CIRCULAR of March 7th and the standard of workmanship in all the contributions from West Indian working parties is being maintained at a consistently high level. The vigorous organisations in Jamaica and the Bahamas continue to send gifts in large quantities and welcome consignments of comforts have also been received from Trinidad, Barbados, and St. Vincent. Antigua has sent, through Mr. R. Bryson, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, £85 for Red Cross work. The Antigua War Charities Committee has forwarded £25 for the British Minesweepers Fund, and £20, mainly subscribed by Roman Catholics, for the Polish Relief Fund. A letter of thanks has been received from the British Guiana Red Cross Appeal Fund for patterns supplied to their Needlework Guild. Hitherto, British Guiana has concentrated on the collection of funds and references to these gifts have been made in previous issues of the CIRCULAR.

From the Bahamas Branch of the British Red Cross Society have come further cases of hospital supplies and woollen comforts and five shipments have now been despatched from that centre. The West Hill Street Group of Workers, at Nassau, has also sent packages of bandages and other surgical necessities.

The consignment from Barbados included woollen helmets, scarves, mittens, socks, and operation stockings. Those from Trinidad and St. Vincent consisted mainly of such hospital supplies as bed jackets, surgeons' coats and masks, helpless case shirts, pillow cases, bandages, and surgical dressings, and, in the case of the latter Colony, twenty-one pairs of pyjamas were included.

In addition to the 1,550 cases mentioned in the article previously referred to, some 3,243 cases of citrus fruit (grapefruit and oranges) have now been received from Jamaica bringing the number of cases to the magnificent total of 4,793 weighing, it is estimated, more than 137 tons. The gratitude with which this fruit has been received by the Royal Navy and by the British Expeditionary Force is typified by the following letter from Vice-Admiral Monroe, writing on behalf of the Royal Naval War Comforts Committee:—

"Mr. Osmond has communicated to us the information that your Committee have presented the Navy with 172 cases of oranges and 1,467 cases of grapefruit.

May I, on the Navy's behalf, express to your Committee our most grateful thanks for this magnificent gift. As far as possible, we are arranging for the fruit to be sent to out-lying bases in the North where opportunities of enjoying fresh fruit are rare, and where it will be most appreciated."

A large consignment of bedsocks was offered to the Finnish Refugees Fund as it was felt that the claim of the injured in Finland, whose evacuation was being carried out under such terrible circumstances, was one of special urgency. A letter of grateful thanks for this timely gift has been received.

Over 1,500 lb. of knitting wool have been ordered through the West India Committee, by the voluntary organisations in Jamaica, the Bahamas, St. Lucia and Barbados, and knitting needles and official patterns have also been despatched to the West Indies. In response to an enterprising inquiry from Barbados for guidance in the matter of the collection of tinfoil, the Committee has sent out the official poster and literature on this subject, issued on behalf of the Lord Mayor's Fund, to Barbados and other Colonies.

In this country a recent and important development of the work of the War Services Committee has been the organisation of regional representation, so that, in the event, for example, of another disaster occurring in which West Indians were involved, similar to the sinking of the Simon Bolivar, it would be possible for a representative of the War Services Committee, living in the area in which the survivors were landed, to give practical help at the earliest possible opportunity.

The West Indies and the War

BARBADOS

Red Cross Donation. Among gifts to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund for the Sick and Wounded received on February 29th was £300 from the Barbados Voluntary War Workers' Association.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Import Restrictions. Notice was given in the Royal Gazette that as from February 1st, it was proposed to issue special general licences for the import of goods from any country or dependency of the British Empire with the exception of Canada, Newfoundland and Hong Kong. General import licences already issued for importations from countries other than those mentioned above would continue in force. Import licences will not be required in respect of livestock and domestic supplies imported from British West Indian Colonies and from British Guiana.

Cocoa Export Quota. The Competent Authority by notice issued in the Royal Gazette of February 1st fixed the quota of domestic cocoa for shipment to the United Kingdom between October 1st, 1939 and September 30th, 1940, at not more than 1,650 tons.

Shippers must apply for a licence. Individuals and firms are free to trade through normal channels and licences for export to the United Kingdom will be issued freely up to the quotas notified already to the shippers. Cocoa shipped in bond to the United Kingdom in transit for continental ports is not included in the quota.

In the last issue of the CIRCULAR it was reported, page 70, that the West India Committee had been informed by the Colonial Office that the quota had been increased by 50 per cent.

West Indian Cotton

Last Crop and Estimate for 1939-40

MR. C. C. SKEETE, Acting Commissioner of Agriculture, informs the CIRCULAR that the area planted in Sea Island cotton in the West Indies in 1938-39 was 15,751 acres. This acreage (details of which, together with figures of production and export appear below) was slightly in excess of the average of the two preceding years.

The total production was 4,898 bales of 400 lb. each. This quantity was 603 bales less than the corresponding production in the preceding year, but 673 bales in excess of the production recommended by the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association. Owing to the increased demand for Sea Island cotton in the manufacture of balloon fabric, disposal of the crop was fairly readily effected at prices ranging from 18d. to 24d. per lb. lint. The production of Marie Galante cotton approximated closely to that of the preceding year.

The estimated acreage and production figures for 1939-40 are set out in the following table:—

	Acres	Production	
		Lint lb.	Bales of 400 lb.
SEA ISLAND			
Anguilla	400	30,000	75
Antigua	2,000	330,000	825
Barbados	120	10,000	25
Montserrat	4,000	600,000	1,500
Nevis	3,000	325,000	812
St. Kitts	1,500	400,000	1,000
St. Vincent	5,000	650,000	1,625
Virgin Islands	200	15,000	38
TOTAL	16,220	2,360,000	5,900
MARIE GALANTE			
Grenada	5,250	225,000	563
St. Vincent	700	60,000	150
TOTAL	5,950	285,000	713

The acreage and production figures for Sea Island and Marie Galante cotton in the 1938-39 crop, and the exports for 1939 were as follows:—

West Indies at Westminster

West Indies Income Tax Rates

MR. JAGGER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 13th whether he was aware that shareholders in sugar and other companies registered in the West Indies paid a much lower rate of taxation on dividends than shareholders of the same companies living in the United Kingdom, and whether he would recommend to the Governments concerned the desirability of taking action to bring their rates of taxation more in line with pre-war rates payable in the United Kingdom as recommended by the Royal Commission. MR. M. MACDONALD replied that he was in consultation with the Governors regarding the recommendations of the Royal Commission, including that of increasing income tax rates as suggested.

West Indies Taxation

MR. ROBERT MORGAN, on March 14th, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was aware of the difference in income tax, and other taxation, between sugar and similar firms established in the United Kingdom and firms carrying out the same activities in the West Indies; and whether he would take steps to avoid such disparity in order to restrict the drift of capital to the West Indies, whereby the Budget of the United Kingdom would only be able to include a tax on the revenue from dividends instead of a tax on profits. In reply, SIR JOHN SIMON said he was aware of the difference between the rates of direct taxation, but he had no evidence that the disparity was causing a drift of capital to the West Indies. As regards taxation in the West Indies, he would refer his hon. Friend to the answer given by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to MR. JAGGER on March 13th (see above).

THE House of Lords debate on Government Colonial Policy and the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission is dealt with on page 82. An account of the debate in the Commons on the following day has, due to limitation of space, been held over for the next issue of the CIRCULAR.

ISLAND	ACRES	PRODUCTION, 1938-39					EXPORT, 1939				
		Lint			Bales of 400 lb.	lb. per acre	Lint			Bales of 400 lb.	
		Clean lb.	Stained lb.	Total lb.			Clean lb.	Stained lb.	Total lb.		
SEA ISLAND											
ANGUILLA	400	27,604	1,764	29,368	73	73	27,340	1,318	28,658	72	
ANTIGUA	2,000	242,116	5,397	247,513	619	124	241,731	5,148	246,879	617	
BARBADOS	56	2,458	—	2,458	6	44	2,418	—	2,418	6	
MONTserrat	3,541	601,777	41,265	643,042	1,608	182	616,748	34,804	651,552	1,629	
NEVIS	2,850	238,422	14,514	252,936	632	89	236,683	11,819	248,502	621	
ST. KITTS	1,300	209,653	17,825	227,478	569	175	263,378	48,926	312,304	781	
ST. VINCENT	5,384	508,218	36,166	544,384	1,361	101	510,521	39,991	550,512	1,376	
VIRGIN ISLANDS	220	9,625	2,369	11,994	30	55	9,625	1,976	11,601	29	
TOTAL	15,751	1,839,873	119,300	1,959,173	4,898	—	1,908,444	143,982	2,052,426	5,131	
MARIE GALANTE											
GRENADA	5,250	—	—	238,200	595	45	—	—	238,200	595	
ST. VINCENT	685	—	—	57,000	143	83	—	—	55,879	140	
TOTAL	5,935	—	—	295,200	738	—	—	—	294,079	735	

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Jamaica Labour for Panama—Food and Health in British Honduras
Air Developments in the Bahamas and British Guiana*



BAHAMAS

The First Aerodrome. The Governor, Sir Charles Dundas, formally opened the first aerodrome in Nassau on January 8th. Twenty-two aeroplanes came from the annual manoeuvres and races at Miami, Florida, over the short 180 miles of sea which separate the United States mainland from the capital of the British Bahamas. This enterprise forms another link between neighbours in the great English-speaking world. The new aerodrome lies three miles south of Nassau. After completing a runway of 3,000 feet, the Imperial Government sold the project to Sir Harry Oakes, with the understanding that he should complete the undertaking and maintain the aerodrome. He is personally directing the work and with a fleet of tractors and ditching machines. Sir Harry Oakes has maintained a fleet of amphibians at Nassau for the past three years which he operates as Bahamas Airways, Ltd., and does private and commercial flying among the islands and to the United States. The new aerodrome at Nassau will, it is expected, become a week-end rendezvous for the thousands of American private owners of planes as the Bahamas have long been a favourite resort for visitors from the United States and from Canada.

BRITISH GUIANA

British Guiana Airways, Ltd., are, our hon. correspondent wrote on February 7th, investigating the possibility of extending their air services to include traffic to and in the County of Berbice. The company approached the Berbice Chamber of Commerce, and suggested the following rates based on carrying four passengers per trip

	Per Passenger.	
	Single.	Return.
	\$	\$
From Georgetown to New Amsterdam	11.75	19.75
„ New Amsterdam to Georgetown	11.75	19.75
„ New Amsterdam to Springlands	11.75	19.75
„ Springlands to New Amsterdam	11.75	19.75

The proposals were considered by the Chamber, on January 12th. The president thought that firms and individuals having businesses in the upper reaches of the Berbice river would find the service a rapid and economic means of paying visits of inspection but that it would not be possible for the Chamber to give any guarantee of the use which would be made of the service.

A charitable act recently performed by Mr. "Art" Williams is worthy of mention. While returning to Georgetown from the interior he came across a sick lad at the Great Falls up the Demerara river waiting to travel in by boat and brought him by plane to the city where he was admitted to hospital and given immediate medical attention.

Manikuri Goldfields, Ltd., a company incorporated in Canada, has been recently registered in the Colony. The company's capital is made up by the issue of 200,000

shares without any nominal or par value, provided that the aggregate consideration for the issue of the shares does not exceed \$100,000. Its objects are to prospect and explore for mines and minerals, and to carry on the business of mining and manufacturing in all their branches. Mr. Albert E. Kipps is the Attorney in the Colony of the company.

BRITISH HONDURAS

The Governor's Arrival. Mr. John Adams Hunter, C.M.G., arrived, writes Captain M. S. Metzgen, at Belize on February 24th. The Guard of Honour at the wharf was drawn from the Defence Force under the command of Major P. E. Matthews. After inspection of the Guard, His Excellency was introduced to members of the Executive Council, the Chief Justice, the Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop W. A. Rice. At the Council Chamber the Governor took the Oath of Office, administered by Sir Arthur Agar, the Chief Justice. The Guard of Honour on this occasion was drawn from the Police Force under the command of Inspector W. A. Sidley.

The Hon. W. Johnston, the Colonial Secretary, had been selected for the appointment of Contraband Control Officer at Sierra Leone, and would be leaving the Colony early in March. Mr. Johnston had spent five years in British Honduras during which period he re-organised the Customs Department and held the dual post of Financial and Colonial Secretary.

Sir Arthur Agar. The news that Sir Arthur Agar, Chief Justice, was in ill-health, and would shortly be taking leave prior to retirement on pension had been received with great regret.

Colonial Policy. The preliminary report of the West India Royal Commission had been received throughout the Colony with great satisfaction. The consensus of opinion was that if a well-thought-out programme of a far-reaching policy were adopted, and the funds provided were wisely administered, in a comparatively short space of time, the British Colonial Empire would boast of an era of economic development unparalleled in its history.

Health Campaign. Commencing on March 4th, the Senior Medical Officer of the Colony, Dr. R. L. Cheverton, would give over the local broadcasting station a series of daily lectures on public health.

Grow More Foodstuffs. The Government's urge to plant more foodstuffs was beginning to show tangible signs of response. Never before had the citizens seen so much locally grown food on the Belize market; but education and organization in many respects were necessary to establish proper marketing.

Polo. Tremendous public interest and enthusiasm were being shown in the tri-weekly polo games at Newtown Barracks, Belize, much of the success of which was due to the organising genius of Dr. R. L. Cheverton.

JAMAICA

Jamaican Labour for Canal Zone. On February 19th an agreement was entered into between the Governor of Jamaica and the Governor of the Panama Canal for facilitating the recruitment in Jamaica of labour to proceed to the Canal Zone for new work which is being undertaken there. It is understood that the Jamaicans engaged will be employed on the construction of a third set of locks for the canal.

New Vale Royal Factory. It is hoped that the new sugar factory at Vale Royal which is being built on the site of the one burnt down nearly a year ago will be ready for work this month.

Mr. N. N. Nethersole was elected a Councillor of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation in the by-election caused by Dr. O. E. Anderson's election as member for St. Andrew in the Legislative Council.

A Good Example. The Governor has decided to surrender to the Jamaica Treasury 10 per cent. of his salary for the duration of the war.

Jamaican Industries. The Government cornmeal factory and the Bybrook milk condensary of the Jamaica Milk Produce Co. are expected to begin operating at an early date. The tomato packing house at Bull Savannah is already in full operation and it is understood that some 40,000 boxes of tomatoes will be exported this year to Canada and Bermuda.

Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. At the annual meeting of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce held on February 20th, Mr. J. G. Kieffer was unanimously re-elected president. The importance of co-operation with the various Competent Authorities and Boards appointed by the Government in the war emergency was stressed by the Hon. Ellis Levy.

Petroleum (Production) Law, 1940. A Bill has been published entitled "A Law to vest in the Crown the property in petroleum and natural gas within Jamaica and its Dependencies, and to make provision with respect to the searching and boring for and getting of petroleum and natural gas, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Importation of Food Regulations. The Central Board of Health on March 6th adopted regulations to ensure that all articles of food and drink imported into the Colony shall be in sound condition and fit for human consumption. The new regulations, which need approval by the Governor, will empower the Comptroller of Customs and Excise or a Medical Officer of Health to detain importations for examination and have destroyed, or re-exported, any which are found to be unsound or injurious to health or otherwise unfit for human consumption. The power of destruction will not be exercised except on the authority of the Governor-in-Council after due notice has been given to the importer or his agent.

Cane Farming. Under the provisions of the Cane Farming Control Ordinance, No. 38 of 1938, the Governor has nominated, for the period ending August, 1942, six representatives each of the cane farmers and of the sugar manufacturers to form a panel from which representatives of the farmers and manufacturers shall be selected to constitute the Cane Farming Arbitration Board.

Obituary

CAPTAIN LENNOX NAPIER, M.C.

It was with great regret that we learned of the death, at Pointe Baptiste, Dominica, on March 4th, of Captain Lennox Pelham Napier, M.C.

The only son of Sir Walter and Lady Napier, of Churt, Farnham, he was born in 1891 at Singapore, and educated at Rugby School and King's College, Cambridge. After being called to the Bar, he proceeded to Winnipeg, and on the outbreak of the Great War, obtained a commission in the Canadian Artillery. He served in France and was awarded the Military Cross.

In 1932, Captain Napier, owing to ill health, had to leave England for a warmer climate, and with his wife, a daughter of Sir William Gordon Cumming, settled in Dominica. They took an active interest in the life of the island, and in 1935, Captain Napier was elected to its Legislative Council. In 1938 he paid a visit to England and spent much time preparing data to lay before the Royal Commission when it visited Dominica. Unfortunately, his health became much worse, and he returned to his home in March, 1939, and at the end of the year resigned his seat in the Council. His wife was asked to take his place on that body.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Napier and Sir Walter and Lady Napier in the great loss they have sustained.

MR. DUNCAN ALVES

We much regret to learn of the death, in London, on March 2nd, of Mr. Duncan Elliott Alves, J.P., of Bryn Bras Castle, Carnarvonshire. He was a Life Member of the West India Committee.

Mr. Alves, who was born in New Zealand in 1870, was prominently connected with the oil industry over a long period and was responsible for the formation, in 1918, of British Controlled Oilfields of which he was president until the beginning of 1939, when failing health compelled him to give up his business activities. When this company, in 1924, acquired the whole of the share capital of Trinidad Petroleum Development Co. Ltd., Mr. Alves became its chairman, an office which he held until 1937.

He was president or patron of numerous associations in Carnarvonshire, of which he was High Sheriff in 1931-32, and in Sussex and Kent.

West Indian Passengers

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Jamaica in the s.s. Carare (Captain A. W. Legge):

Mrs. E. Campbell	Mr. J. P. Longbottom	Mr. R. G. Oak
Mrs. V. I. Chippindall	Paymaster Lt.-Com.	Mr. W. C. Palmer
Miss S. Farquharson	R. M. Macnaughtan	Mrs. D. M. Pick
Miss J. F. Greig	Dr. P. C. Murray	Miss C. D. Williams
Mr. J. F. Langley		

Sailings to Jamaica in the s.s. Ariguani (Captain R. A. Thorburn, R.D., R.N.R.):—

Mr. C. J. Coote	Mrs. I. F. Mitchell	Mr. H. H. Tietz
Mrs. R. A. Kitching	Miss E. E. Salmon	Miss R. N. Tietz
Mr. A. McLeenan	Mr. & Mrs. G. Tietz	Mr. W. G. White

Home arrivals from Jamaica in the s.s. Cavina (Captain S. Browne):—

Miss G. H. Howman	Mrs. E. E. Humphries	Mr. W. Syer
Mrs. A. M. Cory	Miss J. Kirby	

Round the Markets

April 2nd, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Mar. 18th.	Apr. 1st.	\$ value	
Canada ..	4.45	4.45	\$	4/5.9
U.S.A. ..	4.03	4.03	\$	4/11.6
France ..	176.62	176.62	Fr.	-/1.4
Holland ..	7.55	7.55	Gu.	2/7.8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 9s. 1d. per cent.)	72½ 72½
3½	War Loan	98 99 ¾
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	¾
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	24/6 25/6
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	37/- 41/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ...	1½ 2 ¼
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1/7½ 1/9
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/3 1/9
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1 1½
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3/6 4/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
5	St. Madeleine Sugar	¾
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/9 7/9
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3 ¾
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	48/9 49/9
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/3 6/3
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	8/- 9/-

RUM. There is still nothing to report in the first-hand market. Dealers continue to experience a good demand.

COCOA. The market has been quiet for all descriptions, and only small supplies are available on the spot. Good plantation Trinidad is nominally unchanged at 75/- spot, but "to arrive" shows a decline of 2/- at 54/- c. & f. for the first three marks, with only small sales reported. A small trade has been done in fine Grenada on the spot at 62/6 with sellers generally now asking 65/-. Business in West African has been curtailed owing to lack of freight space and the price is slightly easier. Sellers are asking 32/- c.i.f. United Kingdom.

BALATA. Business is reported in Demerara sheet and Venezuela block at 2/5 landed terms.

BANANAS. There is a steady demand for Jamaicas and the price is £3 per ton higher at £25 5s. delivered London, and £25 nearest station Provinces. The quality of the fruit arriving is said to show considerable improvement.

COTTON. A retail business has been done in West Indian Sea Island during the fortnight at firm prices.

HONEY. Prices of Jamaica descriptions are dearer on the fortnight. Dark liquid to pale amber is now quoted at 77/6 to 87/6 per cwt., according to quality, ex wharf London, with pale to white valued at 95/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Small sales of Hand-pressed have been made at 40/- per lb. Distilled is also dearer with sales at 18/6 per lb. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand for Concentrated, and Raw continues quiet with the value unchanged at 2/6 to 2/9.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued nominally at 6/- per lb. and the nominal value of Bitter is unchanged at 8/6 per lb.

SPICES. The good demand for **Pimento** continues and with only small supplies offering prices have

advanced to 1/- per lb. buyers ex store London. Sellers for April shipment quote 100/- c.i.f. with buyers at 95/-. There is only a small supply of **Ginger** and prices are about unchanged. No. 3 Jamaica is quoted at 50/- per cwt. ex wharf. West India **Nutmegs** are unchanged on the fortnight at: defectives 6½d., sound unassorted 7½d., sound 80's 10d. to 11d., sound 65's 1/- landed terms London. The demand for **Mace** continues quiet and values are unchanged at: 2/2 to 2/4 for mixed red to pale and 2/6 to 2/7 for choice pale ex wharf.

Some Company Reports

Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.

The report for 1939 shows that the balance carried to profit and loss appropriation account for the year is £91,549 which added to £54,471 brought forward makes a total at the credit of the profit and loss account of £146,020. From this sum has been deducted a loss upon the sale of £90,050 British Government Securities of £3,012, leaving a balance of £143,008. From this the directors have made the following appropriation: interim dividend on the issued ordinary stock of 4½ per cent. less income tax, including income tax thereon, £36,480 leaving a balance of £106,528. They also recommend the payment of a final dividend on the issued ordinary stock of 5½ per cent. less income tax, including income tax thereon absorbing £44,587, leaving a balance of £61,941 to be carried forward.

The directors draw attention to the increased capital of the company as a result of the special resolutions which were passed on March 28th, 1939, capitalising and issuing to the stockholders £411,334 of the general reserve.

[The issued capital is now £810,668 represented by ordinary stock, fully paid.]

British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd.

In a progress report dated March 20th, the directors state that the production for the six months to January 31st on the Mahdia River was 4,119 fine ounces and that 417,995 cubic yards were worked.

The dredging results for the half-year were well in advance of those obtained for the same period last year. A record production of 963 fine ounces and a record yardage of 90,230 was obtained for the month of January, 1940. The gold, they add, was now sold in New York (with a considerable reduction in handling charges) through the company's bankers in Georgetown, and although the actual details for January were not yet available it was estimated that the sterling proceeds for the six months would average approximately 162/- per fine ounce, after payment of all charges.

With regard to the Konawaruk River, the close-drilling in Area No. 1 referred to in the progress report of September 26th, 1939, was resumed by Mr. Wadieff on his return from leave in October, 1939, and was still in progress, and it was anticipated that the whole of this programme would be completed at the end of the drilling season, namely, the end of May. The question of providing suitable dredging equipment for this Area when proved was receiving the careful attention of the board.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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April 17th, 1940.

West Indian Citrus

A CABLE was received by the West India Committee on March 8th from SIR GEORGE HUGGINS expressing on behalf of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, of which he is the President, profound regret at the absence of any reference to the citrus industry in the Recommendations of the Royal Commission. This directs attention once again to the need of safeguarding the development of new export crops in the West Indies. SIR GEORGE, in a letter of the same date, expressed the hope that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would not overlook this important development in any arrangements for help and support that agriculture might be entitled to in the future.

The cultivation of citrus fruits, and particularly of grapefruit, is one of the more recent of the many efforts made by the West Indian Colonies in their uphill fight to recover from the desperate condition to which many were reduced as a result of the unfair competition of bounty-fed beet sugar. Their condition in 1897 led to the appointment of a Royal Commission by MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, then Secretary of State, who in a letter to GENERAL SIR HENRY NORMAN, the chairman of the Commission, emphasized consideration of the question "whether in the event of the production of sugar in these Colonies being discontinued or considerably diminished, other industries could replace it and be carried on profitably, and could supply employment for the labouring population."

As is well known the Commissioners in their Report advocated the development of a greater diversity of export crops as well as the promotion of land settlement. As part of the machinery for carrying out their recommendations the Imperial Department of Agriculture was created in 1938 and Colonial Departments were later formed in Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad and Tobago.

The view is sometimes expressed that the West Indian Colonies are unduly conservative and rely too much on sugar. It must be borne in mind, however, that natural conditions, amongst them fertility of soil, rainfall, exposure to wind, including in some areas liability to occasional hurricanes, are factors which exercise a very rigid control over the agricultural enterprises of man. Even before 1897 some of the islands had discarded sugar, wholly or partially, and turned to other crops. Others have not yet, after another forty years, found it possible to free themselves from the domination of sugar. An appreciation of the position can be gained by comparing for a few islands the per-

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		JAMAICA'S COCO-NUT INDUSTRY	93
WEST INDIAN CITRUS	89	THE LITTLE ISLANDS	93
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	90	JAMAICA RAINFALL IN 1939	96
PROGRESS IN TRINIDAD	90	WEST INDIAN PASSENGERS	96
TOBAGO	91	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	97
WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	92	COMPANY REPORTS & MEETINGS	99
THE WAR SERVICES FUND	92	SEA ISLAND COTTON ASSOCIATION	99
DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE	93	PALESTINE CITRUS INDUSTRY	99
PRESS COMMENTS	94	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	99
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	95	ROUND THE MARKETS	100
CORRESPONDENCE	96	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	100

centage which sugar and its by-products contributed to their total exports in 1896 (as given by the Royal Commission) with that in 1938. At the one extreme we find Barbados where, despite efforts to develop other crops, sugar still forms 96 to 97 per cent. of the total exports exactly as in 1896. At the other extreme there is Montserrat. Sugar which made up 62 per cent. of the exports in 1896 is no longer exported, the principal crop being now Sea Island cotton introduced, or rather re-introduced, into the West Indies by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in 1903. Sugar is still the dominant industry of Antigua forming approximately 94 per cent. of the exports now as in 1896. Cotton is second but only contributes £12,000 compared with sugar's £207,000 whilst the third place is taken by tomatoes with a mere £600. By contrast in St. Vincent, favoured by suitable soil and climatic conditions, sugar has fallen from 42 to 8 per cent. with arrowroot 52 per cent. and Sea Island cotton 33 per cent. of the exports.

Sea Island cotton affords an example of a crop introduced into the West Indies with the object of relieving the undue dependence on sugar. It has proved its value despite periods of difficulty. The victory has been won, however, only by putting into practice the results of research, especially the breeding of suitable strains of cotton, by the establishment of co-operative ginneries and by the organisation of orderly marketing under the control of the West India Sea Island Cotton Association which has an Advisory Committee in London.

The West Indian cotton industry has been able to protect itself but the citrus industry cannot being subject to heavy competition from other countries. We feel confident that the Secretary of State will recognise that it has a very strong claim for any support which can be given. The citrus, particularly grapefruit, industry in the West Indies was developed with the direct encouragement of the Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office, who after his visit to the West Indies in 1932 concluded his report with the words "There is no doubt that a much further expansion of grapefruit production is fully justified."

Sugar is controlled by international agreement. Is it impossible to devise some form of inter-Imperial agreement to safeguard an industry in one portion of the Empire from being swamped by excessive development in another, with loss to both? The main competitor of the West Indies in citrus production is Palestine. The industry there has expanded enormously during recent years. It is that very abnormal expansion which has so adversely affected the West Indian citrus industry.

From a Londoner's Notebook

WITH the coming of spring the war has blazed up to white-hot intensity. For the moment no-one in London can give a thought to any news not connected with Scandinavia, although we are very conscious that events of even vaster significance are now liable to occur in quite different quarters of the map perhaps at an hour's notice.

* * *

The new hurricane campaign in the North is a struggle for control of the supplies of iron ore from the mines at Kiruna, in Arctic Sweden. On these supplies, in the not very long run, the Nazis depend for their ability to continue the war; for not only does Kiruna send the Reich a very large proportion of its total iron imports, but this iron is of better quality for the peculiar needs of the submarine-builder and the munitions-maker than any other accessible to the Germans. There are two routes by which the iron can reach Germany. The first is across Sweden to the port of Lulea on the Baltic, and then by a sea-route out of reach, for the present, of the Allied navies. The second is over the Norwegian frontiers to the Arctic port of Narvik, whence the ore-ships have been creeping down the coast of Norway to the entrance of the Baltic by the Skagerrak, keeping all the time inside the three-mile limit of Norwegian territorial waters, where the Allies cannot touch them without a breach of Norway's neutrality.

* * *

The port of Lulea is closed by ice for more than half the year, and its capacity even in summer is small. Consequently, the Germans have had to draw at least two-thirds of their supplies of Swedish ore by the "covered corridor" through Narvik. Though Norwegian waters were thus being used to protect the transit of the very iron that went into the torpedoes that destroyed Norwegian merchant ships, Norway, no doubt dreading the danger of a quarrel with the ruthless Nazis, declined up to last week to interfere with the traffic. The Allies recently warned Norway that they could no longer submit to this one-sided neutrality; and that the flagrant breaches of international law by the Nazis would be answered by reprisals, even though technical breaches of neutrality might be involved.

The policy of reprisals was given practical effect in the early hours of the morning of April 8th, when the Royal Navy swiftly and secretly laid three minefields in Norwegian territorial waters. The mines were so laid that they could cause neither danger nor inconvenience to neutral commerce; their only effect was to force the ore ships to leave the "corridor" for the high seas (which as a matter of ordinary navigation is the normal course) and so risk capture by the Allied contra-band control. Norway naturally protested; but her protest against the technical illegality was at once made out of date by a Nazi outrage on a colossal scale.

* * *

Twenty-four hours after the mine-laying the Nazis swooped upon Norway. Their propaganda represented their action as a reprisal for the British offence against

neutrality; but our intelligence service had been watching the expedition in preparation for months, and in fact the airmen co-operating with the mine-layers had reported the presence of its advanced ships off the Norwegian coast, more than a day's steaming from Germany, even before the first mine was laid. German land forces overran the whole of Denmark, a neutral country too completely disarmed to resist (and "protected" by a recent non-aggression pact with Germany) as a jumping-off point. Meanwhile the whole German navy was at sea, and landing parties were thrown ashore to seize eight of the principal harbours of Norway, including the capital, Oslo, and the iron-ore port, Narvik.

* * *

As a matter of morals, this deed is a crime ranking with the worst that even the Nazis have committed. As tactics, the operation was skilfully carried out, with all the German accuracy of detail. But as strategy, Hitler has committed what every textbook declares to be among the greatest of blunders; he has planted an army across the water without holding command of the sea. Already it is apparent that his mistake will cost him dear.

* * *

The moods of London oscillated rapidly with the news. The Government policy of not concealing bad news combined with the necessary secretiveness of the Admiralty to bring it about that we heard at first only of the successful landings of the Germans and the losses of British ships. Two destroyers were lost and one badly damaged in an assault on Narvik; we did not hear till later that the attack, though beaten off, had been made against superior forces and had caused more damage than it suffered. Then, in the absence of any official reports from the Admiralty, the gap was filled by wild rumours from Stockholm about sweeping British successes at sea, and optimism ran to absurd lengths. These rumours Mr. Winston Churchill had to deny when he addressed the House of Commons on Thursday; but, though he gave little information, he made it clear that the Navy was far from being caught napping, and German warships and transports were being sunk in considerable numbers, both by ourselves and by the Norwegian coast batteries. At last, at the end of the week, came the thrilling news of the storming of Narvik by a British flotilla, and the sinking of seven German destroyers in this one action. Altogether we now know that in the course of the week Hitler lost at least a third of his entire navy—a first instalment of the terrible price he must pay for trying to maintain his invading forces across waters that the Allied fleets command.

* * *

Meanwhile Norway continues a gallant defence on land against an enemy of vastly superior forces. We have promised her the fullest support, and British and French troops will soon be fighting side by side with the Norwegians. However this campaign goes, the corridor is closed for good; Germany cannot hope to receive another ton from Narvik for the rest of the war.

Progress in Trinidad and Tobago

Governor on the Commission's Recommendations



SIR HUBERT YOUNG, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, opening a new session of the Legislative Council on March 1st, said that he did not consider a long review of the activities of the various departments suitable for an oral message, and as an experiment, that information had been printed in advance as a supplement to his speech.*

After referring to the Colony's war effort; to the fine response made to his appeal for the Trinidad and Tobago British West Indian Seamen's Fund; and to a third donation of £1,000 to the Red Cross War Fund, His Excellency said: "Every effort is being made to make the country more self-supporting in order to reduce the amount of shipping required, and in this connexion I should like to mention here the work of Dr. Mason and Dr. Phillis who are attempting to find local substitutes for imported foodstuffs. For example, members of the Finance Committee will be asked this afternoon to provide funds for the experiments which these two gentlemen wish to carry out in connexion with the canning of vegetables, the pickling of pork, preserving of eggs and the provision of various types of flour and live stock feeds. The recently appointed Local Industries Development Committee is ready to consider any proposals that members of the public may wish to submit in regard to the possible establishment of new local industries."

In the course of his remarks on the Recommendations of the Royal Commission Sir Hubert said: "They have met with enthusiastic reception by all but the few who find that the constitutional changes proposed are not sufficiently far-reaching. They constitute the most important development in Colonial Policy for many years past. . . . The most important feature of the new policy is that it involves no departure from long accepted constitutional principle. There is no question of any deviation from the rights and privileges of local legislatures. . . ."

"On the other hand the recently announced policy does involve a great step forward in the process which has been going on now for many years, whereby the old theory that Colonies should entirely bear their own charges and be no burden on the Crown has been steadily giving way to that of trusteeship by the Home Government and liberal assistance where assistance is required. This is the logical development of the assistance that has been given from the Colonial Development Fund over the past ten years, for the maintenance of which in time of war we all expressed our gratitude at the last Session; for the guarantee by the British Government of loans raised by the Colonies; for the grant of preference to local commodities in United Kingdom markets; and for various special grants and grants-

*Space will not allow a review of this document, but a copy may be seen at 40, Norfolk Street.

in-aid, where circumstances required them. . . . I feel sure that this Honourable Council will wish to express its deep sense of admiration and gratitude for the decision of the Imperial Government to embark upon this new development at such a time as this. It would not have been possible to frame this new policy if it had not been for the foundation laid in the past, but to take such a stride as this when carrying the incalculable burden of a great European war is more than anyone would have had a right to expect from any Government. I feel sure that we shall also wish to record our gratitude to the chairman and members of the West Indies Royal Commission itself whose labours have led to the adoption of this policy not only in the West Indies but throughout the Empire."

After referring to the progress of the Five-Year Development Programme; the erection of hospitals at Port-of-Spain and San Fernando; and the appointment of Mr. Robert Grinnell as chairman of the Housing Commission, Sir Hubert dealt with the finances of the Colony. He was unable to give the exact position at December 31st last owing to the late arrival from London of certain information, but it was possible to state that the revenue for 1939 would exceed the revised revenue by some \$240,000, and the expenditure would be less than the revised expenditure by some \$390,000 thus increasing the estimated surplus by approximately \$630,000.

The whole of that amount could not, however, be regarded as available for ordinary purposes. It proved impossible for the Public Works Department to pay their employees the arrears of wages due to them during December last and there were several liabilities in relation to defence measures which were not settled last year. There were also certain re-votes required by the Public Works Department. For those purposes approximately \$200,000 should be earmarked leaving an amount of \$430,000 from which again would have to be deducted the depreciation in the market value of securities. This was calculated at the end of October at \$260,000, but the Treasurer was not yet in a position to say whether the depreciation at the close of the year had increased or decreased.

After Sir Hubert had finished his speech the following resolution was proposed by Dr. the Hon. A. H. McShine:

That this Council desires to record its appreciation of, and thanks for, the recommendations made by the West India Royal Commission.

It was seconded by Captain the Hon. A. A. Cipriani, supported by the Hon. T. M. Kelshall and carried unanimously.

The qualification for membership of the West India Committee for which all British subjects are eligible is an interest in the British West Indies, British Guiana or British Honduras.

West Indies and the War

Medical Supplies Appreciated

IN the CIRCULAR of March 7th we had pleasure in publishing a letter of appreciation and thanks to the donors, received from Lady Bridgeman, vice-chairman of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John after her visit to the West India Committee's Rooms to inspect the gifts for the Forces so generously sent by the West Indian Colonies.

All the many workers in the West Indies will be glad to know how deeply their efforts are appreciated by the following extract from a letter of April 6th to the secretary of the West India Committee written by Lady Bridgeman as vice-chairman of the Central Hospital Supply Service Committee—

"We are enchanted with the magnificent supply of bandages which you have sent us. They are most beautifully packed and exactly what we want. I cannot express to you how tremendously encouraging it is to us to feel that the West Indies are taking such an interest in the Red Cross work. It is an inspiration to us and an incentive to further efforts. We shall be immensely grateful if you would let the workers in the islands know how tremendously their gifts are appreciated."

JAMAICA

£4,100 to King George's Fund for Sailors. The generosity of the people of Jamaica to the men of the fighting services, which had already been abundantly demonstrated, has again been evidenced by a gift of £2,100 for the men of the Mercantile Marine which the West India Committee was asked by the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee to allocate to the best advantage.

Careful inquiries were instituted immediately as to the most suitable funds to which the magnificent gift could be allotted and it was finally decided to deal with the matter in co-operation with the Trustees of King George's Fund for Sailors as that admirable institution charges no "overheads" and, moreover, has the machinery and experience to assess, with their balance sheets and records before it, the comparative merits of a multitude of funds and charities. Jamaica, consulted by cablegram, agreed at once to this proposal and suggestions by the West India Committee and the members of its Jamaica Standing Committee as to the specific Mercantile Marine charities to benefit from the gift have been accepted gladly by the Trustees of the Fund. The people of Jamaica can be sure that their money will be well spent and that the sacrifice made by the donors—many of them very poor—will be immensely appreciated by the men of the Mercantile Marine.

By a coincidence it happened that on February 12th, the day when the letter to the West India Committee offering £2,100 for the men of the Mercantile Marine left Jamaica, a letter to the Governor of Jamaica left London containing the Empire appeal issued by the King George's Fund for Sailors. This was passed to the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee which, as we have since learned, decided to transmit £2,000 direct to Admiral Sir Aubrey C. H. Smith, the deputy

chairman of the Fund, so bringing their total contribution to King George's Fund for Sailors to £4,100.

BARBADOS

Volunteers for Merchant Service. Thirty-three Barbadian seamen have joined the British merchant navy and have volunteered for work in the North Sea. Many Barbadians are already serving in British and Canadian ships.

GRENADA

Red Cross Donation. It was reported in *The Times* that on April 6th, the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund rose by approximately £1,000 to £1,292,000. The principal gift that day was £500 received from the Crown Agents for the Colonies on behalf of the Grenada War Purposes Committee.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Seamen's Fund. When the Seamen's Fund was opened the Governor appealed, as reported in the CIRCULAR of March 21st, for at least \$10,000 by Easter. This total was actually passed on March 11th, a fortnight before Easter.

Gift to the British Legion. The Trinidad ex-Servicemen's Relief Fund Committee has received the thanks of the British Legion in London for the gift of £461 12s. 7d. part proceeds of the 1939 Remembrance Day appeal and sale of poppies in the Colony.

The War Services Fund

THE War Services Fund of the West India Committee has received contributions amounting to £976 0s. 11d. Since the publication of the last list of donations the following sums have been received and are gratefully acknowledged:—

	£	s.	d.
George F. Huggins & Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Mrs. Hart	1	5	0
Ivan L. C. Gooding	1	11	11
"Anon"			5
Previously acknowledged	947	19	0
	£976	0	11

Another contributor is Mrs. John Bromley, who has sent 17 attractive water colour sketches to the West India Committee for sale on behalf of the Fund.

The sketches are the work of Miss Baynes Badcock, who spent a winter with Mrs. Bromley when she was resident in St. Kitts. Most of them depict places of interest in that island and in Nevis.

They are now on view at 40, Norfolk Street and are moderately priced at from 5/- to £2 2s. each.

"CITRUS fruit from the West Indies, particularly Trinidad and Jamaica, are very much in demand in Canada, and I think this demand has increased appreciably since the outbreak of war." This statement was made to a representative of the Trinidad Guardian by Mr. J. L. Gilmour, of Canada, when recently in the Colony on a business tour.

Development and Welfare

The Commons discuss West Indian Problems

THE following is a summary of some of the more important points of interest to the West Indies made during the debate on March 21st in the House of Commons on the Government's Statement of Colonial Policy and the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission.* The Lords' debate on the previous day was dealt with in the last issue of the CIRCULAR.

MR. CREECH JONES who opened the debate on behalf of the Labour Party said they must enter a vigorous protest against non-publication of the Commission's Report. However, the Government had tried to console them by disclosing that they would carry out the pledge, given when the Commission was appointed, to act without delay on its findings. After dealing with certain broad features of the statement of policy, Mr. Jones turned to the Commission's recommendations which, he said, made it clear that the social and economic conditions in the West Indies were deplorable, due in part to past indifference and neglect coupled with the play of outside economic forces. He discussed critically several of the main recommendations of the Commission and concluded by saying that they seemed to have very great constructive value and urged the Colonial Secretary to act quickly and do all that was humanly possible, by financial and every other means, to restore health and prosperity to the distressed peoples of the West Indies.

SIR WALTER SMILES expressed the view that whilst Mr. Creech Jones had made a very fair speech, he had painted the colours a bit too dark, and had not given sufficient credit for what had already been done. His own opinion, after a visit to the West Indies, was that the principal problem was an economic one, largely due to the whole trade policy of the United Kingdom. As an illustration he compared Havana with its beautiful marble palaces and clubs, and Kingston. Whilst not prepared to disagree with the statement of Mr. Creech Jones that high profits and too much wealth had been taken out of the West Indies in the past, he would point out that one very large company had invested over £1,000,000 in Jamaica during the last three years, without, he thought, getting a penny back in dividends. He had seen and appreciated all that the company was doing for its workers and it was for Parliament to see that such people should get a fair but not excessive price for their sugar, so that in return they could look after their labour forces.

MR. WILFRID ROBERTS said there was no reason why there should be a very light income tax in the Colonies when the British taxpayer had to find a large sum to carry out work, some of which could have been done had the taxpayer in the West Indies been paying the

same rates in income and other direct taxes as have been paid for some time in the United Kingdom. Referring to sugar, Mr. Roberts described the position as rather fantastic. Some of the subsidies required for the West Indies were apparently necessary because of the restriction of their industry. British sugar had been subsidised for many years at a considerable and uneconomical cost, and they were now asked to subsidise the West Indies sugar industry and pay large sums for development, welfare and other social services which the West Indies could not find because they were subsidising the British sugar industry.

SIR STANLEY REED regarded the terrific question of population as presenting one of the most anxious problems, one which was not confined to particular West Indian islands, but confronted us in other parts of the world with the irresistible movement of a glacier. Sir Stanley attributed the need for the Royal Commission and its drastic recommendations to the stagnation in many parts of the Colonial Empire and in many branches of the Colonial Office during the period between Mr. Joseph Chamberlain laying down office as Colonial Secretary and its acceptance by Mr. M. MacDonald. It was essential so to reorganize the system of Colonial Administration and the Colonial Office that these periods of stagnation do not recur. One matter which he regarded as of first importance was the overhead costs of administration. The federation of the West Indies was waiting to be considered at an early date. Now that the House of Commons was asked to vote immense sums of money for Colonial development it was entitled to exercise direct control over the form of administration in the West Indies and elsewhere in the Colonial Empire. The Colonial Secretary would have a very severe task and one difficult to carry through without the constant support of a Parliamentary Committee.

MR. RILEY after giving details of unemployment and social conditions in Kingston said he regarded the appointment of an Inspector-General of Agriculture as one of the principal recommendations. The opinion he formed on a visit just over a year ago was that the outstanding problem in the West Indies, in dealing with social conditions, was to concentrate on the development of their natural resources and agricultural possibilities. Mr. Riley referred to the inequality of income tax rates in the West Indies and the United Kingdom and suggested the possibility that Colonial Governments might be asked to contribute, on a pound for pound basis, to funds provided from Imperial sources.

DR. HADEN GUEST after referring to the situation in Jamaica, of which he took a more gloomy view than those who preceded him, said that many of the suggestions made by the Commission, whilst excellent in themselves, were rather technical. He did not see in the report the steel framework of a new constructive policy which

* The full report occupies 23 pages of Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons, Official Reports Volume 358 No. 46, published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net.

would put the West Indies on their own feet as economic equals of other countries. There was a pathetic reliance on the idea that there would always be an expanding market for sugar; with regard to cocoa he asked whether the Commissioners had forgotten the enormous importance of the West African trade and urged that to deal with cocoa adequately there must be control of world supplies as there is of sugar. Dr. Guest dealt critically with other of the recommendations in development of the view that there was in them no definite suggestion of how to create the new wealth which was necessary both to feed the people in the West Indies and to finance the schemes of administration which would be needed. In conclusion, he said you must give the citizens individual economic independence. The only way you can do that in the West Indies at the present time was not by tinkering with preferences for sugar—although that may be some alleviation, not by putting up the Income Tax—although that may bring some revenue—but by getting the peasantry on to the land and enabling them to create new wealth and build up from that foundation.

MR. PALING wanted to see as many of the people as possible back on the land: he thought the numbers would be limited and trust would have to be placed in industries of some description to employ at least a fair proportion. There was a growing disposition in the United Kingdom for the Government to take these things into their own hands and he did not see why they should not have done the same in the West Indies.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE in the course of his reply rebutted the view held by some people—perhaps outside the House—that conditions in the West Indies were much worse than in other parts of the world. Similar conditions prevailed in many, he was almost inclined to say in all, other countries. It was a feature of the stage of social evolution at which human society had arrived that in country after country there were unsatisfactory conditions of housing, labour, inadequate medical, health and educational services. The condition of things in the West Indies was, Mr. MacDonald said, made much more difficult than it would otherwise be, because the Colonies were comparatively poor. This was not an excuse for complacency. The Commission had been appointed because, although much was being done gradually to improve conditions, the Government considered the pace was not fast enough and that in some cases new methods were required. The West Indies could rest assured, on the word of the British Government and of the House of Commons, that the recommendations of the Royal Commission would be acted on energetically and would be faithfully adhered to. Mr. MacDonald then dealt with questions raised in the course of the debate and promised to answer others in writing. He also mentioned the following grants as having been approved since the publication of the statement of Colonial Policy. Jamaica, £82,500 in schemes for swamp filling, clearing land for settlements, road construction, etc. British Guiana, £7,625 on reconditioning roads, and £16,220 on reconditioning buildings. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the debate would reinforce the impression which had been created in the West Indies that the United Kingdom would be as good as its word. It would certainly help the Government in getting rapidly ahead with the work.

Press Comments

THE following note, summarizing views expressed in a leading article in *The Times* of March 25th on the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission, has been received from a correspondent:—

The article points out that the mode of publication of the Royal Commissioners' recommendations, divorced from the rest of the report, may have done some injustice to the people on the spot. The recommendations for large planning, under the stimulus of the Welfare Fund, in education, in public health, in housing, in agricultural improvement and research might easily be read as implying that all these subjects had been neglected hitherto. It is pointed out that Major Orde Browne's Report on Labour Conditions in the West Indies issued last year contains particulars of many efforts to grapple with problems studied by the Commission—slum clearance schemes, the appointment of labour officers, the maintenance of medical services for their work people by great employers, particularly of Trinidad. But at every turn good intentions have been thwarted by the poverty caused by world market conditions.

Difficulties which might be surmounted by the combined resources of the Colonies are exceedingly formidable when they have to be tackled by each separately, widely dispersed as they are over many islands and continental tracts. Federation has repeatedly been proposed as the way out and is recognised as the ultimate goal by the Commission. Federation which demands close and constant communication is not practicable to-day. *The Times* suggests however that the Welfare Comptroller will find his own organisation possesses federal qualities and that his financial functions may well become some day the nucleus of an inter-Colonial Administration.

After touching on educational and medical questions *The Times* deals at length with the question of development of constructive trade unionism. This, it says, "is certainly important if social peace, so lamentably disturbed in the immediate past, is to be maintained. The Commissioners are no doubt right in recommending that the main provisions of the existing trade union law in England should be extended to the West Indies. The right to strike, with the associated immunity from actions in tort, cannot reasonably be withheld from the unions, provided that their bona fides is guaranteed by registration and audit, as is also proposed. But it is possible to detect in the labour recommendations (as in the rather dogmatic feminist clauses) a certain doctrinaire spirit, an assumption that everything achieved over many years under English conditions can and should be transplanted without modification to the Caribbean. Peaceful picketing, for instance, however dear to the English trade unionist, may have a rather different connotation in a land of vast unfenced plantations where both the picket and the 'blackleg' normally go to work armed with cutlasses. What West Indian trade unions need more urgently than legal immunity is responsible leadership. If by any missionary effort the fund of understanding of the principles of collective bargaining that the Trade Union Congress commands could be used for the guidance of the very rudimentary labour organisations in the islands, their whole social life might profit."

Notes of West Indian Interest

"EBERY time donkey bray him 'member someting."

* * *

MR. J. POGSON TURNER has been appointed a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands.

* * *

MR. L. S. BIRKETT, of British Guiana, is the 323rd member of the West India Committee to take up Life Membership.

* * *

MR. S. L. V. GREEN has resigned his seat as an official member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Dominica.

* * *

A COPY has been received of the volume containing the Ordinances, Proclamations, Orders-in-Council, etc. of Grenada for the year 1939.

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THE HON. A. C. RIENZI has been appointed a member of the Trinidad Transport Board to fill the vacancy created by the death of Major R. A. Torrance.

* * *

MR. D. MCBRIDE has been re-elected chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Cocoa Growers Association. The president of the Association is Mr. Harold Robinson.

* * *

THE British Guiana Official Gazette (Extraordinary), February 26th, pages 607 to 671 contains the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Council, under the Petroleum Ordinance, 1939.

* * *

THE Government of Dominica announces that a small supply of farthings has been imported and expresses the hope that their circulation may prove of assistance in the operation of Food Price Control.

* * *

MRS. MAITLAND, the widow of the late Mr. John Maitland formerly a merchant in Trinidad, received congratulations from the King and Queen on attaining her hundredth birthday at her home in Ayr, Scotland.

* * *

THE Royal Dutch Air Lines announced, to start on April 2nd, a twice weekly service between Amsterdam and Lisbon to connect with Pan-American Airways Yankee Clipper service to New York. At first only mail and freight would be carried.

* * *

LADY O'REILLY, her daughter Miss Josephine O'Reilly, and Miss Irene O'Reilly the sister of Sir Lennox O'Reilly, returned to Trinidad by air on March 8th. They were among the passengers rescued from the Italian liner Orazia which caught fire in the Mediterranean on January 21st.

* * *

THE three Cantor Lectures on The Social and Economic Development of the British Colonial Empire delivered

recently before the Royal Society of Arts by Sir William H. McLean have now been published. Copies can be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, John Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2, price 2s. 6d.

* * *

CONTRACTS for growing sugar-beet offered to the British Sugar Corporation up to April 6th amounted to approximately 326,000 acres compared with 344,000 acres at the corresponding time last year. When the Minister of Agriculture made this statement on April 11th, he added that contracting was still proceeding.

* * *

MR. A. F. A. TURNER, whose marriage to Miss Kathleen Goodwin is announced on page 100, is an old Bradfield College boy. After spending some time on an Australian sheep farm, he returned to England and entered commercial life, leaving two years later for Antigua to become a director of Geo. W. Bennett Bryson and Co. Ltd.

* * *

MR. M. B. PALMER, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad (whose territory includes Barbados, Windward and Leeward Islands, and British Guiana), and Mr. F. W. Fraser, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Kingston Jamaica (whose territory includes the Bahamas and British Honduras), are returning to Canada in May, when each will make a tour of the Dominion.

* * *

IT is interesting to note that at the beginning of the last war there was no bauxite industry in British Guiana. Exports to the value of \$136,000 began in 1920. Last year the value had risen to \$2,890,000. Bauxite is a very important source of aluminium largely used in aircraft and their accessories. Much larger supplies may be required from British Guiana should the present war be of long duration.

* * *

THE Story of Chocolate from Seed to Seller by Mr. E. J. Clyne which appeared in Confectionery Production for February is illustrated by three representative scenes in Trinidad and one in West Africa. The Trinidad scenes are a general view of River Estate from the diorama at the Imperial Institute, and three others supplied by the Trinidad and Tobago section of The West India Committee, and acknowledged to the Tourist and Exhibitions Board of the Colony.

* * *

THE Rev. Charles F. Andrews, who died recently in Calcutta, at the age of 69, made many friends in British Guiana when he visited that Colony in May, 1929, at the invitation of the East Indian Association. In a speech before the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce he outlined a scheme for the further colonization of British Guiana by East Indians. Mr. Andrews was passionately devoted to India and her peoples, and was a close friend of both Mr. Gandhi and Sir Rabindranath Tagore.

Correspondence

The views expressed by correspondents in these columns from time to time are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and should not be regarded as such.

Lime Juice for Ptomaine Poisoning

SIR,

The item under the above heading in your issue of February 8th, interested me very much. Not only is lime juice a corrective for anything in the nature of ptomaine poisoning but to take the virulence out of mosquito bites, it is quite useful. While I never met a mosquito in the Bahamas, I am told there are some in the summer months. In other Caribbean resorts I have been relieved by my habit of lime juice drinking.

But the most impressive example of the value of lime juice came to my notice when in South Africa. Not only during the Boer war but since, we suffered from Veldt sores (not unlike chilblains) but more painful and septic than any skin disease.

I made it a rule in 1900-02 during the South African campaign, that no man in my troop was allowed his rum ration unless he had accepted and absorbed his ration of lime juice whenever issued. The consequence was that when parades were ordered for the inspection of feet and hands, not a single man of my troop of squadron ever had Veldt sores, although our C.O. (afterwards Lord Byng) and our Adjutant were suffering from them.

As a blood purifier there is nothing like it—yet limes are costly and difficult to obtain in most London shops.

I am, Sir, etc.

N. G. THWAITES.

Bahamas Government Information Bureau,
28, Berkeley Square, W.1.

February 15th, 1940.

Jamaica's Coco-nut Industry

A Coco-nut Industry Clearing House was set up by the authorization issued by the Governor and the orders issued by the Competent Authority (Food Controller) on January 8th. This is the first step in a scheme for controlling the industry which will be completed by the erection of a Control Board which will control the export of coco-nuts and copra and the production and marketing of coco-nut products. Soap, coco-nut oil, compounds, lard, margarine and other coco-nut products must now be sold through the Clearing House which will sell through the usual agents to the trade at fixed prices. No person may manufacture except under the authority of a licence granted by the Food Controller. Since the outbreak of war no coco-nuts have been permitted to be exported without an export license obtained from the Competent Authority. It is understood that the Clearing House is working satisfactorily and that manufacturers are co-operating well with regard to the new arrangements.

By an order of January 8th issued by the Food Controller, nuts for local use or for the manufacture of copra locally will be sold according to weights and not according to size as was the practice formerly.

The Cayman Islands

Tribute to Mr. A. W. Cardinall

We are indebted to Mr. E. O. Panton of Grand Cayman for the following notes on the leave taking of His Honour A. W. Cardinall, the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, who had been appointed Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Cardinall left Georgetown on January 12th for Kingston, Jamaica, where he spent a few weeks as the guest of the Governor. He was given a warm send-off by the people, hundreds having gathered at the wharf to say "Goodbye." His departure was regretted keenly by everyone. On February 2nd he broadcast his farewell message from Kingston. The people were delighted to hear this, and the following reply was transmitted to him:—

"Grateful for your kind message and good wishes. Thanks once again for what you did for Cayman. We shall always remember and may God bless you. Bon Voyage."

Mr. Cardinall had the pleasure before leaving the Caymans of seeing the new Government Offices (Custom House, Post Office and Treasury), Public Library, Town Hall and school at West Bay, and small assembly halls and schools in the various districts opened. These buildings reflect great credit on the work of Mr. Cardinall in the Caymans.

The Hon. A. C. Panton is temporarily administering the Government of the Dependency.

Jamaica Rainfall in 1939

The December issue of the Jamaica Weather Report, prepared by Mr. J. F. Brennan, Government Meteorologist, shows that in 1939 the average rainfall for the Colony was 81.79 inches or 7.92 inches above the average of 60 years. In the first half of the year the fall was 12 per cent. below, and in the second half 27 per cent. above, the average. Of the fourteen parishes, Portland had the highest total for the year, 130.09 inches (10-year average 136.13) and Kingston the lowest, 51.46 (10-year average 30.46).

West Indian Passengers

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Jamaica in the s.s. *Cavina* (Captain S. Browne):—

Mr. S. Botzaris	Mrs. W. L. Harvey	Mrs. A. E. Pengeley
Mr. J. L. R. Bovell	Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Hook	Miss G. Phang
Mr. V. Burke	Miss M. A. Kelly	Miss D. M. Shaw
Rev. W. A. Earp	Mr. R. C. Lyte	Mrs. F. C. Thomas
Miss A. S. Fraser	Miss B. M. Minors	Miss P. M. Thomas

Home arrivals from Jamaica in the s.s. *Carare* (Captain A. W. Legge):—

Mrs. G. Blair	Mrs. I. Clark	Mrs. D. H. Herbert
Mrs. A. E. Briggs	Maj. C. C. Furness	Mrs. I. L. Parks
Mrs. P. C. Chapman	Mr. R. O. Gaviaira	Rev. & Mrs. W. S. Smith

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*British Guiana's Exports Increased — Broadcasting in Jamaica
Grants from the Colonial Development Fund*

ANTIGUA

LAND Settlement and Peasant Agriculture. The Administrator has announced that a free grant of £4,980 and a loan of £1,279 has been approved from the Colonial Development Fund towards land settlement and peasant agriculture. The purposes for which the money will be employed include the supervision and development of settlement at Mannings and Sheriffs for five years, additional staff, the purchase of a tractor, and the better organisation of the Sawcolts Settlement Area.

BRITISH GUIANA

Georgetown Allotment Scheme. Writing on February 22nd, our honorary correspondent referred to his previous note (CIRCULAR of November 16th) on the appointment, as part of the proposals of the Food Production Committee for increasing the home production of important food crops during the war, of Committees to prepare allotment schemes for lands in and around Georgetown and New Amsterdam. The Georgetown Allotment Committee was, he said, inviting applicants for the lease of allotments in Bel Air Park. If sufficient applications were received, Government would be willing to incur the necessary expenditure to put the scheme into operation. Allotments would be limited to one-eighth of an acre each, but if satisfactorily cultivated the holders might apply later for a further area. The rent would be two cents per month. The necessary tools might be obtained from Government either on loan or by purchase on easy terms. Seeds and planting material would be provided as far as possible. All allotment holders would be required to sign an agreement one condition being that work must be commenced within a specified time of the date of allotment, and another that no holder would be required to give up his allotment without compensation, except for just cause.

Policing the Corentyne District. Government proposed to dismantle the building now used as a police station at Albion estate, and erect a larger one on a new site at Williamsburg 1½ miles further east. This action was being taken presumably on account of the rising tide of lawlessness along this stretch of coast where serious crimes including murder had been committed.

Trade during 1939. At a recent meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, the president, Mr. F. H. Martin-Sperry, in the course of an interesting and informative review of the Colony's trade for the year 1939 said it was very heartening to note that notwithstanding the outbreak of war British Guiana's exports had totalled \$14,505,552, an increase of \$1,439,946 over 1938, while imports had amounted to \$10,724,671 as against \$10,610,262 in the previous year.

The balance of trade in favour of the Colony for the year had been \$3,780,881, which was an encouraging increase over the 1938 balance of \$2,455,344. Of the exports \$5,060,532 went to the United Kingdom and \$7,392,346 to Canada. The Colonial revenue collected for the year had been \$6,229,625, an excess over the estimate of \$696,283.

New Labour Legislation. The Government had published the drafts of three Bills which would be introduced into the Legislative Council. The first was to make illegal the employment of children under the age of twelve years instead of nine years as at present. The principal object of the second was to prohibit, subject to certain exceptions, the employment of children under the age of fourteen in any industrial undertaking or in any ship. The third Bill was to amend the Accidental Deaths and Workmen's Injuries (Compensation) Ordinance in certain particulars.

DOMINICA

Roseau Suspension Bridge. A free grant of £7,000 has been made by the Colonial Development Fund for the erection of a suspension bridge over the Roseau River at Bath Estate. Under present circumstances, considerable time must elapse before the necessary materials and plant can be received in the Colony.

JAMAICA

Privy Council of Jamaica. The Jamaica Gazette of March 7th publishes a Warrant which has been passed under His Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet for the appointment of Sir Henry Isaac Close Brown, K.C., to be a Member of the Privy Council of Jamaica for a period of five years as from January 11th.

Institute of Jamaica. It is announced in the same issue of the Gazette that the Hon. H. F. Allan and the Hon. and Rev. J. W. Maxwell have been appointed members of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica for a period of four years.

Soil and Water Conservation. Mr. C. Swabey, Forest Officer, emphasised the importance of conserving the soil and the water supply of Jamaica, in a broadcast given on March 15th.

Cost of Living. The report on the Cost of Living Survey carried out in Kingston by the Labour Department from August to November, 1939, has now been published.

Broadcasting in Jamaica. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on March 19th, a message from The Governor was read outlining proposals for the future development of broadcasting by the Government. It is estimated that the recurrent cost of a local station operating for four hours a day and giving a full programme of entertainment with paid orchestras and artists would be not less than £5,000 a year.

Death of Flying Officer W. W. Adam. The Air Ministry has announced the death, while on air duty in France, of Flying Officer W. W. Adam, son of Inspector and Mrs. Adam of Jamaica. Flying Officer Adam was educated at Munro College, Jamaica, and subsequently at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

Citrus Pest Investigations. A free grant of £2,345 has, it is announced, been made from the Colonial Development Fund to enable the investigation of citrus pest in the Windward and Leeward Islands by Mr. R. G. Fennah, the Entomologist, to be extended for a further two years.

ST. LUCIA

Weather. The contents of two letters from Mr. E. T. Ward, one dated February 23rd and the other March 8th, which arrived within a few days of each other, are summarized in the following notes. In January the rainfall at Castries was only 1.76 inches (average 6.23) and in February 1.40 (average 2.42). The weather had been cool but very dry especially in the northern and southern districts.

Sugar. Crop prospects were satisfactory, Vieux Fort factory started work on February 19th, and Dennery two days later. Two other factories were commencing early in March. The young canes were growing fairly well despite the dry weather, irrigation being resorted to wherever possible, and new fields had been supplied.

Coco-nuts. There had been a further drop in copra prices and the Coco-nut Growers' Association were making every effort to push on the much delayed scheme for the greater utilization of St. Lucia copra for conversion into deodorized edible oil by a Trinidad factory for local consumption. A certain amount of copra was being used for the manufacture of edible coco-nut oil, a small industry recently commenced by two of the larger growers.

Cotton. Picking commenced in January and was in full swing in February. Fairly good yields seemed likely from the comparatively small area planted. Unfortunately the dry weather in the south of the island caused a large amount of premature boll shedding in January.

Limes. Some plantations were suffering from combined effects of citrus weevil and dry weather, and flowering had been delayed in some areas. Otherwise conditions were generally satisfactory. Green limes were scarce and the local price, about 12/- a barrel in January, increased to 15/- during February.

Other crops. Harvesting of cocoa continued and due to improvement in price the peasants were taking increasing interest in both cultivation and preparation. Two shipments of bananas, total 4,514 stems, were made in January, and two, 4,237 stems, during February. A small shipment of grapefruit was made by the Inkosi on February 11th. The Julie mango crop promised well.

ST. VINCENT

Weather. In his notes for December and January, Mr. C. K. Robinson wrote on February 29th, that the heavy rains of November continued during the early part of December but towards the end of the month conditions tended to be quite dry. In January, a fairly

severe drought was experienced, but more normal conditions prevailed at end of the month.

Arrowroot. The receipts of starch by the Arrowroot Association in December amounted to 3,585 barrels. The wet weather delayed the drying of the starch and several estates experienced difficulty in providing adequate space. The receipts in January were 7,838 barrels making the total for the 1939-40 crop at the end of the month 11,771 barrels compared with 7,039 barrels for the corresponding period in 1938-39. Crop prospects were very fair and it was estimated that production would be about 40,000 barrels. The export of 1,590 barrels in December brought the total for 1939 to 52,499 barrels, a record for the industry.

Cotton. Crop prospects were disappointing. The wet weather of November-December caused the loss of a high proportion of the lower bolls and the drought of January prevented the maturation of the upper bolls of the early fields. It appeared unlikely that the crop would exceed 1,300 bales. The incidence of pests had been low, cotton stainers doing little damage and pink boll worm being recorded in appreciable numbers only in the Kingstown-Arnos Vale area.

Bananas. Interest in this crop continued to decline and the total sales for 1939 were 37,776 stems as compared with 75,273 in 1938. The persistently low proportion of count bunches, the average for 1939 being only 65.5 per cent., made it abundantly clear that the fruit was being produced under unsuitable conditions.

Food Crops. Much attention was being devoted to the possibilities of increasing the production of food crops for local consumption, not merely as a war-time measure but rather as a definite change in the internal economy of the Colony which would tend to make agricultural producers more self-sufficient and less dependent on fluctuating world markets. In recent years the imports of wheaten flour, rice and salt-fish had steadily increased and, while this might indicate a change in taste of the population, it was by no means certain that this trend could not be altered.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Cane Farmers and Food Crops. With the object of assisting the Government's "grow more food" campaign, the South Trinidad Cane Farmers Association organised a Peasants' Garden Competition. On March 5th, the Hon. E. J. Wortley, Director of Agriculture, when presenting the prizes to the successful competitors out of 154 entrants, said the effort of the Association to develop a self-contained farm, where not only canes but food crops as well were grown, was on very sound lines and was of particular importance as a war measure.

Instruction in Flying. Residents who wish to learn to fly can now join the Light Aeroplane Club of Trinidad and Tobago; entrance fee \$5 and annual subscription \$10. The flying fees are \$10 an hour for dual instruction and \$7 an hour for solo flying.

WANT

Copies are required of the following issues of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published in 1939:—

January 12th	No. 1051	June 1st	... No. 1061
February 9th	No. 1053	June 29th	... No. 1063
May 18th	... No. 1060	December 14th	No. 1075

6d. each will be paid for copies in good condition returned to the Secretary of the West India Committee.

Company Reports & Meetings

Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt, Ltd.

SIR COURTAULD THOMSON, chairman, in dealing with the report and accounts (reviewed in last CIRCULAR) at the annual meeting, held in London, on April 2nd, said that in each of the last 68 years they had paid a dividend out of the profits earned in each of those years.

After referring to some of the war-time uses of their products, Sir Courtauld said: "Our research department is constantly on the alert to find new outlets for our energies now that road work and private building work are curtailed. In bitumen and asphalt, and particularly Trinidad Lake asphalt, we are fortunate in possessing materials of a fundamentally adaptable character, and with the necessary knowledge and experience, full advantage can be taken of this to try to meet some of the difficulties which obviously lie ahead."

Bovril, Ltd.

LORD LUKE, chairman, proposing the adoption of the report and accounts at the recent annual meeting said that the sales of Bovril in 1939 showed a considerable increase over those of 1938. An improvement in home sales had been expected, but the increase in their export trade had been a very satisfactory feature of their business.

During the first few weeks of the war many firms had cancelled their advertising, but the Bovril publicity had continued without a break.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Duke of Atholl, deputy-chairman, the resolution was seconded by Mr. Douglas Walker. It was carried unanimously.

Telephone and General Trust, Ltd.

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER, chairman and managing director, in the course of his speech at the annual meeting, held in London, on March 29th, said that he was glad to report that business in their subsidiaries in the West Indies continued to expand. The total number of telephones operated by their companies was nearly 15,000.

"You will remember," continued Sir Alexander, "that for some years we have advocated the development of a comprehensive West Indies telephone, telegraph, and radio system in the islands, between the islands and internationally, and, as you will see, we have made considerable progress."

"As you know, we lodged convincing evidence with the Royal Commission which has recently presented part of its report, and it was with some satisfaction that we observed their recommendation:—

"That the Jamaica Government should consider whether a concession in respect of the island telephone service should not be granted to Telephone and General Trust, Limited, subject to the inclusion of satisfactory safeguards, and on acceptance by the company of an undertaking to assume responsibility for the telephone services in the smaller islands under a definite obligation to expand and improve these services."

"We do not yet know the contents of the remainder of the report, but we venture to hope that the provision of rapid and effective communications will be recommended in all the islands, large and small, of the West Indies."

"It is also satisfactory to note that £1,000,000 per annum is recommended to be spent during the next 20 years out of the British Exchequer. While the programme does not specifically include telephones it is quite certain that in order to make the expenditure effective it will involve telephone expansion, and we and our companies are prepared to meet this demand."

Sea Island Cotton Association



At the last meeting of the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, held in London on March 19th, under the chairmanship of Sir Frank Stockdale, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

Resolved that the thanks of the Advisory Committee be conveyed to Sir Algernon Aspinall for the valuable services he has rendered to the Advisory Committee and to the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Industry.

Sir Algernon had been the representative of the West India Committee on the Advisory Committee since its inception in 1934. When he resigned from the secretaryship of the former, he consented to act for a further period which has now expired.

At the same meeting, Mr. E. J. King was elected to the Advisory Committee of the Association as the representative of the West India Committee.

Palestine Citrus Industry

It was originally estimated that during the 1939-40 season, which began in October last, about 16 million cases of citrus fruit would be available for export. The Palestine Agricultural Bulletin for January, however, stated that, after a preliminary reduction to 14 million in August, it appeared probable that an export of only 5 million cases would be possible and that consideration was being given to schemes for the utilisation of the non-exportable surplus. It was also reported that whilst during the 1938-39 season oranges gave generally a small profit, grapefruit yielded little or no return. During 1939, the further planting of citrus has been of negligible amount, and owing to lack of finance an appreciable area had been neglected to such an extent that it had been virtually abandoned.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers and re-appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

Promotions and Transfers:—

HEAPE, W. L. (Colonial Secretary, Grenada, Windward Islands), Colonial Secretary, Bahamas.

DOXAT, E. J. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, British Honduras), Superintendent of Police, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, Western Pacific.

Re-appointment:—

KELLY, R. A. (formerly Treasurer, Gold Coast), Treasurer, Grenada, Windward Islands.

Round the Markets

April 16th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Apr. 1st.	Apr. 15th		
Canada ..	4.45	4.45	\$ value	4/5.9
U.S.A. ..	4.03	4.03	\$ "	4/11.6
France ..	176.62	176.62	Fr. "	-/1.4
Holland ..	7.55	7.55	Gu. "	2/7.8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are —

Dividend latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 9s. 0d. per cent.)	71½
3½	War Loan	98½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	25/-
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	41/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	2½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1/7½
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/3
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	21/9
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d.
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	1½
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/9
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d.
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	48/9
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/3
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	8/-

RUM. The demand generally has been quieter and there are fears in the market that further taxation may be imposed in the forthcoming Budget.

COCOA. Fair sales have been made in fine Grenada at 62/6, in bond, with sellers at the close asking 64/-. A small business has been done in Trinidad descriptions at 75/- on the spot for fine, and at 59/- to 60/- c. & f. for the first three marks "to arrive." There are sellers of West African at 32/9 c.i.f. with buyers at 32/6.

BALATA. A small business has been done in Demerara sheet, forward shipment, on the basis of 2/4 landed terms, with spot valued nominally at 2/6.

BANANAS. The demand for Jamaicas has continued steady and normal for the time of year. The price is unchanged at £25 5s. delivered London, and £25 nearest station Provinces.

COTTON. No business has been reported in West Indian Sea Island during the fortnight and owners are holding for full prices.

HONEY. Jamaica descriptions are quoted at 77/6 to 85/- per cwt. ex wharf, for dark liquid to pale amber, and at 92/6 to 95/- for pale to white. Some business has been done in new crop on arrival terms at 85/- to 95/- c.i.f. for pale and white respectively, closing sellers thereat with buyers at about 2/6 less.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is unchanged at 40/- per lb. but Distilled has advanced sharply to 20/- per lb. Lime Juice. There is very little interest at present in Concentrated, but Raw, good green juice with top pulp, is worth 2/9 per gallon, ex wharf.

ORANGE OIL. Quotations are nominal at 6/- per lb. for Sweet and about 8/- for Bitter.

SPICES. The market for Pimento continues firm with buyers on the spot at 1/- per lb. Sellers of "to arrive" ask 100/- per cwt. c.i.f. for March-April ship-

ment with buyers at 97/6. Ginger is also very firm and values show an increase of about 2/6 per cwt. with more buying support from consumers. No. 3 is quoted at 52/6 ex wharf, medium No. 2 at 57/6 to 60/-, bold, to bright No. 1, 72/6 to 80/-, No. 1 choice bright plump 80/- to 85/-. Nutmegs are quiet and values show a slight decline. Defectives are quoted at 6¼d., sound unassorted at 7½d., sound 80's at 10d., and sound 65's at 11d. ex wharf. Mace is quiet and unchanged, with business done on the spot at from 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed red to pale and at 2/6 to 2/7 for choice pale.

West Indies at Westminster

Inspector General of Agriculture

In reply to SIR P. HANNON, who asked on April 3rd whether the appointment of an Inspector-General of Agriculture for the West Indies had yet been approved; whether the duties of this officer had been defined; and whether his reports would be at regular intervals submitted to Parliament MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said he was taking steps to select a suitable officer for this post and he hoped to be able to make a further announcement regarding his status and functions shortly.

SIR P. HANNON then inquired whether his right hon. Friend was keeping in view the importance of the continuity of the College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad as part of the functions of the new Inspector-General, and would he see that that work, which had already given admirable results, was continued. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that he certainly attached the greatest importance to the work of the College, and the Inspector-General would act in the very closest contact with it and its officers. He added, in reply to MR. PALING, that the appointment of the Inspector-General would not have to wait for legislation.

Trinidad Electricity Supply

MR. JAGGER, on April 10th, asked whether, now the three years' period had expired, the Government of Trinidad intended to hand the control of the electricity board to the Port-of-Spain City Council, or to develop an island-wide scheme under their own control. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied that in the Trinidad Electricity Board Ordinance, No. 39 of 1935, no period was specified during which the Government was required to exercise the right of purchasing the whole or part of the undertaking for the purpose of establishing an island-wide supply of electricity. Consideration of the question of establishing such a scheme under Government control was temporarily deferred on the outbreak of war, but he understood that it would be further examined at a later date.

MARRIAGE

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 5/- for 3 lines and 1/6 for each additional line. Cheques, Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

TURNER-GOODWIN. On March 27th, 1940, at All Saints, Antigua, Arthur Francis Alexander, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. William Turner, 47, The Drive, Hove, to Kathleen Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Goodwin, Duers House, Antigua.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV.

MAY 2nd, 1940.

No. 1085.

Telephone:
TEMPLE BAR 8922

Telegrams:
CARIB, ESTRAND, LONDON

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.
May 1st, 1940.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, on Thursday, the 30th day of May, 1940, at 3 p.m.

By order,

EDWARD J. KING, *Secretary.*

AGENDA

(i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended April 30th, 1940, the audited statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1939, and the Balance Sheet.

(ii) To elect twelve 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—

Lieut.-Colonel IVAN DAVSON, O.B.E.	Mr. T. HARRISON HUGHES
Mr. A. W. ARMOUR	Mr. R. L. M. KIRKWOOD
Mr. H. CRUM EWING	Mr. C. W. MURRAY D.F.C.
Mr. W. G. FREEMAN	Mr. T. H. NAYLOR
Mr. H. L. Q. HENRIQUES	Mr. LAUCLAN ROSE, M.C.
Sir GEORGE HUGGINS, O.B.E.	Mr. H. A. WALKER

(iii) Any other business.

Rum

FOR several years the Rum Propaganda Committee, in affiliation with the West India Committee, had carried out a winter campaign to promote the sales of Rum in the United Kingdom. Last year, for the first time, an all-the-year campaign was instituted at the suggestion of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd. The success of the new venture is revealed by reports which indicate that "Rum Fizz," of which the merits were specially emphasised in press advertisements and by travelling representatives, has now gained if not a place at least a foot-hold among popular summer beverages in this country. That represents a definite advance, for differences in climate mean differences in the taste of the consumer and the British are conservative in their beverages, and habits change slowly over here. Rum cocktails too were in greater demand but their effect on sales is less important than in the case of "Rum Fizz." In the autumn and winter of the campaign year which ended on March 31st, 1940, large Government orders, due to the expansion in numbers of the fighting services, caused the difficulty

CONTENTS

LEADING ARTICLES—	PAGE		PAGE
RUM	101	THE ROYAL COMMISSION	108
WHY NOT WEST INDIAN TIMBER?	101	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	109
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	102	WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS, 1940	110
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	103	JAMAICA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY ...	110
THE BUDGET	104	OBITUARY... ..	111
CONDITIONS IN BARBADOS	105	ADVISER ON ANIMAL HEALTH... 111	
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ...	106	ROUND THE MARKETS	112
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	107	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	112
THE TIMBER SHORTAGE	108		

to be one of supply rather than of demand. Rum of the necessary maturity is none too plentiful.

Producers in Jamaica and British Guiana have already agreed to support the publicity campaign in 1940-41 on the same lines as the one which has just ended and it is hoped that substantial support will again be forthcoming from producers in Trinidad and the West India Rum Refinery in Barbados as well as from those firms in the trade who have contributed generously towards the cost of previous campaigns. To quote the words of a leading member of the trade: "It is impossible to over-estimate the good work which the Rum Propaganda Campaign is doing, and the vital need to continue it, with, if possible, added funds at its disposal."

Why Not West Indian Timber?

IN many of the West Indian Colonies there is a rapidly increasing population largely dependent on the production of agricultural crops for export. The fluctuations in value of these crops have led, as LORD MOYNE said recently in the House of Lords, to there being in these Colonies a very slippery foundation for any adequate standard of individual life and very slight stability to Government revenue. Trinidad with its natural, large assets of oil and asphalt stands out as a marked exception. British Guiana also has similar but smaller resources in bauxite, gold and diamonds. The two Colonies on the mainland, British Guiana and British Honduras have, however, great potential assets in their vast forest areas. They are, moreover, far from being densely populated. If a demand could be found, to a greater extent that has been possible in the past, for the forest products of these two Colonies their economic conditions would be improved and opportunities afforded for the surplus labour of some of the neighbouring islands. Suggestions for possible development along these lines, recently made by MR. J. R. AINSLIE, are summarized on page 108 of this issue of the CIRCULAR. They are, as he says, not altogether new but the need for action to make the fullest possible use of the timber resources of the Empire has now become urgent owing to the extent to which the Baltic countries have become involved in the war. In 1938, the last year for which statistics are available, the imports of soft woods into the United Kingdom from Finland, Sweden, the Soviet Union, Poland, Latvia and Norway amounted to over £26 million out of a total of £43 million. The need for alternative supplies is obvious. Can the West Indies help? MR. AINSLIE suggests they can and we feel confident that his proposals will receive serious consideration.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE daily ceremony of changing the guard before the royal palaces has lost some of its peacetime splendour, now that the scarlet tunics and bearskins of the Brigade have given place to khaki. But the crowds that assemble to watch are as great as ever; and last week they had the unusual experience of hearing the words of command given in French—presumably for the first time since it ceased to be the language of the Court in the days of Edward III and Froissart. The explanation was that the Irish Guards had been relieved by the 22nd Royal Regiment, from the Canadian Province of Quebec. It was an interesting sidelight on the meaning of Empire.

* * *

A few days later there was an equally significant sign of the times, when the Australians celebrated April 25th as the anniversary of the landing at Anzac in 1915 and exchanged friendly messages with their old adversaries the Turks, now our trusted allies and the chief bastion of south-east Europe against the Nazi menace.

* * *

In introducing the largest Budget on record, Sir John Simon had an unusual experience, in that the only substantial criticism of his proposals was that he had not asked for enough. To estimate our war expenditure accurately is of course quite impossible; Sir John chose to place it provisionally at £2,000,000,000. The estimate for other purposes is £667,000,000. The Budget proposes to raise £1,234,000,000 by taxation and to rely for the remainder—more than half—of the huge total upon borrowing.

* * *

We had warning of the principal new taxes in the emergency budget of last September. The income tax of 7s. 6d. in the pound, which was then modified to fit the fact that part of the year 1939-40 fell under peace conditions, now takes full effect; the rebates for dependent children are reduced; and the incomes become liable for surtax at the level of £1,500 instead of £2,000. On the largest incomes of all the combined taxes will now range up to 17s. in the pound.

* * *

The greatest interest, however, attaches to the tax about which the Chancellor of the Exchequer was least precise. He calls it the Purchase Tax, and it will be levied on all goods not otherwise subject to substantial taxation, and be charged at the stage of transfer from the wholesaler to the retailer. But the rate of the levy is not to be fixed until the industrial interests concerned have been consulted, after which Parliament will be asked for its formal sanction.

* * *

It is not thought that this tax will raise a very great revenue—something on the scale of £100,000,000 a year is suggested—but that is not its primary intention. The first necessity is to discourage consumption, in order to reduce the civilian demand upon our resources and release shipping and productive capacity to supply the needs of the fighting forces.

While we wait for fuller knowledge about the Purchase Tax, the innovation that will be most immediately felt is the large increase in post office charges. Telegraph and telephone rates are being increased, and the minimum charge for a letter goes up from 1½d. to 2½d., and for a postcard from 1d. to 2d.

* * *

It has become clear that we have a very grim fight before us in Norway. In spite of the heavy losses inflicted by our Navy on the Nazi fighting, transport and supply ships, the Germans have gained a flying start by their treacherous surprise attack. Their outstanding advantage is that they have seized all the principal aerodromes of the country, and it is exceedingly difficult for us to improvise anything of the kind in so mountainous a land. Hence our air force is operating under a severe handicap, quite apart from the fact that the enemy's numbers are in any event superior.

* * *

The campaign is developing on the lines of a struggle for Trondheim, the most important of the Atlantic ports seized at the outset by the Germans. The Allies, closing in upon the city from the North and South, sent out an advanced column in the direction of Oslo to forestall any attempt at relief. This column seems to have encountered superior German forces advancing with great rapidity from the South, and to have been thrown back. A battle on a great scale is developing, in which the German advantage in the air may impose on us an uphill fight. At the same time we are relentlessly tightening our grip upon the critical area in the far North, round the iron-ore port of Narvik; while, over the whole theatre of war in Scandinavia, there can be no doubt that sea power must be ultimately decisive.

* * *

The egregious Ribbentrop, in an address to the diplomatic representatives in Berlin, has attempted to excuse the invasion of Norway as a bid to forestall an attack planned by the Allies upon that country. The evidence for this alleged attack was, first, the presence of British transports in the North Sea, the non-arrival of which at Norwegian ports was accounted for by the claim that the Germans had sunk them without a trace; and secondly, the capture in Norway of British army orders giving instructions for operations there and dated well before the German invasion. Unhappily these orders were mostly addressed to non-existent regiments (such as "the Rochesters") and signed by officers unknown to the Army List.

* * *

The new campaign has had one conspicuous effect on everyday life in London. Scandinavia has been our principal source of supply for the raw materials of paper, the curtailment of which is immediately and severely felt. The newspapers have had to abolish the system of dealing with newsagents on "sale or return," so that those who do not order their papers in advance are unlikely to receive them; and they have all had to reduce their bulk.

The West Indies and The War

WITH the extension of our fighting fronts, the War Services Committee has received even greater numbers of gifts and promises of help from the West Indies. The work, which has consequently increased in volume, is now proceeding very smoothly and the new duty-free regulations, which will shortly be in force, will facilitate its activities. All those who have participated in the work, whether in the West Indies or at home, will be gratified to know that, as shown by the certificate here reproduced, their efforts are fully recognized by the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry.

The very varied gifts received from the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee will undoubtedly give tremendous pleasure to countless men of the fighting forces. In addition to consignments of 261 and 946 cases of citrus fruit, which are being sent to the Royal Air Force, a large case of peppermint candies and tins of assorted sweets were also passed on to the same service. It is learned that 8,378 lb. of coffee beans have arrived from the same source and that a further 102 barrels are on their way. These made a grand total of contributions received during the last fortnight.

From Trinidad, Sir George Huggins has sent personally a generous gift of 200 cases of pink grapefruit. These have been distributed to the R.A.F. Coastal Command, from which grateful acknowledgments have been received. From the Bahamas Red Cross Centre eighteen packages of hospital supplies and knitted garments have arrived, whilst the West Hill Group have contributed another twelve parcels of bandages, swabs, etc. A case of hospital supplies from St. Kitts is on its way, together with further cases from Trinidad. The Hon. H. R. Howes, of Montserrat, has generously shipped a bale of cotton to be used for pillows for the Red Cross. It is hoped that this and other consignments will all arrive safely.

Members of the Ladies Committee have rendered invaluable help not only in really hard work in the War Services Depot at 40, Norfolk Street in packing, sorting, checking and despatching parcels, but also in various other ways. Mrs. Rose, in addition to being an indefatigable worker, provided some furniture for the

Depot and her husband has given very real help by putting one of his lorries at the Committee's disposal for delivering parcels to the various official Depots and centres around London. Mrs. H. de Pass has given up a great deal of her time every week to help ing at the Depot, besides providing books to accompany the individual parcels of socks sent out to all the non-commissioned men from the West Indies now serving.

She has also contributed a quantity of knitted gifts to be included with those received from the Colonies; Mrs. Gordon Miller, Lady Asser, Mrs. Naylor, Mrs. Bromley and Mrs. W. G. Freeman have also sent useful parcels to the Depot. Lady Wilson and Mrs. Westwood have been particularly helpful in procuring regional representatives on the lines mentioned in the CIRCULAR of April 4th. Space does not permit us to mention the various ways in which other members of the Ladies Committee have contributed their welcome assistance.

Mention has been made above of a number of contributions passed on to the Royal Air Force, and in this connexion it may be said that the policy of the Committee is to distribute the supplies received (where not specially allocated by the donors) as evenly as possible among the Services and gifts of fruit, sweets and knitted comforts have already been gratefully acknowledged by the Navy and Army. Hospital supplies, if not sent direct to the Central Hospital Supply Service have been distributed as widely as possible in aid of the Allied

War Effort. It was ascertained from the French Ambassador that the British Committee of the French Red Cross would welcome supplies of many kinds, and the following letter from His Excellency to Lady Davson emphasises the value of good feeling between the two nations.

Ambassade de France
à Londres.
6 avril 1940.

Chère Lady Davson,

Vous avez bien voulu me faire savoir que le Comité des Indes Occidentales était désireux de donner à des Organisation françaises des vêtements et des fournitures destinés à des hôpitaux afin de pouvoir ainsi témoigner des sentiments d'amitié et de solidarité qui unissent nos deux Empires coloniaux.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous exprimer mon appréciation

Certificate of Official Recognition
granted by the Admiralty, War Office, and Air Ministry
to affiliated Voluntary Organizations.

This is to Certify that

THE WEST INDIA WAR SERVICES COMMITTEE.

is officially recognised under the Scheme for co-ordinating
the national voluntary effort in providing comforts for
His Majesty's Combatant Forces and may use with its title
the words "Approved by the Admiralty, War Office and
Air Ministry."

Dated this 26th April, 1940.

Davson
Director-General of Voluntary Organizations.

London

de cette généreuse initiative et je vous conseille de vous adresser au Comité britannique de la Croix Rouge Française, 25, Belgrave Square, S.W.1, présidé par la Vicomtesse de la Panouse.

Veillez agréer, chère Lady Davson, les assurances de mes respectueux hommages.

CORBIN.

Lady Davson, O.B.E.,
West India Committee,
40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2.

A similar train of inquiries has now been set in motion with the Norwegian Legation.

BAHAMAS

Red Cross Donation. The Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund received, on April 25th, a gift of £2,000 from the Bahamas Citizens War Relief Committee. This Committee have now subscribed a total of £8,000 to the Fund.

BARBADOS

King George's Fund for Sailors. The Barbados Voluntary War Workers' Association has contributed £100 to the King George's Fund for Sailors.

Further Donation to Red Cross. Among the gifts received by the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund on April 23rd were £200 from the Barbados Voluntary War Workers' Association, making with a former donation £300. The Fund now stands at £1,357,000.

JAMAICA

Gift to Princess Elizabeth. The children of Jamaica sent a message to Princess Elizabeth on April 21st wishing her many happy returns of her birthday. They have also transmitted a draft for £100, collected in pennies, which they hope she will give to her favourite charity.

(Continued from next column)

"The Bill," he continued, "will propose that a public company shall not distribute a greater dividend on Ordinary shares than was distributed in any one of three pre-war years. That is to say, a business which has been able to distribute in the past a big dividend will not be prevented from doing so again, but it cannot increase it. But a minimum rate of dividend will be allowed in the case of companies which in the recent past have been unable to pay that minimum; and where there are no complications, such as participating rights of other shares, the minimum will be the equivalent of 4 per cent.

"There will have to be provision for exceptions for new companies and a general dispensing power for hard cases to be exercised by the Treasury on the advice of the Capital Issues Committee. In order to make this plan watertight—and for other reasons also—I propose to prohibit the issue of bonus shares during the war, save in cases where entirely exceptional grounds exist, such as where two companies amalgamate and something has to be done to adjust the position."

THE DUTY ON RUM

The new duties on spirits became effective on April 24th. The change in the duty on rum is shown below:—

	OLD DUTY			NEW DUTY		
	Full Rate	Preferential Rate		Full Rate	Preferential Rate	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Proof gallon —	4	5	4	4	2	10
In cask ...	4	6	4	5	0	4
In bottle ...	4	6	4	5	1	4

The Budget

Heavy Additional Taxation

SIR JOHN SIMON presented his fourth—and second war-time—Budget in the House of Commons on April 23rd.

After reviewing the results of the past year—during which the record sum of £390,000,000 was obtained from income tax—Sir John dealt with the estimates for 1940-41 which produced the following totals:—

Expenditure	£2,666,790,000
Revenue	£1,234,391,000
Deficit	£1,432,399,000

He announced the following increases in taxation:—

INCOME TAX. 6d. in the standard rate to 7/6 in the £.
SURTAX. Payable on incomes over £1,500 instead of over £2,000 (rates not yet fixed).

BEER. Approximately 1d. per pint on beer of average gravity.

SPIRITS. 15/- per proof gallon. (The old and new duties on rum are shown below).

TOBACCO. 3d. per ounce.

MATCHES. ½d. per box of 50.

POSTAL CHARGES. 1d. on Inland and Imperial letters (to 2½d.) and ½d. on Foreign (to 3d.) and an extra 1d. and ½d. respectively on post-cards. (And extra charges on printed paper, samples, etc.)

INLAND TELEPHONE SERVICE. General increase of 15 per cent.

INLAND TELEGRAMS. Fixed additional charge of 3d.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also announced the imposition of a Purchase Tax, to be met when a wholesaler sells to a retailer. It will not apply to food or drink, or to articles already heavily taxed. The rate per cent. is to be determined by Resolution of the House of Commons.

After referring to certain proposed amendments to the Finance Act, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that in regard to Customs and Excise, apart from any change of taxation, he would propose legislation in regard to two points. The object of his first proposal would be to assist the export trade by improving the conditions under which drawback was payable on certain exported goods. He continued:—

"The second proposal will relate to the margin of preference on Empire sugar, the stabilisation of which beyond August 19th next is linked with the operation of the International Sugar Agreement of 1937. In present circumstances, I am advised, it is doubtful whether that Agreement will function in the near future in the manner which Parliament contemplated, when it authorised the existing provisions in regard to Empire sugar. The object of the legislation will be to make it clear that the present preference shall, nevertheless, continue until the end of August, 1942, the period originally contemplated when the International Sugar Agreement was negotiated."

Later in his speech, which occupied over two hours, Sir John said that a Bill would be shortly introduced limiting the dividends paid by public companies during the war period.

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

Conditions in Barbados

Governor's Financial and Economic Review

SIR JOHN WADDINGTON, Governor of Barbados, addressed the members of the Legislative Council and of the House of Assembly for the first time since the outbreak of war, on February 14th, when he reviewed the financial and economic position of the island.

He had been particularly pleased to learn on his return to the Colony (from British Guiana) in December last, how loyally the entire community had accepted the restrictions imposed and had carried out the various Orders which it had been found necessary to make.

The Treasury balance at the beginning of the financial year (1939-40) was £189,497, which, with the revised estimate of revenue of £573,597 produced a total of £763,094. The revised expenditure estimate was £653,967, leaving an estimated surplus at the end of the year of £109,127. It would appear from those figures, said Sir John, that there had been a loss on the year's working of £80,370, but provision for several items of an unusual nature, totalling £68,500, had been made, so that the actual excess of ordinary expenditure over ordinary revenue was £11,870.

He was glad to note that some fifty settlers from Barbados had taken up holdings in the Vieux Fort Estate in St. Lucia. He regarded that scheme as a most important one; although it would absorb only a small portion of their surplus population it was a valuable experiment in emigration and at the same time offered good prospects to the participants. It had made a good start and he hoped that progress towards completion would be accelerated.

Continuing, His Excellency said: "I am happy to say that at the beginning of the school year in September last the scheme for the free medical and dental treatment of elementary school children came into operation. The medical profession is willingly co-operating with Government in this matter and I feel confident that the scheme will have most beneficial results.

"I have frequently expressed the view that a determined effort should be made to substitute fresh milk for condensed in the free issue now being made to the children. It has been found possible to give effect to this proposal in the case of a few schools and I hope to see further progress in the current year. The increased cost of condensed milk removes the objections that were advanced on financial grounds and it seems to me that the time is now opportune for a thorough examination of the proposal.

"The Housing Board is at present constructing ten small houses with funds provided for the housing scheme. I understand that the Board has in mind to erect the next batch of houses on a somewhat different plan so that experience may be gained of the most suitable type to select as a model for future extension of the scheme. I have recently visited the site and was pleased to see that the plots had been laid out to make

good use of the available land and that the houses were of good construction. . . . As I have said before and as you are all aware the scheme at present envisaged will be mainly in the nature of an experiment to provide data for a much larger scheme in the future. I am still of the opinion that a replanning of selected areas of Bridgetown will be required and that a necessary preliminary will be a large scale plan. I hope therefore that the House of Assembly will be able to express an opinion at an early date on the proposal for such a survey which was conveyed by Message last year.

"While the rains in the latter part of the year have made the prospects of the sugar crop better than was at one time expected, we will have to face the fact that the total will only be about two-thirds of that of last year, though it is true that the 1938 crop was the largest in the history of the Colony. The reduction in output combined with the fact that the price has been fixed up to September this year by the Imperial Sugar Controller at the same figure as previously will cause considerably smaller returns to the planter and less money to be in circulation in the island. It will therefore be a more difficult year both for the estate owners and for the agricultural labourers. I wish to appeal strongly to all concerned to keep clearly in mind the true facts of the position, to be guided in all their actions by the realities of the situation, and to do their utmost to apportion the burdens equitably. . . .

"The fancy molasses industry continues to be controlled under the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Acts, 1937 and 1939. Owing to the carry over of fancy molasses from the previous year the production of fancy molasses for 1939 was limited to about 62,500 puncheons which meant that the fancy molasses factories had to sell cane for manufacture into sugar. It is gratifying to record that at the end of December, 1939, there were no stocks of fancy molasses remaining in Barbados and, from information received, all stocks in Canada were also exhausted.

"The cane breeding policy of the Department of Agriculture is tending more and more towards the production of seedlings derived from crosses of Barbados canes and wild canes. These crosses give increased powers of disease resistance and ratooning and two examples of such crosses, viz. B.35187 and B.37161, have been liberated for small scale tests on the plantations. Much of this aspect of the breeding work was rendered possible by the creation of the British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station in Barbados the establishment of which serves as an excellent example of the usefulness of centralising research work of interest to more than one Colony."

Sir John concluded his speech by referring to the Government experimental broadcast station and to the proposed construction of modern run-ways for aeroplanes of the K.L.M. service.

The West India Committee

Meeting of the Executive

MR. J. GORDON MILLER presided over a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on April 23rd and there were also present: Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Sir Alfred Sherlock, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. John Bromley, Mr. Evan R. Campbell, Mr. James du Buisson, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. F. A. Greenaway, Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, Mr. C. W. Murray, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. Lauchlan Rose, Mr. H. A. Walker and Mr. E. J. King (secretary), Mr. T. Souness, executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Standing Committee and Mr. H. Paget (secretariat).

The chairman welcomed Mr. Cecil Murray who was attending his first meeting as a member of the Executive. The following nineteen candidates were elected to membership of the West India Committee.

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. H. S. GIBSON (Grenada)	{ Thomson Hankey & Co. Captain Stephen Clark.
MR. O. M. BAIN (Grenada)	{ Thomson Hankey & Co. Captain Stephen Clark.
MR. CHARLES HOWE (Country)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Jonas Browne & Son, Ltd.
MR. GEORGE GUNTON BROWN (London)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
MR. HORACE HENRY KING (Country)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
MRS. MARY WALLER (London)	{ Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques. Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc.
MR. RAYMOND PERCIVAL (London) HAMEL-SMITH	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques.
MR. C. L. WARD (London)	{ Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques. Mr. J. W. Pearl.
MR. HAROLD WILBERFORCE ROE (Country) WARDLAW, B.A.	{ The United British Oilfields of Trinidad Limited. Mr. R. Beaumont.
CAPTAIN WM. FRANCIS BRYDEN (Trinidad)	{ D. Q. Henriques & Co., Ltd. Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques.
MR. RICHARD CECIL BRRES (Trinidad)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Jonas Browne & Son, Ltd.
LADY HUTSON (Country)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Jonas Browne & Son, Ltd.
MR. THOMAS REGINALD COWELL (British Guiana)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. Ian R. Parker.
MR. HENRY ROBERT HOULDING, (London) J.P.	{ Mr. Alexander Elder. Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques.
J. R. MARTIN & Co., LTD. (London)	{ Mr. A. E. Miller. Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques.
MAJOR KENNETH HERBERT (British Guiana) HOLLEY	{ The Hon. F. J. Scaford, O.B.E. Mr. B. H. Bayley.
MR. FRANK GRANT BURSLEM (Iran)	{ Mr. John Burslem. Mr. A. S. Rose.
MR. JOHN MILLER DUNBAR (Trinidad) IMRIE, C.A., A.C.W.A.	{ Mr. H. A. Walker. Mr. George F. Chalmers, F.C.I.S.
LIEUT.-COL. HUGH DE PUTRON (Country)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Jonas Browne & Son, Ltd.

The thanks of the Committee were expressed to those who were assisting it so greatly by introducing new candidates for membership. The chairman stated that at a meeting of the treasurers on April 17th, proposals were discussed as to how the Committee's financial position could be improved; at present it

bore little relation to the extent or importance of the work with which the Committee was entrusted.

It was reported that the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Lord Moyne had written expressing their appreciation of the letters which the West India Committee had written to them regarding the Government's Colonial policy and on the completion of the task of the Royal Commission.

Meetings of the Ladies War Services Committee, the Jamaica Standing Committee and the Rum Propaganda Committee were reported. The generosity of the people of the Caribbean Colonies to the men of the fighting Forces had again been evidenced by many gifts to which more detailed reference is made elsewhere in this issue of the CIRCULAR.

An important discussion took place on costs of production of sugar and their bearing on the price to be fixed by the Government for the new crop. Emphasis was laid on the rise in costs of gunnies, fertilisers and other supplies and to increases in wages which had been granted since last summer. The Sugar Associations had now supplied to the West India Committee particulars of increases and the true position was becoming more evident. The report of the committee recently set up by the Government of Trinidad to examine the capacity of the industry to meet the demands for higher wages and higher prices to cane-farmers would be of great assistance in so far as that Colony was concerned, by establishing a definite cost basis. A sub-Committee of the Executive, representing producers interests and consisting of Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Sir Alfred Sherlock, Mr. James du Buisson, Mr. Cecil Murray and Mr. H. A. Walker, was appointed to watch developments until a special meeting of the Executive became necessary.

Representations on the omission in the Recommendations of the Royal Commission of a reference to the West Indian citrus industry and regarding additional freight-space required for Jamaica rum were reported.

Other matters dealt with were in connexion with the Canadian Benefit Pool, the possibility of utilising second-hand sugar bags, the increase obtained in the cocoa quota for Trinidad and the Windward Islands, and shipping facilities for the transport of cocoa in vessels carrying sugar.

A vote of thanks was passed to Sir Mayson Beeton for the gift of the following books to the West India Committee's Library:—

- Memoirs of the First Settlement of the Island of Barbados.*
- Bermuda*, by Julia C. R. Dorr.
- Due South*, by M. M. Ballou.
- Guide to St. Lucia.*
- Black America*, by W. Laird Clowes.
- Venezuela*, by William Eleroy Curtis.
- Cruising among the Caribbees*, by Charles Augustus Stoddard.
- Stark's History and Guide to Barbados and Caribbee Islands.*
- The Plantation Negro as a Freeman*, by Philip A. Bruce.

AMONG recent visitors to the West India Committee rooms was Sir Claud Hollis, now happily recovered from his recent illness. Sir Claud informed us that his history of Trinidad under Spanish occupation is due for publication very shortly.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"TWO jackass caan bray one time."

* * *

THE Saint Lucia Workers Co-operative Union was registered on March 9th, under the Trade Unions Ordinance of 1933.

* * *

MR. E. T. YOUNG, Steward and Chief Dispenser, Colonial Hospital, St. Vincent, has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

* * *

THE Governor of British Guiana has appointed the Hon. F. J. Seaford to be the Government representative on the board of governors of the Bishop's High School for Girls in Georgetown.

* * *

MR. C. H. THORLEY, a director since 1937 of Henry K. Davson and Co., Ltd., has just completed 50 years service with that company. When he joined the firm, as a junior in 1890, it was known as Henry K. Davson and its offices were at 9, Gracechurch Street.

* * *

MR. ALFRED ERNEST ALBERT VICKERS, who died at St. Leonards-on-Sea on April 13th, was the second son of the late Mr. Edward Vickers, Puisne Judge of Jamaica, and a member of a family which has been prominent for many years in Westmoreland in that island.

* * *

THE Colonial Office announced on April 13th that Mr. R. E. Turnbull, of the Malayan Civil Service, has been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary, British Honduras, in succession to Mr. W. Johnston, who has been appointed as Comptroller of Customs, Sierra Leone.

* * *

MISS JANICE MARGARET MAYOR, whose engagement to Mr. John Burke da Silva has just been announced, is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mayor, of Auchencairn, Paget, Bermuda. Her fiance is the only son of Mr. J. C. de Silva, late of the United States Embassy at Lima, and of Greenwich, Connecticut.

* * *

ANOTHER engagement of Bermuda interest is that of Mr. Hans Frederick Rowan-Hamilton and Miss Angela Mary Francesca Phillimore, third daughter of the Rev. E. G. Phillimore, of Southsea. Mr. Rowan-Hamilton is the only son of Sir Orme Rowan-Hamilton, who retired recently from the posts of Chief Justice of Bermuda and President of the Legislative Council, and of Lady Rowan-Hamilton, of Thurloe Square, London.

* * *

MR. GUY PERRIN, the recently appointed Labour Officer in Barbados, is quoted by the Barbados Commercial Journal as of the opinion that one of the first needs in the Colony was some cohesive policy among both workers and employers and that the formation of recognized unions of both was the essential precursor of friendly relations.

MR. C. M. PICKTHALL, of the Department of Overseas Trade, arrived recently in New York to take up his appointment as Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom at the World's Fair which reopens on May 11th. Mr. Pickthall was His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Jamaica, British Honduras and the Bahamas from 1935 to 1938.

* * *

A GRAPHIC account of the Burning of Port-of-Spain "from an old Tobago newspaper dated April 1st, 1808" is given in the March issue of The Tobagonian. As the result of the fire "a large and populous town which but a few hours before bore the second rank in our Windward Islands possessions had vanished and nothing remained but stacks of chimneys and walls in ruins."

* * *

AT a recent meeting of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Sir George Huggins paid a warm tribute to the services which Mr. E. C. Buck had rendered to that body over a long period of years. Mr. Buck's resignation was before the meeting, but on the proposal of Sir George, it was not accepted and his name is to come up for the distinction of honorary membership.

* * *

WHEN Mr. Buck joined the Chamber nearly 30 years ago he was actively engaged as a consulting engineer and geologist to the several companies then developing the Colony's oil industry. In 1912, at the request of the Governor, the late Sir George Le Hunte, he drew up the draft oil mining regulations which are the basis of those in force today. In the following year he returned to the Colonial Civil Service and was appointed Director of Public Works in British Guiana, retiring in 1921.

* * *

SIR HENRY POPHAM, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Windward Islands, and Lady Popham called at St. Lucia on February 5th on their return journey to Grenada from Dominica. His Excellency landed in order to take the Oaths of Office under the newly constituted Government of the Windward Islands, including Dominica. The Oath of Allegiance and the Oath for the due execution of the office of Governor were administered to His Excellency in the Legislative Council Chamber by His Honour Mr. Justice Richards in the presence of the Executive Council, with the Legislative Council in attendance.

* * *

THE annual Malaria Control Course for laymen will be held at the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene commencing on June 24th. The course, which lasts five days, is designed for planters and mining engineers, but it will be of interest to missionaries and others who are proceeding to the tropics. Instruction is given on mosquitoes and their habits, drainage and other measures for the prevention of malaria, illustrated by lantern slides, films and a practical demonstration on Hampstead Heath. The course is free, but application to attend should be sent in as early as possible to the organizing secretary at Keppel Street, W.C.1.

The Timber Shortage

Opportunity for the West Indies

MR. J. R. AINSLIE, formerly Chief Conservator of Forests in Nigeria, deals in a very interesting article, "Soft wood substitutes from the Guianas," published in the April issue of *Wood*, with the possibility of the forests of the Guianas (British and French) and British Honduras being able to help redress the shortage of soft woods caused by the war's interference with the Baltic trade. Some fifteen years ago, he says, a committee which reported on the forest position in British Guiana expressed the opinion that with the depletion of the soft woods and better class temperate hardwoods, more and more recourse would be had to tropical woods both because of their intrinsic merits and as substitutes for soft woods. At that time Europe was trying to recover from the Great War, and as the huge supplies of Baltic soft woods were being rapidly tapped, with the vast resources rendered available by the development of the newly organised countries, Poland, Finland and Latvia, there seemed little danger that England would ever run short, especially as there were also the immense potentialities of Russia. Another European war in which the Baltic would be closed to England seemed impossible. Unfortunately this war has happened and substitutes for Baltic timbers must be found.

The committee above referred to envisaged the possibility of finding a market for British Guiana timbers in the United States. It was never contemplated then that the Guiana forests might prove an Imperial asset of the utmost potential value in war time. Nevertheless, as Mr. Ainslie says, that is the position to-day and he proceeds with proposals for putting this valuable asset to practical use.

He estimates the total potential forest area which can be operated on at the moment, that is already accessible, as over 40,000 square miles; British Guiana, 19,000, French Guiana 14,000, British Honduras 5,000, with smaller areas in the islands aggregating 2,000 square miles.

The timbers already marketed from these forests are mainly hard woods—mahogany, greenheart, mora, crabwood, etc., but the forests contain a large proportion, estimated at about 40 to 50 per cent., of what are termed "soft hardwoods," some of which are enumerated as coming within the following classes: "pine," "spruce," "larch" and "cedar."

Having shown that there is a large and comparatively accessible supply of common utility timbers available in partial substitution at any rate for the former huge supplies obtained from the Baltic, Mr. Ainslie deals with the important question of how to develop these potentialities. As he says the main difficulty in parts of the region is shortage of labour in the forests themselves. He suggests this might be overcome by the recruitment of a Forest Corps for the duration of the war, such recruitment being made as far as possible locally but if necessary from adjoining countries as well. He points out that the organisation of such a corps would involve initial expenditure, but submits that the result would be

beneficial. "Increased work and wages would be created, the forests would benefit, a financial return would be obtained from formerly unsaleable timber and a raw material in increasingly urgent demand in England and of the utmost value in our war effort would again become available."

The Royal Commission

Appreciation in British Guiana

Sir Wilfrid Jackson, Governor of British Guiana, in a recent broadcast in connexion with the West India Royal Commission's recommendations, pointed out, wrote our honorary correspondent on March 7th, that the provision by Great Britain of financial aid, on the most generous scale for years to come, to assist in developing the Colony's resources and in raising the standard of their internal organisation at such a time—in the midst of the present gigantic struggle—was an astonishing testimony of the strength and confidence of the British people and their Government; it should fill the people with a determination to make the fullest use of the great opportunity presented to them.

The programme which the Royal Commission had sketched out for these Colonies was the most far-reaching that had ever been planned and touched the foundations of their economic and social life. The greatest contribution the individual could make to the accomplishment of this task was to study how to give his very best to his own particular job.

With regard to the measure of immediate assistance offered the Colonies from the fund of £350,000, His Excellency announced that a provisional programme of works which could be immediately undertaken, that was to say of works for which detailed plans were already prepared or alternatively works for which no elaborate planning was necessary, had been submitted. In drawing up the proposals for submission to the Secretary of State, special attention had been paid to the desirability of selecting works which offered the widest field for employment.

* * *

In the Legislative Council the following Resolution was moved by Hon. J. Eleazer, an elected member, seconded by Hon. J. I. de Aguiar, another elected member, and unanimously carried:—

"That this Council on its own behalf and on behalf of the inhabitants of this Colony extends to the Royal Commission our cordial and grateful thanks for their thorough investigation of, and their liberal report and recommendations on, the various problems relating to the progress and development of the Colony, and respectfully expresses its gratitude for the avowal of the British Government of its deep concern in our well-being, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to those concerned.

"That this expression of appreciation of the very valuable services of the Commission be placed on record."

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*The Crime of Praedial Larceny—Reduced Sugar Crops
A Jamaica School after Two Centuries*



ANTIGUA

EXECUTIVE Council. The Governor, in pursuance of instructions from the King, has appointed the Hon. J. C. McMichael, and the Hon. R. H. Lockhart to be unofficial members of the Executive Council of Antigua.

Excise on "Washed Sugar." A draft has been published of a Bill under which it is proposed to impose an excise duty of two shillings per ton on washed sugar manufactured in Antigua or manufactured in any other Presidency of the Leeward Islands and brought into Antigua for consumption.

Telephonic Communication has been installed between the islands, and Miss Goodwin writes that by the courtesy of the Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., certain private individuals have spoken to friends in St. Kitts, and as far south as British Guiana with very satisfactory results. Arrangements have to be made in advance and conversations take place from the wireless station. Certain experiments have yet to be made but if all goes well the service may be open to the public in two months time.

Sugar. Crop started after some delay owing to excessive demands for higher wages by the newly formed Labour Union. Fortunately the Administrator used his influence for conciliation and so explained the situation that a settlement was arrived at giving reasonable terms to both parties. The Antigua Sugar Factory, which absorbed Bendals Factory, hoped to make about 15,000 tons of sugar this year—which is remarkably different from last year's crop of 23,000 tons.

The Holberton Hospital has received a donation of three Gertsch hospital beds. These are specially constructed so that separate sections can be raised or lowered by the turning of a handle, thus helping both patient and medical attendant. The donor of this useful and generous gift is Mr. Augustine A. Austin, who 35 years ago left his home in Antigua to settle in New York. Recently Dr. L. R. Wynter visited New York when on leave and renewed his acquaintance with Mr. Austin, and it is by his interest that Mr. Austin's gift took this particular form.

BARBADOS

The Sugar Crop. In the notes for February issued by the Department of Agriculture it is recorded that the rainfall during the month was very much below normal and that the canes were beginning to dry up to an alarming extent. From estimates supplied by the factories at the end of February it was anticipated that the total crop would be the equivalent of 105,395 tons sugar, made up as follows: vacuum pan sugar 75,545, muscovado 2,850 and fancy molasses (equated at 330 wine gallons per ton sugar) 27,000. The harvesting of this year's crop was well under way, thirty sugar

factories and forty-three syrup plants being at work.

Wheat and Cassava Bread. Sample loaves had been made with mixtures of cassava and wheat flour with the object of discovering the maximum amount of cassava meal that could be used in producing a good, light, unsweetened loaf. It had been found that an exceedingly palatable light loaf resulted from a mixture of 25 per cent. cassava meal and 75 per cent. wheat flour.

Water Shortage. Owing to abnormally low rainfall during the preceding twelve months the Government was compelled to issue notices in February asking the public to exercise the strictest economy in the use of water.

BRITISH GUIANA

Controlling Firearms. Our honorary correspondent writing on March 7th stated that a Bill had just been introduced into the Legislative Council to secure the better control of the purchase and use of firearms. It was known that a considerable number of persons in the Colony were in possession of unlicensed firearms. Within a month of the Ordinance coming into force all firearms other than those in the possession of licensed dealers must be surrendered to the Police, in order that they may be licensed. The Bill also restricts importation, requires every firearm to have engraved upon it a distinguishing number or mark, prohibits certain classes of persons from having firearms, prohibits the possession of certain types of arms and weapons, provides a rigid control over the sale or transfer of firearms, and in general makes the law of the Colony relating to firearms conform to modern practice.

JAMAICA

Mr. S. A. Deacon. Widespread regret is expressed at the departure from Jamaica of Mr. S. A. Deacon, H.M. Trade Commissioner in Jamaica, and Mrs. Deacon. Mr. Deacon has been recalled to the United Kingdom for important duties at the Department of Overseas Trade.

New Wolmer's Masters. Wolmer's Boys School, which was founded over two centuries ago, becomes more and not less vigorous with the passage of time. A new addition nearing completion is a biological laboratory which is expected to be one of the most up to date and best equipped in the West Indies. A new master has recently arrived from England to teach agricultural biology at the school. He is Dr. H. C. James, of Cambridge University, who has been a lecturer in agricultural biology at Leeds University and has spent several years in research work in British East Africa and later at Cambridge. Another new master is Mr. R. W. Harris, of Bristol University, who has recently been carrying out historical research in Italy as Rome Scholar for The British Empire.

Railway Accident. Two persons were killed and four were seriously injured in a collision which occurred on April 4th between a motor trolley and a push trolley on the line near Cambridge. Amongst those slightly injured was Prince Carlo Ruspoli, of Italy.

Maximum Selling Prices. The Food Controller has issued a new and comprehensive list of articles for which the maximum selling prices have been fixed as from April 1st. Complete lists will be published once a month.

Fern Gully. The Rev. S. A. Swaby has drawn attention to the fact that the Fern Gully, which has always been a major attraction for visitors to Jamaica, has suffered severe damage as a result of recent storms.

ST. VINCENT

Arrowroot. In his agricultural notes for February, Mr. C. K. Robinson said the lack of rain had improved the drying of arrowroot although in some cases lifting had been difficult. The receipts of starch at the pool increased to 9,657 barrels compared with 8,164 in January, and the total for the crop year 1939-40 amounted to 21,428 barrels (45.7 per cent. grade 2) against 15,204 barrels (47 per cent. grade 2) for the corresponding period of the 1938-39 crop. Some young fields at the northern end of the island had been attacked by the leaf-roller but the pest was being controlled by spraying. Exports amounted to 2,683 barrels compared with 2,220 barrels in February 1939.

Cotton. The very dry weather in January and February had seriously affected the crop and some fields had completely dried off by the end of February with a complete loss of the top crop. Negotiations were under way for the sale of the whole crop, estimated at about 1,300 bales.

Other Crops. 2,618 stems of bananas had been sold to the Canadian Banana Co. making 5,541 for 1940, compared with 6,691 in the same two months of 1939. A small oil expelling plant was now in operation and a good quality coco-nut edible oil and various types of soap were being produced.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Diesel Locomotive. The arrival in the Colony is expected shortly of the first Diesel locomotive to be imported for the Trinidad Government Railway. It is stated to be capable of hauling nearly 1,000 tons at sixteen miles an hour on the level.

Paper Pulp. Work has been resumed at the factory of the Trinidad Bamboo Pulp Co., and a consignment of over 700 bales of paper pulp was shipped to Great Britain early in April.

The Governor and Praedial Larceny. When opening the very successful Agricultural Show at Rio Claro, the first to be held there, Sir Hubert Young made special reference to the model mixed farming plot laid out to demonstrate how to make a small holding carry a little each of live stock, cover crops and root crops. Before work on such lines could be useful they must put an end to the wicked crime now being committed all over the island of stealing other people's crop. Only one thing would really stop it, and that was the growth of public opinion. Meanwhile as a help, His Excellency recommended application to the Department of Agriculture for plants of the right sort of

cactus to form an effective hedge to keep thieves out. In Africa, he said, they had a kind of cactus which he grew round Government House garden, not because he thought anybody would break in but because he wanted to show people what the proper kind of hedge was. It was this same cactus which the Agricultural Department could supply to all who asked for it.

Planes Named at the Flying Club. In the regretted absence of Lady Young, due to the illness of her son, Mrs. J. Huggins, the wife of the Colonial Secretary, named on March 30th, Ajax and Exeter, the two De Havilland Tiger Moths of the Light Aeroplane Club. The Governor, Sir Hubert Young, addressing the members of the club, said it was a great moment in the history of flying in Trinidad and Tobago and he wanted to congratulate them all on the very solid foundations they had laid. He had been tremendously struck by the business-like manner and by the extreme promptitude with which the Club had got its affairs under way. The Government would do all they possibly could to help those who wanted to qualify so as to take their part in flying during the war.

West Indian Sugar Exports, 1940

The following statement of the estimated exports of sugar, from January 1st to August 31st, 1940, summarizes information received by the West India Committee at the beginning of April. A previous estimate, now modified, was published in the CIRCULAR of March 21st.

Estimated Exports January 1st to August 31st, 1940.

	tons		tons
Barbados ...	62,100	British Guiana...	86,302
Jamaica ...	94,280	British Honduras...	250
Trinidad ...	77,365		
Leeward Islands	42,000	Total	370,757
Windward Islands	8,460		

The estimated exports of Barbados fancy molasses for the same period amount to 27,000 tons.

Jamaica's Sugar Industry

Mr. D. J. Verity wrote on March 29th that since his last notes (CIRCULAR of March 21st), nine more factories had started crop, making twenty-three at work. The remaining four, all on the north side of the island, were due to start in the following week. Up to March 23rd, 35,500 tons of sugar had been produced, and shipments had been proceeding apace since the beginning of February. Juice purities had begun to show improvement within the past two weeks, but it was still doubtful whether the improvement would result in the most recent estimate of 113,000 tons being reached.

They were looking forward to a visit of about a fortnight's duration from Mr. J. G. Davies, the Sugar Technologist at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. The Sugar Manufacturers' Association in collaboration with the Jamaican Association of Sugar Technologists were arranging an itinerary which would enable him to study at first hand the problems of Jamaican factories, and to meet owners, managers and technologists.

Obituary

DR. BLACKWOOD WRIGHT

DR. ERIC BLACKWOOD WRIGHT, LL.D., who died in London, we regret to learn, on April 10th, was formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago.

Born in 1860, he was the eldest son of the Rev. C. H. H. Wright, D.D., and brother of Sir Almroth Wright and the late Sir Charles Hagberg Wright, of the London Library. After being called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1885 he joined the Northern Circuit, and in 1905 was appointed Chief Justice of the Seychelles Islands. In 1909 he became Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago, resigning from that office in 1920.

He published several legal works, and translated the Civil Code with notes, in 1908, for which he received the thanks of Lord Crewe, then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MR. J. E. W. FLOOD, C.M.G.

Mr. John Ernest William Flood, C.M.G., who, we regret to learn, died in London on April 9th, had been Third Crown Agent for the Colonies since 1938.

Born in 1886, he was a son of Lieut.-Colonel S. Flood, and educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen and Trinity College, Dublin. He entered the Civil Service in 1910 and from 1926 to 1937 was an assistant secretary at the Colonial Office, becoming a Crown Agent in the following year.

While at the Colonial Office, Mr. Flood was vice-chairman of the Colonial Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee (1924-26) and a member of the West African Currency Board (1928).

SIR RANSFORD SLATER, G.C.M.G.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death, at his home at Cookham Dean, on April 23rd, of Sir Ransford Slater, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., who was Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica from 1932 to 1934.

Alexander Ransford Slater was born in 1874, the son of the Rev. C. S. Slater, a Plymouth Congregational minister. He was sent to King Edward's School, Birmingham, from which he took a scholarship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, graduating as 30th Wrangler in 1897. In the following year he became a cadet in the Ceylon Service and served in that Colony in various departments until 1914. Shortly before the outbreak of the last War he was promoted to the Gold Coast as Colonial Secretary, and remained there in this capacity not only throughout the War but for four years afterwards. He was made a C.M.G. in 1916 and a C.B.E. two years later for his services in recruiting.

In 1922 he was appointed Governor of Sierra Leone, holding that post for five years, and he then returned to the Gold Coast as Governor, where he remained for the same period. In 1932 Sir Ransford was appointed Governor of Jamaica, retiring in 1934 owing to a breakdown in health.

MR. E. T. COX

Mr. Edgar Tudor Cox, who died, we regret to learn, in Barbados, on March 26th, was the owner of Castle Grant plantation, and one of the most popular sportsmen in the Colony.

Born in Barbados in 1875, he was one of the five sons of Mr. Dowding Cox, owner of Joe's River plantation. After leaving Lodge School he took up planting, and then spent eight years in Trinidad before returning to the management of the family property at Joe's River. Later he managed Hanson and then became the owner of Castle Grant.

At a meeting of the St. Joseph's Vestry, held on March 27th, the chairman, the Rev. P. W. D. Moore, paid a tribute to the character and personality of Mr. Cox and referred to the excellent work which he had done for the parish. A resolution, moved by the Hon. R. Challenor and seconded by Mr. E. Brathwaite, was passed unanimously, placing on record Mr. Cox's valuable services to St. Joseph's, and expressing sympathy with the members of the family.

MR. CHARLES LAMB

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death, on April 25th, at Campden Hill, London, of Mr. Charles Herbert Lamb, the well-known rum merchant, of Great Tower Street.

Born in 1858, he was the son of Mr. Alfred Lamb, and at the age of 17 entered the business founded by his father in 1849. For almost 65 years, Mr. Charles Lamb had been actively engaged in the rum trade and he was one of its most popular figures. He had served for many years on the committees of the several associations connected with the "trade," and was one of its leading authorities.

In his younger days Mr. Lamb was a distinguished amateur actor, and one of the leading members of the Strolling Players.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Lamb in her great loss.

Adviser on Animal Health

Mr. John Smith, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S., has been appointed Adviser on Animal Health to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. From 1913 Mr. Smith was a Veterinary Officer in Northern Rhodesia until early in 1916, when he went on active war service. Reappointed to Northern Rhodesia in October, 1921, he became Chief Veterinary Officer in 1922 and Director of Animal Health in November, 1929.

A SON was born to Mrs. Tinne, wife of Lieutenant D. C. Tinne, R.N.V.R., at Hale, Liverpool, on April 22nd.

It was officially announced last week at Hamilton, that from the beginning of May, Bermuda will be a concentration centre for merchant ships to be convoyed by British warships to various destinations.

Round the Markets

April 30th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchangerates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below :—

	Apr. 15th.	Apr. 29th.		
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$ value	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$..	4/11.6
France	176.62	176.62	Fr. "	-/1.4
Holland	7.55	7.55	Gu. "	2/7.8

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are :—

Dividend latest year		Price	
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 3d. per cent.)	74½	74½
3½	War Loan	99½	99½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6	nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	25/-	nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	1	1
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	26/9	27/9
8½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	36/6	40/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ...	36/6	40/6
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ...	1/3	1/3
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/3	1/9
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1	1½
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9	3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3/4½	3/10½
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d.	1/-
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½	2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	—	—
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/9	7/9
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/- ...	3d.	1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	48/6	49/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/6	6/6
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/6	8/6

RUM. The market was shocked by the heavy increase announced in the Budget. Buyers have temporarily withdrawn.

COCOA has been quiet during the fortnight. Further small sales have been made in Grenada descriptions at 62/6 to 64/- for fine and at 60/- to 62/6 for "off" quality. Practically no business has been reported in Trinidad sorts; spot is quoted nominally at 74/- to 80/- for good to fine, and the first three marks, "to arrive," at 61/-, sellers. A small trade has been done in West African at 32/- to 32/6 c.i.f., afloat, for good fermented.

BALATA. Demerara sheet is slow and valued at 2/5 landed terms. Venezuelan block is also quiet.

BANANAS. There is a fair demand for Jamaicas and supplies are rather short. The price is unchanged at £25 5s. delivered London and £25 nearest station Provinces.

COTTON. A few bales of inferior quality West Indian Sea Island have been sold during the fortnight; prices remain firm.

HONEY is quiet and unchanged with Jamaica quoted at 77/6 to 85/- per cwt. ex wharf for dark liquid to pale amber, and at 92/6 to 95/- for pale to white.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. No Handpressed is available and the value is unchanged at about 40/- per lb. Sellers of Distilled are now asking 21/6 per lb. for limited quantities. **Lime Juice.** The nominal value of Concentrated is £8 per pipe, and Raw is quietly steady at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued at 6/- per lb. and Bitter is nominally worth 8/6 per lb.

SPICES. There are sellers of Pimento at 110/- c.i.f., April-May shipment, but buyers are holding off and the market is dull: spot is quiet at 1/1 ex wharf. Sales of Jamaica Ginger have been made at 52/6 to 55/- ex wharf for No. 3. New crop No. 3 is offering freely at 42/6 with buyers at 40/-. Nutmegs continue quiet and values are unchanged at: defectives 6¼d., sound unassorted 7¼d., sound 80's, 10d., and sound 65's at 11d. ex wharf. There is no change to report in Mace. The last business done on the spot was at 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed red to pale and at 2/6 to 2/7 for choice pale.

West Indies at Westminster

Tobacco Growing in the Virgin Islands

On April 17th, Mr. MANDER asked the Secretary of State whether he could state what assistance it was proposed to give to the application of Mr. C. Brudenell-Bruce for a loan to develop tobacco growing in the islands. Mr. MALCOLM MACDONALD in his reply stated that he had received in April, 1939 the application for a loan of £3,000. Certain difficulties were apparent, particularly as regards marketing, and he felt unable to place the matter before the Colonial Development Advisory Committee until some means of overcoming them could be devised. In the meantime loans totalling £1,000 had been made to this undertaking from the funds of the Virgin Islands Government.

Trinidad Unrest

MR. DAVID ADAMS inquired on April 24th about the measures taken for the removal of unrest and distress in Trinidad arising from the high cost of living, low wages, unemployment and kindred causes. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that as the reply was rather long, he would circulate it in the Official Report. Following is the reply :—

"Joint conferences between employers' associations and the trades unions in the sugar and oil industries in Trinidad were held with the Governor in January. As a result, the standard wage rate in the oil industry was increased by two cents an hour, and in addition a war bonus was instituted, calculated on a cost-of-living sliding scale of half per cent. per hour increase for every complete rise of five points in the Government index figure. In effect this meant an immediate increase in wages of an additional one cent. per hour. The union undertook not to request any further increase in the standard wage during the war and six months thereafter, or for two years, whichever period is the longer. It was also agreed to establish a conciliation board to consist of representatives of the Trinidad Oilfields Employers Association and the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, with the Government Industrial Adviser as chairman.

"In the sugar industry the union accepted provisionally an offer of the manufacturers to increase the wages of the field and factory workers by five cents a day or task and to forgo a deduction of 13 cents a ton on the price of the farmers' cane to which they were entitled under the Cane Farming Control Ordinance. Three of the Committee of the Joint Sugar Board were appointed to inquire into wages to be paid for the crop season of the present year and the price to be paid to cane farmers for their cane, as well as to advise the board on general cultivation. The Government of Trinidad has made orders regulating the prices of certain essential foodstuffs. It has also made funds available to provide meals for necessitous children during term time and has increased the provision for supplying milk to school children."

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. MAY 16th, 1940. No. 1086.

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40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.

Telegrams:
CARIB, ESTRAND, LONDON

May 15th, 1940.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, on Thursday, the 30th day of May, 1940, at 3 p.m.

By order,

EDWARD J. KING, *Secretary.*

AGENDA

(i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended April 30th, 1940, the audited statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1939, and the Balance Sheet.

(ii) To elect twelve 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:—

Lieut.-Colonel IVAN DAVSON, O.B.E.	Mr. T. HARRISON HUGHES
Mr. A. W. ARMOUR	Mr. R. L. M. KIRKWOOD
Mr. H. CRUM EWING	Mr. C. W. MURRAY, D.F.C.
Mr. W. G. FREEMAN	Mr. T. H. NAYLOR
Mr. H. L. Q. HENRIQUES	Mr. LAUCHLAN ROSE, M.C.
Sir GEORGE HUGGINS, O.B.E.	Mr. H. A. WALKER

(iii) Any other business.

New Secretary of State

OUR readers at home and overseas will, when these lines appear, have fuller knowledge of the personnel of MR. CHURCHILL'S administration than is available as we write. Amongst the principal appointments already announced is that of LORD LLOYD OF DOLOBRAN, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O., as Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD. LORD LLOYD has held high administrative posts in the Empire as Governor of Bombay from 1918 to 1923, and High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan from 1925 to 1929. During the last three years he has been chairman of the British Council. LORD LLOYD'S tenure of office in India is commemorated in the great "Lloyd Barrage" in Sind described as "the completion of the dream of many an engineer and an almost incredible boon to the cultivator," the existence of which is attributed largely to his zeal when Governor. We trust that as Secretary of State for the Colonies he may be able to bring similar benefit to the cultivators of the West Indies and other parts of the Colonial Empire for which MR. MACDONALD has done so much in laying the foundations and securing means for future development.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		BRITISH GUIANA SUGAR	118
NEW SECRETARY OF STATE ...	113	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	119
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ...	113	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	120
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	114	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	120
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	115	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	121
WEST INDIAN SUGAR ...	116	JAMAICA BANANA SHORTAGE	122
COLOURED BRITISH SUBJECTS ...	116	WEST INDIAN TRADE IN 1939	123
AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS ...	117	ROUND THE MARKETS	124
COTTON CULTIVATION ...	118	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS	124
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CROPS ...	118		
JAMAICA SUGAR AND RUM	118		

Colonial Development

THE Government has acted promptly to provide the necessary funds to promote Colonial development and welfare along the lines set out in the Statement of Policy and in the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission. In the debate in the House of Commons on March 21st MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that the West Indies could rest assured, on the word of the British Government and of the House, that the recommendations would be acted upon energetically and would be faithfully adhered to. On May 2nd in what, due to Government changes, was fated to be one of his last important actions as Secretary of State for the Colonies, MR. MACDONALD presented to the Commons a Bill which, when it becomes law, will authorize expenditure from the United Kingdom funds up to £5,500,000 a year on Colonial development and welfare, including research.

The Bill goes even further than the Statement of Policy, for while in the latter it was pointed out that many Colonies suffered from a heavy burden of indebtedness no definite suggestion was made for lightening this burden. The Bill proposes however that various loans made to certain Colonies in the past but which there is now little hope of their being able to repay shall be remitted or converted into free grants. The grand total of the sums involved is approximately £11,264,488. The West Indies do not stand alone as Colonies in need of relief from indebtedness and of the total mentioned above the share of the West Indies amounts to £1,315,351 of which a little over half is granted to British Guiana, nearly a quarter to British Honduras, about one eighth to Dominica, and the remainder to Antigua, Montserrat and St. Lucia.

Loans in aid of administration expenses make up nearly £900,000 whilst the balance includes those from the Colonial Development Fund and other sources for road and steamer transport, drainage, hurricane relief, geological survey and relief of unemployment. Financial assistance for purposes such as these will now be forthcoming from the new Fund for Colonial development and welfare referred to above. That there will be no delay on the part of the Government in bringing this Fund into existence is indicated by the fact that on his first appearance in the House of Commons as Prime Minister, MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, after moving that the House adjourn until May 21st, announced that the business on that day would be the second reading of the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill and the Committee stage of the necessary Money Resolution.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THIS has been by far the most crowded fortnight the war has yet seen. It began with the dashing of the high hopes that had been built upon our land campaign in Norway. The small military forces that had been landed north and south of the key fortress of Trondheim, with the intention of closing in upon the German garrison from two sides, found themselves so harassed by aerial bombing that they were unable to bring ashore their essential tanks and heavy guns. The root cause of this terrible disadvantage was the surprise attack, which enabled the Germans to seize all the aerodromes in south and central Norway, so that our fighter aircraft never obtained any base from which they could operate to protect our troops. With strong German forces advancing from Oslo to the relief of Trondheim, it therefore became necessary to withdraw all our battalions from that region, and from Namsos, although those engaged in the investment of the iron-ore port of Narvik, in the far north, are still intensifying their pressure. The withdrawal, a delicate operation in the face of enemy attack, was brilliantly accomplished without loss, and the German casualties, especially at sea, have been severe; nevertheless a serious Allied reverse cannot be denied.

* * *

The effect of this setback on the public mind was intensified by the excessive optimism of the Ministerial speeches by which it had been preceded. Consequently, when the House of Commons met to hear and debate the Government's statement on the situation the atmosphere of acute political crisis was apparent. Mr. Chamberlain's statement met all the obvious criticisms—notably that based on the argument that the relief expedition prepared for Finland ought never to have been dispersed. He showed that the advance guard of that force, which had been kept together, was precisely that which had failed to secure a preliminary foothold, and so that the main body could not in any event have been landed. Nevertheless the impression throughout the House that the British response to the German surprise attack had been slow and hesitating was in no way dispelled.

* * *

Speakers of all parties then began to batter the Government. Mr. Herbert Morrison, the Labour leader, made a devastating attack on its whole conduct of the war. Sir Roger Keyes had come down to the House in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, with many rows of medal ribbons, to speak on behalf of the officers and men of the Navy, who he considered had been balked of a magnificent opportunity. His speech was wretchedly delivered, but devastating in content. He disclosed that he had besieged the Admiralty with demands for a direct attack upon Trondheim from the sea, and had offered to lead it himself, as he had the famous assault upon Zeebrugge twenty-two years ago. Mr. Amery, once Mr. Chamberlain's closest political associate, made a direct demand for the Government's resignation, ending dramatically with Cromwell's denunciation of the Rump Parliament: "You have sat too

long here for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go." Finally, Mr. Lloyd George, with all the authority of his great war services, poured the vials of his wrath on the Government.

* * *

In the face of these furious attacks even the eloquence of Mr. Churchill, loyally rallying to the support of his chief, could not save the situation. Forty Conservatives, many of them in uniform, voted against the Government, whose normal majority of 200 dropped to 81. It was evidently necessary, if it was to have sufficient authority to lead the nation's war effort, that the Opposition leaders should be brought in. But the Labour Party conference, meeting at the Whitsun week-end, made it clear that they would only enter the Government on condition that the Prime Minister resigned and certain other prominent Ministers departed. Thereupon Mr. Chamberlain tendered his resignation to the King, but remained a member of the new war Cabinet formed by Mr. Churchill, who is universally recognised as the supreme representation of the nation's fighting spirit. The chief Labour leaders, Mr. Attlee, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Morrison, have fallen in under Mr. Churchill's banner, and so has Sir Archibald Sinclair, the very able chief of the small Liberal party.

* * *

At the height of the crisis at home, the long-expected German attack, in defiance of Hitler's pledged word, was launched upon Holland and Belgium. The two invaded countries immediately appealed for Allied help, which was instantly given. There were dramatic scenes at the Belgian frontier, as the boundary posts were thrown down and British mechanized troops came racing forward amidst the cheers of our old allies of 1914. As I write, the situation is extremely obscure; but there is immense activity in the air, where the Allies seem to be dealing heavy destruction. At the very moment that the new Prime Minister was taking office the R.A.F. began for the first time to drop bombs instead of propaganda leaflets on military objectives in Germany. Reprisals are of course expected; indeed forty-four bombs had already been dropped near Canterbury. The Home Office has issued a call for the immediate tightening up of all our air raid precautions. There is little doubt that the war is hurrying to a supreme crisis. Hitler, it is believed, hopes to bring the British Empire to its knees before the summer is out, and will use every weapon, fair and foul, to that end. He will be resisted to the death.

It had been hoped that a record number of Rotarians would attend the Rotary International Convention to be held in Havana from June 9th to 14th and, though the war has upset the calculations of the organisers, Cuba is making elaborate arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the delegates who will be mainly drawn from the Americas. Some day Rotarians should meet in a British West Indian island!

The West Indies and The War

The following list of men connected with the West Indies who are serving with the Forces has been compiled from the latest available information. Every effort

has been made to render the list as accurate and complete as possible and the West India Committee will be glad to receive any corrections or additions.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
BAYNES, E. A. J.	St. Lucia	Royal Fusiliers	Corporal
BRANCH, DONALD	Antigua ...	Royal Berkshire Regiment	Private
BRAZAO, FRANK	British Guiana	Royal Air Force ...	Flight Mechanic
BUSHE, CHARLES S. ...	Trinidad	Royal Navy	Lieut.-Commander
COX, LISLE PERCY	Barbados	Royal Army Service Corps	Driver
DEAN, RICHARD	Trinidad	Army Dental Corps	Private
DE CAIRES, D. J.	British Guiana	Royal Air Force ...	Leading Aircraftman
DE FREITAS, L. A.	British Guiana	Royal Air Force ...	Leading Aircraftman
DE FREITAS, W. A. A.	British Guiana	Royal Air Force ...	Flight-Lieut.
DE VERTEUIL, L. L. ...	Trinidad	Gold Coast Regiment	
FRANKLIN, W. D. K.	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	Flying-Officer
GOELLNIGHT, K. F. ...	Trinidad	Green Howards	2nd Lieut.
GORDON, W. G.	Trinidad	Scottish Horse	2nd Lieut.
GRANT, KENNETH G.	Trinidad	Fleet Air Arm	Officer Cadet
HAMEL-SMITH, R. P.	Trinidad	East Surrey Regiment	Private
HAMPSON, T. D.		Cheshire Regiment	Staff Captain
HUNTE, G. H.	Barbados	Royal Corps of Signals	Signalman
INNISS, G. H. F.	Barbados	Royal Air Force ...	Acting Pupil Pilot
JOSLEN, H. F.	Jamaica ...	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Major
JUPP, K. G.		Royal Artillery	2nd Lieut.
LYON, A. R. ...	Trinidad	Royal Naval Reserve	Paymaster-Lieut. Commander
MACKEY, P. W.	British Guiana	Royal Scots	2nd Lieut.
MARCH, L. D. C.	Jamaica ...	Army Dental Corps	Lieut.
MILBANKE, R.		10th Royal Hussars	2nd Lieut.
MODERATE, N.	Trinidad	Royal Engineers ...	Sapper
MOODY, C. ARUNDEL M.		165th Officer Cadet Training Unit	Officer Cadet
NATHAN, A. A.		Royal Air Force ...	Squadron-Leader
PREVITÉ, KENNETH E.		Royal Marines	Major
RERRIE, R. C.	Jamaica ...	Royal Tank Corps	
RICHARDS, J. L. H. ...	Trinidad	Royal Artillery	Gunner
ROBERTS, C. D.		Queen's Regiment	Lance-Corporal
ROBERTS, G. V.		Queen's Regiment	Private
ROSS, E. D.	Antigua ...	Royal Air Force ...	Aircraftsman
ROTH, W. E. ...	British Guiana	Royal Air Force ...	Aircraftsman
SHERLOCK, N. P.		Queen's Royal Regiment	Captain
SLATER, F. D.	British Guiana	The Loyal Regiment	2nd Lieut.
SLATER, M. D.	British Guiana	Royal Artillery	Gunner
SMITH, H. LISLE	Barbados	Royal Sussex Regiment ...	Private
STONE, H. A. L.	Trinidad	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Aircraftsman
STONE, PETER	Trinidad	Royal Air Force ...	
WALLEN, DR. O. L. ...	Trinidad	Royal Army Medical Corps	Lieut.
WALWYN, C. L. D.	St. Kitts	Royal Army Service Corps	
WESTWOOD, N. C.	Trinidad	Royal Artillery	Captain
WESTWOOD, R. G.	Trinidad	Royal Corps of Signals	2nd Lieut.
WIGLEY, J.	St. Kitts	Royal Fusiliers	2nd Lieut.

ANTIGUA

Red Cross Workers. The arrival of the first parcel sent by the McSevney-Bryson branch of the Red Cross Workers has been acknowledged by telegram by Mr. R. Bryson of Bourne-end, with the request that these ladies should continue their good work. This parcel containing slings, bandages, garments, etc., was taken to England freight free by the Harrison Line.

BRITISH GUIANA

Red Cross Appeal Fund. On March 15th subscriptions to the Red Cross Appeal Fund had reached the total of \$16,841.64. Arrangements have been made for the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides to make a house to house collection on April 26th, and on the last Friday in every succeeding month, of silver paper and tin foil such as tea wrappers which will be sold and the proceeds paid into the Red Cross Fund.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Income Tax. By Ordinance No. 2 of 1940, which received the Governor's assent on March 15th, the following increases have been made in the rates of income tax. For persons other than companies, 50 per cent. of the rates payable on the chargeable incomes from £200 to £3,000 and 5/6 on every pound over £3,000. For companies, 50 per cent. on the rate payable on chargeable incomes.

Donations to War Funds. Letters of thanks were published in the Official Gazette of March 28th for the following donations made from funds collected by the Committee in St. Kitts for War Relief purposes: British Red Cross and Order of St. John £200, St. Dunstan's £100, and "a most generous contribution" to the Polish Relief Fund.

ST. LUCIA

His Majesty's Appreciation. A Government Notice in the Gazette of March 30th states that the Administrator had been informed that the message of loyalty to His Majesty from certain merchant seamen resident in St. Lucia had been laid before The King, who had commanded the Secretary of State to convey to the signatories his warm appreciation of their message.

West Indian Sugar

Government Statement of Policy

In the House of Commons, Mr. H. Morgan asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government had yet been able to formulate its policy with regard to the sugar industry of the West Indian Colonies especially with regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Colonel Arthur Evans also asked for information on the same subject. Mr. MacDonald's reply, circulated in Hansard of May 1st was as follows:—

"The Royal Commission recommended on the one hand a variation in the system by which a supplementary preference is granted on a limited quantity of certificated sugar, and on the other an increase in the basic export quotas in the West Indian Colonies by about 120,000 tons per annum. As the Commissioners themselves suggested, war-time conditions have modified the situation, especially in relation to the special certificated preference, which before the war they contemplated should be used as a device to adjust the market price for sugar to what they thought the producer should receive. One fundamental change since the outbreak of war has been the bulk purchase of all Colonial sugar by the Ministry of Food at a fixed price, and His Majesty's Government have reached the conclusion that the recommendations of the Commission on the system of certificated preference are not suitable for adoption during the war.

"On the other hand they recognise also that it is not appropriate in present conditions to adhere literally to the scheme announced in Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on March 7th, 1938, by which the value of the certificated preference was to be reduced by 25 per cent. for every rise of 6d. in the bulk price of sugar above a pivotal figure of 6/6. They accordingly propose that, even if the price fixed by the Ministry of Food for bulk purchases of Colonial sugar exceeds 6/6 by 6d. or more, the extra preference of 3/- per cwt. shall continue to be given on a quota of 360,000 tons for the duration of the war.

"As regards an increase of the quantity of Colonial exports, the recommendations of the Royal Commission were received too late for any action to be taken as regards the West Indian crops to be reaped in 1941, which were planted in 1939; but it happens that His Majesty's Government had advised all the

sugar producing Colonies, including those in the West Indies, as long ago as July, 1939, to work towards the production of 20 per cent. in excess of their basic quotas under the International Sugar Agreement for the 1941 crop. This works out at approximately the same increase for the West Indian Colonies as a whole as that recommended by the Royal Commission. The position of the 1942 crop, to be planted this year, is now under review, in the light of the estimated requirements of this country in 1942 and of shipping facilities likely to be available. Should it be decided that any further increase is desirable the recommendations of the Royal Commission as to the allocation of increased quotas within the West Indian group will be taken into account. I cannot, however, say more at present than that the Colonies will be advised what action to take well before the commencement of the planting season.

"At the end of the war, the whole question will have to be considered in the light of the conditions then prevailing."

Coloured British Subjects

Enlistment in the Forces

THE Secretary of State for Air was asked by Mr. Leach in the House of Commons on April 24th whether he was aware that a colour bar existed in the Royal Air Force; whether it had his approval; and whether he would issue advice to coloured British subjects desirous of enlisting as to what they should do.

Captain Balfour, the Under Secretary of State, who replied, stated that there was no such bar. British subjects of non-European descent who were in the United Kingdom were considered on their merits for service with the Royal Air Force, and several had been accepted since the outbreak of war. Any others who desired to enlist should apply to the nearest combined recruiting centre. In reply to a further question, Captain Balfour said he would be very glad to receive any specific evidence that any recruiting centre was imposing such a bar, or stating that there was any such imposition.

The colour bar has also been the subject of correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the League of Coloured Peoples. Dr. Harold Moody, president of the League, states in the League's News Letter, No. 8, May, 1940, that a further reply had been received from the Secretary of State whom they found most anxious and most sincere in his desire to remove all expressions of the colour bar. Mr. MacDonald wrote, "The standard nationality rule for entry into the Royal Navy and Royal Marines is that the candidate must be the British-born son of British-born parents on both sides. I am sure that any man of colour who, fulfilling the above conditions, now presents himself for enlistment, will not be turned away on the ground of colour. I have seen a copy of the instructions issued to the Royal Air Force recruiting depots. They are very full, and I am quite satisfied that under them any man of colour presenting himself for enlistment will get a fair deal."

After referring to a particular case into which he said he was glad to have had the opportunity of looking, Mr. MacDonald concluded by saying: "The general question involved is one in which I have taken a close personal interest, and you may rest assured that I shall continue to do all in my power to ensure that no member of our Colonial Empire shall be debarred from assisting in the war effort on account of his colour."

Agricultural Conditions

Erratic Rainfall and Poor Crops in the Leewards

ANTIGUA.

MR. F. H. S. WARNEFORD, the Agricultural Superintendent, in his Annual Report for 1938, says the year was marked by very unsatisfactory climatic conditions. A very low rainfall during the first five and a half months was followed by abnormally heavy rains at the end of June and then by another dry spell in September—a month when good rains are of great importance to the cane crop. As a result the average yield of canes per acre was only 16.2 tons compared with 25.1 in 1937. The latter was, however, an unusually good year, the yields for the previous four seasons having been 16.3, 15.0, 15.3 and 20.1 tons. The crop year 1938 was the first under the International Agreement and the quota assigned to Antigua was 25,000 tons, but the actual crop only amounted to 21,993 tons grey crystals, and 232 tons muscovado. The price was also lower than in 1937 and an average of £9 6s. 9d. was received for the 20,683 tons of grey crystals exported.

Climatic and economic conditions thus combined to make the year's record a gloomy one. It might have been worse but for the great measure of success which has been achieved in controlling the moth borer (*Diatraea saccharalis*) by breeding and liberating the parasite *Lixophaga diatraea*. As the Agricultural Superintendent says, "there appears to be no doubt but that the very low figure for canes per ton of sugar at the Antigua Sugar Factory in recent years (7.05 in 1938) has been largely due to the increase in purity of the juice resulting from the reduction of borer damage. Mr. H. E. Box, who has been responsible for the work in connexion with the investigation and control of *Diatraea*, left Antigua during 1938, his contract having terminated."

The White Grub (*Lachnosterna Antiguae*) was particularly active, seriously affecting germination over a comparatively wide area. On the other hand, damage from root disease was less pronounced, a result of the greater care taken during recent years in the allocation of varieties to soil and climatic conditions. Increase in the practice of cambering beds on heavy clay soils, with resulting improvement in drainage, is also a factor in reducing root disease.

Sea Island cotton is the second crop of importance, the value of the exports being approximately £12,000 compared with £210,000 for sugar, molasses and rum. It is largely a peasant industry, the small grower producing 76 per cent. of the crop compared with 25 per cent. of the canes milled during the year. A noteworthy and welcome feature was the reduction in the prevalence of pink boll worm following a 3½ month close season.

The work of the Peasant Agricultural Development Department, established in 1936, has continued to expand and attention has been given to increasing the local production of food. The situation in Antigua is a difficult one. The frequency of serious droughts has resulted in the agricultural system being based almost

entirely on sugar with cotton as a subsidiary crop. Foodcrops are grown, but whilst in the dry years there is usually a shortage, in favourable years there is an excess and great difficulty is experienced in disposing of sweet potatoes. Large scale production of animal foodstuffs is limited by the lack of fodder in dry seasons and at times even by the shortage of drinking water for the stock. Wheat can of course not be grown, neither can rice and the cultivation on a larger scale of maize for the production of corn meal appears the most promising means of being able to substitute a local for an important imported foodstuff.

MONTserrat

The Report by Mr. W. E. Bassett, the Curator, on the Agricultural Department of Montserrat deals with the three years, 1936 to 1938, during which crops were seriously affected by the vagaries of the rainfall. In all three years the cotton crops were light, that for 1936 being the poorest for many years. In that year the planting season was drawn out from February to June; dry weather for the first three weeks prevented establishment of the plants; then rains set in and continued with varying severity until the picking of the scanty crop was completed; fungal diseases also did great damage. In 1937 weather conditions were happier but not ideal, the rainfall during June and July being too light for perfect growth and development of bolls. In the following year very light rains during much of the growing season were largely responsible for a poorer crop.

The effect of these adverse climate conditions is strikingly seen by comparing the total quantity of lint produced in each of these three years compared with 1935 when favourable conditions prevailed. The figures are 1,016,387 lb., 457,249 lb., 660,359 lb. and 541,537 lb. The area planted varied but little with the result that the yield of lint per acre which was 229 lb. in 1935 fell to 101 lb. in 1936, 151 lb. in 1937 and 122 lb. in 1938.

The lime trees continue to die out, except in sheltered and specially favourable situations, presumably from root troubles. Re-planting is being done with trees budded on to disease-resistant root stocks but their establishment will, it is considered probable, not be a simple matter. The principal lime products exported are now raw juice and ecuelled oil. Montserrat agriculturists are making a good fight against difficult conditions, and tomatoes, mainly a peasants' crop grown for shipment to Canada, have in two of the three years under notice ranked in value as the second export crop.

The work of breeding and selecting Sea Island cotton is fully described. Its importance is indicated by the fact that in 1937 it was decided that the other Leeward Islands should adopt the Montserrat strain and on the recommendation of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, Montserrat is now the central cotton breeding station for the whole Colony of the Leeward Islands.

Cotton Cultivation

Maintenance of Soil Fertility

We have received from the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation a copy of a Review of the Work of the Experimental Stations, Season 1938-39 by Mr. W. Nowell with a note on the entomological work by Dr. J. W. Munro. Whilst the publication deals specifically with investigations conducted in Africa, Mr. Nowell's comments on agricultural practice are of direct interest to West Indian growers. On the important question of maintenance of soil fertility he records that applications at Gatooma in Southern Rhodesia of five tons of compost to the acre (including a considerable admixture of soil) gave substantial increases in yield of cotton and the effect on the following maize crop was even more striking. It is, he says, suggested that the root action of the vigorous cotton plants may itself contribute to the latter result in some manner not determined.

The compost was made under the working cattle of the Station with others specially kept as accessories. It is, he says, difficult, on the information given, to see any essential distinction from the pen manure with which the fertility of the canefields of Barbados and other West Indian islands has long been maintained. Where the necessary numbers of cattle, and the large quantities of crop residues or other vegetable material required are available there is no basis so well proved to be capable of sustaining heavy and continuous cropping under tropical conditions.

Trinidad and Tobago Crops

THE official Economic Report for the last quarter of 1939 shows that the rainfall during the period was only 18.0 inches compared with 29.54 in 1938. Good rains fell in October but November was unusually dry, and the growth of plant and ratoon canes for the 1940 crop during the last two months of the year was consequently poor. Germination and early growth of the young plant canes for the 1941 crop had however, been excellent except when planting was late.

Following the outbreak of war the local cocoa prices rose and reached over \$16 per bag of 165 lb. Exceptionally heavy crops were picked during November and December, notably in the Northern Range, Moruga and Tobago. Witchbroom disease was heavy in certain districts, but the prospect of better prices was resulting in some slight improvement in control measures. Some of the varieties being tested for resistance were showing great promise.

The first shipments of citrus fruits were made during the quarter. The crop was large and the fruit of good quality. The coco-nut crop was excellent and the increased price had led to large pickings. The Coco-nut Growers Association handled 4,500,909 lb. of copra during the quarter, the average monthly prices for 100 lb. being October \$2.46, November-December \$3.00. Only 12,426 bunches of bananas were purchased for export by the Canadian Banana Co. compared with 39,017 during the same period in 1938. The incidence of *Cercospora* leaf spot and Panama diseases continued high.

Jamaica Sugar and Rum

Crop Reduced by Drought

Mr. D. J. Verity wrote on April 20th that since sending his last notes (CIRCULAR of May 2nd) the remainder of the sugar factories had started crop and all of the twenty-seven now operating in the island were grinding. This was two less than at last crop as Georgia had been amalgamated with Vale Royal, and Prospect was not working this year. The canes serving the latter factory were being transported to Frome Central. The factory at Vale Royal, where there was such a disastrous fire last year, had been rebuilt and improved and Mr. A. E. Muschett, the managing partner, had every reason to be proud of a big job, well and quickly done.

The crop was, at the time Mr. Verity wrote, about half completed and results were disappointing. Owing to the drought, in the summer and autumn, canes were everywhere falling short of estimates, and owing to the lateness of the rains, which continued throughout December, juice purities were, generally speaking, on the low side. The result would be a crop very materially short of the original estimate though the extent of the shortage was still a matter for conjecture.

After some difficulty experienced earlier in the year over freight space for rum, the prospects had much improved, due to the efforts of the West India Committee and others, and information had been received that *rum had been placed on the priority list*. If only the public would follow the example of the Ministry of Shipping!

British Guiana Sugar

The annual report of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce records that the production of sugar during the calendar year 1939 was 189,245 tons. The exports were 179,102 tons with a declared value of \$8,134,239 and 10,733 tons were sold for local consumption. The sugar made from farmers' canes amounted to 3,479 tons as against 4,243 tons in 1938. The price paid for farmers' canes increased in company with the improved world price for sugar and in addition, with the object of encouraging farmers to plant better varieties, the estates during the year agreed to pay a bonus of 20 cents per ton for properly grown P.O.J. 2878 and Diamond 10 canes.

The drought has had a disastrous effect on the 1940 Spring crop, while the canes, which normally would have been reaped in July and August will most probably not be ready for cutting until September or even later. Meanwhile the costs of estates' supplies have risen considerably since the war and are continuing to go higher.

THE exports of cocoa from Trinidad and Tobago during January and February, 6,371,248 lb., were approximately double these of the corresponding two months of last year when they only reached the low level of 3,196,822 lb. In January and February, 1938 however, they were 10,094,927 lb.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"DE fox preach, tek care ob de lambs."

* * *

A DAUGHTER was born to Mrs. Giuseppi, wife of Mr. Eric Giuseppi, at Felixstowe, on April 26th.

* * *

MR. A. D'A. HODGSON has been appointed Assistant Director of Telecommunications in the Bahamas.

* * *

THE Hon. F. J. Seaford has been appointed a member of the Central Board of Health of British Guiana.

* * *

ON April 26th, Mr. C. H. K. Marten, M.A., Vice Provost of Eton, paid a visit to the West India Committee rooms.

* * *

MR. E. F. MAINGOT has been appointed the Commissioner for the purpose of preparing a revised edition of the Ordinances of Trinidad and Tobago.

* * *

PROFESSOR E. HARRISON acted as Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture during the short absence on leave of Mr. O. T. Faulkner.

* * *

THE Governor of British Guiana has appointed Mrs. S. H. Bayley to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Carnegie Trade School.

* * *

THE League of Coloured Peoples announces that a general meeting will be held on May 22nd at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, to formulate action respecting the Government's new Colonial policy.

* * *

THE Colonial Office announces that His Majesty has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Carleton G. Langley, Puisne Judge, British Guiana, to be Chief Justice of British Honduras, in succession to Sir Arthur K. Agar, who has retired.

* * *

THE Rev. Algernon William Boodle, Rector of San Fernando, Trinidad, who died in September last left estate valued at £14,133. Among his bequests were £500 to the S.P.G. for its medical mission work and £500 upon trust to the Incorporated Trustees of the Church of England in Trinidad.

* * *

MR. PERCY ALAN FARRER-MANBY, who died at Manorfield, Lymington, on May 6th, at the age of 62, was Stipendiary Magistrate for Georgetown, British Guiana from 1909 to 1915, acting for a time as senior Puisne Judge of the Colony. In the latter year he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

* * *

SOLDIERS SPEAK EASY is the title of a conversation book which is being widely circulated to the British fighting forces. Its versatile author is Archibald Lyall, grandson of the former Speaker of the House of Assembly of

Barbados, and son of Dame Beatrix Lyall and the late Captain George Hudson Lyall, one of the founder members of the West Indian Club.

* * *

MR. ARCHIBALD LYALL is a master of languages—he speaks six fluently—and has toured every European country. For some months after the war began he was in the Foreign Censorship Department, but now he is Press Attaché in Belgrade—a truly round peg in a round hole, for he possesses an intimate knowledge of Balkan politics.

* * *

LORD SNELL will deal with "Leadership and Character in a Democracy" in the Trueman Wood lecture which he will deliver before the Royal Society of Arts on Wednesday, May 22nd, at 2.30 p.m. We are asked to state that applications for tickets should be made to the secretary of the Society, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

* * *

"THE patrols (on the Western Front) are made up from volunteers. And yet the only inducement is the spice of excitement and the possibility of a tot of rum afterwards. And it isn't even as if they can drink the rum neat: it is poured into a communal bowl of cocoa (teetotallers are given an extra ration of cocoa when rum is served out.)"—CHARLES GRAVES in the Daily Mail, April 26th, 1940.

* * *

MISS MARGARET LOUISE SEWELL, whose engagement to Mr. Patrick Geoffrey Corbet, 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, was announced recently, is the only daughter of Brigadier-General and Mrs. H. S. Sewell, of Arcadia, Duncan's, Jamaica. General Sewell, a member of the West India Committee, served throughout the last war, and in addition to receiving the D.S.O. and bar, was mentioned in despatches five times.

* * *

LORD WOOLTON, Minister of Food, hinted at the possibility of a reduction in the sugar ration, in a speech before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on May 3rd. He said: "I am not going to hesitate for one moment to impose certain conditions of stringency if it be necessary to build up food reserves. I may find myself at a very early stage reducing the amount of sugar that is going out, but while I do that we will still have stocks of sugar in the country."

* * *

ADMIRAL SIR PERCY NOBLE, who will shortly haul down his flag as Commander-in-Chief on the China Station, was Flag-Captain to Rear-Admiral (now Admiral) Sir Allan Everett in H.M.S. Calcutta on the America and West Indies Station in 1920 when the then Prince of Wales paid his memorable visit to the West Indies. It will be recalled that the Calcutta escorted H.M.S. Renown in which the Prince was travelling through the Panama Canal and later conveyed his Royal Highness to Georgetown, the larger war ship being unable to negotiate the Demerara bar.

West Indies at Westminster

Colonial Debts to British Exchequer

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD in reply to a question asked by MR. DUNCAN on May 1st, said that a review of debts due from Colonial Governments to the Exchequer had been in progress for some time, and that it was proposed to seek Parliamentary sanction for the remission of a number of loan advances from United Kingdom funds to certain Colonial Administrations which the Government were satisfied were not now in a position to make repayment.

Colonial Economic Development

On May 1st, MR. LEVY asked the Secretary of State what special measures he was taking to develop the resources of, and to stimulate the production of wealth in the Colonial Empire, in view of the heavy charge upon our resources for war and the need of being prepared for economic conditions after the war. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied that the steady development of the economic resources of the Colonial Empire was a normal object of British Colonial policy, and in particular formed an integral part of the new policy on Colonial Development announced on February 20th. After being asked if he could give more than this general statement MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD added that it would be difficult for him to be more explicit in regard to actual plans until they had the legislation through Parliament, but in the meantime they had asked the local governments to prepare five-year plans of development and that work was being undertaken.

Trinidad Central Library

MR. JAGGER asked the Secretary of State whether he was aware that, so long ago as 1936, the Carnegie Corporation of New York offered \$80,000 for the establishment of a central library to the Government of Trinidad; that, although the public library of the capital was in a most dilapidated and poverty-stricken condition, four years had elapsed without any definite steps being taken to secure the proffered grant; and whether he would therefore ensure that the Government of Trinidad took the necessary steps to secure the grant. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD replied that he was informed in August last by the Governor of Trinidad that this generous offer had been accepted. He approved the scheme, and steps were being taken in consultation with the Governor to select a librarian. In reply to a further question as to the delay MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said the question whether the scheme could be extended to certain neighbouring territories took a considerable time to thrash out.

Illegal Assembly in Jamaica and Trinidad

MR. PALING, on May 1st, asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many people have been arrested and how many convicted for illegal assembly under the Emergency Powers Act in Jamaica and Trinidad since the beginning of the war?

MR. LESLIE asked the Secretary of State whether he is aware of the arrest and conviction of the secretary of the Trinidad Union of Shop Assistants and Clerks for an alleged breach of the Emergency Defence Act; and will he state the reason for his arrest, the circumstances under which the arrest took place, and the nature of the sentence imposed?

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD: There have been no arrests or convictions for illegal assembly in Jamaica since the beginning of the war. In Trinidad three persons, including the secretary of the Trinidad Union of Shop Assistants and Clerks, have been arrested and convicted under the Public Meetings Regulations made by the Governor under the authority of the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act, 1939, which enact that public processions shall require the permission of the Commissioner of Police or his nominees. The incident leading to the arrest of these persons occurred on February 5th during the annual carnival processions, but the three persons concerned were leaders of one which was unauthorised. On being informed by the police that they were acting contrary to the law they adopted an uncompromising attitude. They were found guilty under the Public Meetings Regulations and were fined 15 dollars each and placed on bonds of 50 dollars each for six months. Appeals have been lodged in all cases and are pending.

MR. PALING: Were not these people conducting a meeting or procession in order to achieve a higher rate of wages, and are they guilty of doing anything which would not have been accepted in this country as a normal practice?

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD: There would have been no difficulty at all if they had asked permission to hold their procession and the permission had been granted. I have indicated that the authorities granted permission for other processions to be held on that day.

MR. JAGGER: Were there not 40,000 people on the Racecourse, and is it not a fact that this was a procession of about 200 and that they arrested the leaders of the 200, and ignored the fact that there were 40,000 on the Racecourse?

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD: As regards the other processions and demonstrations, permission was asked and granted for these to take place.

MR. LESLIE: Would it not be wiser to show more clemency in these cases instead of putting something into the mouth of Haw-Haw about the liberty enjoyed by the individual?

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers and re-appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:

Promotions and Transfers:—

- TURNBULL, R. E. (Officer of Class IV Malayan Civil Service), Colonial Secretary, British Honduras.
- JOHNSTON, W. (Colonial Secretary, British Honduras), Comptroller of Customs, Sierra Leone.
- GIBSON, L. B. (Crown Counsel, Straits Settlements), Attorney-General, Trinidad.
- FERGUSON, V. L., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Senior Medical Officer, Palestine), Deputy Director of Medical Service, Trinidad.
- GREEN, F. R. H. (Superintendent of Surveys), Commissioner of Lands and Mines, British Guiana.
- LAPSLEY, R. W. (Sergeant, Palestine Police), Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamaica.
- SYER, W. G. (Inspector of Police, Jamaica), Assistant Inspector of Police, Nigeria.
- FRASER, D. M. (Assistant Postmaster General), Postmaster General, Trinidad.

Re-appointment:—

- WIGHTMAN, J. W. E. (formerly District Officer, Kenya), Assistant Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

A WELL illustrated bulletin, issued by the Ross Institute of Tropical Medicine, contains a discussion on methods of meeting some of the difficulties encountered in introducing the bored-hole type of latrine. It is entitled Conservancy for Tea Estate Labourers in India and the authors are Mr. B. A. Lamprell, Medical Officer of the Assam Co., Ltd., Nazira, and Dr. G. C. Ramsey, principal of the India Branch of the Ross Institute. The views of planters of wide experience in introducing these latrines are appended.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Improved Housing in Trinidad — British Honduras Roads
British Guiana's Gratitude for Assistance*



ANTIGUA

SEA Borne Propaganda. Miss Helen Goodwin writes that a bottle containing a message written in German was picked up by bathers at the hotel beach on April 7th. This had been thrown over-board off the Cape Verde Islands in September—and was found to contain anti-British propaganda.

The Widows' Fund. A pleasant afternoon was spent at the Diamond on April 4th. Mr. and Mrs. Walter McSevney kindly lent their house and grounds for a fete and race game, held in aid of the Widows' Fund. The party was a success in every way, and proceeds amounting to £28 were handed to the treasurer of the committee.

Farewell to Mr. F. N. Malone. A variety entertainment was held at the Antigua Grammar School on April 11th in aid of charities. As Mr. F. N. Malone, who has been acting headmaster for nearly a year, is leaving to become headmaster of the St. Kitts Grammar School, this opportunity was taken to present him with a handsome silver salver, engraved with the school crest and a suitable inscription, as a mark of appreciation of the service he has rendered to the school. In a few words Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin told of the good work Mr. Malone had done in trying circumstances, and of the excellent way in which he had upheld and carried on the traditions of the school. Mr. Malone's reply—after expressing his surprise and thanks—was to the effect that he had been pleased to come to the help of his old school, and that his ability to do this was due to the training received there in the days of his boyhood. The Acting Governor on behalf of the Government and all the friends of the school wished Mr. Malone good luck in his new enterprise.

BRITISH GUIANA

New Government Posts. Our hon. correspondent wrote on March 30th that the Legislative Council had approved the appointment of an additional Inspector of Labour and also, with a view to strengthening the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Police Department, an additional Detective Superintendent of Police. It was proposed that an officer from outside the Colony should be selected for the latter post as a more experienced man was considered necessary at this stage.

Alleged Graft in Municipal Service. At a meeting of the Georgetown Town Council on March 11th, consideration was given to a letter from Hon. C. V. Wight, a member of the Council, in connexion with a system of alleged graft in the Municipal Service. It was explained in the letter that the graft took the form of payments by labourers to those in charge in order to obtain security of employment.

Financial Assistance from United Kingdom. On March 14th, the Legislative Council, by motion, grate-

fully accepted the financial assistance offered the Colony by His Majesty's Government, amounting to \$250,000, to be spent on reconditioning drainage works, roads and buildings. The Council adopted in principle some of the recommendations of a committee which had reported on the financial position of declared drainage areas. \$142,800 will be spent on reconditioning drainage, \$37,000 on reconditioning roads and \$70,200 on reconditioning buildings. The establishment of a Central Drainage Authority was also accepted in principle.

Revision of Colony Taxation. In connexion with a motion moved recently in the Legislative Council recommending the appointment of a committee to consider the revision and readjustment of the tariff duties, the President said there would be very shortly a complete review of the whole system of taxation in the Colony on the proposals of the Royal Commission, and that this revision would cover a motion such as that moved.

Mr. J. H. S. McCowan, Stipendiary Magistrate in the Georgetown Judicial District, has been granted three months leave of absence prior to retirement from the Colonial Service. Mr. McCowan has been a magistrate for the last eighteen years.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Improved Road Transport. The roads recently constructed, through generous grants from the Colonial Development Fund, afforded, Captain Metzgen writes, hundreds of people opportunities of motoring from Belize to the Northern and Western Districts during the Easter holidays. Although the road to the western frontier is only partly finished, the first truck load of chicle (3,000 lb.) was brought from Cayo to Belize on March 26th, and 1,300 lb. on another truck the following day.

On Easter Monday, the Governor and Mrs. Hunter, and some personal friends, were the guests of the Hon. and Mrs. H. I. Melhado at Orange Walk (Old River), mid-way between Belize and Cayo. Five cars made the journey, leaving Belize in the morning and returning at about 5.30 p.m. The trip is worthy of note for it was the first time that a fleet of cars driven by private citizens had been able to reach Orange Walk and return within twelve hours to Belize without any misadventures.

DOMINICA

Mr. E. E. Harney, the Treasurer of the Colony, has been appointed Treasurer of Antigua, and Federal Treasurer of the Leeward Islands.

Farthing Postage Stamp. Notice was given in the Official Gazette that the ½d. issue of Dominica postage stamps would be on sale from 8 a.m. on April 15th. The design of the stamp consists of an effigy of King George VI. in a circle with the word "Dominica" below it, and a crown in the top right-hand corner.

Vital Statistics. According to the Annual Report of the Registrar-General the estimated population on December 31st last was 51,951, an increase of 1,334 during the year 1939. In 1931, when the last census was taken, the population was 37,059.

JAMAICA

Leaf Spot Control. It is not proposed that the cess to be levied under The Banana (Leaf Spot Control) Law, 1939, should be brought into operation before October 1st, according to a notification which appears in The Jamaica Gazette of April 11th.

The late Canon Swaby. As we go to press we learn of the death, at Ocho Rios, on April 17th, of The Rev. Canon Samuel Augustus Swaby, D.D., F.R.G.S. Canon Swaby was ordained fifty years ago and was well known not only as an eminent Church of England dignitary but also as a prominent Jamaican. In the last issue of THE CIRCULAR, a reference to his appeal for the rehabilitation of Fern Gully appeared in these notes.

Fire at Colon. The Government has contributed £1,000 for the relief of sufferers in the disastrous fire at Colon on April 13th, many of whom are Jamaicans.

Air-travel and the Tourist Trade. It is stated that there has been an increase of 23 per cent. in the number of passengers carried to and from Jamaica by Pan-American Airways during March, 1940, as compared with the corresponding period in 1939.

New Plant Pathologist. Mr. E. B. Martyn, Botanist-Plant Pathologist of the Department of Agriculture, British Guiana, will, it is understood, take up the appointment of Plant Pathologist of The Jamaica Department of Science and Agriculture on the termination of the temporary period of office of Mr. F. S. Ward.

New Sugar Factory. It is understood that a sugar factory is shortly to be erected in Eastern Portland. It is proposed that sugar-cane should be planted in this area in which the banana industry has suffered severely from the ravages of Panama Disease.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Administrative Changes. Sir Gordon Lethem, Governor of the Leeward Islands, left Antigua on the evening of April 2nd, on leave of absence, for Canada. On the following morning Mr. J. D. Harford, Administrator of Antigua and Federal Secretary, took the oaths and assumed the administration of the Colony. In consequence Mr. Harford's appointment as Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, and Mr. Boon's as Administrator of Antigua referred to in the CIRCULAR of April 4th will not become effective until after the Governor's return.

MONTserrat

Public Health. It is stated in the Annual Medical and Sanitary Report that the general health of the inhabitants of the island during 1938 was below the standard which existed up to 1935 and early in 1936. The masses have been badly off financially as the result of successive short crops with relatively low prices. Nutritional disturbances resulting in lassitude, lack of energy, emaciation, low resistance to disease and dental decay were commonly observed.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Public Health. The Hon. Dr. A. Rankine, Director of Medical Services, states in his annual report that the general health of the Colony was satisfactory during 1938. The birth rate was 32.85 per 1,000, compared with 31.5 in 1937, whilst the death rate fell from 17.4 to 15.8, the lowest yet recorded, and the infant mortality rate from 120.5 to 98.4.

Housing on Sugar Estates. Dr. Rankine also records that many sugar estates have demolished the worst of the long range barracks and replaced them by the regulation double cottage housing two families. The Usine St. Madeleine group of estates have been pioneers and have had a definite scheme for housing in operation for several years. The report contains interesting illustrations of housing progress at Brechin Castle Estate showing some old long range barracks in process of demolition, and the types of workers' cottages which are taking their place.

Chamber of Commerce. Mr. George Rochford, a director of Gordon Grant & Co., Ltd., was, on March 27th, elected president of the Chamber of Commerce in succession to Mr. S. H. Banning who becomes first vice-president; Mr. James Forbes is the second vice-president. March 14th, 1939, was the Diamond Jubilee day of the Chamber which, during sixty years, has rendered great service to the commercial community and to the Colony as a whole.

Jamaica Banana Shortage

The possibility of the exports of Jamaica being reduced in value this year by over £1,000,000 due to the toll taken by storms and disease of the banana industry is shown in the following note taken from the January-February issue of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce Journal.

"In normal times bananas represent from 50 to 60 per cent. of the exports of the island. Now that the production has fallen to such an alarming extent the returns for the year should show a very serious state of affairs. Near the end of last year there was a storm which devastated large areas, and disease is taking its toll of the banana crops. For the months of January and February, 1939, the exports of bananas showed 2,748,860 stems valued at £333,340. For the same period of 1940 the exports were 310,087 stems valued at £34,800.

"This gives a fair idea of the situation. It may be conceded that even discounting the possibility this year of further set-backs by weather disturbances, there will be a banana crop later on, but everything points to the exports being under 50 per cent. of the normal. On this one item alone there will be a deficit of over £1,000,000 or 25 per cent. of the total export trade of Jamaica."

In appealing for donations of Trinidad grapefruit for the Allied Forces, Sir George Huggins suggested that fruit should be sent to the Citrus Growers' Association in Port-of-Spain whence it would be shipped direct to the West India Committee.

WEST INDIAN TRADE IN 1939

The Principal Exports and Imports

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from and imports into the British West Indies for the year 1939, have been supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

EXPORTS.	Antigua	Bahamas	Barbados	British Guiana	British Honduras	Dominica	Grenada	Jamaica	Montserrat	St. Kitts Nevis	St. Lucia †	St. Vincent	Trinidad and Tobago
Arrowroot .. lb.						2,052						11,762,919	86,033
Asphalt .. tons				545,831									
Balata .. lb.				476,013	522,578	47,056	108,493	18,771,628			68,903	39,902	60,976
Bananas .. bchs.													11,727
Bauxite .. tons													526,775
Bitters .. galls.						44							
Cassava Starch .. lb.					817,128								
Chicle .. lb.													
Cocoa .. cwt.						1,931	71,846	46,292			2,623	332	149,583
Coco-nuts .. No.	32,350			318,175	2,846,550	350,660	177,420	31,406,137		5,312	2,545,729	2,212,054	570,590
Coffee .. lb.				25,071		2,892	63	8,351,256					736,487
Copra .. lb.				1,136,700	996,419	498,379	739,984	1,771,900					12,516,448
Cotton, M. Galante .. lb.							224,336			85,594	1,231,882	1,800,377	55,879
Cotton, Sea Island .. lb.	246,879		2,418						651,552	589,484	3,384	590,503	
Cotton, Seed .. lb.	£565						684,880		7,405				
Diamonds .. carats				33,351									
Dyewood .. tons								8,283					
Extracts .. cwt.								24,243					
Ginger .. lb.						1,337		3,323,122			2,137		792
Gold .. ozs.				38,473									
Grapefruit .. cwt.					44,146	3,597	242	172,488c			151	2	15,934
Honey .. lb.						96		1,285,440			84,675		32,869
Lime Juice raw .. galls.						111,119	15,285	17,211	66,772		18,733		61,567
" (contd) .. galls.				840		6,407					150		
" (Oil) .. lb.	£436					16,917	6,600				13,090		48,549
Lime (Citrate of) .. lb.													37,282
Limes (green) .. cwt.						5,857a	13	10,389c	£80		2,917	74	707
Mace .. lb.						770,112					1,160	7,079	2,731
Manjak .. tons			10										
Molasses .. galls.	554,505		10,661,212	5,360,270						668,994	116,235	179,558	3,252,125
Nutmegs .. lb.						141	4,291,728				4,534	91,428	81,428
Oranges .. cwt.					62	10,328	225	£13,777			265	13,350d	5,712
Oils, Essential .. lb.						30,588		50,966	2,052				
Petroleum .. galls.													
Pimento .. cwt.								71,826					
Rice .. lb.				28,008,695									
Rum .. galls.	4,647		105,457	978,809		7,193		839,467			2,262	3,616	133,599
Shingles .. No.				920,650		4,650					3,500		
Sisal .. tons		98											
Sponge .. tons		203				1							
Sugar .. tons	20,571		128,594	179,102	186		300	103,783		36,044	7,182	200	114,344
Wood & Timber—													
Manufactured .. cu. ft.				84,739	201,853						1,337		
Unmanufactured .. cu. ft.				272,566	511,052	46,410b	2,085				2,602		39,584c

a Barrels. b Super ft. c Packages. d Number. e Not available. * To October 31st only. † To November 30th only.

IMPORTS.	Antigua	Bahamas	Barbados	British Guiana	British Honduras	Dominica	Grenada	Jamaica †	Montserrat	St. Kitts Nevis	St. Lucia †	St. Vincent	Trinidad and Tobago
Beer, Ale and Stout .. galls.	2,216	46,206	146,578	144,399	11,693	1,296	10,343	53,264	276	7,773	4,008	7,456	170,906
Boots and Shoes doz. pairs	5,817	9,181	19,236	37,290	9,106	2,989	7,970	130,655	950	6,805	4,186	5,574	71,070
Cement .. brls. of 400 lb.	5,216	29,159	29,461	41,514	6,052	2,365	9,975	134,092	1,903	3,819	5,258	4,792	241,137
Cotton piece goods .. yds.	585,106	875,529	3,665,399b	7,966,607	1,318,517	620,815	1,124,471	22,790,959	194,055	681,634	895,680	700,917	9,623,725
Flour .. bags of 196 lb.	16,174	49,408	91,535	202,493	42,296	10,983	33,737	332,278	7,917	26,340	21,550	22,041	367,329
Machinery—													
Agricultural .. Value £	923	31,244a	—	3,939	136	26	64	45,890	279	4,745	2,042	2,687	27,259
Sugar .. Value £	5,970	—	65,930	41,770	439	—	1,994	49,580	—	10,336	2,493	724	75,940
Manures, Chemical .. tons	425	895	11,128	£99,120	30	130	250	5,929	3	2,915	467	1,078	6,916
Milk, Condensed .. lb.	12,014	£9,278	2,573,438	2,275,022	1,731,016	6,292	176,427	7,035,088	168	15,515	8,532	20,653	9,401,290
Motor Cars .. No.	14	133	317	235	43	10	85	882	6	20	13	32c	622
" Parts .. Value £	687	5,797	12,532	8,504	3,359	336	1,246	33,234	72	2,241	425	1,005	68,736
" Tyres .. Value £	1,207	2,820	13,322	—	1,671	640	4,250	40,910	308	2,716	1,015	1,156	30,471
Paints and Colours .. lb.	49,436	£16,087	651,563	£20,935	219,240	20,817	52,964	1,570,737	12,497	61,182	27,521	46,004	1,972,760
Sacks and Bags .. doz.	5,618	£3,183	124,067	195,125	6,115	£660	5,964	121,158	526	£6,285	6,163	20,887	98,119
Soap .. lb.	235,301	614,671	2,189,044	2,517,683	871,248	205,030	442,668	3,929,809	57,182	229,425	293,763	225,617	3,827,962
Spirits—													
Whisky .. galls.	779	12,784	8,884	10,276	1,264	557	2,672	20,053	180	1,491	887	624	17,275
Brandy .. galls.	49	554	634	2,794	263	150	130	1,494	22	136	106	26	2,420
Gin .. galls.	696	5,322	5,060	4,329	198	662	441	3,434	101	1,326	450	210	3,166
Tea .. lb.	4,872	17,629	182,670	114,249	53,732	1,435	5,203	123,281	1,042	8,048	3,182	4,574	242,914

a Includes all kinds of Machinery b Sq. Yards c and Trucks * To October 31st only. † To September 30th only. ‡ To November 30th only.

MISS MAVIS SUTHERLAND, daughter of Mr. J. B. Sutherland, Supervising Inspector of Plant Diseases of the Department of Science and Agriculture of Jamaica, who is in this country studying at the School of Optics, has now passed Part II of the qualifying examination for Fellowship of the Spectaclemakers' Company.

Any Member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. The minimum subscription is £1 5s., or \$6 per annum for individuals, and £3 3s. for firms. The compounding subscription for *Life Membership*, for which only individuals are eligible, is a single payment of £15 15s.

Round the Markets

May 14th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	Apr. 29th.	May 13th.		
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$ value	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$ "	4/11.6
France	176.62	176.62	Fr. "	-/1.4
Holland... ..	7.55	No quotation	Gu. "	—

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend Latest year		Price	
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 6d. per cent.)	73½	74
3½	War Loan ...	98½	99½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6	nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/-	nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	26/9	27/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	35/-	39/-
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	36/6	40/6
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	2½	2½
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	1½	1½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1/1½	1/3
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1/3	1/9
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1	1½xd.
6	Caroni Ltd. 8% Pref.	2/9	3/9
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	3/-	3/6
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	3d.	1/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1½	2
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar...	6/9	7/9
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	3d.	1/-
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	3½	3½
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	45/6	46/6
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	5/6	6/6
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	7/6	8/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-		
—	United British Oilfields 6/8		

RUM. No business has been reported in the first-hand market owing to the lack of offers; further supplies are expected shortly. Dealers report that the demand—checked by the Budget announcement—shows some revival.

COCOA. Fairly large sales of Grenada have been made on the spot during the fortnight at prices ranging from 60/- to 65/- for good to fine. Trinidad on the spot is quoted nominally at 75/- to 80/- for fine estates, and at 70/- to 74/- for ordinary to medium; a small business has been done in "to arrive" at 60/- c. & f. for the first three marks. West African is a dull market and the quotation is unchanged at 32/- to 32/6 c.i.f.

BALATA. Practically no business has been reported during the fortnight. Demerara sheet and Venezuelan block are quoted nominally at 2/5 landed terms.

BANANAS. There is a strong demand for the limited supplies available. The price of Jamaicas has been advanced by £2 10s. per ton to £27 15s. delivered London, and £27 10s. nearest station Provinces.

HONEY is quiet but firm. On the spot, dark liquid to pale amber Jamaica is quoted at 80/- to 90/- per cwt. according to quality and pale to white at 92/6 to 97/6. Sales are reported in new crop "to arrive" at 85/- to 90/- c.i.f. for pale to white for prompt shipment from Jamaica.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** The nominal value of Handpressed is unchanged at 40/- per lb.; no supplies are available. **Lime Juice.** Concentrated is in limited demand and valued at about £8 per pipe. Raw is slow of sale and the value is unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. The value of Sweet is now 6/6 per lb. Bitter is scarce and wanted and valued at about 8/6 per lb.

SPICES. Owing to the disturbed conditions on the Continent, there has been a pause in the demand for **Pimento.** Sellers on the spot ask 1/1 per lb. ex wharf, but no business has been reported: quotations on c.i.f. terms are nominal. Jamaica **Ginger**, No. 3, has been sold at 45/- down to 41/6 c.i.f. for F.A.Q. April-May shipment, and Rhatoon at 42/6 down to 40/-. Sales on the spot have been made at 52/6 to 55/- ex wharf for No. 3, at 75/- for bold medium No. 1 in barrels and at 57/6 for good medium No. 2. West India **Nutmegs** on the spot have been in better demand. Quotations are: 6½d. per lb. for wormy and broken, 8d. for sound unassorted, 10d. for sound 80's, and 11d. for sound 65's. Sales of **Mace** have been made on the spot at prices ranging from 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale; choice pale is quoted at 2/6 to 2/7. Business in "to arrive" has been done at 2/- per lb. c.i.f. for the well-known marks, with buyers satisfied for the time being.

Company Reports & Meetings

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

THE directors have declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent. in respect of the year ending June 30th, payable May 28th. This is at the same rate as last year, but allowing for Trinidad and United Kingdom income tax, the net return is 11.849d. per share compared with 1/1.3901.

The United Molasses Co., Ltd.

Mr. F. K. Kielberg, chairman, in the course of his speech at the annual meeting on April 26th, said that all the company's tankers were safe and continued to render invaluable services under the direction of the Ministry of Shipping.

The outlook for the company's international business had not been improved by recent developments on the Continent, and with the reopening of navigation on the St. Lawrence River their Canadian subsidiary would increasingly feel the handicap of the withdrawal of the company's tankers from the trade between the British West Indies and Canada.

Nevertheless, in spite of the many handicaps and uncertainties facing the company in consequence of the war, the present outlook, taking the company's activities as a whole, did not appear unfavourable.

Guiana Match Factory, Ltd.

At the 59th half-yearly meeting held on February 5th, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report of the directors for the six months ended December 31st, 1939, referred to the anxiety that had been felt as to whether the business could be continued without interruption in view of the uncertainty of obtaining raw materials regularly. Happily supplies had been arriving satisfactorily, but of course at greatly increased cost—in some cases as much as 200 per cent. in excess of the pre-war figures. The factory had been undergoing a severe test in the company's efforts to meet the vigorous demand for matches from the British West Indies and to cater for the requirements of the French Antilles, while still holding reserve stocks for the Colony's needs.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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May 29th, 1940.

The Sugar Price

THE Government's price for the next season's West Indian sugar crop will show an increase of $1/4\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt. on the present price. The terms as to freight and insurance remain unchanged. At a Special Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on May 16th, Mr. W. J. ROOK, Deputy-Director of Sugar Supplies in the Ministry of Food, who attended by invitation, stated that agreements on the new price basis had already been entered into with the other Empire sugar-producing territories. The Dominions had agreed, as a further contribution towards the war-time situation, to accept an arrangement which represented $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. less for them than the Colonies would receive during the coming year, on the express understanding that this arrangement must be regarded as a war-time exception, and not as the abandonment of the principle of equal treatment. He greatly wished that it had been possible to have conducted simultaneous negotiations with all the Colonies including the West Indies but haste was necessary as the crop seasons of the other territories were earlier than those of the West Indies and shipping and other arrangements had to be made months in advance. Negotiations with Mauritius, however, provided valuable guidance on matters common to the other Colonies, and conditions in the West Indies Group had been kept constantly before the Ministry of Food. In all the Government's calculations as to the price for the 1940-41 crop, it had been assumed that the Colonial Certificates would be maintained. This assumption had proved correct and they would be continued for the duration of hostilities at their full value of 3/- each on a total of 360,000 tons as was announced recently by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Government had at first had in mind a much smaller increase but this was raised gradually as further information came to hand regarding the incidence of increases in the costs of labour and material and after very careful investigation of all the factors it had been decided finally to extend the improvement to $1/4\frac{1}{2}$ to meet the special needs of the Colonies.

MR. ROOK concluded by expressing the hope that those producers who were present would accept the Government's offer and asked that the West India Committee would place the offer before the Sugar Associations overseas. During the discussion which ensued the view was expressed that the new price was a fair one under existing conditions but there was danger in its rigidity and that the West Indian Colonies must always be at a disadvantage owing to their later crop when costs

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—			
THE SUGAR PRICE	125	COLONIAL SUGAR INDUSTRY	134
GIFTS FOR THE FIGHTING SERVICES	125	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	135
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	126	WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS, 1940	135
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE	127	BALANCE SHEET AND ACCOUNTS	136
SIR EDWARD STUBBS	127	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	138
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	128	CONTROLLED PRICE OF ORANGES	139
WEST INDIES ON SERVICE	128	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	139
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE	128	PROGRESS	139
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT	129	ROUND THE MARKETS	140
		COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS	140

of supplies were on a rising curve. At the same time there were obvious advantages in knowing where one stood. Considerable weight was attached to the fact that agreement on this basis had already been entered into with the other Empire sugar producing territories and that national obligations apart from other factors clearly pointed to an acceptance.

It soon transpired that the Sugar Associations in the Colonies fully endorsed the view of the West India Committee for they unanimously decided that the offer should be accepted.

Gifts for the Fighting Services

DURING the nineteenth century our wars were mainly fought for us by professional sailors and soldiers, and the comfort or discomfort of our fighting men was usually a matter of small concern both to the Government and to the general public. Outside the Services themselves, the few who, like FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, laboured to improve a parlous state of affairs were regarded in many quarters as cranks. The entry in 1915 into the battle line of a great civilian army brought a profound change in public opinion and during the next four years the welfare of our Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen took its proper place among our most urgent national duties, the efforts of unofficial organisations and private individuals being supported fully by the Government. Now in 1940 still further improvement can be recorded both in the system and in results. These reflections were prompted by the receipt by the West India Committee of a letter from H.M. Customs and Excise to the effect that for the period of hostilities all gifts with the exception of tobacco, alcoholic liquor and playing cards sent from abroad to such approved charitable organisations as our War Services Committees may be imported without payment of duty and without restriction as to their use. This concession, we understand, was granted as a result of representations made by the Colonial Office largely at the instance of certain West Indian Governments.

It will allow gifts to be distributed free of duty not only as at present to the men of the fighting forces overseas but also to men stationed in the British Isles and serving, very often, under the most trying conditions. As a result of the official recognition by the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry of our War Services Committees, facilities for free transport of gifts between the Depot at 40, Norfolk Street and serving units had already been granted. When this is taken in conjunction with the new concession by H.M. Customs and Excise the saving in cost to the donors will be great.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THESE notes are written at a most critical moment in the greatest and most quickly moving battle in history. Any remarks I might make about the situation in France would certainly be out of date long before they could be read. I will therefore say no more on this subject than that the hurricane onslaught of the German mechanized forces has placed our army in Flanders in grave danger, and that for the last week or more the whole life of the nation has been dominated by the sense of imminent peril to our own shores. As usual in England, the effect of this threat has been to arouse the people, and create in them that mood of grim determination which, rather unfortunately, never reaches its highest pitch until things begin to go wrong.

* * *

Mr. Winston Churchill's new Government, formed in the first hours of the German invasion of the Low Countries, was called for by this more strenuous mood of the nation, and corresponds to it. It has been called "a Government of all the critics," for the men who were most vigorous in denunciation of Mr. Chamberlain's Cabinet now sit side by side on the Treasury bench. But in truth the new team does at last concentrate the strength of every party upon the single task of winning the war. The War Cabinet itself is reduced to five members, of whom only the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, have also to preside over great departments of state. The Labour Party now take a full share of public responsibility. Their leader, Mr. Attlee, a member of the War Cabinet, will be Mr. Churchill's second-in-command in the House of Commons, and positions of the very highest importance are assigned to Mr. Morrison as Minister of Supply, and to Mr. Ernest Bevin, brought from the Trade Union wing of the Labour movement, as Minister of Labour. These two trusted representatives of the working man are in a position to call for a more unquestioning response from the factories and workshops than any member of the old Government; and in fact Mr. Bevin has already broadcast an urgent appeal to labour to mobilize its forces as never before for the national cause.

* * *

The Labour Supply Board and Regional Councils established by Mr. Bevin constitute the general staff of a great army of production, in whose ranks employers and workmen alike must be assigned their places. To organize the working power of the nation on these lines requires authority quite unknown to peace-time law. Parliament, at the moment when the news from France was darkest, passed into law in three hours, without notice, what must be the most sweeping suspension of traditional liberties in the whole of our history. Under this Act all persons are required to place themselves, their services, and their property "at the disposal of His Majesty." It is in fact a measure of universal conscription.

This does not of course mean that every man and woman will be immediately called upon for new work under the orders of Whitehall. But it does mean that all industry will be brought under Government direction as the situation may require, all labour may be compulsorily transferred at need, and everybody not already working may be summoned to some national task.

* * *

It is not to be denied that by this drastic Act more than half the British Constitution is temporarily abrogated. We have made the surrender with our eyes open. By giving up our liberties into the keeping of our own leaders, instead of Hitler, we trust to receive them back again after Hitlerism is destroyed.

* * *

England is hurrying to protect itself against the new methods of warfare by which Holland was so swiftly demoralized and destroyed—in particular against troops either in uniform or disguised, dropped from the air by parachutes. The approaches to Government departments and other key points are guarded with barbed wire entanglements, and armed sentries inspect the credentials of all who enter. Loopholed parapets of sandbags have been erected, from behind which riflemen can command such famous sites as Trafalgar Square. The identity cards distributed last autumn now have to be carried everywhere—mine was called for by a military post on an open road in Essex this morning. At the same time, men over military age, or for other reasons not serving in the fighting forces, have been given the opportunity to enrol in a new body called the Local Defence Volunteers. While continuing their ordinary employment, they will be armed and ready to turn out on the appearance of parachutists in their locality. The call for recruits for this force met with an immediate and enthusiastic response; within a few days a quarter of a million men had been enrolled, most of them veterans of the last war.

* * *

The invaders of the Low Countries would not have made such rapid progress if they had not been helped from within, either by their own countrymen who had insinuated themselves within the gates, or by traitors belonging to the countries invaded. (There was in fact a regular Nazi party in Holland). We have had to take precautions against similar tactics here. This has involved the wholesale internment of male enemy aliens throughout the eastern part of Great Britain—a distasteful step, since we know well that most of these men are brutally ill-treated refugees from Hitlerism, whose sympathies are entirely with us and who are most anxious to serve the Allied cause. We cannot however ignore the risk that the Nazis may have intruded their agents among the genuine refugees; and we can only ask these unfortunates to appreciate the position and submit as patiently as they may to the necessary hardships imposed on them.

Colonial Development and Welfare

Provision of Funds and Remission of Debts

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, although he had become Minister of Health, moved on May 21st the second reading of the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill which, on May 2nd, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, he had presented to Parliament. It was, he said, good in these days, in the midst of the ruin of so much, to be engaged still on certain works of construction.

There were some fifty Colonial territories, most of them were far removed from the scene of European quarrels and they had had no hand in the writing of that chapter in the story of international relations which closed so disastrously on September 3rd. Many, he said, might well have sought to excuse themselves from suffering the hazards and the dangers of modern war, but not a single one chose to take that course. On the contrary every one had asked in which way it could best help the Allied war effort and they were contributing, by gifts of treasure, by the production of essential foodstuffs, and raw materials, and by the raising of Colonial military units far in excess of anything that they did at a similar period in the last war. The proposals for assistance towards Colonial development, which were contained in the Bill, were not devised after the war began. They were not a bribe or reward for the Colonies' support in this supreme crisis. They were conceived long before the war, and were part of the normal peace-time development of our Colonial policy.

After pointing out that economic and social requirements in the Colonies are, in many cases, in a far earlier stage than in western Europe, Mr. MacDonald said it would be a profound error to suppose that economic and social standards, regarded as a minimum in Great Britain, could be transplanted suddenly to the many different peoples in the many different countries of the Colonial Empire. But, he stressed, what had to be ensured was that their progress from existing standards was steady, that it was suitable to their different climatic and other conditions and that the actual means of making that progress was at their disposal.

Whilst much had already been done, many Colonies suffered from one handicap, they had not adequate means. The majority of the Colonies were almost wholly agricultural and could not at present finance, from their own energies and out of their own resources, their own proper developments. They could not undertake some of the engineering, irrigation and other works of capital development. They could not afford to finance agricultural and veterinary research and to increase their service of agricultural officers all of which were essential for the full exploitation of their economic resources. Nor could they in some cases afford medical research, the building of clinics, hospitals and schools, and the steady increase of the necessary health, education and other technical officers. The Government were therefore introducing this legislation which broke new

ground in establishing the duty of taxpayers in the United Kingdom "to contribute directly and for its own sake towards the development, in the widest sense of the word, of the Colonial peoples for whose good government they are ultimately responsible."

Mr. MacDonald explained how the Bill proposed departures from the points reached in the existing Colonial Development Act. In the first place the Bill would authorize expenditure up to £5,000,000 a year instead of £1,000,000 on Colonial Development and in addition £500,000 annually on Colonial research. The purposes for which the money could be employed would also be widely extended to include almost everything in connexion with the physical, mental or moral development of the Colonial peoples. In the third place the Bill would abolish the present cramping provision that contributions from the Colonial Development Fund could only be made towards the capital costs of works. Another benefit which the Colonies would derive from this legislation was the remission of debts amounting to over £11,000,000 (see CIRCULAR of May 16th, p. 113). "What we are doing," he said, "is to clear the decks of any unnecessary encumbrances which may lie in the way of the vigorous development of the Colonial Empire."

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald concluded by referring to the strengthening of the staff of the Colonial Office in order to cope with the additional work and to the formation of two advisory bodies, the Committee on Development and Welfare with Lord Moyne as chairman, and the Committee on Colonial Research under the chairmanship of Lord Hailey.

In closing the long debate, to which fourteen members contributed, Mr. MacDonald thanked the House for the generally sympathetic reception they had given to the Bill. He had never, he said, sat through a debate on Colonial affairs which had stimulated so many speeches full of interest and of practical and constructive suggestions.

The full report, which occupies forty-four pages of Hansard, is well worth the careful study of all interested in Colonial affairs.

Sir Edward Stubbs

The Executive Committee of the West India Committee will, in future, enjoy the great benefit of the advice and collaboration of Sir Edward Stubbs, G.C.M.G., who, as reported elsewhere in this issue, was elected a member on May 23rd. Sir Edward, in addition to his specialized knowledge of the West Indies gained as Governor of Jamaica from 1926-1932, and more recently as vice-chairman of the West India Royal Commission, has had very wide experience of the overseas Empire, both in the Colonial Office itself, and in the Colonies where he was also Governor of Hong Kong, Cyprus and Ceylon.

The West Indies and the War

GRENADA

A series of gifts. The sum of £840 has been collected by the Grenada War Purposes Committee, of which £500 is allocated to the Lord Mayor's Fund, £40 to the Governor of Trinidad's Fund for West Indian Seamen, and £300 for any British fund which provides assistance to members of the British merchant service who may suffer in carrying out their duties during the war. The people of Grenada have also sent 10 tons of raw cocoa to the Crown Agents as a gift to his Majesty's fighting forces.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Comforts. A parcel of comforts for the troops has been received by Lady Lethem, who is at present in Scotland, from Mrs. J. W. Thomson. The parcel contained hot water bottle covers, stockings and hospital gloves. Mrs. Harford, wife of the former Administrator of Antigua (now of St. Kitts-Nevis) very kindly sent two parcels of clothing to Mrs. Bryson for her Red Cross depot at Waterside, Bourne End. The parcels were forwarded to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, and Princess Mary's R.A.F. Hospital at Halton Camp. The matrons sent acknowledgments for these gifts to Mrs. Harford and Mrs. Bryson wishes to express her gratitude for the deep interest Mrs. Harford has taken in her depot.

ST. VINCENT

Cocoa Exports. The Colonial Treasurer gave notice in the Government Gazette for February 26th that the British Government had undertaken to purchase ten tons of the 1939-40 crop of cocoa from St. Vincent. Applications for export licences should be accompanied by statements showing the applicants' exports of cocoa to the United Kingdom during the three crop years ended September 30th, 1939, and any exports since October 1st, 1939.

[As reported in the CIRCULAR of March 21st, the export quota allocated to the Windward Islands has been increased by 50 per cent. Ed. W.I.C.C.]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Landing and Disembarkation. The Governor has issued an Order under the Colonial Defence Regulations that no person arriving from outside the Colony by sea shall disembark on land from any vessel unless the vessel has been examined at Port-of-Spain and no restrictions placed on the person's landing. Persons arriving by air must not disembark elsewhere than at the Cocorite Aerodrome or the Piarco Aerodrome.

Red Cross Donation. The Trinidad and Tobago Central Council have sent another £1,000 to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund, bringing their total to £4,000.

Lord Mayor's Fund. The eighth published list of donations to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund records, in addition to those already noted in the CIRCULAR, a further contribution of £59 from H.M. Dockyard, Bermuda, and £50 from the Jamaica Garrison Ladies War Work Club.

West Indians on Service

MR. F. D. SLATER, of British Guiana, is serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion of the Loyal Regiment.

MR. M. D. SLATER, of British Guiana, is serving as a Gunner in the 3rd Heavy Regiment of the Royal Artillery.

MR. C. ARUNDEL MOODY, a son of Dr. Harold Moody, has been gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal West Kent Regiment. His brother, Mr. R. A. Moody, is in the Royal Air Force.

SQUADRON-LEADER W. TURNER of Roseau, Dominica, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his services during the air raids on Sylt recently received the decoration from the King at Buckingham Palace.

MR. FRANK ALLEYNE STOCKDALE, son of Sir Frank Stockdale, Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is a Lieutenant in the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. Mr. Stockdale was born in British Guiana.

MR. LEO ST. PATRICK NELSON, a son of Mr. Leopold Nelson, of Jamaica, is serving with the Royal Air Force in France. He is said to have been a valet to the late Lord Stanley.

REPORTED MISSING

FLYING-OFFICER DERRICK PAUL WOODROW ROWAN ROBINSON, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Robinson, of Rowan Hall, Highgate, Jamaica, is reported by the Air Ministry to be missing as a result of air operations off the coast of Norway on April 24th.

Flying-Officer Robinson, who joined the Royal Air Force in 1936, was 22 years of age. His brother, Gordon Robinson, also joined the Royal Air Force in 1936. Another brother, Clement, is serving in the army.

Inspector-General of Agriculture

The Colonial Office announced on May 22nd that Mr. A. J. Wakefield, Director of Agriculture, Tanganyika Territory, had been selected for appointment as Inspector-General of Agriculture in the West Indies. He will be a member of the organisation, to be established under a Comptroller, for the planning, supervision and execution of schemes of development and welfare in the West Indies.

Mr. Wakefield was appointed as Stock Inspector in Northern Rhodesia in 1923 and was transferred to Tanganyika as a District Agricultural Officer in the following year. In 1930 he was promoted to the post of Senior Agricultural Officer in Tanganyika, and received further promotion in 1935 to the post of Deputy Director in the same Territory. Three years later he was appointed to his present post.



The West India Committee



Report of the Executive Committee for the year 1939-40

To be submitted to the Members of the West India Committee at the Annual General Meeting to be held at 40, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 30th, 1940

THE Executive Committee present to the members of the West India Committee their Annual Report, and the audited Accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1939, and the Balance Sheet on that date. The Report covers the twelve months to April 30th, 1940, except in so far as reference to Accounts and Membership are concerned. At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on June 15th, 1939, the following Officers were elected for the ensuing year, pursuant to Article V of the Royal Charter: *Chairman*: Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., *Deputy-Chairman*: J. Gordon Miller, Esq., *Treasurers*: Sir Alfred Sherlock, Thomas Greenwood, Esq., H. J. J. Freeman, Esq., Christopher W. Gurney, Esq.

At a Meeting of the Executive on December 19th, 1939, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman was elected an additional Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee, permission for such an appointment, without alteration in the Committee's Royal Charter of Incorporation, having been granted as a war measure by the Lord President of the Council.

In December, 1939, Sir Alfred Sherlock, for reasons of health, relinquished the Chairmanship of the Treasurers, after many years of valuable service to the West India Committee in that capacity, and was succeeded by Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. It is a source of much gratification to the Executive that Sir Alfred has consented to continue to act as a Treasurer.

The Executive Committee record with deep regret the death of Mr. Christopher W. Gurney (August 31st, 1939), a son of a former Deputy Chairman and Treasurer, and himself a Treasurer of the West India Committee from 1930 and a member of the Executive Committee from 1926 to 1939, and the death of Mr. G. Macgregor Frame (December 16th, 1939) a Member of the Executive Committee from 1898 to 1905 and from 1917 to 1925.

At a Special Meeting of the Executive held on September 14th, 1939, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., was elected a Treasurer to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Christopher W. Gurney.

During the year the following were elected members of the Executive pursuant to Article VI of the Royal Charter:—

Mr. Horace Alan Walker (October 17th, 1939).

Mr. Cecil W. Murray, D.F.C. (March 14th, 1940).

The Secretariat. By letter of September 29th, 1939, the Assistant Secretary, Mr. G. Norman Knight, M.A., resigned his appointment on account of ill-health.

Membership. A falling off in the number of new members during the first eight months of the year caused some anxiety but the election of thirty-six in March and April 1940 gives encouragement. The Committee are grateful to those of its members who introduced candidates and who have, thus, given practical assistance at a time when the volume of its work and service on behalf of the West Indian Colonies has become so extensive.

Year	New Members	Membership	Year	New Members	Membership
1930	127	2,275	1935	105	2,062
1931	125	2,249	1936	173	2,090
1932	135	2,176	1937	111	2,032
1933	118	2,131	1938	111	2,045
1934	102	2,098	1939	81	1,997

Mr. John Antony Jerminham Murray and Mr. L. S. Birkett were admitted to Life Membership.

Executive Committee. Two members of the Executive re-entered the fighting services on the outbreak of war. Major

A. A. Nathan returned to the Royal Air Force in which he now holds the rank of Squadron-Leader. Major Kenneth Previté rejoined his regiment, the Royal Marines, and holds the appointment of Brigade-Major. Mr. Harold L. Q. Henriques is serving with the Auxiliary Fire Service (London).

Members appointed by the Government to official or advisory Committees include:—

Mr. R. Beaumont Petroleum Board.

Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott Controller of Costs, Ministry of Supply.

Mr. F. A. Greenaway ... Ministry of Food, Cocoa Division.

Mr. T. Harrison Hughes Ministry of Shipping, Liner Division.

Meetings. Sixteen Ordinary or Special Meetings of the Executive and twenty-six meetings of Standing or other Committees were held during the year. In addition informal conferences of the Officers have been held at the Committee Rooms constantly since the outbreak of war.

Visits of Members of Executive to the West Indies.

Last year more than half the members of the Executive visited the various Colonies in the Caribbean, but since the outbreak of war only Mr. H. Crum Ewing and Mr. Mark Moody-Stuart have yet been able to visit the Colonies in which they have interests.

West India Committee Rooms. After almost two centuries in the City of London the West India Committee moved to the West End on September 30th to its present premises at 40, Norfolk Street. The decision to leave the City was not lightly taken. In Trinity Square the Committee enjoyed the proximity of the produce markets and the offices of the West Indian merchants who have throughout its long history given ungrudgingly of their time to its services on behalf of the West Indian Colonies.

Nevertheless, that there were arguments in favour of headquarters nearer the centre of the Metropolis was being increasingly recognised. The Committee's work as the accredited trade representative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and now of Jamaica, also, its services in regard to the tourist industries, the close connexion which it has with Government departments, trade associations, the Press, and individuals seeking help and information of every kind—all these factors emphasised the prospective advantage of more central quarters.

In search for these the West India Committee was fortunate in finding, at a rental which was not excessive, premises at 40, Norfolk Street, on the ground and first floors.

The front rooms on the ground floor are allocated to the Members Room and Library and to the offices of the Jamaica section and those of Trinidad and Tobago. The windows display replicas of the Arms and/or Badges of the West Indian Colonies: Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, the Leeward Islands, British Guiana and British Honduras.

The offices are dignified and suitable in every way to the uses of the West India Committee. The Strand, and Australia House are a few paces away, and Temple Underground Station is within 150 yards.

The War. The year under review covered the last four months of uncertain peace and the first eight months of the war. The outbreak of hostilities altered in extent and complexity many normal activities of the Committee, and confronted it

with new problems and duties. References are made elsewhere in this report to the new work which has been undertaken for the sugar and other industries and by its War Services Committees. The war effort of the West Indian Colonies has been magnificent and the Committee is glad of the opportunity given to it of furthering that effort and of assisting to ensure that the economic strength of the Colonies is maintained to play its full part in the struggle. That every problem should be considered in that connexion is, we well know, the wish of all our members.

War Services Committees. In May, 1939, the West India Committee offered to the Colonial Office any assistance it could render in the event of a national emergency, an offer which received the thanks of the Secretary of State and an assurance that the Government would gladly avail itself of the services of the Committee should occasion arise. On September 14th the Executive unanimously resolved that the Committee should, in addition to carrying out its usual functions, act as a War Service Committee on behalf of the West Indian Colonies, as it had done in the war of 1914-18. This proposal was welcomed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies as was the formation, after consultation with the Red Cross authorities, of a Ladies Committee with Lady Davson, O.B.E., as Chairman and Lady Wilson as Deputy-Chairman, to assist in the collection and despatch of warm clothing, other comforts and gifts to men in the forces.

On November 30th, H.R.H. The Princess Royal graciously consented to become Patron of the Ladies Committee.

The Secretary of State informed the Colonial Governments concerned of these developments, and suggested that local organisations in the Colonies should work in close touch with the Committee's War Services Committees and, through them with the Red Cross Society and analogous bodies in England in order to avoid over-lapping. The Colonies gladly agreed to the proposal and the arrangements have been carried out smoothly and efficiently.

The sinking of the s.s. *Simon Bolivar* on November 17th tested the newly formed War Services Committees and the help which the Ladies Committee extended to the West Indian and other British survivors was much appreciated.

That disaster was the inspiration of our War Services Fund, to which firms and private individuals have generously contributed some £900, of which a proportion has been held in reserve by the Treasurers to meet future contingencies.

The number and importance of the gifts passing through the West India Committee for our fighting forces reflect the patriotism and generosity of the West Indian Colonies. Thousands of cases of citrus fruit, cases of rum by the score and hundreds of barrels of coffee have been dealt with, while at the Committee's depot at 40, Norfolk Street, the impressive total of 70,000 items—medical supplies, hospital garments, knitted comforts, etc., have already been handled. All these have had to be sorted, checked, parcelled and despatched by members of our Ladies Committee and their voluntary helpers. Full details of all these gifts are given regularly in the CIRCULAR, and the many grateful acknowledgments from recipients are promptly forwarded to the Organisations in the Colonies responsible for the contributions.

The West India Royal Commission. At the commencement of the year under review the West India Royal Commission returned to England after a visit of six months to the West Indian Colonies during which its members conducted a thorough investigation into social and economic conditions. Further evidence was taken in London during the summer and autumn of 1939 and its Report, which was expected to be published in December, was awaited with great interest. For reasons of policy the full report was not published but on February 21st the Secretary of State for the Colonies issued a White Paper on Colonial Policy accompanied by the Recommendations of the Royal Commission. It is not within the scope of this Report to comment on the Recommendations except to say that they hold out great promise for the future, and the action of the British Government in announcing its intention of implementing the more important of the Recommendations at a time when a weaker course might have been excused in view of the national emergency, was received with intense appreciation by the Colonies concerned.

The assistance now to become available will be cordially welcomed, enabling as it will do the several Colonies to increase existing services curtailed in various degrees by lack of resources, as well as to extend the scope of their services generally.

West Indian Shipping Facilities. The Imperial Shipping Committee began its investigations of West Indian Shipping facilities in May, 1939. The first evidence to be taken was from the West India Committee's Chairman, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., and Deputy-Chairman, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, in support of memoranda submitted by the West India Committee and by Lieut.-Colonel Davson personally.

On May 10th a Special Meeting of the Executive was convened to discuss the serious position which had arisen by the announcement of the withdrawal, to take effect in October, 1939, of certain British shipping services operating between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies and British Guiana. Trinidad and Antigua had cabled pointing out the urgent need for regular British passenger services to continue to be provided.

A resolution was unanimously adopted and forwarded to the Colonial Office and the Imperial Shipping Committee expressing the Committee's grave concern at the disturbance to trade and the announcement of the withdrawal of certain valuable British services and requesting that the Imperial Shipping Committee should make this the subject of an express interim report. It was, furthermore, requested that a deputation of members of the Executive be received by the Imperial Shipping Committee to furnish such additional information as to detail which might be necessary. The Deputation would have met the Imperial Shipping Committee on September 13th had not the war intervened.

At a meeting of the Executive held on October 17th it was agreed to make further representations to the Colonial Office suggesting that the Secretary of State for the Colonies might take the matter up with the Ministry of Shipping. After intermittent correspondence the Committee was informed in a letter dated March 11th that it was the intention of the Ministry to run passenger services as before the war.

Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire.

West Indian representatives to the 15th Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire attended a meeting, convened by Mr. J. Gordon Miller, at the West India Committee Rooms on July 13th. They were Major G. R. Alston, M.C., Mr. Lewis Ashenheim, Lieut.-Colonel W. Bowring, M.B.E., Mr. C. Farrar, Mr. Edward Scott-Johnson, Mr. H. B. Tucker and Mr. F. J. Seaford, O.B.E. The chief purpose of the meeting was to decide on procedure as to proposing, seconding or supporting the ten resolutions standing in the names of the West Indian Chambers.

The proceedings of the Congress, which covered 37 resolutions on a wide range of subjects and engaged the attention of 300 delegates from every part of the Empire, were reported in the CIRCULAR of July 26th, 1939.

Sugar. The price of non-preferential raw sugar between January and August, 1939, varied between 6/0½ and 8/4½, the higher figure having been reached in May after which a decline set in. **Canadian Sugar Tariff Board Inquiry.** On June 28th a Special Meeting of the Executive was convened to discuss matters relating to the Inquiry then being held by the Canadian Sugar Tariff Board, as a preliminary to the opening of negotiations on a new Canada—West Indies Trade Agreement.

It was agreed to take action in regard to the movement for reciprocity between Canada and Cuba: *to oppose the abolition of the Dutch Standard and press for the retention of the Anti-Dumping Duty; to deprecate an increase of beet factories in Canada; and to support the Canadian refiners while at the same time directing their attention to the need for concessions in such matters as the claiming of the freight differential. It was further agreed that Mr. Harold de Pass should be authorised to discuss matters with the refiners and kindred interests in Canada as the representative of the West India Committee, preparatory to the submission by the West India Committee of a formal brief to the Tariff Board.

On the suggestion of Canadian sugar refining interests and at the request of the Executive the Chairman of the West India Committee, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., undertook to visit Canada in the autumn and to act on behalf of the Committee. Communications expressing agreement with the views of the West India Committee were subsequently received from the Barbados Sugar Producers Association, the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association, the Sugar Manufacturers Association (of Jamaica) Ltd., and the Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Trinidad. Arrangements were made for the visit of Colonel Davson to Canada on September 9th, but had to be cancelled owing to the outbreak of war.

Government Purchase of Sugar. One of the most important meetings ever convened at the West India Committee Rooms at 14, Trinity Square, was the last one, held on September 21st at the request of Mr. B. A. Forster, Acting Director (Sugar Supplies) Ministry of Food, who was accompanied by Mr. G. L. M. Clauson, C.M.G., O.B.E., Chairman of the Colonial Sugar Committee. At that meeting Mr. Forster gave particulars of the terms on which the Government offered to buy all the existing disposable sugar of the West Indian Colonies and their crops for the current year, and asked the West India Committee to recommend to the sugar associations concerned overseas an offer, which had already been accepted by all other Empire sugar-producing Dominions and Colonies. The price would be 7/6 per cwt. for raw sugar not exceeding 96° c.i.f. the United Kingdom, to which would be added the Imperial Preference of 3/9 and, in the case of the Colonies, the value of the Colonial Sugar Certificates. The Government would be responsible for any cost of freight in excess of normal pre-war rates and for war-risks insurance in excess of ½ per cent. The Treasury would be asked to waive the reduction in quota certificates which would normally follow a rise in price basis to 7/6 per cwt. The United Kingdom would release to Canadian refiners Canada's normal requirements of B.W.I. sugar. After much discussion, in the course of which it was pointed out that such a price could only be acceptable if costs remained at their present level, it was agreed that the offer should be accepted in so far as producers present were concerned, and the West India Committee undertook at the request of Mr. Forster to co-operate with the Ministry of Food by acting as a "clearing house" for collation of statistical and other information.

Following the acceptance by the West Indian Colonies of the Government's offer, the co-operation with the authorities, thus promised, began at once and the forms of assistance which the Committee has been asked to render have been many and varied. Among the more important of these were questions relating to costs of production, the Canadian Benefit Pool, freight rates, marine insurance and Colonial sugar certificates.

West Indian and British Guiana crops. Hopes of a good crop were disappointed as a result of weather conditions and, to a lesser extent, stoppage of work on some estates. Drought was the chief enemy.

Production, estimated and actual. Statistics of estimated and actual production have been published at regular intervals throughout the year in the CIRCULAR.

Rum Propaganda Committee. The seventh winter campaign for popularising Rum in the United Kingdom terminated on March 31st, 1939, and the Report of the Committee was published in the CIRCULAR for August 10th, 1939. As in previous years the contributors to the Campaign were producers in British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, The West India Rum Refinery in Barbados and a number of firms in the home trade.

The first all-the-year Campaign suggested by the Sugar Manufacturers Association (of Jamaica) Ltd. was inaugurated on April 1st, 1939, and ended on March 31st, 1940. During the summer months "Rum Fizz," a long drink, was introduced by means of announcements in the Press and by Travelling Representatives and met with a good reception from the public. Since the outbreak of war large Government orders, due to the expansion in numbers of the fighting services, caused the difficulty to be one rather of supply than of demand.

Throughout the winter, advertising was confined to the national dailies, provincial evening newspapers and the Trade Press while Travelling Representatives interviewed the proprietors of many hundreds of licensed houses and breweries explaining the merits of rum and distributing show-cards and sales-aids to assist them to sell it.

Cocoa. The exports of cocoa from Trinidad for the calendar year 1939, as a result of unpropitious weather conditions, were the smallest for half-a-century—7,479 tons, against 19,196 tons for 1938. The shipments from Grenada, for the same reason, were also smaller, 3,592 tons compared with 4,268 tons for the preceding year.

Such crop results alone were greatly disappointing to planters and, unfortunately, price returns did not recompense them for the deficiency. Towards the end of the crop prices made a move upwards as the reduction in supplies became apparent, but the real advance occurred at the outbreak of war, an advance which the following table shows has been, for the most part, maintained. Consideration must be given to the fact, however, that freight

and insurance rates have both been substantially increased, and London wharfage charges are also higher.

The following table gives the ruling market quotations at the end of each month:—

1939.	First Marks Plantation		Fine Grenada London landed terms	Good Fermented Accra		
	Trinidad, prompt shipment	London		C.I.F. Continent	C.I.F. London	Spot ex warehouse London
April ...	39/-	—	36/-	20/6	—	20/9
May ...	39/3	—	36/-	20/4½	—	21/6
June ...	41/3	—	37/6	19/10½	—	20/6
July ...	41/-	—	43/6	19/7½	—	20/9
August ...	41/-	—	45/-	22/-	—	22/-
September ...	—	50/-	45/-	—	28/3	30/-
October ...	—	57/-	62/6	—	24/-	28/-
November ...	—	57/-	67/6	—	28/9	32/-
December ...	—	58/6	67/6	—	31/9	34/3
1940.						
January ...	—	57/3	67/6	—	31/-	34/-
February ...	—	54/-	65/-	—	32/-	34/6
March ...	—	54/-	64/-	—	32/-	35/-
April ...	—	61/-	62/6	—	32/6	35/6

Statistics have been discontinued since the outbreak of war, but those available at the end of August—given below—reflect the reduction in the London stocks:—

	1939	1938	1937
Trinidad	5,419	11,714
Grenada	924	16,605
			8,134 bags.
			5,277 "

As is already well-known, the British Government issued a notice on November 13th, 1939, that:—

"His Majesty's Government have also undertaken to offer to purchase at prices to be determined in relation to the prices paid for West African Cocoa, maximum quantities of cocoa produced in Trinidad, the Windward Islands and Ceylon, these quantities to be based on normal shipments to the United Kingdom in past seasons."

This arrangement, however, as affecting West India cocoa has since been modified, inasmuch as free marketing has been allowed on the basis of shipping quotas to the United Kingdom for the 1939-40 crop, 1,650 tons for Trinidad and Tobago, and 1,850 tons from the Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent), but should the shipments not reach those figures, the Government offered to purchase any cocoa unsold which remained in the countries concerned, sufficient to bring shipments for the twelve months ending September 30th, 1940, up to the specified totals. This offer, however, will not now operate as shipments will exceed those original quotas, owing to the fact that they were subsequently increased by the Government to 2,475 tons for Trinidad and Tobago, and 2,775 tons for the Windward Islands. Business apart from the effect of shipping quotas and restrictions due to the war, from which all trades naturally suffer has, thus, been allowed to be carried on normally.

Import regulations have recently been issued, considerably restricting the importation of foreign-grown cocoas, which has already widened the outlet for West Indian qualities.

As far as the British West African crops are concerned, these—dealt with also in the Government notice of November 13th, 1939—have been wholly acquired by the Government, and are being marketed through a Central Cocoa Control, attached to the Ministry of Food.

The cocoa terminal market, in accordance with its regulations, ceased to function on the outbreak of war, and closing out prices were fixed by the Committee of the London Cocoa Terminal Market Association for each delivery month, as follows:—

September, 1939...	20/9	January, 1940 ...	21/7½
October, 1939 ...	21/1½	March, 1940 ...	22/-
December 1939 ...	21/7½	May 1940 ...	22/4½
		July 1940 ...	22/10½

The shipments of cocoa from the Gold Coast to all destinations from October 1st, 1939, to April 30th, 1940, total 133,789 tons against 219,794 tons for the corresponding period of the preceding crop season.

Cotton. The West India Committee again supported the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association in its efforts to extend the use of cotton from the British West Indies.

Sir Algernon Aspinall continued to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association until December 1939, after which date Mr. E. J. King was appointed to take his place as the representative of the West India Committee.

The area planted in Sea Island cotton in the British West Indies in 1938-39 was slightly in excess of the acreage of the two previous years. The crop amounted to 4,898 bales of 400 lb. each. This quantity was 603 bales less than the total production of the preceding year, but was 804 bales more than the production of the 1936-37 season. Disposal of the crop was fairly readily effected at satisfactory prices, and the competition of American Sea Island cotton proved less serious than had been anticipated. The production of Marie Galante cotton amounted to 738 bales of 400 lb. each, a slight increase on the crop of the preceding year.

Oil (Mining). The production of crude oil in Trinidad during 1939 showed a further increase estimated to be 1,535,000 barrels, an estimated total of 19,271,000 barrels having been produced.

It will be remembered that in 1938 the Unions and the Employers submitted the wage question to arbitration and agreed to abide by the Award of the Tribunal. The Arbitration Agreement specified that wages then laid down should stand until January, 1940, and thereafter subject to three months' notice being given by either party to terminate.

Towards the end of 1939 the Trades Unions put forward a claim to an increase in wages to meet the rising cost of living but admitted that the Award of January, 1939, must stand until the requisite notice to terminate had been given.

The employers expressed their willingness to meet the increased cost of living as indicated by the Government Index, but the Unions refused to accept any offer based on the Government Index which they claim to be incorrect.

Subsequently strikes broke out in spite of the fact that the requisite notice to terminate the Award of January, 1939, had not been given.

Eventually a conference of the parties was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor, who in opening the conference, quoted extracts from Dispatches and a speech by the Secretary of State for the Colonies which latter had been reported in the CIRCULAR of November 2nd, 1939.

His Excellency further stated that he was satisfied that the Government's Cost of Living Index was properly compiled.

The Employers conceded an increase of 2 cents in the basic wage and a war bonus of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per hour for every 5 point rise in the cost of living.

Taking into consideration the effect of climatic conditions (referred to by the Secretary of State) on the cost of living, it is hoped that the present wages will be regarded as giving the workers rates which more than fairly compensate for the skill and effort expended.

The Unions also agreed to the appointment of a Conciliation Board (which they had previously refused to accept) and a "no-stoppage clause" for the period of the war and six months thereafter, with a minimum of two years.

It must be hoped that the Trades Unions will learn that confidence between themselves and the Employers can only be built up if both sides honour the Agreements they have signed.

During the year the industry accepted the Government's suggestion that as a war measure only they should pay a production cess of 2 cents per barrel on all oil produced. This produces for the Fisc some £80,000 per annum.

Fruit. The West India Committee was represented at the Empire Fruit Producers Conference held in June by Mr. Alexander Elder and Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc.; Mr. J. M. Pringle represented the Jamaica banana industry. One of the principal problems dealt with was the possibility of developing still further the orderly marketing of Empire fruit in the United Kingdom. A valuable lead as to the desirability of such action with citrus fruits had been given in a letter by Mr. Cordell Hull, appended to the Anglo-American Trade Agreement of 1938. The need for safeguarding the development of the West Indian citrus industry has long been a matter of serious concern calling frequently for action by the Committee in the interests of the producers. In April, 1940, the Committee received from the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce expression of profound regret at the absence of any reference to the citrus industry in the Recommendations of the Royal Commission and representations were accordingly made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The services of the Committee were also called upon by the Associated Chambers of Commerce on behalf of the banana industry of Jamaica which was urgently in need of assistance

to cope with the fresh menace of leaf spot disease. Action was taken in co-operation with the officials of the Jamaica Producers' Marketing Company to make the necessary representations to the Royal Commission, then taking evidence in London, and to the Colonial Office.

Trinidad and Tobago Trade Representation.

The West India Committee has acted as Trade Representative of Trinidad and Tobago in the United Kingdom through its Trinidad and Tobago Standing Committee since September 1st, 1932, and recently it was agreed that it should continue to represent the Colony on the present basis during the period of the war.

Mr. Alexander Elder and Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., were co-opted members of the Standing Committee at its meeting held on February 28th, 1940, the other members being Mr. J. Gordon Miller (Chairman), Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E. (ex-officio), Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., Mr. F. A. Greenaway, Mr. Mark Moody-Stuart, M.C., and Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C.

The Standing Committee maintains regular correspondence with the appropriate Departments and Organisations in the Colony and submits half-yearly reports.

The outbreak of war brought some of its activities to an abrupt termination, but it also created many new and important problems which receive the constant attention of the Standing Committee.

Jamaica Trade Representation.

The year under review has seen the creation, within the frame-work of the West India Committee, of a Jamaica Trade Section, a new entity formed, in accordance with a decision by the Legislative Council of Jamaica of May 12th, 1939, to fulfil certain of the functions of a Trade Commissioner's office in London and to continue, but on a larger scale, the special services for Jamaica which the West India Committee had been rendering in close co-operation with the Marketing Division of the Government of Jamaica, the Jamaica Permanent Exhibitions Committee and the Tourist Trade Development Board and other Departments and Bodies concerned. A Jamaica Standing Committee of members of the Executive was appointed in July, 1939, consisting of: Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., and Mr. J. Gordon Miller (ex-officio), and Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. H. I. Q. Henriques, Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood and Squadron-Leader A. A. Nathan. It is hoped that Mr. F. E. V. Smith, the Jamaica Marketing and Trade Commissioner, will attend the meetings of the Standing Committee whenever he is in England. Mr. Elder was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on December 6th, 1939, its initial meetings having been presided over by the Chairman of the West India Committee, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson. On the outbreak of war the Government of Jamaica arranged with the West India Committee, that, for reasons of economy, the expenditure of the new Section should be reduced substantially during the period of hostilities, but its duties and scope will, so far as possible, remain unchanged. The appointment of a senior Executive Officer for the Section was postponed and the work continues to be carried out by the existing Secretariat of the West India Committee which includes Mr. Hugh Paget who was educated in Jamaica.

The Section has its own rooms with a street-window looking out on Norfolk Street, and Jamaicans in London and others interested in the island already make it a rendezvous for the discussion of business and personal problems. Its first Annual Report is now in course of preparation.

Inquiries. During the year many thousands of inquiries, by letter, telephone and personal calls at our Rooms, were dealt with. They involved a wide range of subjects—questions of policy or trade raised by Government Departments, Consulates, other official bodies and tourist and shipping agents—requests for advice or help on business, legal, or personal matters from West Indians in London or overseas or from those who are going to the Colonies to settle or take up appointments, inquiries from the Press on matters of topical interest, from authors or research students in search of material—the list is too long to catalogue in this Report. The West India Committee has co-operated with the Ministry of Information since that body was formed and has provided the Ministry and the Press regularly with items of news of British West Indian interest. Outgoing telephone calls alone numbered over 9,000 in the year and the number of incoming calls was considerably greater.

Exhibitions. World's Fair, New York. The West India Committee continued to co-operate with the Colonial Empire Marketing Board until the completion of their arrangements for the West Indian and Atlantic Alcove which their Majesties the King and Queen visited on June 10th, 1939.

Imperial Fruit Show. The Colonial Empire Marketing Board decided to stage an exhibit on behalf of the Colonial Dependencies in the Empire section of the Imperial Fruit Show to be held from November 13th to 18th, 1939, in the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, and the West India Committee co-operated in regard to the display of West Indian produce. The Committee also made arrangements for a separate exhibit on behalf of the Permanent Exhibitions Committee of Jamaica. The outbreak of war caused the show to be cancelled.

Photographs, display sets and samples of produce, when available, are set out in the windows of the Jamaica and Trinidad Trade sections at 40, Norfolk Street, and it is hoped that opportunities of participating in small exhibitions, at least, will arise in spite of war conditions.

Tourist Trade. Although the war has temporarily suspended the tourist industry of the West Indies in so far as visitors from Europe are concerned the constant inquiries at our offices reveal that there are many people who wish to settle permanently or to spend long periods in the West Indian Colonies. Cruise-ships no longer run and short-term tourists in any numbers cannot visit the West Indies under present conditions, but when shipping facilities increase the trickle of such visitors will undoubtedly expand into a stream, for those who have no ties or obligations in the United Kingdom and can afford to do so will seek more peaceful surroundings overseas.

The Committee, in close touch with the tourist organisations in the Colonies, is doing all it can to ensure that interest in the West Indian Colonies is maintained and no opportunity is overlooked of inducing settlers or tourists to visit them.

West Indian Films. An article summarising the position in regard to West Indian films was published in the CIRCULAR of January 11th. The West Indian section of the Empire Film Library has gradually been strengthened.

Lectures and Broadcasts. Lord Harlech gave a broadcast, for the arrangement of which the West India Committee was largely responsible, on the tercentenary of the Barbados House of Assembly on June 27th and a letter of appreciation was received from the Clerk of the House of Assembly. Other broadcasts arranged were Mr. W. G. Freeman's on "Trinidad and Tobago's War Contribution" in November and Mr. Hugh Paget's on "Jamaica" in the series of Travel Talks for schools, in the same month.

Talks on Trinidad and Tobago were given by Mrs. Nankivell to the Women's section of Toc H, at Bexhill-on-Sea, on November 8th, and Mr. H. A. de Freitas at the Royal School of Mines on February 6th, for which slides and photographs were provided by the Trinidad and Tobago trade section of the West India Committee.

Publications. The West India Committee Circular. Publication of the Committee's official journal continued normally until the outbreak of war when a token number only was published on September 7th to avoid adding to telephonic and postal congestion during a week of emergency. Subsequent issues approximated in form and contents to those of peace-time. The present reduction in the number of pages will be maintained because of the scarcity of paper, but the character of the CIRCULAR and its special features will not be impaired in any way. Other reasons for economy are the greatly enhanced cost of postage following the 1940 Budget and a decline in advertising revenue which, fortunately, has now been arrested as a result of the renewed interest which firms are taking in West Indian markets for their exports.

Other Publications. The new edition of Lady Nugent's Journal was published in November 1939.

The thanks of the West India Royal Commission were expressed for the copy of the sixth edition of the West India Committee's map of the West Indies, which we were informed was of great assistance to the Commission in the preparation of its Report.

Library. Through the generosity of members and friends of the Committee many valuable additions were made to the Library during the year. As a war precaution a number of the rare volumes have been stored temporarily outside London

in the care of Mr. Noel Deerr, a member of the Library Committee.

The Pilgrim Trust made a grant of £300 towards the cost of cataloguing the Library and the repair of old volumes, and it is hoped that the new catalogue will be ready for publication in the summer of 1940.

The death of Mr. Christopher Gurney, who took a special interest in the Committee's Library, was severely felt.

Of other gifts received since the last Report, the most notable was the silver candelabra which were presented originally by the West India Committee to Sir Nevile Lubbock in 1903. His son, the late Mr. Arthur Nevile Lubbock, had expressed the wish that, on his death, they should be offered to the original donors.

Honorary Correspondents. The Executive are indebted to the Honorary Correspondents of the West India Committee who have provided information regarding events and conditions in the Colonies, and have spared neither time nor trouble to provide a West Indian news-service for the CIRCULAR. Several of the Honorary Correspondents have assisted the Committee by obtaining candidates for membership, and their practical help in this way also is greatly appreciated.

New Honorary Correspondents appointed during the year were Captain M. S. Metzgen, M.B.E., British Honduras, and Mr. E. T. Ward, St. Lucia.

IVAN DAVSON,
Chairman.

40, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.2.

EDWARD J. KING,
Secretary.

May 23rd, 1940.

[The Balance Sheet and Accounts appear on pages 136 and 137].

Meeting of the Executive

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on May 23rd, there were present Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, chairman, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. R. Bryson, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. F. A. Greenaway, Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, Mr. M. Moody-Stuart, Mr. H. A. Walker and Mr. E. J. King (secretary), Mr. T. Souness (executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Standing Committee) and Mr. Hugh Paget (secretariat).

The following four candidates were elected to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MISS MARGARET LISLE COX (Barbados)	Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
	Sir Algernon Aspinall, KING, C.B.E.
MR. EGERTON SYKES, F.R.G.S., (London) F.I.A.	Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
	Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.S.C.
MR. HABLOT ROBERT EDGAR (Barbados) BROWNE	The Hon. W. H. Flinn, O.B.E.
	Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
MISS CAROLINE GEORGINA KATHERINE SCOVELL (London)	Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
	Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, K.C.M.G., C.B.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Sir Edward Stubbs, G.C.M.G., was unanimously elected a member of the Executive Committee.

The draft Annual Report was discussed and passed with certain amendments.

It was reported that following the Special Meeting of May 16th the Sugar Associations had been informed by cable of the price at which the Government offered to purchase next season's crop. Replies received from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad were communicated to the meeting.

As the outcome of negotiations with the Colonial Office it was reported that the Committee had been informed that in the event of cocoa supplies falling below the anticipated level there would be no objection to the shipping space thus rendered available being used for other West Indian products which are on the priority list, and that this very satisfactory decision had been communicated to the Colonies concerned.

A letter from Sir George Huggins was read in which he expressed, on behalf of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Trinidad and Tobago Citrus Association, thanks for the efforts made by the West India Committee to safeguard the interests of the citrus industry.

Colonial Sugar Industry

Special Preferences, Production Costs and Price

Information of great interest to West Indian sugar producers is contained in the following replies by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to questions asked in the House of Commons concerning special Colonial preferences, production costs and the price of sugar.

MR. R. MORGAN, on May 7th, asked the Secretary of State why, instead of continuing the special preference to the sugar-producing Colonies on the same allocation as before between them, he had not accepted the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission in favour of a more equitable basis of distribution. Mr. M. MacDonald replied that, as he had explained on May 1st [see CIRCULAR of May 16th, p. 116], the Government had reached the conclusion that the recommendations of the Commission on the system of certificated preference were not suitable for adoption during the war. Equally they would not regard it as practicable to select certain of those recommendations as regards sugar, for immediate adoption without the rest. Under the conditions for Government purchase of Colonial sugar now operating the producers in the individual West Indian Colonies were getting higher aggregate returns than they would have done had the Royal Commission's recommendations been applied to the prices prevailing before the war.

Mr. David Adams asked the Secretary of State, on May 8th, whether he would state the year on whose exports of sugar the present system of special preference to the producing Colonies was fixed; and whether, since the position of production had changed considerably as between the Colonies concerned, he would consider a change in the system of allotment. Mr. M. MacDonald replied that when the special certificate preference was introduced in 1932 in order to maintain the then existing Colonial sugar industry the allocation of quotas was made on the basis of the average exports in the three years 1928-30. In 1934 the scheme was somewhat modified and revised quotas were fixed which took account both of the original quotas and of increases in exports which had taken place in the interval. He did not think that the present was an opportune time to review those quotas. On Mr. Adams asking whether the Colonial Secretary did not agree that certain of the Colonies appeared to be adversely affected at present, Mr. MacDonald said he thought there certainly would have been a case for considering this question in peacetime, but the war had so altered conditions there, both as regards production and marketing, that he thought this was not the time to reconsider it.

On May 9th, Sir R. Gower inquired whether the Secretary of State would state the disparity in the present value of the special preferences allocated to the different sugar-producing Colonies, and what, if the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission were adopted, would be the allotment of those prefer-

ences to the same Colonies. In reply, Mr. M. MacDonald said that the existing special preference was at the rate of 3s. per cwt. on quotas fixed for each Colony. Its average value per cwt. of total exports in any year depended, therefore, on the proportion between the quota and the actual export. The following figures showed the average values on the basis of exports during the three years ended August 31st, 1939. They would be different if any other period were chosen.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Barbados	1	0½	Mauritius	1	1½
British Guiana ...	11	½	Trinidad	1	2½
East Africa	7		St. Lucia & St. Vincent	1	1½
Fiji	1	2	<i>Average for whole</i>		
Jamaica	7	½	<i>Colonial Empire ...</i>	1	0½
Antigua & St. Kitts	1	0½			

The recommendations of the Royal Commission were, as the Commissioners themselves pointed out in their report, framed in the light of pre-war conditions, and the Commissioners expressly stated that they left open the question, how far they could be applied under war-time conditions. The Commission's recommendation was that the special preference should be granted at the basic rate of 3s. per cwt. on an amount equal to 50 per cent. of each Colony's actual exports. The basic value of this special preference would accordingly have been 1s. 6d. per cwt. of the total export. This basic rate was, however, to be subject to reduction if the price exceeded 7s. per cwt. c.i.f. United Kingdom. Owing to the change in the whole basis of marketing brought about by the war, it was difficult to say how this would work in current conditions, but if an adjustment were made on the basis of the price now actually being paid for Colonial sugar, including the extra freights which were being paid by the Ministry of Food, the value of the special preference payable to Colonial exporters would, had the Royal Commission's recommendations been literally followed, be reduced to nothing.

Sir R. Gower, on May 9th, also asked whether the Secretary of State was aware of the heavy increase in the production costs of Colonial sugar since the outbreak of war, owing to the raising of freight rates for outgoing supplies, and whether he was satisfied that the present sugar price obtainable by producers was sufficient to make possible that improvement in living and housing conditions generally regarded as essential in the West Indian sugar-producing Colonies. Mr. MacDonald replied that the expectation that increased costs would result from the war was taken into account in the price which was offered to and accepted by the Colonial sugar producers for the purchase by the Ministry of Food of their exportable surplus for the current season. Whether this price would be sufficient for the coming season, having regard, among other matters, to the producers' obligations towards their labour, would have to be considered when arrangements were made for the purchase of that season's crop.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"EBRY jackass tink him pickney race-harse."

* * *

DR. T. P. ACHONG has been elected chairman of the Trinidad Public Library.

* * *

MR. F. R. H. GREEN, Superintendent of Surveys, has been appointed Commissioner of Lands and Mines, British Guiana.

* * *

MR. ERIC HAZELTON assumed duty as an extra Assistant Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago on April 15th.

* * *

THE Governor of Trinidad and Tobago has appointed Sir Edward Cunard as his private secretary and Mr. Mayow Short as aide-de-camp.

* * *

MR. A. M. FRASER has been appointed a member of the Labour Advisory Committee of St. Vincent in place of Mr. F. A. Casson who has resigned.

* * *

THE Hon. A. R. Cools-Lartigue, the Crown Attorney, has been acting as Administrator of St. Lucia during the absence on leave of His Honour A. A. Wright.

* * *

LADY YOUNG the wife of the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, accompanied by her youngest son, left the Colony by air on April 2nd for Miami whence she will go to New York for a visit.

* * *

THE following have been among the recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms: Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. C. H. Norton, Gunner J. L. Richards, Lieut. J. L. Wigley and Mrs. Bushe.

* * *

ON the motion of Sir Arthur Hill, seconded by Sir John Shuckburgh, Mr. Eric Macfadyen was, on May 8th, re-elected chairman and Sir Donald Cameron vice-chairman of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

* * *

THE Rev. J. S. Bolton, until recently Superintendent of the Methodist churches in Tobago, and Mrs. Bolton, have left Scarborough for a holiday in Canada, after which Mr. Bolton will take up work in British Guiana.

* * *

WE have been informed by C. Czarnikow Ltd. that owing to force of circumstances they are discontinuing the publication of the *Digest of Current Sugar News and Statistics* which they have issued since the outbreak of war.

* * *

FOR the purpose of supervising the baling and export of cotton produced in St. Vincent, Mr. G. A. Grant, manager of the Government cotton ginnery, has been appointed an "authorised person" by the Controller of Supplies.

* * *

DEFINITION of legal limits of the process known as "peaceful picketing" is one of the objects of a Bill to

amend the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance which has been published prior to introduction into the Legislative Council of British Guiana.

* * *

INFORMATION was given in the Trinidad Royal Gazette of April 11th that import licenses are not necessary for personal and household effects whether accompanying the passenger or not, provided they are not being imported as merchandise or for sale. Trade samples may also be imported, as cargo or through the post, without a licence.

* * *

THE production of sugar direct from cane in India during the 1939-40 season is likely to be greater than had been expected. In a forecast published in the *Indian Trade Journal* of March 14th, Mr. R. C. Srivastava, director of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, says the revised estimate is about one million tons, against the actual production of 650,800 in 1938-39 and 930,700 in 1937-38.

* * *

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Dr. E. C. Humphries, Bio-Chemist in Cacao Research at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Humphries, of Milton, Cambridge, and Miss Mary Millicent Wingle, only daughter of the late Mr. W. Wingle and Mrs. Wingle of Great Addington, Northants. Dr. Humphries, who is at present on leave in England, hopes to sail for Canada next month.

* * *

SIR ARTHUR KIRWAN AGAR, who has resigned from the position of Chief Justice of British Honduras owing to ill-health, has had a romantic career. With his brother "E. A." he was one of the new settlers attracted to Dominica in the nineties, but in 1915 he left the island and joined the Army Service Corps, becoming in 1919 a staff captain at the War Office. In the following year he was made "Pooh Bah" in Montserrat, filling at the same time, every legal appointment in the island. For ten years too, Sir Arthur was resident magistrate in Jamaica. We wish him a speedy recovery from his illness.

West Indian Sugar Exports, 1940

The following statement of the estimated exports of sugar, from January 1st to August 31st, 1940, summarises information received by the West India Committee this month. These revised estimates supersede those published in the CIRCULAR of March 21st.

Estimated Exports January 1st to August 31st, 1940.

	tons		tons
Barbados	59,100	British Guiana	82,512
Jamaica	83,900	British Honduras	250
Trinidad	76,500		
Leeward Islands	39,500	Total	349,512
Windward Islands	7,750		

The estimated exports of Barbados fancy molasses for the same period amount to 27,000 tons.

The West India Committee

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1939

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
ENDOWMENT FUND	26,962	12	9	ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENTS at cost ..	23,137	0	2
				<i>(Market Value at 31/12/39, £23,969)</i>			
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	3,605	3	7	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND INVESTMENTS at cost ..	3,605	3	7
				<i>(Market Value at 31/12/39, £3,526)</i>			
SUNDRY CREDITORS, PROVISION FOR ACCRUING EXPENSES, ETC.	933	17	8	GENERAL INVESTMENTS at cost	633	11	2
				<i>(Market Value at 31/12/39, £631)</i>			
SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC., RECEIVED IN ADVANCE ..	95	2	9	OFFICE FURNITURE, at cost <i>less</i> depreciation ..	635	13	7
EXCESS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED OVER EXPENDI- TURE IN RESPECT OF SPECIAL FUNDS ..	1,463	19	2	LIBRARY AND PICTURES, as per Valuation, made in 1914 with subsequent additions at cost ..	789	13	2
BANK OVERDRAFT	3,662	19	7	REMOVAL EXPENSES CARRIED FORWARD	228	7	7
				STOCK OF PAPER AND PUBLICATIONS at cost ..	548	19	4
				SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE, <i>less</i> RESERVE FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS	1,565	17	10
				EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF SPECIAL FUNDS <i>(Recoverable)</i>	251	18	4
				SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREAR RECEIVED IN 1940 ..	57	11	6
				CASH IN HAND	7	14	9
				INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT—			
				Balance at 31st December, 1938 ..	3,807	15	6
				Add Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	1,454	9	0
					5,262	4	6
					£36,723	15	6

HAROLD J. J. FREEMAN }
HORACE C. B. HICKLING } *Treasurers.*
EDWARD J. KING, *Secretary.*

We report that we have examined the books of The West India Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1939, and have checked therewith these Accounts, which we hereby certify to be correct.

3, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, London, E.C.2.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & Co.

17th May, 1940.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
TO SALARIES, PENSION AND WAGES		3,791	8	5				By SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS,	
„ STAFF ENDOWMENT INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS	178 8 0				3,969	16	5	AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS (less Commission), sales of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and other publications and Amounts received from Subscribers to the "Circular" 4,472 19 3	
„ RENT OF COMMITTEE ROOMS AND OFFICES	1,121 5 0							„ INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS 1,162 3 8	
„ PRINTING AND STATIONERY	1,754 5 6							„ JAMAICA TRADE REPRESENTATION (Contribution from Government of Jamaica) .. 750 0 0	
„ NEWSPAPERS AND PRESS CUTTINGS	29 9 0							„ CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS for representing the Permanent Exhibition Committees, Publications, etc. 196 0 0	
„ LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND COPYRIGHTS	333 16 10							„ CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COLONIAL ASSOCIATIONS 540 14 3	
„ BLOCKS	144 11 4							„ SUNDRY RECEIPTS FOR SERVICES RENDERED 363 0 9	
„ POSTAGES AND CABLES	437 5 11							„ BALANCE, being Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year 1,454 9 0	
„ TELEPHONES	108 5 10								
„ AUDIT FEE	42 0 0								
„ OFFICE CLEANING AND LIGHTING	152 0 1								
„ SUNDRY OFFICE AND GENERAL EXPENSES	209 18 7								
„ RESERVE FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS	100 0 0								
„ DEPRECIATION ON FURNITURE	51 10 5								
„ AMOUNT WRITTEN OFF REMOVAL EXPENSES	350 0 0								
„ EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY WRITTEN OFF	135 2 0								
		£8,939	6	11				£8,939 6 11	

SPECIAL FUNDS

for the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

	Balance at 31st December, 1938		Expenditure during year	Receipts during year	Balance at 31st December, 1939	
	Due to Committee	Due by Committee			Due to Committee	Due by Committee
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
JAMAICA TOURIST TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD	871 10 7	—	306 13 2	1,146 13 2	31 10 7	—
RUM PROPAGANDA	—	501 3 9	2,338 4 4	2,399 11 0	—	562 10 5
SUNDRY EXHIBITIONS FOR COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS	63 6 11	—	804 4 3	665 15 10	201 15 4	—
TOURIST AND EXHIBITIONS BOARD OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	301 8 3	—	99 19 9	382 15 7	18 12 5	—
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRADE REPRESENTATION ACCOUNT	—	516 7 2	664 7 1	600 0 0	—	452 0 1
TRINIDAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	—	196 18 8	—	—	—	196 18 8
LIBRARY FUND (Pilgrim Trust)	—	—	47 10 0	300 0 0	—	252 10 0
	£ 1,236 5 9	1,214 9 7	4,260 18 7	5,494 15 7	251 18 4	1,463 19 2

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Jamaica Trade Commissioner — High Yields of Peasants' Cotton
Paralytic Rabies Suppressed in Trinidad



BARBADOS

Weather and the Sugar Crop. In the notes for March issued by the Director of Agriculture it is recorded that the rainfall for the month had been appreciably above the average, heavy rains falling in the first week. This served to arrest drying out of cane, which had become evident by the end of February, and at the same time to develop the young plant cane and ratoon stools. Although cane tonnages reported were very much what had been estimated by the Department, the juices, however, of the crop being reaped, had at no time reached the quality expected due probably to forced ripening in the very dry months of January and February. This had led to a drop in the estimate of the crop to the equivalent of 99,456 tons sugar, made up as follows: vacuum pan sugar, 69,494; muscovado, 2,962; fancy molasses (equated at 330 wine gallons per ton sugar), 27,000.

Cotton. The season had been favourable to cotton growing, and in St. Philip, where most of the crop was grown, harvesting was all but completed by the end of March. It seemed probable that estate cotton would yield upward of 600 lb. of seed cotton to the acre and peasant cotton between 300 and 400 lb. At Mapps plantation a yield of almost 800 lb. per acre had been obtained. Two excellent peasant plots were harvested, both of one half acre. The one gave 450 lb. and the other 440 lb. of seed cotton, i.e. at the rate of 900 and 880 lb. per acre. No pink boll worm had been seen, and growers were thereby impressed with the advantages of a strict close season and thorough cleaning up and burning of cotton refuse.

Ground Provisions. The glut of sweet potatoes which occurred in January and early February had eased and potatoes, although plentiful, were being sold at reasonable prices to the grower and consumer. During the month a new notice under the Vegetable Production (Defence) Control Order had been served to plantations which ensured during the 1940-41 season a minimum of 10 per cent. of plantation arable land being grown in specified kinds and percentages of vegetable foodstuffs.

JAMAICA

New Trade Commissioner. Mr. F. J. Gick, H.M. Trade Commissioner at Montreal has, the *Board of Trade Journal* reports, been appointed H.M. Trade Commissioner in Jamaica in succession to Mr. S. A. Deacon who, as mentioned in the CIRCULAR of May 2nd, has returned to duty at the Department of Overseas Trade. Mr. Gick is expected to arrive at Kingston early in June.

Jamaica Telephone Company. At the annual meeting of The Jamaica Telephone Co., Ltd., held on April 20th, the chairman commented on the progress

which had been made during the past year. He also stated that it was proposed that the Company should spend some £10,000 on their plant during the current year in spite of the war. He concluded by paying a tribute to the late Mr. C. A. Costa, formerly senior partner of Messrs. Wood, Costa and Harty, auditors of the Company.

Mr. H. S. Samuel. Mr. Henry Solomon Samuel, a prominent member of the business community of Kingston, died at his home in lower St. Andrew on April 20th. Mr. Samuel, who was born in 1871, and was a son of the late Mr. Samuel Henry Samuel, was for many years a director of The Jamaica Permanent Building Society and had been, until recently, a director of Desnoes and Geddes, Ltd.

Cane farming. The Director of Agriculture, in a recent broadcast, drew attention to the fact that the system of cane farming which is so well established a feature of the economy of Trinidad, is also rapidly gaining ground in Jamaica where, he stated, some 6,000 growers produce 20 per cent. of the island's cane supply. He laid great emphasis upon the necessity for maintaining the greatest possible understanding and confidence between the producers and the manufacturers.

Jamaica Honey. At the annual general meeting of Jamaica Apiarists, Ltd., a resolution expressing appreciation of the Governor's practical interest in the Jamaica honey industry was carried unanimously.

Tourist Trade. At a meeting of the Council of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce held on April 26th, the serious loss to Jamaica (estimated at £150,000) arising out of the drastic reduction in the number of tourists visiting the island during the past season was discussed. A resolution was passed to the effect that the Council should represent to the Government the urgent necessity of adopting immediately proper and effective measures in an attempt to redeem the tourist trade of the island.

ST. LUCIA

Importation of Cattle. From June 1st, no cattle may be imported into the Colony unless accompanied by a certificate from a qualified veterinary surgeon to the effect that they have been subjected to the agglutination test for *Brucella abortus* and given a negative reaction, and also have passed the tuberculosis test successfully or come from an accredited herd.

Cocoa Export Licences. It was gazetted on April 13th that all general licences for the export of cocoa were cancelled and any person wishing to export cocoa to the United Kingdom should apply for a licence stating the quantity and the steamer by which it was to be shipped. It was also announced that the export quota allotted to St. Lucia for the year ending September 30th, 1940, had been increased to 180 tons.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Paper Pulp. The shipment of over 700 bales of paper pulp from the factory near St. Joseph, to which reference was made in the CIRCULAR of May 2nd, was, the *Trinidad Guardian* states, stock which was on hand before the factory closed down. Work had not been resumed early in April but it was hoped to re-start manufacturing soon.

Mr. A. R. Stark, assistant to H.M. Trade Commissioner in Trinidad, left by air on April 3rd for Jamaica to take temporary charge of the Trade Commissioner's office in that Colony.

Paralytic Rabies. Captain H. V. M. Metivier, Government Veterinary Surgeon, gave the Board of Agriculture on April 4th the reassuring news that the incidence of paralytic rabies had dropped from 217 cases in 1936, 59 in 1937, to 2 in 1938 and none at all during 1939 or for the first three months of this year. The Health Department was still engaged in securing the destruction of the vampire bats which are the carriers of the disease. Captain Metivier also announced that information had recently been received that paralytic rabies occurred in Venezuela. For a long time the Department of Agriculture had, he said, been puzzled at the apparent absence of the disease from that country as it had been reported from all other South American countries as far south as Argentina.

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

New Commissioner. His Honour E. P. Arrow-smith arrived at Grand Turk on February 21st and on the following day took the prescribed oaths and assumed duties as Commissioner. The Hon. C. W. Frith, who had been acting as Commissioner, has resumed the offices of auditor and magistrate.

The Salt Industry. The Bill of "an Ordinance to create a Body Corporate to market salt and to regulate and control the export thereof," which will be laid before the Legislative Board, was published in the *Gazette* for March 2nd. The exports of salt during 1939 were 1,377,932 bushels, about 400,000 more than in 1938 and almost equal to the output in 1937.

Controlled Price of Oranges

With the object of keeping the price of oranges on a reasonable level, the Ministry of Food has issued an Order fixing, from May 20th, maximum "first-hand," wholesale, and retail prices.

The maximum prices on first-hand sale, that is, the first sale after landing in the United Kingdom by or on behalf of the importer, for oranges in 1st condition (at least 98 per cent. sound) are as follow: South African and Rhodesian, per box of 80/126 18/-, 150 or more 19/-; Brazilian and Californian, per box 80/126 19/-, 150 or more 20/-; Spanish per half case 27/-, per box of not less than 60 lb. 17/-; any other variety or in other packages, 32/- per cwt. of sound fruit.

In the case of the last category, oranges of other variety, which would include West Indian, the maximum wholesale price for first condition fruit is fixed at 38/6 per cwt. in the United Kingdom and 39/6 in Northern Ireland. The maximum retail price for all varieties is fixed at 6d. per lb.

West Indies at Westminster

Censorship of Books in Trinidad

In reply to MR. DAVID ADAMS who, on May 9th, asked whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies was aware the publications *Europe since Versailles* and *Must the War Spread* had recently been confiscated in Trinidad and whether he would give reasons for this course and prevent a further repetition of the same, SIR J. EDMONDSON said that as far as the Secretary of State was aware no books or pamphlets published in the United Kingdom had been banned in Trinidad since the outbreak of war. He understood, however, that a shipment of books, which included those mentioned, was recently detained for examination by the local censor and subsequently released to the bookseller.

Development Schemes

In reply to MR. CREECH JONES, who asked the Secretary of State whether he could state the schemes in the West Indies on which the £350,000 now authorised would be spent, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD circulated the following statement in *Hansard* for May 8th. The costs given are approximate.

British Guiana. Reconditioning of drainage in certain areas in the coastal belt; reconditioning of roads; reconditioning of central hospital and almshouses and certain other buildings in Georgetown, £52,500.

British Honduras. Construction of a road from Belize to Cayo and certain feeder roads, £45,000.

Jamaica. Anti-malarial measures, reconditioning of roads and reconditioning of land for land settlement in country districts, £82,500.

Leeward Islands. Minor public works, public health and soil erosion measures, £10,750.

Windward Islands. Improvement of roads and rivers and swamp drainage, £27,810.

The schemes mentioned above have been approved; others are under consideration.

Progress

Throughout the West Indian Colonies, the old-fashioned wooden house, hotel, store and office is gradually being replaced by a modern style building in concrete or stone. In consequence, there is now greater scope for interior decoration and furnishing, and more opportunity to make use of the finest British carpets, rugs, tapestries, and furnishing and upholstery fabrics.

Because of their suitability to the climatic conditions the extensive range of designs and qualities produced by T. F. Firth & Sons Ltd., Brighouse, Yorks., are becoming increasingly popular for modern furnishing. Their products are obtainable, if desired, proofed against the ravages of insect attack, at a very slight extra cost.

The first of a series of announcements by this firm appears on page v.

MISS MARGARET SEWELL and Mr. Patrick Corbet, whose engagement was announced in last CIRCULAR, were married on May 23rd at All Saints', West Haddon. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Geoffrey Sewell, and Captain P. F. H. Wykeham was best man and, like the bridegroom, was in uniform.

Round the Markets

May 28th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	May 13th.	May 27th.	\$ value	4/5.9
Canada ...	4.45	4.45	\$	4/11.6
U.S.A. ...	4.03	4.03	Fr.	-1.4
France ...	176.62	176.62	Gu.	—
Holland ...	No quotation	No quotation		

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend Latest year		Price	
		73½	74½
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 9d. per cent.)	98½	99½
3½	War Loan	—	—
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6	nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/-	nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	—	—
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	24/3	25/3
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	34/-	38/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	36/6	40/6
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 5% Pref.	1½	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1/1½	1/3
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/-	2/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1	1½
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9	3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/3	3/3
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d.	1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	38½	42½
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½	2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	—	—
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3	7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d.	1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½	2½
—	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/-	6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	5/-	6/-

RUM. The market generally is very quiet and no business has been reported in the first-hand market during the fortnight.

COCOA is a dull market. No further sales of Grenada have been reported, with sellers at the close asking 65/- for fine on the spot. There is nothing doing in spot Trinidad which is quoted nominally at 75/- to 80/- for fine estates and at 70/- to 74/- for ordinary to medium: at the beginning of the fortnight about 200 bags were sold at 60/- c. & f., first three marks, May-June shipment. West African is slow and unchanged at 32/- to 32/6 c.i.f.

BALATA. Prices are nominal at 2/5 for Demerara sheet and 2/6 for block. No spot supplies are available.

BANANAS continue in strong demand. Jamaicas show a further rise of £2 10s. per ton, and are now quoted at £30 5s. delivered London and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. Jamaica dark liquid to pale amber is quoted at 80/- to 90/- on the spot, according to quality, and pale to white at 92/6 to 97/6. Sales are reported in new crop "to arrive" at 85/- to 90/- c.i.f. for the pale to white respectively, May-June shipment.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. No Handpressed is available, and the nominal value is unchanged at 40/- per lb. Distilled is dearer on account of the dollar exchange movement, but the price is not yet stabilized, and quotations are from 25/- to 27/6 per lb. Lime Juice. The nominal value of Concentrated is now £9 per pipe. Raw is quiet and unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is nominally unchanged at 6/6 per lb. Bitter is wanted but any quotation would be misleading.

SPICES. Consumers and speculators show practically no interest in Pimento, and in the absence of sales the market is quite nominal; spot is quoted at 1/1 per lb. ex wharf. Jamaica Ginger is about unchanged. The last sales reported were at 52/6 to 55/- ex wharf for

No. 3, 75/- for bold medium No. 1 in barrels, and at 57/6 for good medium No. 2. West India Nutmegs are quoted at 6½d. per lb. for the wormy and broken, 8d. for sound unassorted, 10d. for sound 80's, and 11d. for sound 65's ex wharf London. Mace is quiet and about unchanged, the last prices ranging from 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale and at 2/6 to 2/7 for choice pale.

Company Reports & Meetings

Central Mining

Mr. F. R. Phillips, chairman, speaking at the annual meeting of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, held in London, on May 16th, said that the oil profits and other revenue earned by Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.—in which they were interested—during the year to June 30th last, were slightly smaller than those of the preceding year.

In view of war conditions, when all oil products, particularly from Empire sources, were so essential for Government consumption, a considerable expansion in the company's operations had taken place. While he did not consider it desirable for him to go into details, he could state that Trinidad Leaseholds was making a valuable contribution in the national cause.

United Fruit Company

The operating and other profits for the year 1939 amounted to \$25,627,336. After deducting \$7,957,404 for depreciation, \$2,670,267 for taxes, and \$897,736 for other charges there remains a sum of \$14,101,929 (against \$10,272,746 in 1938) which added to \$34,848,622 brought forward makes a total of \$48,950,551. The dividend of \$4 on each of the 2,896,597 shares absorbs \$11,586,388, leaving \$37,364,163 to be carried forward.

The directors state that during the year \$17,795,840 was expended on additions to fixed properties. The company has 119,821 acres of banana cultivations (4,277 in Jamaica), 94,338 acres of sugar cane (2,592 in Jamaica), 53,494 acres of cocoa, and 3,195 acres of other products. Properties and cultivations, they state, have been kept in first class condition. To ensure a constant supply of fruit large banana developments have been undertaken, with extension of some plantings and commencement of two new divisions on the west coast of Costa Rica, which are being equipped with adequate rail and port facilities.

Market conditions in the United States and Canada were good during 1939, and were satisfactory in Europe up to the outbreak of war.

The British fleet consists of 23 steamers, a part of which has been used to transport bananas from the west coast of Africa to the United Kingdom, while the remainder of the fleet has been moving bananas from Jamaica and Central or South American ports to the United Kingdom. The company's fleet carried 56,693 passengers, and transported 1,455,901 tons of general cargo, in addition to the company's fruit and other products. No new vessels were built during the year. A new pier, with all modern facilities for the expeditious handling of passengers and freight, was completed and placed in service in Havana, Cuba, last July. It provides floor space of 360,000 square feet and ample berthing space for the company's steamers.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. JUNE 13th, 1940. No. 1088.

Telephone:
TEMPLE BAR 8922

Telegrams:
CARIB. ESTRAND, LONDON

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.

June 12th, 1940.

The Call to the Colonies

IMMEDIATELY after the outbreak of war the peoples of the West Indian Colonies in common with those of other countries of the Empire hastened to send to HIS MAJESTY THE KING messages of their loyalty and devotion. They also, in no uncertain terms, pledged their readiness to assist the Empire with all their resources in the struggle which lay ahead. True to their traditions men in the West Indies were eager to know how best they could be of service. They learnt from the broadcast on October 11th by MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, the Secretary of State, that in the Colonies, as in the United Kingdom, it was essential to conserve man power in vital industries, including agriculture, and also desirable for the Colonies, to look to their own defences. To these tasks they have devoted their energies.

On the economic aspects of the war, Governors, Administrators and others in the West Indian Colonies early emphasized the necessity of reducing imports to a minimum to save demands on shipping and foreign currency, and of substituting wherever possible articles of local production. In particular "Grow More Food" campaigns were started, and have been vigorously prosecuted. Both men and women of all classes have whole-heartedly given direct assistance in many ways as shown by the generous donations of money, produce, ambulances, medical supplies and comforts which have been fully reported in the CIRCULAR.

With these proofs of their determination to render of their best, LORD LLOYD, now the Secretary of State for the Colonies, can rely on the response of the West Indies to the call which he has just made to them as to all the other Colonies. In a despatch, cabled to all the Colonial Governors, he draws attention to the deepening gravity of the situation with which the whole Empire is faced, a situation which, he says, calls for the greatest possible effort in developing our effective war strength in the immediate future. In the economic sphere with which he deals first, it is vital to maintain the maximum possible contribution in essential war supplies, and to reduce to a minimum demands on the United Kingdom's resources of men, material and money. Certain sacrifices are asked for. They are not new in principle, being based on the need for reducing imports which, as we have already said, was early insisted on in the West Indies. LORD LLOYD lays stress on the fact that substantial assistance to the cause of Empire can be given by refraining from making demands for non-essential imports especially those requiring the use of

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST 148
THE CALL TO THE COLONIES 141		THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK 142		MAIL 149
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ... 143		THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR 150
JAMAICA'S SUGAR CROP... 145		LABOUR DISPUTE IN ST. KITTS 150
THE COLONIAL OFFICE ... 145		OBITUARY 151
COLONIAL WIRELESS CHAIN 145		BERMUDA LIBRARY CENTENARY 151
GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF		ROUND THE MARKETS ... 152
COCOA 146		COMPANY REPORTS AND MEET-
WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER 147		INGS ... 152

iron and steel. The second method by which, he says, substantial assistance can be given is by the maximum production of foodstuffs to meet local demands. Undue dependence on imported foodstuffs has long been considered a serious weakness in the economic position of many of the West Indian Colonies. Efforts were made to rectify it in the last war, and much useful knowledge and experience was gained. The need of action is much more urgent now, and in the CIRCULAR of February 8th we suggested some lines along which action might be taken. It may well become necessary to provide for certain changes in the dietary of all classes. Such action is already envisaged for the population at Home where in accordance with a recommendation of the Select Committee on National Expenditure, referred to elsewhere in this issue, an Advisory Committee has been formed, under the chairmanship of SIR WILLIAM BRAGG, the President of the Royal Society, to consider the best way of maintaining an adequate diet at the least possible cost in shipping and foreign currency, in other words to extract the last ounce of nutritive value from the available resources. Similar action could, and doubtless will be taken also in the West Indies where we now know much more about the conditions of the nutrition of the people than we did in the last war.

If a market can be found for foodstuffs produced quickly in the West Indies, assistance would be forthcoming for some of those cultivators who will be affected by another matter to which LORD LLOYD draws attention. This is that it may no longer be possible to provide shipping or markets to the same extent as before for products not of the first degree of importance to the United Kingdom. No indication is given of what these products are, but the case of West African cocoa described on pp. 146-147 affords an example of difficulties which have already arisen in regard to one important Colonial product. In the West Indies some of the products affected may possibly be foodstuffs which could be used locally. In place of others, foodstuffs could perhaps be cultivated. The essential point is the absolute need of putting all locally available resources to the fullest possible use.

Dire necessity similarly renders it impossible, to LORD LLOYD's great regret, to make any substantial progress at present under the new policy of Colonial development and welfare. Assistance will, he says, be available only for urgent purposes and for schemes which can be carried out from local resources of personnel and material.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE best commentary on the tremendous events of the past fortnight is beyond question to be found in the great speech of the Prime Minister announcing the evacuation of Dunkirk. This is the first full-dress utterance of Mr. Churchill since he took office in his new capacity and it was full of the very qualities for the sake of which he has been called to the leadership of the nation—unflinching realism in facing the facts of a dangerous situation, fighting determination to carry the war through, whatever the cost, and unshakeable faith in the British people and the ultimate victory of right over wrong.

* * *

The inescapable fact is that we have suffered "a colossal military disaster." What made that disaster inevitable was the shameful defection of King Leopold of the Belgians, who without warning deserted the Allies who had hastened to his assistance, just at the moment when their situation was most critical. In our dealings with Belgium we have had the worst of both worlds. For nine months, although it was obvious that Hitler would not respect Belgian neutrality for one day longer than was convenient to himself, King Leopold refused absolutely to authorise any consultation with the Allied High Command for planning the defence of his country in case of need. Nevertheless his appeal for help was instantly answered, and the Allies hastened forward into Belgium to improvise a defence that ought to have been minutely planned in advance. When what Mr. Churchill called the sweep of the German scythe threatened to surround the Allied forces in the North, King Leopold, by ordering his army to lay down its arms, left so terrible a gap in the line that no possible course remained except to extricate, at any cost, all the troops who could be embarked.

* * *

The strategic consequences of this heavy reverse are grim enough. The whole of the continental shores opposite the British Isles, from Namsos in Norway down the east of the North Sea, through Denmark, Holland and Belgium and along the Straits of Dover to Calais and Boulogne, are in German hands. The port of Dover could be, perhaps soon will be, bombarded by long range guns from the opposite shore. An invasion of England, perhaps by troop-carrying aircraft, is certainly quite possible. At the same time we have lost, not only some 30,000 men, killed, wounded and missing, but 1,000 guns and all the mechanized transport of our army in Northern France. Another immense battle has opened, in which Paris is threatened, and we have little chance of refitting our expeditionary force in time to send it again to the help of our Ally before this battle is decided.

* * *

It is necessary to recognise these unpleasant facts before turning to the favourable side of the account. But the mitigating features are considerable. In saving so much as has been saved from a defeat that was no fault of theirs, all these services and the merchant fleet have won immortal glory. There is no operation of

war more difficult and dangerous than the embarkation of an army in the face of the enemy—especially when carried out as at Dunkirk, largely from open beaches, with no possibility of concealment, and under ceaseless bombardment from an air force outnumbering our own by four to one. Competent judges expected that only about 30,000 of our men could be saved. Actually 335,000 French and English soldiers were brought away by the most astonishing flotilla of destroyers, pleasure steamers, trawlers, yachts—indeed anything that would float—which ever went out to war. And although our losses were heavy, it is estimated that the German casualties cannot have been less than 400,000.

* * *

The other comforting result of the battle is that it has proved beyond dispute the enormous superiority of the Royal Air Force, man for man and machine for machine, over its adversaries. They have destroyed perhaps 2,000 of the enemy's aircraft, losing themselves only a small fraction of that number. Again and again they have met squadrons outnumbering them by five or six to one and seen them turn tail. It is quite clear that, as soon as we can command anything approaching equality of numbers, our command of the air will be as absolute as our command of the seas. But we have a very long way to go to make up the leeway and meanwhile we may suffer grievously. One point is in our favour—we have no lack of young men of the same wonderful quality as the airmen who have astonished the world in France. We can man every machine that we can produce, or that the United States can send us; and that is not likely to be true of the Germans.

* * *

The part of the British people at home is to labour unceasingly to produce all that the army needs, while at the same time preparing to meet the possibility of invasion. That the latter is a serious risk is shown by the appointment of one of the first soldiers of the Empire, General Sir Edmund Ironside, to take charge of home defence. But though we might suffer much from bombing raids or parachute descents, it is probable that an attempt to invade England will be the gravest mistake Hitler could make. It is undeniable that an invading force could be thrown into our country; but it is also certain that, while in command of the sea, it would have very little chance of survival.

SIR LEONARD LYLE has been adopted as Parliamentary candidate for Bournemouth in succession to Sir Henry Page Croft, who was recently elevated to the peerage.

MUCH sympathy will be felt for Sir Louis Souchon, in the loss which he has sustained through the death of his son Captain L. J. G. Souchon, M.C., of the 15th/19th Hussars. He died last month from wounds received while on active service. It was only in July last, that Captain Souchon, who served throughout the last war, succeeded Sir Louis as the representative in London of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture.

The West India Committee

The Chairman's Speech at the Annual Meeting

THE annual general meeting of the West India Committee was held at 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2 on May 30th, Lieut-Colonel Ivan Davson, chairman, presiding.

Rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts, which, having been circulated, were taken as read, he said :—

At a time of war emergency, when it is the duty of all to concentrate and intensify efforts towards the final victory, it will meet with your approval that my comments today shall be as brief as possible.

A very full review of the Committee's labours during the past year has been published in this week's CIRCULAR. My remarks, therefore, will be confined to salient points.

The West Indies are on the outskirts of the theatre of war. But they regard themselves as well within it. They have already given ample evidence of their desire to spare nothing in the cause of their mother country; they are proud to feel that they are furthering the cause of victory; and if further effort is required, be it in men or material, they will quickly answer the call. The Secretary of State has asked those in the Colonies to carry on their task of increasing the production of essential commodities. This is the most useful service that they can render at present, and can be sometimes as hard as military service.

But their material assistance so readily provided, is limited only by the particular resources of the several Colonies, and so it will not be invidious if I refer to one or two of the numerous contributions already made; there have been contributions to Imperial Defence from Trinidad of a million dollars, from Barbados of £25,000, and from the Bahamas of £20,000. Contributions from Jamaica already exceed £40,000.

Apart from those, some £35,000 has been subscribed by the West Indian Colonies to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund, and there have been several contributions to King George's Fund for Sailors, including one from Jamaica of upwards of £4,000. Generous subscriptions have also been made to St. Dunstan's, the British Legion, the Y.M.C.A., and other institutions.

Gifts to the Forces include coffee, cocoa, and rum, some 5,000 cases of citrus fruit, several thousand woollen comforts, and many packages of hospital supplies and surgical dressings.

All this provides a striking example of the solidarity of the Empire and of the spirit which holds it together.

Of the additional work which the war has thrown on to the West India Committee I shall speak later; but the information which appears in the Report that the Ladies' War Services Committee, whose valuable work goes on without intermission, has already handled no less than 70,000 items in garments, medical and hospital supplies, and comforts, may come as a surprise to those who have been unable to see the consignments of such articles.

The long-awaited Report of the West India Royal Commission has not yet been made public; but in February last there was published a Statement of its Recommendations intended by the Secretary of State to serve as a guide to those interested in the affairs of the West Indies until such time as circumstances should permit of the publication of the full Report. But Mr. MacDonald made it plain that it was not his intention to delay action in the spirit of the Recommendations; and simultaneously he presented to Parliament a Statement of Policy on Colonial Development and Welfare, embodying certain proposals which must lead to substantial improvement in the social welfare of the Colonies. The most notable of these is a new vote for assistance to Colonial Governments of up to £5,000,000 a year for ten years. A separate sum limited to £500,000 a year is to be allotted to Colonial research. These are to be maximum figures, and it is not expected that conditions will permit of their being reached in the near future.

Of more immediate importance to the West Indies is the recommendation of the Commission that a West Indian Welfare Fund should be established, to be administered by a Comptroller and to be financed by an annual grant of £1,000,000 for a period of twenty years. The Imperial Government has accepted this in principle, and proposes expenditure from the United Kingdom Exchequer on a scale approximating to the Commission's recommendation.

There are other recommendations and proposals which will be familiar to members. But I would like particularly to mention the passing of the principle that a Colony should have only those services which it can afford to maintain out of its own resources. It has dealt hardly with some of the smaller and more necessitous Colonies whose communities it has debarred from reaching the standard of others. Its revision is clearly in line with this country's aspirations in regard to the well-being of the Colonial Empire, and an arbitrary and perhaps rather narrow practice is wisely and generously discarded.

It is appropriate that I should express the satisfaction with which the West India Committee views the welcome, notable, and generous development in the policy of the Imperial Government towards the welfare of the Colonies which the Statement of Policy introduces, and should refer with appreciation to the debt of gratitude owed to the Imperial Government and especially to Mr. Malcolm MacDonald.

Turning to the year under review in the West Indies, it is unfortunate that the staple agricultural crops have been affected by adverse weather. A hurricane in Jamaica, which wrought havoc amongst the banana cultivations, already suffering from disease, was a most serious setback. While hurricanes may be said to postpone banana crops and not entirely destroy them, the

estimate that the exports of that valuable crop will be 50 per cent. under normal indicates the extent of the blow.

Then the record drought in British Guiana, which has lasted nine months, must gravely affect the sugar crop, which is also reduced elsewhere. This failure is particularly disappointing in present circumstances when so much was hoped for from the West Indies.

Trinidad likewise has suffered, the cocoa crop—and the same applies to a less extent in Grenada—being the smallest for perhaps half a century. There is good ground for hoping that the measures which are being so consistently pursued in Trinidad to combat the disease in this industry, aided by the increased market price now prevailing, will stem the decline which the article has so long endured there. It is an important crop to the West Indies apart from its economic value.

At the beginning of this year Dominica succeeded in reaching the Windward Islands after what must surely be the longest passage on record between the two neighbouring groups of islands. The adjustment of legal, administrative, and other technical details which the transfer entailed accounted for this.

Dominica will come under the eye of a Governor who has a first-hand knowledge of its affairs, and it remains for us to express our good wishes to a Colony which in past years has suffered its full share of the vagaries of fortune.

I shall now turn to the affairs of the West India Committee itself, which this year are of unusual importance. Apart from War Services work, the Committee is being called upon to do work of a wider and more varied scope than ever before. There are, for instance, matters connected with the control or other circumstances of various industries, and the necessity of looking after the interests of the West Indian Colonies in the new Ministries such as those of Food, Shipping and Information. Moreover, in present conditions especially, the work has to be dealt with very expeditiously.

But, although some of the additional work has been caused by war conditions, the year under review was only fractionally a war year, and the fact must be faced that for several years trade methods and trade politics in this country have been developing and becoming more intricate, as also have broader questions affecting the Colonies and the West Indies in particular.

The Committee's expenditure during the last year was £8,929, whereas five years ago the corresponding figure was only £6,729; an increase of over 30 per cent. in five years. That takes no account of the fact that the staff have become more experienced in the interval, and are working particularly and undesirably long hours. Members will remember that two or three years ago the administration was thoroughly investigated by our Auditors. I can assure you that the treasurers, two of whom have especial qualifications in this regard, keep a constant watch on the manner in which our money is spent. Actually, work is hampered by lack of funds.

Yet the accounts show a deficit of nearly £1,500. The increase in expenditure, which amounts to nearly £1,000, is spread over many items, and thus can be attributed only to the general cost of the Committee's work. The sum of £350 has been written off removal expenses, as against £300 in the previous year.

On the revenue side, the loss of advertisements in the

CIRCULAR, common to all journals and periodicals in war time, and of returns from other publications, amounts to some £300; and the past year was not so favourable as its predecessor as regards receipts for services rendered by the Committee, this item being down by about £450.

It is abundantly clear that if the West India Committee is to discharge effectively the requisite services to the West Indies its revenue must be raised. Its resources are limited and no longer sufficient to meet the steadily increasing work which the Committee is called upon to perform.

Its sources of revenue are—increased membership, contributions from West Indian Associations, and contributions from West Indian Governments for specific purposes such as trade representation.

While I am glad to be able to say that the membership of the Committee is more or less maintained, this in itself is not enough.

The work of the Committee may affect and has affected beneficially many of the industries or trades in which individual members are engaged, and the Committee feels that everybody who has a stake in the West Indies, or whose position is of sufficient importance to make him feel that the prosperity of his Colony affects him directly or indirectly, should become a member, and not leave it to others to support the cause. It is individuals primarily which the Committee contrives to keep abreast of current affairs. I urge members, therefore, to do their utmost to introduce candidates, and remind them that the contributions from advertisers which form such a valuable addition to the funds at our disposal are governed largely by the numerical strength of the membership.

On the foundation of its own funds, supported by a trained and experienced staff, and by the voluntary services of its principal members whose interests are bound up with the economic and social welfare of the West Indies—and this is a voluntary service which would be of a very considerable value annually—the Committee provides the West Indies with continuous and necessary services. It gratefully acknowledges the contributions which it receives from some of the local Governments, but I cannot do otherwise than suggest that there is no other such inexpensive means of providing the services which the Committee renders, and that it would be false economy to allow them to be impeded or curtailed by lack of funds.

I conclude, therefore, by repeating my request to the readers of this Report to consider the financial position of a body, the successful activities of which are known to them, and to do their utmost to assist it. Finally, in the name of the Executive and other members of the Committee, I would express our appreciation of the discernment which Mr. E. J. King, our secretary, brings to bear on every successive problem that comes before us, and the unremitting energy of himself and the staff which he so capably directs. On this occasion it will not be invidious to mention the invaluable support which, at all times, has been given to him and to the Committee by Mr. T. Souness.

In conclusion, Colonel Davson moved:—

THAT the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the audited Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st

December, 1939, and the Balance Sheet be and are hereby adopted."

Mr. J. Gordon Miller, the deputy chairman, seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.

After the chairman had replied to a question in regard to meetings of the Executive, Mr. A. G. Bell moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Horace King and carried unanimously:—

THAT the following twelve members of the Executive Committee, who retire by virtue of Article VI of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, be and are hereby re-elected: Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., Mr. A. W. Armour, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques, Sir George Huggins, O.B.E., Mr. T. Harrison Hughes, Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood, Mr. C. W. Murray, D.F.C., Mr. T. H. Naylor, Mr. Lauchlan Rose, M.C. and Mr. H. A. Walker.

A vote of thanks to the chairman for his speech, proposed by Mr. John M. Pringle and seconded by Mr. H. A. Walker, was carried with acclamation.

Among those present were the following:—

Mr. J. Gordon Miller and Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, deputy-chairmen, Sir Alfred Sherlock, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. J. du Buisson, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, Mr. B. E. King, Mr. H. A. Walker, Mr. Archibald G. Bell, Mr. J. M. Campbell, Lady Davson, Mr. G. E. Rapley (representing Frame & Co., Ltd.), Mr. H. Hamel-Smith, Mr. Charles Smith (representing Thomson Hankey & Co.), Mrs. Hoyle, A. Hubbard & Co., Ltd. (representative), Mr. A. L. Jupp, Mr. O. H. Keeling, Mr. Horace H. King, Mr. J. E. R. Rochester (representing Cocoa Association of London), Mr. Mason, Mr. O. T. Norris, Mr. John M. Pringle, Mr. J. W. Pearl, Mrs. R. J. Sanceau, Miss C. G. K. Scovell, Lieut.-Colonel C. J. de B. Sheringham, Mr. A. F. Skerritt, Mr. E. C. Stenbridge, Lieut.-Colonel N. G. Thwaites, Mr. E. J. King (secretary), Mr. T. Souness (executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Standing Committee) and Mr. H. Paget (secretariat).

On Wednesday, May 29th, the Chairman, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., the Senior Deputy Chairman, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, and the Secretary of the West India Committee had an interview with Lord Lloyd of Dolobran at the Colonial Office following his recent appointment as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Jamaica's Sugar Crop

Mr. D. J. Verity, writing on May 4th, informed us that the following sugar factories had finished crop: Appleton, United Estates, Frome Central, Bernard Lodge and Caymanas. The latest revised estimates show a total of 101,960 tons (including 60 tons muscovado), of which about 78,000 tons had been manufactured when he wrote. The north-side factories, being those which usually started late in the season, would be grinding until the middle or end of June, with one or two stretching into the first week in July. Subject to any change in arrangements, shipping was provided for the remaining sugar available for export. The Ministries of Food and Shipping in London and the Canadian Sugar Administrator in Montreal had been most sympathetic and helpful in their dealings with requests and suggestions, and this was much appreciated by all in Jamaica.

The Colonial Office

Mr. George Henry Hall, M.P., has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava who had occupied that post since 1937.

Mr. Hall, who was a Civil Lord of the Admiralty from 1929 to 1931, commenced work as a collier. Later he acted as check-weigher Local Agent at the South Wales Miners' Federation until 1922 when he was elected the Labour member for the Aberdare Division of Merthyr Tydfil.

PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY.

In July last Sir George Gater, then Clerk of the London County Council, was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to Sir Cosmo Parkinson. At the request of the Minister of Supply the services of Sir George have been made available in the present national emergency at the Ministry of Supply where he will act as Joint Secretary in conjunction with Sir Arthur Robinson.

Sir Cosmo Parkinson, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, has been released to act as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Grenada and the Recommendations

As we were going to press the following announcement was made by the Colonial Office:—

The Legislative Council of Grenada have passed a resolution to the effect that, while they remain deeply appreciative of the magnificent spirit which has actuated His Majesty's Government to pursue its decision to devote Imperial funds to improving social and economic conditions in the West Indies and other parts of the Colonial Empire, where conditions are undoubtedly in great need of improvement, yet they feel that this is not the time in which His Majesty's loyal people of these Colonies would desire to have their Motherland concerned with their domestic difficulties which, however great, are insignificant when contrasted with the mighty and urgent task of prosecuting the war to victory.

His Majesty's humble subjects in Grenada would be happier by the knowledge that their many needs, so generously recognised by His Majesty's Government, will receive the attention that they have been promised, at the conclusion of this cruel struggle, to which they feel that the people of Great Britain should now be free to devote their every available resources of money and man power.

Lord Lloyd, in reply, said that he warmly appreciated the fine spirit of sacrifice reflected in the Resolution. They might rest assured that the needs of the West Indies as well as other parts of the Colonial Empire would receive attention along the lines of the policy announced by his predecessor at the earliest date rendered possible by the course of our great struggle, now in its bitterest phase. While some delay was inevitable it was still the intention of His Majesty's Government to set on foot the machinery contemplated by the West India Royal Commission as already shown by the appointment of an Inspector General of Agriculture and he hoped to make other appointments in the near future.

Government Purchase of Cocoa

Underlying Considerations and Problems Created

INFORMATION of wide general interest and of special importance to all Empire producers of cocoa is contained in the *Fourth Report from the Select Committee on National Expenditure* (H.M. Stationery Office, 1/-.) This Committee was appointed by the House of Commons on December 12th to examine the expenditure for the Defence Services, Civil Defence and other purposes directly connected with the war and to report what economies, if any, consistent with the execution of Government policy might be effected. In this report which was "ordered to be printed" on May 7th, the Committee deal mainly with the Ministry of Food and amongst many other questions discuss, very fully, the considerations which underlay the Government purchase of cocoa, the problems which have arisen in consequence of this action and possible methods by which they may be solved.

The direct function of the Ministry of Food is, they state, to secure adequate supplies of essential food-stuffs for the United Kingdom. Normally the purchase and disposal of such supplies is a matter entirely of domestic policy. So far as purchases are made abroad they must be regulated not merely by direct commercial considerations but in relation to shipping facilities and to the foreign currencies required, and, on occasion, the views of the Ministry of Economic Warfare have to be taken into account. In addition purchases should as far as possible be considered in relation to the general commercial policy of the Government.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS SUPPLIES

The Committee point out, however, that in at least one case—that of cocoa—the Ministry has purchased quantities much larger than can be absorbed in home consumption and is therefore concerned with the problem of marketing the surplus in other countries.

It had been decided as a matter of policy, with the object of helping the native population in the West African Colonies rather than of supplying British food requirements, to purchase the whole of the West African cocoa crop for the current season. The elimination during the war of the former demand from Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, combined with the rationing of European neutrals, will mean that a large portion of the crop cannot find a market on the basis of pre-war consumption. Many questions arise, among which may be mentioned (a) the possibility of getting the United States of America to purchase more West African cocoa, either by increasing total cocoa consumption or by reducing purchases from other countries; (b) the possibility of getting other producers such as the South American countries to combine in some international marketing scheme so that the whole burden of keeping the surplus supplies off the market should not fall on the British Government; (c) the possibility of increasing British consumption by increasing the allocation of sugar for chocolate making; (d) the

possibility of utilising cocoa in other ways, e.g. for the extraction of cocoa butter, using the residue for cattle cake (hitherto an unsolved problem), and lastly, in the event of none of these possibilities for finding an immediate increased outlet materialising, there is (e) the question of providing some means of dealing with the crop on the West African coast either by erecting storage accommodation or an extraction plant for cocoa butter.

The issues involved under (c), (d) and (e) are, the Committee state, matters for domestic concern to which reference is made later; but any question of agreements with the United States or South American countries would bring the matter within the sphere of high commercial policy. Such policy is properly the concern of the Board of Trade and involves the combined consideration of a number of positions (e.g. the position as regards cocoa might be considered together with the existing commodity barter arrangement with the United States, or in connexion with armament and other purchases from that country). The Committee express the opinion that while the executive responsibility for handling the cocoa crop must remain with the Director of Cocoa Supplies in the Ministry of Food, the Board of Trade should be recognised as responsible for policy as regards the disposal of any surplus above United Kingdom requirements and for helping in trade negotiations.

COCOA IN THE DIETARY

Later in their Report the Committee state that whilst cocoa is the only case of this kind under the Ministry of Food a similar situation exists as regards other commodities under the control of other Ministers. They urge the necessity of general careful planning in advance for providing adequate nutrition for the human population and livestock with minimum demands on shipping, foreign currency and other available resources. This, they say, is not a matter for the Ministry of Food alone, and they suggest that an authoritative body of scientists and practical men is needed to work out a basic plan, envisaging the possibility that drastic changes in normal dietary habits may have to be made and that we may have to face conditions where we shall have to make full use of every ounce of available resources.

As a particular illustration of this general problem the Committee refer to what they have said about cocoa, a food material with valuable properties of which supplies are available. They point out that even if immediate shipments were curtailed there are large stocks in the country and put the following questions: Is everything being done to ensure that the fullest food value is derived from our cocoa resources? Are the problems mentioned under (c), (d) and (e) above being studied vigorously enough—where necessary with the aid of scientific research? Is the allocation of sugar, for example, being handled with this general end in view?

The result of their own inquiries is thus expressed:

"We cannot say that we have received entirely satisfactory answers to these questions. In examining the Ministry officials we referred to the question whether sugar as an element in diet would not have a better chance of being distributed to the greatest advantage of the country as a whole if it were used for mixing with cocoa to make chocolate, or with fruit to make jam, than if used to make boiled sweets or as icing on cakes. We were told that the Ministry recognised this and that accordingly chocolate makers had been allotted 70 per cent. of their normal requirements in sugar as compared with 60 per cent. to the boiled sweet makers. The Ministry, it was stated, could not go further than this because it would have meant too much dislocation in existing business. The Minister had himself received a deputation from all manufacturers using sugar and of course there was a pull devil, pull baker business between condensed milk, boiled sweets, pastry cooks and all the rest of it."

The Committee go on to say, we mention this matter, not for the purpose of criticising what has so far been done, but rather for illustrative purposes and because the statement quoted above suggests that there is some ground for apprehensions that programmes are being settled on the basis of a rough and ready compromise between various interests and not on the basis of a plan scientifically devised in the interests of the country as a whole. Whilst not under-estimating the human and political difficulties, and the possible shortages which are not yet, and may never become, so acute as to make it necessary to extract the last ounce of nutritive value from all the available resources the Committee think it essential that there should be a comprehensive disinterested scientific study of the position so that the Government can have plans ready to meet a more extreme emergency.

THE PROBLEM IN WEST AFRICA

The following statement was issued in *Hansard* for May 29th, in reply to a question addressed to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the disposal of the surplus of the present season's West African cocoa crop:—

"The accumulation of stocks of cocoa in West Africa consequent upon the loss of normal pre-war markets, particularly in Germany, Holland, and Scandinavia, has already created serious pressure on available storage space. The purchasing of the mid-crop is to begin next week and His Majesty's Government have had to reach a decision as to the best method of its disposal. Possible outlets in the United Kingdom are limited both by the natural limitations of demand and by the difficulties of rendering available additional shipping for cocoa, except at the expense of more essential commodities. Every effort has been, and will continue to be, made to effect sales in the markets which still remain open, but it is unfortunately impossible to hope for any large immediate increase in those sales. The possibility of local utilisation, for example by conversion into cocoa butter, is unfortunately ruled out by the absence of plant, and the impossibility of obtaining it at the present moment.

"In these circumstances His Majesty's Government have decided, after full consultation with the Governments of the Gold Coast and Nigeria, that the most

economical procedure will be to destroy the mid-crop as it is purchased, and those Governments have been authorised to proceed accordingly. The mid-crop cocoa is inferior in quality to the main crop, and even if it could be stored locally any attempt to dispose of it concurrently with the new main crop which will be available later in the year would be merely postponing difficulties. It is also intended to destroy, as circumstances require, such other cocoa already in store, as is found on inspection to have become unfit for marketing. Losses of this kind always occur, though not on the scale expected this year, since normally little cocoa remains in West Africa so late in the year as this. If cocoa of inferior quality is not destroyed at this season it quickly breeds insect pests and becomes a menace to the new crop.

"The total quantity which will eventually be destroyed cannot be stated at present. It will naturally depend upon the progress of sales in overseas markets during the remainder of the season. The position will be reviewed each month to ensure that the proper balance is maintained between destruction and sales."

West Indies at Westminster

Detention of Uriah Butler in Trinidad

MR. CREECH JONES asked the Under-Secretary of State on May 29th what were the conditions of detention of Uriah Butler in Trinidad; whether this detention was indefinite; and whether any charge had been brought against him or any opportunity given him for appeal. MR. GEORGE HALL replied that in November last Uriah Butler was detained by Order under the Colonial Defence Regulations. The detention continued as long as the Order remained in force. Butler had the opportunity to appeal, but did not exercise it. The Governor indicated some time ago that he contemplated reviewing the case and, if further information was not received shortly, inquiry would be made of him by telegram as to the result of his review. MR. HALL said he would then communicate with Mr. Creech Jones.

The Governor's Powers in Jamaica

MR. CREECH JONES, on May 29th, asked the Under-Secretary of State what protests he had received from Jamaica complaining about the use by the Governor of his powers in respect to paramount importance; whether he was satisfied that such powers were used in conformity with the constitution; and what steps he was taking to extend democratic government in the Colony. In reply MR. GEORGE HALL said that representations had been received from a public meeting in Kingston. There had also been received direct a copy of a protest which was said to have been sent by certain elected members of the Legislative Council through the Governor, but this, with the Governor's comments, had not yet reached the Secretary of State. On its receipt the matter would be examined. As regards the last part of the question, he would refer to the reply given his hon. Friend on March 6th. [See CIRCULAR of March 21st, p. 74.—ED. W.I.C.C.]

MR. HALL said he must have notice of a question then put by MR. RILEY as to whether there were any precedents for the use of these powers of "paramount importance."

Notes of West Indian Interest

"DE great fool is proud as darg wid two tail."

* * *

LORD MOYNE has been appointed Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

* * *

ANOTHER batch of local seamen have sailed from Barbados to join the British Merchant Service.

* * *

THE Hon. H. G. M. Devaux has been appointed an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of St. Lucia for a further period of three years.

* * *

MR. EUGENE S. O'CONNOR, Principal Officer, Secretariat, Trinidad, arrived in British Guiana on May 6th and assumed duty as Deputy Colonial Treasurer on the following day.

* * *

EIGHT London newspapers have increased the number of their columns to the page from seven to eight. The columns are thus proportionately narrower, but advertising rates are unchanged.

* * *

THE King has approved of the appointments of His Honour G. E. F. Richards, Acting Puisne Judge, and the Hon. C. Malone, Barrister-at-Law, St. Kitts, as Puisne Judges for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

* * *

MR. F. W. FRASER, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Kingston, Jamaica, is making an extended tour of Canada in the interest of Canadian trade with his territory, which includes the Bahamas and British Honduras.

* * *

SIR WILLIAM JAMESON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Dean of the London School of Medicine and Tropical Hygiene has been appointed Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to the late Dr. A. J. R. O'Brien.

* * *

MR. G. P. OSMOND, chief clerk of the West India Committee, who is a trustee of the Loyal Bruce Castle Lodge of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, has been appointed a member of the Tottenham Local Pension Committee, as representative of Friendly Society interests.

* * *

CANON J. C. WIPPELL, principal of Codrington College, Barbados, was married on March 26th to Mrs. Adele M. F. Dunlop the widow of the late Classical Professor at the College. The ceremony was solemnized in St. Matthias' Church by the Bishop of Barbados and Canon Farrar, the uncle of the bride.

* * *

NOTICE was given by the Board of Trade on May 30th that applications for licences to import coffee and chicory should be completed in duplicate and addressed to the Ministry of Food, Great Westminster House,

Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1, and not to the Import Licensing Department.

* * *

THE Jamaica Department of Agriculture has issued as Bulletin No. 18 Reprints of Miscellaneous Articles, 1937. The bulletin contains useful information on a variety of subjects including agriculture on small holdings, the tobacco industry, live stock, the buying of fertilisers and the heavy losses sustained by non-observance of the citrus export regulations.

* * *

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL PREVITE, R.M., who was married on May 27th, at St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, to Miss Rosamund Hodgson, is the youngest son of Colonel E. J. Previte and brother of Major Kenneth Previte, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. His uncle, the late Mr. H. F. Previte, was a treasurer of the Committee from 1920 to 1929.

* * *

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER has been appointed chairman of the Tank Board, a body set up recently by Mr. Herbert Morrison, Minister of Supply, to consider the whole situation regarding the production and design of tanks. Sir Alexander, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, was Director-General of the Trench Warfare Supply Department at the Ministry of Munitions for two years during the last war.

* * *

It was announced in October that the publication of the *Empire Cotton Growing Review*, the quarterly journal of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, would be suspended for the duration of the war. In order to obviate any gap in the abstracts from scientific, commercial and technical literature, which have always formed an important section of the Review, two "abstract numbers" are being issued this year in June and December, price 1/3 each post free.

* * *

THE June number, which has been received, presents in 84 pages a very comprehensive summary of the current literature on all phases of cotton production, soils, cultivation, breeding, pests and diseases and of manufacturing processes and trade developments.

The West India Committee

THE subscription rates for candidates admitted to the West India Committee during the second half of the year to December 31st are 12/6 for individuals and 31/6 for firms. Members are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing candidates for election. Forms of application for membership can be obtained from the secretary, the West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Jamaica's Condensed Milk Factory—Antigua Drought Broken
Flying Instruction in Trinidad*



ANTIGUA

GIRL Guides. On April 23rd, the holiday to celebrate the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, the Girl Guides, writes Miss H. Goodwin, held a rally and inter-company sports meeting on the grounds of the Training School to compete for a flag presented by Lady I. Ithem. The contest was keen, and the interest of the audience was held to the final pull of the tug-of-war. A small fee was charged for admittance, and the sum of £4 (half the proceeds) will go towards Girl Guide War Charities.

Grammar School Sports. A few days later the Grammar School was the scene of another large gathering when the boys held their annual sports meeting. The inter-house competition was stressed more than usual as the boys had voluntarily surrendered prizes for individual events because of the war. They did, however, have a large tug-of-war cake which was skilfully decorated by Mrs. Nanton with the coat of arms of the school in the school colours.

Welcome Rains. Good showers of rain fell all over the island at the end of April, some places measuring over three inches. After the long drought and the intense heat of the few previous days, this break in the weather was most welcome.

BRITISH GUIANA

Taxation and Building Improvements. The Georgetown Town Council has decided to request Government to enact legislation to permit the exemption from taxation of all improvements made on building lots and/or buildings in the City for a period of three years. The reasons for the proposed legislation are that improvements of properties would make the City more attractive, create employment and prevent deterioration and consequent loss of revenue.

Rice Producers Committee. The Governor has appointed a Rice Producers' Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. W. A. Mackie, to advise the Government and the Rice Marketing Board on matters affecting the rice industry generally.

DOMINICA

Grant for Public Works. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved of a free grant of £6,185 to the Colony. The services to which it will be applied are reconstruction and oiling of the road from Balahou Town to Canefield, and reconstruction work at Mahaut village, £5,450, and control work on the Roseau, Geneva, Blenheim and Melville Hall rivers, £735.

JAMAICA

Mr. J. L. R. Bovell, who recently returned to Jamaica from England, was on May 3rd admitted to practise as a barrister-at-law in the several Courts of the Island.

Bybrook Condensery. Sir Arthur Richards, at the invitation of Jamaica Milk Products, Ltd., formally opened the newly erected Bybrook Condensery at Bog Walk on May 10th. In his speech on this occasion, the Governor emphasized the important part which the new industry might be expected to play in the economic life of Jamaica.

Mr. Victor A. Michelin, a member of the West India Committee and a well-known penkeeper and sugar planter in Jamaica for many years, died at The Ridge, Dry Harbour, St. Ann, on May 16th, at the age of 66.

Mr. Michelin, who was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Michelin, was born in Jamaica, on January 1st, 1874. He had been manager and attorney of Duckenfield, in St. Thomas, from 1902 to 1922, when that estate was owned by Messrs. Thomson, Hankey and Co.

Honour for a Jamaican. On May 14th, the Governor, on behalf of His Majesty the King, invested Dr. Cyril Gideon with the insignia of a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The ceremony took place at a meeting of the Legislative Council.

ST. VINCENT

New Legislative Council. By instructions issued by the King, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. A. M. Punnett, Mr. W. A. Hadley and Mr. O. D. Brisbane have been appointed Nominated Members of the Legislative Council. The following were returned as Elected Members on April 16th: Mr. G. A. McIntosh, Mr. H. F. B. Davis, Mr. St. Clair F. Bonadie, Mr. J. L. Cato and Mr. A. G. Hazell.

TRINIDAD

Demonstration Flight. The fact that the Light Aeroplane Club is now fully equipped and ready to train people to fly was demonstrated on April 20th. Mr. J. F. Carroll, the Chief Instructor, made a long flight over the island in one of the club's Tiger-Moth planes.

Help for Colon Fire Victims. It is estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 persons, the great majority being of British West Indian origin, lost their homes and properties in the great fire which devastated part of the town of Colon on April 13th. The Government proposes to make an immediate contribution of \$1,000 for their relief.

Queen's Royal College. When formally opening the two new blocks of the College on May 3rd the Governor, Sir Hubert Young, said their inauguration was in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, so much so that the decision to build preceded them by a year. One of the blocks contains in addition to form and office rooms a gymnasium and a workshop. The other, or science block, houses also the library and an art room.

[Owing to great pressure on our space several items of interest have unavoidably had to be held over.]

The West Indies and The War

ANTIGUA

Patriotic Meetings. We learn from Miss Helen Goodwin that with the object of keeping the public informed and interested in the origins, aims and progress of the war, a series of meetings has been arranged under the auspices of a Lecture Committee of which the Administrator is chairman, and the Publicity Officer vice-chairman. Mr. S. T. Christian, in addition to being the principal lecturer, has organized the meetings with the assistance of a band of public-spirited citizens, including musicians as well as lecturers, who have given their services most generously. The meetings have proved both instructive and entertaining and the success achieved, as evidenced by the size and enthusiasm of the audiences, is a great tribute to the organizer and his assistants.

BAHAMAS

Organised Red Cross Work. The Hon. Lady Dundas, at the inauguration of the Bahamas Red Cross Centre, of which she is president, drew up a valuable working schedule indicating the heads of all the various branches and also showing the scope of work (such as first-aid classes, junior bandaging classes, cutting, knitting, needlework, packing, etc.) which this admirable organisation is undertaking. This clear-sighted co-ordination must indubitably be responsible for the efficiency of the work produced during the last few months as shown by the 77 boxes of perfectly made and skilfully packed articles received at 40, Norfolk Street by the Ladies Committee for distribution.

BERMUDA

£40,000 for Imperial Defence. The Legislature of Bermuda has voted £40,000 towards the cost of the war. The appeal of the local branch of Toc H and the Bermuda War Veterans' Association for subscriptions to a Bermuda war fund, has so far raised £7,883; and £3,396 was raised at a recent Empire fete, of which £1,100 is being used to purchase ambulances for service in France. Some 1,500 tons of scrap metal have been collected and shipped to England.

Lord Lloyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has telegraphed to the Governor to say that the generous offer of the Legislature to contribute £40,000 is gratefully accepted. He has also noted with satisfaction the other forms of assistance.

JAMAICA

St. Dunstan's acknowledges the sum of £650 from Jamaica towards its war fund. This is the third instalment from the Colony, making a total of £1,650.

£20,000 for Bomber. The Minister of Aircraft Production has received the sum of £20,000 collected by the *Daily Gleaner* from its readers. The money will be devoted to the purchase of a bomber and the aircraft will be named "Jamaica." The Minister has expressed his grateful thanks to the *Gleaner* and the people of Jamaica for their magnificent contribution.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Further large War Contribution. The Legislative Council has unanimously passed a resolution, moved by the unofficial members, approving the payment of a further sum of \$1,500,000 (£312,500) to the United Kingdom as a contribution towards war expenditure.

The gift has been accepted by Lord Lloyd on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and in a message to the Governor, Lord Lloyd has asked him to convey to the Legislature and people of Trinidad and Tobago the deep appreciation with which he has received their assurance that they are prepared to do their utmost to secure the final victory of our cause.

It will be recalled that in November, 1939 the Colony made a gift of \$1,000,000 (£208,333) for the same purpose.

A New Association. Unofficial members of the Trinidad Legislature have formed a "Win the War" Association, representing all classes in the Colony, to co-ordinate the war effort and ensure the maximum assistance for Britain and her Allies. The Association will co-operate closely with the Government. Sir Lennox O'Reilly is the president, and the Governor and Lady Young are patrons.

Ladies Shirt Guild. This Guild, which was organised by Mrs. G. H. Simpson last September, has now been disbanded. During its existence the Guild's work parties made 2,336 articles of wearing apparel which were sent to various organisations in England and Trinidad. More than \$1,800 was collected, most of which was spent in the purchase of materials and on incidental expenses, and the balance has been given to other charitable organisations.

Labour Dispute in St. Kitts

The Acting Administrator of St. Kitt's-Nevis expresses in the Official Gazette of May 2nd the grave concern of the Government at the prolonged strike of sugar factory employees. Mr. Boon points out that it is not a particular class but St. Kitts as a whole which has to bear the loss already resulting from cessation of work, as also the loss which must occur in 1941 because of a short crop due to late supplying and rationing.

His Honour recalls that he has worked unceasingly for the settlement of the dispute and deplors the failure of his efforts. Although he has thrice expressed the desire to speak with the leaders of the workers, they have not come forward and therefore in the interests of all he appeals personally to the strikers and asks them, notwithstanding any influence to the contrary, to believe in his earnest desire to help them, and that he is making this appeal in the hope that they will take a broad view of the situation and be guided by their good sense.

The latest news received indicates, we are glad to say, that normal production was resumed by the middle of May.

Obituary

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the deaths of the following:—

SIR WILLIAM CHANDLER, K.C.M.G.

Barbados has lost one of her most distinguished sons by the death of Sir William Kellman Chandler, K.C.M.G., LL.D. He died at Welbeck, in that island, on May 24th at the age of 83.

Son of the late Mr. Andrew Boyce Chandler, he was educated in Barbados and at St. John's College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1879 and in the following year returned to the Colony. After some acting appointments he became, in 1882, Master-in-Chancery and President of the Assistant Court of Appeal, and held both these offices for a long period. He was a member of the Legislative Council from 1884 until 1912 when he became its President on the death of Mr. W. P. Leacock.

He represented Barbados at Washington in 1891 in connexion with the McKinley Tariff Act, and at Ottawa in 1912 during the Canada—West Indies Conference negotiations. In 1882 he married Miss Ella Delisle Jones, daughter of the Hon. J. T. Jones, by whom he had two sons and six daughters.

MRS. THURSTON

Mrs. Thurston who died in St. Kitts on May 28th, in her 76th year, was the widow of Mr. A. O. Thurston, a leading planter in that island, and sister of Mr. G. H. King.

Mrs. Thurston, who was in England at the outbreak of war, sailed a month later for New York, en route for the West Indies. She had the misfortune, during a storm at sea, to meet with an accident and suffered the most severe injuries which confined her to hospital in New York for six months. In April, on her insistent demand, she was taken back to St. Kitts, travelling on a stretcher. Her great courage and faith were not daunted by this physical disaster.

MR. G. MOODY STUART, C.B.E.

Mr. George Moody Stuart, C.B.E., who died at High Wycombe, on May 30th, was for a long period a leading figure in the Colonial sugar industry. He was in his 89th year and retired from the City only eighteen months ago.

The son of the late Rev. Alexander Moody Stuart, D.D., he was educated at Edinburgh Academy, and his first connexion with the sugar industry was made in 1882 when he entered the firm of Henckell Du Buisson & Co., West India merchants. He became a partner six years later, and retired from the firm on December 31st, 1938.

In 1903, Mr. Moody Stuart, in co-operation with Dr. (later Sir) Francis Watts, originated and carried through a scheme for the establishment of a central sugar factory in Antigua, nearly one-half of the capital being provided from the island's share of the grant-in-aid of £250,000 which the West Indian Colonies received to tide them over the period of crisis immediately preceding the operation of the Brussels Convention.

This important development was followed, in 1911, by another, when Mr. Moody Stuart established in St. Kitts the Basse Terre central—without Government aid as private capital was readily forthcoming.

The establishment of these factories has had a marked effect on the economic life of the communities, and led Sir Gordon Lethem, Governor of the Leeward Islands, to refer to Mr. Moody Stuart in an address to the Legislative Council of the Colony in 1937 as "that far-sighted benefactor to the sugar industry in these islands."

In 1913, Mr. Moody Stuart became chairman of a new company, the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co. Ltd., formed to acquire the Usine Ste. Madeleine, in Trinidad, and the estates connected with it, from the receiver of the New Colonial Co. Ltd. He remained chairman until July, 1938, when he retired from the board.

He visited the West Indies on 36 occasions, his first trip being made in 1891 and the last in 1936. He estimated that he had spent about three years at sea.

Mr. Moody Stuart was a member of the Executive of the West India Committee from 1908 to 1926, when he was succeeded by his son Mr. Mark Moody Stuart. His many activities included the chairmanship of the finance committee of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, a position he had filled since it was founded (as the West Indian Agricultural College) in 1921. For his services to the College, he was appointed, in 1927, a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Mr. Moody Stuart was laid to rest at Putney Vale on June 3rd, and a large number of friends attended the service to pay a last tribute to his memory. In addition to members of the family those present included:—

Mr. Horace Peel and Mr. J. M. Du Buisson, Mr. J. H. Wenham, Mr. Robert Bryson, Mr. R. B. Nunneley, Mr. W. N. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. N. B. McIvor, Mr. P. W. Leeds, Mr. J. J. F. Morrison, Rev. D. C. Macgregor, D.D., Rev. D. MacRitchie, Rev. and Mrs. Nowell-Rostron, Mr. H. Baker, Mr. A. McIvor, The Misses M. and E. Kerr, Miss Kitching, Miss Bryan, Miss Tovey, Mr. Bloxham, Mr. Whiteman, Mr. C. H. Thorley (representing Lieut.-Col. Ivan Davson and Henry K. Davson & Co., Ltd.), Mr. H. P. Sheldon (representing Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.), Mr. R. W. Jerratt and Mr. A. R. Jefferies (representing C. Czarnikow, Ltd.), Mr. A. L. Jupp (representing Hy. Langridge & Co. and the West Indian Club), Mr. C. L. Emy (representing Sir George and Lady Huggins of Trinidad); Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pringle of Jamaica; Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Petric Hay of Antigua; Mr. and Mrs. B. Marshall of St. Kitts; and Mr. Alexander Elder of Gillespie Bros. & Co., Ltd.), Mr. G. D. Stone (representing the Mirrlees Watson Co., Ltd.) and Mr. E. J. King, secretary, the West India Committee.

The many gifts of flowers included a number from friends in the West Indies.

Bermuda Library Centenary

One hundred years ago General Reid, very shortly after his arrival in Bermuda as Governor, recommended that a General Colonial Library be started under the control of the Government. The annual report for 1939 on the work of the library records that there has been placed in the main room a bronze tablet with the inscription "This tablet is erected to commemorate the centenary of the founding of this library by the Colonial Government" and bearing the Bermuda coat-of-arms and the dates 1839-1939.

Round the Markets

June 11th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	May 27th.	June 10th.	\$ value	4/5.9
Canada ...	4.45	4.45	\$	4/11.6
U.S.A. ...	4.03	4.03	Fr. "	-1.4
France ...	176.62	176.62		

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are —

Dividend Latest year		Price	
2½	Consols (yield £8 9s. 0d. per cent.)	72½	72½
3½	War Loan ...	98½	99½
10	Angostura Bitters ...	24/6	nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref. ...	25/-	nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory ...	11/3	13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1	1½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A" ...	1	1½
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ...	34/-	38/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell ...	2½	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref. ...	1½	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ...	1/1½	1/9½
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/- ...	1/-	2/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref. ...	1	1½
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9	3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4 ...	2/-	3/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/- ...	3d.	1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	37½	41½
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar ...	1½	2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar ...	½	¾
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	4/6	5/6
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d.	1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds ...	3	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. ...	2	2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	¾	1
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	4/3	5/3

RUM. In the first-hand market buyers have withdrawn, and no sales have been reported during the fortnight.

COCOA. Owing to the absence of manufacturing demand, practically no business has been done during the fortnight and all values are nominal. Grenada is quoted at 62/6 to 65/- spot, for fine, and Trinidad at 68/- to 75/- spot, for ordinary plantation to fine estates. There is no quotation for West African, c.i.f., with spot valued at 34/- for old crop and 35/- for new.

BALATA. Demerara sheet and Venezuelan block are both quoted at 2/6 nominal, with no business reported.

BANANAS. There is a fairly steady all-round demand with the price of Jamaicas unchanged at £30 5s. per ton delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces. The quality of the fruit arriving continues to improve.

HONEY. There has been a good demand for Jamaica descriptions and sales have been made of dark liquid to pale amber at 80/- to 90/- per cwt. ex wharf, according to quality. Pale to white is quoted at 92/6 to 95/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** The nominal value of Handpressed is 40/- to 45/- per lb. Distilled is quietly firm and valued at 25/- to 27/6 per lb. **Lime Juice.** There is a limited demand for Concentrated at £9 and Raw is quiet and unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued at 6/6 per lb. and Bitter is scarce and wanted.

SPICES. Consumers of **Pimento** show no interest either in spot parcels, or for shipment from Jamaica, and consequently prices are nominal. Sellers on the spot ask 1/- per lb. ex wharf, while c.i.f. is quoted at 105/- for June to July shipment. In **Ginger**, small sales have been made of Jamaica No. 3 old crop parcels at 50/- per cwt. ex wharf, while some bright small new

crop No. 3 has been sold at 52/6. No. 2 good medium is quoted at 57/6 to 60/- and medium No. 1 at 62/6 to 65/-.

Bright bold No. 1 is in demand at about 75/- for barrels. In **Nutmegs** there has been a good demand for West India wormy and broken on the spot and business has been done at 6½d. per lb. landed terms "to arrive," closing sellers thereat. Sound unassorted are quoted at 7½d., sound 80's at 9d., and sound 65's at 10d. ex wharf. Small sales of **Mace** have been made on the spot, during the past few weeks, at 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale; choice pale is quoted 2/6 to 2/7.

Company Reports & Meetings

Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.)

The directors, at a meeting held on May 23rd, declared interim dividends in respect of the year ending September 30th, 1940, of 4 per cent. (actual) on the cumulative preference shares and of 3 per cent. (actual) on the "A" and "B" shares, subject in each case to the deduction of income tax, after making allowance for relief in respect of Dominion income tax. The dividends will be payable on and after June 13th to shareholders registered on the night of May 27th.

The Demerara Mutual

During 1939, the Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd. issued 616 new policies with an annual premium income of \$39,856. The total income for the year was \$465,019, of which \$155,461 were interest earnings.

At December 31st, 4,735 policies were in force; the total assurances amounted to \$7,030,203; and the assurance fund to \$3,182,998. The yield on the latter for the year was 5.1 per cent. The claims during last year on death and endowment policies amounted to \$205,466, bringing the total claims paid by the society since its inception in 1891, to \$4,865,110.

British Guiana Building Society Ltd.

Mr. John Durey, A.C.I.S., of the Co-operative Permanent Building Society, England, has been appointed secretary of the lately re-constructed British Guiana Building Society. The Governor-in-Council has appointed the following persons as the first directors of the society: the Hon. F. J. Seaford, the Hon. E. F. McDavid, Colonial Treasurer, Mr. W. S. Jones, Mr. C. J. Bettencourt-Gomes, Mr. F. B. Henderson and Mr. A. C. O'Dowd. Mr. McDavid will be the Government nominee on the board of directors.

"Empire Day is, of course, in the nature of a family festival, but a Chelsea grocer manages to celebrate it with a pleasant reminder that close ties had been formed outside the family. One of his windows, decorated with red, white and blue, was dressed with an assortment of sardines from Brittany, wine from Burgundy, Jamaica rum, Australian currants, New Zealand honey and English jam. All bore the same proud label: *Produce of the Empires* and below the words were two crossed flags—the Tricolor and the Union Jack." (*Time and Tide*, June 1st.)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. JUNE 27th, 1940. No. 1089.

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CARIB, ESTRAND, LONDON

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.

June 26th, 1940.

The Care of the Children

IN the last issue of the CIRCULAR we dwelt on the "Call to the Colonies" which had then just been made by the Secretary of State, a call to which we were confident the West Indies would make a whole-hearted response. An opportunity to render another valuable service, of a kind not contemplated when LORD LLOYD sounded his Call, may now have arisen. Owing to the events of the past fortnight it has become imperative to place Great Britain in the strongest possible condition to meet the menace of actual invasion by air or by sea. The steps which are being actively taken to meet this menace necessitate the removal of children from areas most liable to attack to safer quarters. Much has been done already in transferring children from one part of Britain to another. Recently the Government received offers from the Dominions and Colonies and from private organisations in the United States of America to take children for the duration of the war. These generous offers have been accepted by the Government with the warmest appreciation of the humane motives by which they were inspired and last week a Children's Overseas Reception Board was established to administer a scheme for providing a temporary refuge for children overseas. The advantages of removing as many children as possible from the areas which may become the scenes of hostilities are obvious. In the first place, as shown by tragic events on the Continent, when meeting a foe devoid of all human scruples, the children will be saved from having to experience the ordeals of war, whilst the fighting forces will be ensured greater freedom of action in their defence of home and liberty. It is to secure these advantages and not with any idea that the children are being caused to flee because Great Britain can no longer promise them a permanent home that we are confident the scheme will receive whole-hearted support from all those who are in a position to help to make it a complete success.

The scheme will apply in the first place to children over five and under sixteen years of age, at present attending schools in Great Britain, preference being given to those whose homes are in evacuation areas. The Reception Board will make arrangements for their medical examination, the passing of which is essential, and their travelling both out and home in the charge of suitable escorts and under medical supervision. For children of grant-aided schools the only cost to their parents will be a contribution equal to that paid on evacuation at home. For children in non-grant-aided

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		
THE CARE OF THE CHILDREN...	153	JAMAICA IMPERIAL ASSOCIATION
COLONIAL MAN POWER	153	THE GAMBIA-PONGAS MISSION
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	154	THE PILGRIM TRUST
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	155	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL
COLONIAL LOANS	156	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER
LORD LLOYD ON THE WEST		OBITUARY
INDIES	157	THE LATE MR. MOODY STUART
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE	158	SOME NEW BOOKS
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	159	MARKETS
WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS	159	AN IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL
		TRINIDAD COCOA EXPORTS

schools a higher contribution will be expected, whilst parents who can afford to send and maintain children at their own expense can also do so. They must, however, obtain permission from the Board to ensure that all children have a fair opportunity and that those in dangerous areas are given the first chance.

Similar organisations to the Reception Board at home will be necessary in Empire countries receiving children to administer the scheme and to secure the welfare of the children. The appointment of these organisations is naturally a matter for the Governments concerned. Whilst it is too early yet to have full knowledge of action taken or under consideration in the West Indies there are, judging by the very numerous inquiries which have been received at 40, Norfolk Street since the scheme became publicly known, a large number of parents who are desirous of sending their children to the West Indies.

The West India Committee has been in close touch with the Reception Board and in addition to giving information to inquirers regarding conditions in the West Indies and other questions on which advice was sought has acted as a distribution centre of the official application forms.

Colonial Man Power

INTIMATELY linked with the question of providing a safe temporary home for the children in the Colonies is that of using Colonial man power to the fullest advantage in the interests of the Empire. LORD LLOYD, the Secretary of State, has recently reaffirmed the opinion broadcast by his predecessor, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, on October 11th, that the first duty of men who can be spared from their vital civil occupations in the Colonies is to serve with their local forces. At present these Forces have little chance of active service but it would not be prudent to reduce the efficiency of Colonial Services or to deplete potential resources of man power in the Colonies. They fulfil essential purposes of defence, internal security and the training and provision of reinforcements when required. Moreover, as LORD LLOYD pointed out, we must not overlook the possibility of operations having to be undertaken in tropical or semi-tropical climates and in that event there would be an urgent need for trained personnel accustomed to such conditions. In the meantime by remaining in the Colonies they can make a substantial contribution to the common effort.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THREE weeks ago, in one of his great speeches in Parliament, Mr. Churchill declared that we should fight on, "if necessary for years, if necessary alone." The situation he then clearly foresaw has come upon us sooner than anybody then expected. As I write, the terms of armistice imposed by the Germans upon France have just been published to the world. No Englishman has any right or desire to reproach the French people for submitting to these harsh demands; for they have resisted overwhelming force with a heroism that has won the admiration of the world. But Marshal Petain's Government has dealt a staggering blow to the Allied cause, and one that was certainly unnecessary, to this extent, that he enormously strengthened Hitler's hand in negotiation by publicly declaring that hostilities must cease before he applied for conditions of capitulation. The upshot is that, not only is France destroyed as a fighting force for the duration of the war, but her territory will rapidly be transformed into a major source of supply for carrying on the war against England.

* * *

Probably military historians will decide that the decision not to defend Paris was a cardinal mistake. General Weygand hoped to spare the capital the horrors of a bombardment, and fall back upon a strong line of defence on the River Loire. But the speed of the German advance caused his plan to miscarry, largely because when Paris was declared an open town hundreds of thousands of refugees swarmed southwards into the country, and blocked the roads of the retreat. Consequently, the retiring columns were overtaken by the German mechanized troops before they reached their next line of defence, and that line was never effectively established. M. Reynaud's Cabinet at the week-end were faced with a situation in which the French armies all along the line were being cut up into isolated formations.

* * *

M. Reynaud, the real fighting leader of France, stood pledged to Great Britain never to make a separate peace, and in a recent broadcast had declared that France would fight on though only a single Province should be left to her, and if even that fell, would continue the struggle in her Empire over sea. When the idea of surrender began to be raised in his Cabinet, the policy of the British Government was to strengthen by every possible means the hand of the Prime Minister against his defeatist colleagues—who, it is now known, were led by Marshal Petain, once the unyielding defender of Verdun, but now eighty-four years old and of failing nerve. At the height of the crisis the British Ambassador conveyed to the French Cabinet a very remarkable offer—nothing less than to amalgamate the French and British Empires, conferring on French and British subjects the full rights of citizenship in one another's countries, and appointing a joint War Cabinet to exercise supreme control of both for the duration of the war. This proposal—which has never been withdrawn—

would have established between the two Allies that "federal union" for which so many political thinkers have of late been advocating as the ultimate solution of the problem of war.

* * *

The proposal could only have been accepted by nailing the colours of France to the same mast as those of Britain, and resolving to continue the war at all costs to an Allied victory. Its actual effect seems to have been to bring the issue between the two sections of the Cabinet to a head. M. Reynaud, it is believed, was for accepting and fighting to the last; but the majority of his Ministers deserted him and he was forced to resign. The announcement in the morning that Marshal Petain had formed a Government, whose names suggested a coalition between the Army and the Fifth Column, told all students of French politics that surrender was certain.

* * *

The problem for our country is now to use all its efforts to save all that can be saved of French resources from the wreck. We refuse to believe that the abject policy of the Petain Government represents the true will of the people of France; and since these men have placed themselves in the power of the enemy there is good ground for saying that even in law they have forfeited their title to be a Government. From every part of the great French Empire, including Syria and Tunis where great military forces are under arms, messages have come in exhorting France to fight on. In the senders of these messages, who are still free to speak their mind, and not in these whose expressions of opinion are made on Hitler's sufferance, we shall henceforth recognize the voice of France, knowing that the great majority of Frenchmen in the invaded lands would speak as they do if they had the chance. General de Gaulle, one of the most vigorous of French leaders, who is now in London, is forming a provisional National Committee of France, to continue the war with the resources of the French Empire and in association with Great Britain. The British Government has announced that it will recognize this Committee as the effective French Government during the emergency.

* * *

We have now to start the war again. The full power of the German war machine must shortly be directed against our island, and we have to stand a siege until the time comes when we can take the offensive. That will be when our resources have been so built up that we can meet the enemy on equal terms in the air—a position that, with the help of the Dominions and the United States, now whole-heartedly committed to our support, ought to be reached next year. We take the defensive now, only as a necessary preliminary to offence. Since the evacuation of Dunkirk we have a larger force under arms in this country than ever in our history—at least 1,250,000 men and though for the present we fight against odds, there is every reason to face the future with confidence.

The West Indies and The War

The first list of names of those connected with the West Indian Colonies who are serving with the Forces was published in the CIRCULAR of May 16th. The

following names (including those of two men who have been promoted since the publication of the first list) have been received:—

Name.	Colony	Unit	Rank
BALL-GREENE, BRIAN ...	British Guiana ...	Coldstream Guards ...	2nd Lieutenant
BECKER, W. A. ...	Trinidad ...	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve ...	Pilot Officer
BRANCH, S. R. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Army Pay Corps ...	Staff-Sergeant.
BRANDAY, MISS MONICA ...	Jamaica ...	...	Ambulance Driver
BRIGGS, H. G. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Navy ...	Captain
DURRAD, P. V. ...	...	Royal Artillery ...	Gunner
GONSALVES, F. I. ...	British Guiana ...	Royal Armoured Corps ...	Corporal
HOPPS, F. G. ...	Bahamas... ..	Royal Tank Regiment ...	Trooper
INNISS, G. H. F. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Air Force ...	Acting Pilot Officer
LEWIS, AUBREY J. ...	Jamaica ...	Middlesex Regiment ...	2nd Lieutenant
MITCHELL, P. ...	Grenada ...	Royal Artillery ...	Gunner
MOODY, C. ARUNDEL M. ...	...	Royal West Kent Regiment ...	2nd Lieutenant
MOODY, R. A. ...	...	Royal Air Force ...	...
NELSON, LEO ST. P. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	...
ROBERTSON, S. A. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	...
ROBINSON, CLEMENT ...	Jamaica ...	London Scottish ...	...
ROBINSON, GORDON ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	...
STOCKDALE, F. A. ...	British Guiana ...	5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards ...	Lieutenant

ANTIGUA

War Charities Flag Day. The sale of flags on April 5th realised over £100, making a total turnover of £463 in the financial statement of the Antigua War Charities' Committee to that date.

BAHAMAS

Red Cross Donation. On June 14th the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund received £1,000 from the Bahamas Citizens' War Relief Committee. Several previous donations have been sent by this Committee. A few days later, £500 was received from the Bahamas Central branch of the British Red Cross.

BARBADOS

A "Win the War" Fund has been opened by a committee in Barbados and voluntary subscriptions up to last weekend exceeded £12,000. These funds are being placed at the disposal of His Majesty's Government. The House of Assembly has passed a Bill imposing additional taxation in order to raise money to aid the effective prosecution of the war.

BERMUDA

More for Defence. The corporation of Hamilton has handed to the Governor a cheque for £1,000, to be presented to the British Government for the prosecution of the war. As recorded in our last issue the Legislature of the Colony recently voted £40,000 towards the cost of the war.

The Central War Fund have sent £1,100 to the Red Cross Fund for the purchase of two ambulances which will bear the name of Bermuda. A substantial part of the sum was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. T. Wallace Orr, Canadian residents in the Colony.

BRITISH GUIANA

£30,000 for bombers. More than £30,000 was raised in five days by the people of Georgetown to buy bombing 'planes for Britain.

JAMAICA

Red Cross Donation. The Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund has received £3,000 from the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee—their sixth contribution. The Jamaica Ladies of Garrison War Work Club have sent £100—their second donation to the Fund.

ST. LUCIA

A gift of £250 from the People of St. Lucia has been received by the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund.

ST. VINCENT

£5,000 for 'planes. The St. Vincent Co-operative Arrowroot Association has offered £5,000 to His Majesty's Government towards the purchase of war 'planes. They have gratefully accepted the gift and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has requested the Governor of the Windward Islands to convey to the Association an expression of the Government's appreciation of the motives which prompted the offer.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Gift of Ambulances. The Chinese community of Trinidad, numbering 6,000, have presented two ambulances to the British Red Cross. One has been shipped to France, and the other will be used for service in the Colony.

Fund for Aircraft. A preliminary contribution of £20,000 was cabled from Port-of-Spain to London on June 19th from a fund raised by business men through the *Trinidad Guardian*, with the request that it should be used for the purchase of five fighter aircraft.

Aeroplanes for defence. The people of Trinidad and Tobago are giving £21,000 as the first instalment of a fund which is being collected towards the purchase of fighter or other aeroplanes for the defence of the mother country.

The War Services Committee

Gifts from the West Indies continue to arrive regularly at 40, Norfolk Street, and during recent weeks their number and variety have shown a considerable increase. In consequence, a larger volume of work has been undertaken by the ladies section of the War Services Committee.

Their correspondence is growing each week, and many of the letters which they have received show how much the efforts of the West Indies are appreciated.

One of them, written on June 14th, by the Lady in Waiting to the Princess Royal acknowledging the receipt of the final report on the Simon Bolivar disaster, reads as follows:—

"I have placed your letter of the 11th and the report you enclosed before the Princess Royal, and Her Royal Highness desires me to thank you very much indeed for sending it to her.

"It is extremely interesting—a wonderful tribute to the good work which has been done by the Committee of which you are chairman."

Another letter, written by the Quartermaster-General to the Forces (and received per the Director-General of Voluntary Organizations) reads:—

"The recent evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Flanders involved a sudden call on the philanthropic bodies for assistance in ensuring the comfort and welfare of large numbers of the soldiers of our Allies who came over to our shores in company with the British Army.

"This call was met not only with alacrity but with enthusiasm, and I should be most grateful if you would convey the thanks of the Army Council to all the members of the staffs of the Voluntary Organizations who so readily came to their assistance."

The following letter, typical of many others, has been received from the Navy League, in acknowledgment of a cheque for £25, forwarded by the Committee at the request of the War Charities Committee of Montserrat:—

"I shall be much obliged if you will communicate to the chairman the gratitude and appreciation which my Committee and I feel for this generous donation.

"The West Indies know the Navy very well indeed, and will, I feel quite sure, be proud of the great services performed by officers and men, many of whom have received their hospitality in past years.

"I shall see that the enclosed cheque is expended in accordance with the request of your War Charities Committee."

Another letter from the Social Welfare Officer, Southern Command, expresses thanks for a consignment of Trinidad grapefruit, forwarded on behalf of Sir George Huggins. The fruit was distributed among troops who had recently returned from active service, and the weather conditions, the letter adds, made it doubly welcome!

Colonial Loans

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "In a letter to *The Times* of May 15th, Sir William McLean gave the result of his investigation of complaints in some Colonies that excessive rates of interest are charged on their government loans. He remarked that the complaints appeared to have arisen from the fact that the long-term borrowing operations carried out in the decade following the 1914-18 war were at the relatively high rates of interest then ruling ($4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to 6 per cent.). He pointed out that these rates of interest were, however, no more than were being paid by borrowers of comparable status at the same time, and that commercial companies, even of the highest status, were paying more. The misfortune of these Colonial borrowers, in common with other long-term borrowers at the same time, was that the date of optional redemption of the loans complained of had not yet arrived; and this disadvantage had been aggravated by the general slump in prices, including those for colonial produce, after 1929.

"An important point, Sir William stated, was that full advantage had been taken of the considerable fall in interest rates since 1932, with the result that the rates for Colonial issues since that date (3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) differed very slightly from the rates for British loans of the same period. He suggested that the increased prosperity in the Colonies which would result from the new policy of development and welfare would serve to mitigate the handicap of some of the old loans.

"The reason for the slightly more onerous terms for Colonial loans is that the market does not consider them of the same security as British loans. A similar position exists in the case of loans raised by local government authorities in Great Britain which have an even stronger claim to be regarded as commanding as good a security as the central Government itself.

"Owing to the war it may not be possible to undertake much capital expenditure in development from any source, except in so far as it will assist the war effort of the Colonies and will not absorb constructional material, such as steel, required for war purposes. There is, however, much planning, programme making and other preparatory work to be done in the Colonies which, in itself, will occupy considerable time. This, when completed, would clear the way for an immediate start on the execution of economic and social development when conditions permit. With reference to the finances of development, experience indicates that, as a general principle, it should be done where possible by 'equity-investment' in preference to Government loan. This, of course, is not always feasible especially in Colonies which are poor in natural resources; it is in such territories that the new policy is so valuable with its financial provisions and a remission of certain old loans. Despite the handicap of the war and the critical situation, the policy provides an incentive to plan ahead and to prepare for the future with a confidence which would otherwise have been impossible not only in the poorer Colonies but throughout the whole Colonial Empire."

Lord Lloyd on the West Indies

Their Problem not merely one of Economics

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies addressed the Conference of Missionary Societies at Friends' House on June 14th. He asked to be excused for the deficiencies in what he said because in the short time he had been at the Colonial Office he had necessarily been occupied with more urgent, if not more important, matters than long range questions such as Colonial development and the principles on which that development should be based.

Since he had come to the Colonial Office he had heard of the good work done in the Advisory Committee on Education by Dr. Oldham and his successors in the post of secretary of the Conference.

Turning to the attitude of the Government to the work of Christian missions in the Colonial Empire, Lord Lloyd said that successive Secretaries of State had accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that Colonial Governments should make all possible use of Missions in their educational work, and the Governments had not been slow to do so. There were of course among that Empire's peoples adherents of many great religions, and their beliefs Government must respect. In some Colonies it was right that Government should preserve a certain neutrality and impartiality in religious matters. But there were other regions where he thought a different attitude was required.

In most parts of the West Indies, and the same was true of many other areas, for instance, the alternatives were Christianity or superstition, or no religion at all. In these circumstances he saw no reason for neutrality. We profess, he said, to be trustees for the welfare of those peoples. Inevitably we give them much that is bad in our civilisation. Surely we should give them also that which was best in it, namely our Christianity. Indeed unless we took this line, how could we ever hope to build up a healthy society in those territories.

Lord Lloyd said there had been recently much talk about the West Indies so he made no apology for speaking at some length about them. He thought there was a danger, in dealing with West Indian affairs, of ignoring the moral and spiritual aspect and of regarding their problem simply as one of economics—of the provision of new markets at better prices so that there might be more employment, better wages and better housing. All these things were important, but they were not, he was convinced, the whole story or even the main part of the story. The war was hammering home with rude blows the truth of the old warning that the peoples perish where there is no vision—perish not only spiritually but materially as well. Applying this age-old knowledge to the practical politics of to-day we saw that, for instance, bad housing was not only the result of poverty, i.e., of an economic deficiency, it was the result of a spiritual deficiency also, of a lack of a spirit of independence and self-help among the poorly

housed, and also, he was afraid, sometimes of a sense of obligation on the part of the more fortunate members of the community.

Then again, he said, the fact that so much of the foodstuffs consumed in the West Indies was imported was not due only to the limited agricultural possibilities but also to the fact that there was no tradition of good husbandry. A man did not grow vegetables, in the first place because it was too much trouble, and in the second place because he knew that if he did, the chances were that they would be stolen by his neighbour.

These factors, and the very high rate of illegitimacy, constituted much more than an economic problem, though economics aggravated the problem. To a large extent this state of affairs was the legacy of history. There was, as he saw it, only one remedy. If a healthy society was to be built up in the West Indies, then it must be built up on the foundation of the Christian religion and Christian ethics.

Lord Lloyd then dealt with some West Indian questions raised in what he described as the admirable memorandum presented to his predecessor by the Methodist Missionary Society, and expressed the hope that either through the Conference of Missionary Societies or by some other method, if that were more appropriate, means might be found whereby the united views of the various religious organisations working in the West Indies might be presented to Government.

He had, he said, talked more particularly about the West Indies partly because its affairs had been very much to the front recently, and partly because in present circumstances it was likely, he feared, to be almost the only part of the Colonial Empire where immediate progress might perhaps be made in carrying out their new plans for development and welfare.

Speaking with special reference to Africa, Lord Lloyd said the previous policy of Government must be somewhat modified. It was useless to pretend that at present we could carry on as usual with the normal social services of Government, meagre though some of them were. Still less was there at present a chance of making much progress with our plans for Colonial development. It was not only, or chiefly, on account of financial difficulties, for they might be surmounted. Primarily it was a matter of material and personnel. And yet it was, as they all realised, vitally important that the interruption of social services should be kept to the minimum.

In conclusion, Lord Lloyd said he thought the war had made us all realise the extent to which the Empire depended for its strength upon its spiritual foundations. Grim as was the struggle there was something splendid in it if we realised always that to our hands had been entrusted the defence of nothing less precious than the cause of Christian civilisation—that was a cause which might well stir our hearts and steel our resolution.

The West India Committee

A MEETING of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on June 18th, under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson. The following members were also present: Mr. J. Gordon Miller and Mr. H. J. J. Freeman (deputy chairmen), Sir Alfred Sherlock, Mr. Thomas Greenwood and Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling (treasurers), Mr. J. Alan de Pass, Mr. J. M. du Buisson, Mr. F. A. Greenaway, Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, Mr. Bryan King, Mr. Lauchlan Rose, Sir Edward Stubbs, Mr. H. A. Walker and Mr. E. J. King (secretary), Mr. T. Souness (executive officer, Trinidad and Tobago Standing Committee) and Mr. Hugh Paget (secretariat).

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of the Executive of the West India Committee, in meeting this day assembled, desire to place on record the profound sorrow with which they learned of the death on May 30th, 1940, of Mr. George Moody Stuart, C.B.E., one of their colleagues from 1908 to 1926, and to convey to his family the expression of their sincere sympathy.

The Executive desired that an expression of their sympathy be conveyed to Sir Louis Souchon on the death in action of his son, Captain L. J. G. Souchon, M.C., who had been a member of the West India Committee from 1929.

In welcoming Sir Edward Stubbs, who was attending a meeting of the Executive for the first time, the chairman referred to his having been vice-chairman of the West India Royal Commission and to his distinguished service formerly as Governor of Jamaica. The Executive looked forward to Sir Edward's help and advice not only on matters affecting Jamaica but on problems common to the West Indies as a whole and on colonial administration in general.

The meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson was, on the motion of Mr. James du Buisson, seconded by Mr. Lauchlan Rose, unanimously elected chairman of the West India Committee.

Mr. J. Gordon Miller and Mr. H. J. J. Freeman were, on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, elected deputy chairmen.

On the motion of the same proposer and seconder the following treasurers were re-elected: Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Sir Alfred Sherlock, Mr. Thomas Greenwood and Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling.

Among the matters discussed in connexion with the Government's purchase of sugar were letters from the Ministry of Food thanking the West India Committee for the assistance which it had rendered and asking for statistical information as to exportable quantities of sugar in the year 1940-41. The Ministry suggested that a trifling price adjustment should be made in the case of the small quantity produced of low molasses sugar of which the average out-turn polarisation varied between 82° and 88°, with a correspondingly low net analysis.

Successful action recently taken by the Committee

in connexion with consignments of canned grapefruit from British Honduras and Jamaica was reported.

Consideration was given to a letter from the Colonial Office regarding the manufacture of absolute alcohol from molasses or from rum.

The meeting was informed that the first annual report of the Jamaica Standing Committee had now been issued. It followed the precedent of similar reports by the Trinidad and Tobago Standing Committee in that it included not only matters dealt with during the year by the Standing Committee but also with very many other matters of special importance to Jamaica, which had been dealt with by the Executive of the West India Committee.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. John Bromley for the following gifts to the West India Committee's Library: *The West Indies and the Spanish Main* by Anthony Trollope and *The Leeward Islands--Their Past and Present Conditions* (a lecture delivered before the Royal Colonial Institute by the Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley).

The following nine candidates were elected to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. ANDREW S. DUNCAN (Barbados)	{ Mr. H. N. Leacock. Mr. Gordon Forbes.
MR. HUBERT DOUGLAS (Country) HENDERSON	{ Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
MR. CLIFFORD ARTHUR STANLEY (British Guiana) HOWARD	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.
MR. DUDLEY HOWARD (British Guiana)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.
MR. ALEC. WILLIAM BOULTER (British Guiana)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.
MR. FRANK CHARLES FISHER (British Guiana) GILCHRIST	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.
MR. ROBERT LAVERICK DUNN (British Guiana)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.
MR. JAMES PRENTICE (British Guiana)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.
MR. CHARLES HENRY STONE- HOUSE, A.M.I.MECH.E., (British Guiana) A.M.I.MAR.E.	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor. Mr. D. E. Tinne.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

On June 18th, 1940, Mr. Thomas Souness was appointed assistant secretary of the West India Committee. Mr. Souness is by profession a mechanical engineer and before joining the Committee in 1928 was with Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., where he was chief of the general engineering design and technical department in London and assistant technical and commercial manager of that department. Since 1932 he has been the Executive Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Section and has rendered invaluable service to the Committee. Mr. Souness' new appointment does not involve any radical change in organisation. He will continue to supervise the work of the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Section and trade matters in general will remain his special province.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"CLOVEN foot can wear polish boot."

* * *

MAJOR J. R. A. BRANCH, acting Commissioner of Police, Leeward Islands, has been appointed commandant of the Dominica Defence Force.

* * *

A FREE grant of £1,780 from the Colonial Development Fund has been approved for the purpose of carrying out an anti-malarial survey in Antigua.

* * *

THE HON. G. H. W. PALMER, the Labour Adviser, St. Lucia, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Colony for a further period of three years.

* * *

At a meeting of the St. Lucia Banana Association held on May 16th, the Hon. Gregor McG. Peter was elected chairman and Mr. C. A. Beaubrun, vice-chairman for the year ending March 31st, 1941.

* * *

AN excellent coloured portrait of H.M. The King has just been published by Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd. Copies may be obtained from the firm at 35, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.4, price 2/- each.

* * *

MISS KATHLEEN HAY SWEET-ESCOTT, who, we regret to learn, died at Worthing on June 9th, was the elder daughter of Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, Governor of the Leeward Islands from 1906 to 1912. She was in her 58th year.

* * *

ITALY's production of beet sugar during the 1939-40 season amounted to 442,000 long tons, the highest on record. This compares, according to Lamborn and Co. with 397,000 tons in 1938-39, and with the previous highest record of 434,000 tons established in 1929-30.

* * *

MAJOR BERNARD PINNEY, eldest son of Major-General Sir Reginald Pinney and of Lady Pinney, was married on June 17th to Miss Rosemary Segrave, only daughter of the late Vice-Admiral J. R. Segrave and of Mrs. Segrave. The marriage was solemnised at Brompton Oratory by the Rev. Father J. E. Woodruff.

* * *

SIR JAMES BLACK BAILLIE, who died suddenly at Weybridge, on June 9th, in his 68th year, was chairman of the Arbitration Tribunal which visited Trinidad, in the winter of 1938-39, to inquire into certain matters in dispute between the Oilfield Employers' Association and the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union.

* * *

THE engagement of Lieutenant A. Vaughan Lovell-Knight, Wiltshire Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Lovell-Knight, of Mount Street, Mayfair, London, and Elsa Marjorie, youngest daughter of the late Rudolph E. Bonitto and Mrs. Violet M. Bonitto, of St. Andrew, Jamaica, has been announced.

MR. CHARLES HAYWARD, the well-known consulting engineer of Port-of-Spain, has been granted a commission by the Admiralty, as Lieutenant R.N.V.R., and appointed as Engineer Officer on the staff of the Senior Naval Officer, Trinidad. During the last war he occupied a similar position on the staff of the Engineer-in-Chief at the Admiralty.

* * *

MISS K. G. SEON, the librarian-secretary of the Bermuda Library, who is shortly retiring after nearly thirty years service, points out that in addition to its value to the general public the library is used by the men of the merchant marine and the Navy while on shore leave, and that the Admiralty has made it known in all ships touching at Bermuda that there is always a welcome for them and plenty of home papers to look at.

* * *

A MEMORIAL to Canon Bindley, a brass bearing the inscription "To the memory of Thomas Henry Bindley, D.D., Principal 1890-1909. Archdeacon of Barbados 1904-1909," was dedicated on January 8th in the chapel of Codrington College. The journal of the College states that the brass was presented by the son and daughter of the late Canon Bindley "As a memorial to their honoured father who brought renown to the College by his scholarly theological works."

* * *

ALTHOUGH the use of local forest produce in Trinidad has not reached by a long way the maximum permissible the Colony remains dependent on large supplies of imported soft woods. The Conservator of Forests in his Annual Report for 1939 says this is due to the demand for high grade, properly seasoned lumber cut to standard dimensions. No supplies of this type of local lumber are available. It is hoped, however, that should negotiations for the large scale exploitation of the Mora forests materialise, the position would be improved.

West Indian Sugar Exports, 1940

The following statement of the estimated exports of sugar, from January 1st to August 31st, 1940, summarises information received by the West India Committee at the beginning of this month. These revised estimates supersede those published in the CIRCULAR of May 30th.

Estimated Exports January 1st to August 31st, 1940.

	tons		tons
Barbados ...	86,100	British Guiana ...	72,400
Jamaica ...	81,667	British Honduras	—
Trinidad ...	77,173		
Leeward Islands ...	39,000	Total ...	363,368
Windward Islands	7,028		

An additional 27,000 tons, will, it is estimated, be exported from Barbados during the same period in the form of fancy molasses.

Jamaica Imperial Association

Chairman on Needs of the Colony

SIR ARTHUR FARQUHARSON, chairman of the Jamaica Imperial Association, in moving the adoption of the report at the annual meeting held in Kingston, on May 1st, dealt at length with the economic conditions of the Colony.

Space will not allow of even a brief summary of Sir Arthur's instructive remarks on tariffs and preferences, local food production, or the Recommendations of the Royal Commission, but the concluding part of his speech must be placed on record. He said:—

"We in Jamaica must realise that the Empire is engaged in the greatest struggle of its history. We are able to give very little direct help, but let us at least do what we can to help on the home front, by setting our own house in order in appreciation of and in co-operation with the efforts which Great Britain, even at this hour of crisis, is making on our behalf. Little will be achieved for the improvement of Jamaica unless Jamaicans of every class and walk of life take up their share of the burden, and bring to bear all the energy and devotion of which they are capable . . . If Jamaica hopes for prosperity she must work for it, and deserve it. There must be an end of short working days, of irregular and scamped work. We must increase the products of our fields and make ourselves more self supporting in the matter of foodstuffs. We must tackle the problem of predial larceny, which militates so much against individual effort and industry. We must deal with the illegitimacy question and the problem of neglected children and with other social problems which depend for their solution not on money alone, but on the creation of a sound public opinion. In the words of Mr. Churchill 'Come, then, let us to the task.'"

After the report had been passed unanimously, a resolution was moved by Sir Charlton Harrison, placing on record the Association's appreciation of the action of the British Government in making provision for social services in the West Indies, but stressing "that the solution of the difficulties from which Jamaica is suffering lies in extending her agricultural industries and obtaining satisfactory markets for the products thereof." The resolution, having been seconded by Mr. R. F. Williams and supported by Mr. G. G. R. Sharpe, was carried unanimously.

The Gambia-Pongas Mission

The annual Festival was held at S.P.C.K. House on May 9th. There was a service in the chapel at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at the Royal Empire Society. The afternoon meeting was well attended. Bishop George Wright of North Africa, who as Bishop of Sierra Leone did so much to help the foundation of the Diocese, was in the chair and spoke of the great change which had taken place in the work since the Bishop took charge and of the wonderful promise for the future.

A most inspiring letter from the Bishop was read, telling of the splendid start which had been made with the new station at Fatoto, 300 miles up the Gambia.

The people (pagan Foulahs) are eager to help and came from the villages round bringing gifts in kind and offers of free labour for the buildings and farmwork necessary for the support of the workers.

The Rev. Raymond Hatch (late of St. Vincent) spoke of the need for continued and increased support, and Mrs. Ejesa-Psora pleaded for more work amongst women and girls, for whom very little is being done in the Diocese as yet.

The Pilgrim Trust

IN a preface to the *Ninth Annual Report of the Pilgrim Trust*, Lord Macmillan, the chairman, writes: "Ten years ago, on May 5th, 1930, a party of four dined together at Claridge's Hotel. The host was Mr. Edward Stephen Harkness, newly arrived from the United States; the guests were Sir James Irvine, John Buchan and myself. Our host had crossed the Atlantic inspired with a project unique in the annals of beneficence, and it was this project which he had brought us together to discuss." Mr. Harkness spoke of the ties of affection which bound him to the country from which he drew his descent and his desire to show his admiration for what Great Britain had done by a gift which, wisely applied, might assist her not only in tiding over a time of difficulty she was then facing but also in promoting her future well-being. This desire took form in a gift of two million pounds and the constitution of the Pilgrim Trust for its administration.

The deaths occurred early this year of two of that party of four which met ten years ago; Mr. Harkness died on January 29th, 1940, and John Buchan (Lord Tweedsmuir) on February 11th. The *Report* contains a tribute by Sir James Irvine to Mr. Harkness whose "inveterate self-effacement deterred him from accepting any public recognition of his munificence." Lord Baldwin contributes a note on "J.B."

The grants made by the Trust during 1939 fell as usual under the two main headings of social service and the preservation of national treasures—with in addition assistance to various war-time projects. The "national treasures" to which grants were made in 1939 include cathedrals, churches and libraries of which interesting information is given. We reproduce the statement concerning the library of the West India Committee.

"A small grant was made also to the West India Committee, to facilitate the publication of a catalogue of the contents of the library of which the Committee is rightly proud, for it contains among its three thousand volumes much material not found in any other public collection. The Committee is a voluntary association established about the year 1750 and incorporated by Royal Charter—and its minute books dating from 1769 shed valuable light on Colonial mercantile transactions in the eighteenth century.

"The library is particularly rich in pamphlets, many of which are unique, dealing with the sugar industry and the period of the slave trade. It is supervised by a special committee and an honorary librarian, and it is constantly used by research students and members of the general public, to whom it is open without charge or obligation to join the association. The lack of an adequate catalogue has long been a serious handicap and in 1938, with the help of voluntary subscriptions, the preliminary work of making a comprehensive card index was set in hand. Its completion, delayed by circumstances arising from the war, is now in sight and with the Trustees' assistance its printing will promptly follow."

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Effects of Widespread Drought—Farewell to an Administrator
Progress of Land Settlement*



ANTIGUA

MR. AND MRS. HARFORD had left that day for St. Kitts, wrote Miss H. Goodwin on May 31st, of which island Mr. Harford had been appointed Administrator, and many farewell parties had been given in their honour. On May 30th the Governor gave a large At Home for them at Government House. Mrs. Harford as well as her husband will be greatly missed for she has shown a keen interest in the public life of the island, and her sympathetic desire to help has endeared her to people of all classes.

Empire Day. Owing to the war the public holiday to celebrate Empire Day was postponed from May 24th until November 9th. The annual parade of school children, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, was, however, held as usual. The Governor, after reading the Empire Day message from Lord Bledisloe, made a short speech emphasizing the glory of the Empire, the critical period through which it is passing, and the necessity for courage and determination in our great war for Christianity and freedom.

BARBADOS

Sugar Crop. The Director of Agriculture records in his monthly notes, dated May 16th, that the rainfall during April was exceptionally low, the days being hot, sunny and windy. The young plant canes and ratoons were looking very well but it was evident that rain was needed to prevent a serious check to their growth. The crop for 1940, which was nearly reaped, was estimated at 98,000 tons sugar made up as follows: vacuum pan sugar 68,000, muscovado sugar 3,000, fancy molasses (equated at 330 gall. per ton sugar) 27,000.

Cotton. The cotton crop had been fully harvested, trees were being eradicated and the refuse swept and picked up and all burnt. The average yield of seed cotton per acre of plantation cotton, 52.5 acres, was 652 lb. and of peasant cotton, 67.5 acres, 309 lb. It was very satisfactory that no pink boll worm had been recorded and it was hoped that with the stringent cleaning up precautions and strict observance of the close season this would in future be effectively controlled.

Ground Provisions. The very dry conditions had made the preparation of the land for ground provisions and their planting very difficult and these operations would remain so until rains came.

BRITISH GUIANA

Drought Fires. Writing from Georgetown on May 7th our correspondent states: "As a result of the long continued drought, there have been serious fires in the cultivated lands of the Canals Polder on the West Bank of the Demerara river. In a case specially brought under the notice of Government, fires had

spread over 200 acres of coffee, citrus fruit, pears, pineapples, and ground-provisions cultivation in the northern section of Canal No. 2 Polder, and besides the crops lost, the land, which is pegassy, has been burnt to a depth of one to two and a half feet and so rendered useless.

New Appointment. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved the appointment of Mr. F. R. H. Green, A.R.S.M., Superintendent of Surveys in the Lands and Mines Department, to be Commissioner of Lands and Mines in succession to Mr. H. P. Christiani, retired.

JAMAICA

Mr. F. W. Day, who had been second master at Wolmer's School since 1910 and a member of the staff since 1896, died on May 4th, at the age of 66. Mr. Day, who was born in Trelawny on 25th January, 1874, devoted his entire life to the service of education in Jamaica where he will long be remembered with respect and affection.

The Rev. Augustus Cole, who held many cures in the parish of St. Thomas during the course of his long career in the Church of England in Jamaica, died at Yallahs, at the age of 89, on May 5th.

Storm Damage. At the session of the Legislative Council of May 30th, the Government was authorised to transfer a sum of £123,006 from the Insurance Fund to the General Revenue of Jamaica to defray the cost of repairing public works damaged by storms and floods during November, 1939.

Mr. George Seymour Seymour. The Association of Elected Members presented a cup to Mr. Seymour Seymour, who served as chairman of that body from its inception in 1935 until his retirement from the Legislative Council in 1939, at a meeting of the Association held in the Council Chambers on May 29th.

Land Settlement. An interesting summary of the present position of Land Settlement in Jamaica was given by Captain Burnett, Commissioner of Lands, in an address on May 25th. He stated that more than 260,000 acres were being administered, 143 land settlements, including ex-soldiers' settlements were in operation and, from January, 1939 to date, 5,891 families had been placed in charge of their holdings as compared with 3,034 families in the previous ten years. In addition to this, 2,500 allotments had been made to ex-soldiers on land settlement schemes.

ST. LUCIA

Code Telegram Fees. By an order dated May 18th, a decoding fee of one shilling, taken in stamps, will be charged on each outward telegram accepted for transmission. The stamps will be fixed to the decode deposited with each telegram.

Income Tax. It has been observed that the surtax on incomes imposed by Ordinance No. 20 of 1939 will not always be equitable. Thus gross incomes, less tax, will be less in the case of a person whose chargeable income is just over £1,000 than of one with an income of £1,000 or a little under. A Bill was published on May 18th to do away with this injustice by restricting the surtax of 30 per cent. to chargeable incomes over £1,000 and imposing a surtax of 20 per cent. on all chargeable income between £100 and £1,000.

Weather. Mr. E. T. Ward wrote, on May 22nd, that during April the rainfall at Castries was 1.28 inches, compared with the 50 year average of 3.45 inches. The weather was very dry and sultry.

Sugar. All the sugar factories were working. The yields and juices were generally much below earlier estimates and the crop was now placed at 8,197 tons. Ratoon canes were springing well in most areas despite the very dry conditions.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Cost of Living. The Official Gazette for April 11th contains information, prepared by Mr. G. Barnes, the Labour Officer, on increase in the cost of living. A comparison is made of the average cost of living of an unmarried Basseterre lower-paid workman as at March 31st, 1940 and August 31st, 1939. The weekly budget, details of which are given, show an increase from \$2.42 to \$2.77. It is mentioned that a booklet containing some statistical and other "labour" information is in the press and will soon be available for sale.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Civil Aviation. Regulations made by the Governor on May 9th provide for the appointment of a Director of Civil Aviation and for the creation of an Air Board. The director will be Registrar of Aircraft for the Colony in place of the Harbour Master.

Cocoa Subsidy. In view of the low prices for cocoa during 1938, and the increasing difficulty planters experienced in meeting the cost of controlling witch-broom the subsidy was raised in 1939 from 1 to 1½ cents per lb. In his annual report on the Board (*Council Paper*, No. 18, of 1940) the chairman states that in all cases payment of the grant was conditional upon the completion of the prescribed work of improvement. The necessity of maintaining a fair area of food crops was continually stressed as a measure of general maintenance and since the outbreak of war this necessity was further emphasized.

Weather and Crops. During the first quarter of this year, the rainfall was below the average, February being particularly dry. Whilst reasonably heavy pickings of cocoa were made in January and February, a lull set in at the end of March and fears were expressed for the May-June crop on account of the severity of the dry season. The sugar yields from plant canes have been poor, partly because the early advent of the wet season in 1938 played havoc with ploughing. Considerable damage was also done by the Froghopper pest. Excellent quality citrus fruit has been gathered but the dry weather was affecting the trees. During the quarter two trial shipments of the I.C.2 banana were made to the United Kingdom on behalf of the Jamaica Banana Producers Association.

West Indies at Westminster

Empire Sugar Imports

MAJOR CARVER asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food on May 29th what was the approximate proportion of our sugar imports which was now being obtained from Empire sources; how this proportion compared with that at a similar date in 1939; and whether he anticipated that it would shortly be possible to obtain all our requirements of sugar from the Empire. MR. BOOTHBY replied that arrangements had been completed for the purchase of the entire exports of the coming season's sugar crops of Australia, Mauritius, Fiji and the British West Indian Colonies. The total quantity involved was about one and three-quarter million tons, of which about one and a-quarter million tons was the United Kingdom proportion. Arrivals of this sugar in the United Kingdom would be spread over a long period, beginning in about two months, and did not therefore affect the immediate sugar supplies.

Canada and New Zealand were partners with the United Kingdom Government in these purchases, and both Dominions had shown the utmost co-operation throughout the negotiations, whilst the arrangements had been much facilitated by the helpful attitude of the exporting Dominions and Colonies concerned. Supplies of foreign sugar were only purchased to supplement, as necessary, deficiencies in supplies from Empire sources and this policy would continue for the future. In the circumstances no useful conclusion could be drawn from a comparison between present and pre-war figures.

Colonial Sugar Preference

In reply to VICE-ADMIRAL TAYLOR who on June 5th asked what was the value of special Colonial preference certificates per ton of sugar exports in 1939 for each Colony and whether a fairer allocation could be considered in view of the changes in the position of the various Colonies since allocation was first made, MR. GEORGE HALL stated that the value of the special Colonial preference certificates per ton of sugar exports during the season ended August 31st, 1939, for each Colony was as follows:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Barbados ...	16	8	Leeward Islands ...	21	3
British Guiana ...	19	2	Mauritius ...	21	8
East Africa ...	10	10	Trinidad and Tobago	26	8
Fiji ...	26	3	Windward Islands ...	24	2
Jamaica ...	14	2	Average ...	20	10

It would, he said, be appreciated that the value expressed on a tonnage basis varied with seasonal variations in each Colony's crop, and that other conditions, for example, the size of the domestic market and the manufacture and sale of other sugar products such as rum and fancy molasses, varied from Colony to Colony. In answer to the second part of the question, MR. HALL said he had nothing to add to the reply which the Minister of Health gave to MR. DAVID ADAMS on May 8th (see CIRCULAR of May 30th, p. 134).

THE Colonial Development and Welfare Bill was read the Third time and passed in the House of Commons on June 11th.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

LIEUT. R. O. WILCOXON

Sub-Lieutenant Robert Owen Wilcoxon, R.N.V.R., who was killed in action last month at Dunkirk, was the eldest son of Mr. R. Stanley Wilcoxon, a former manager of the St. Vincent branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), and of Mrs. Wilcoxon.

He was born in Jamaica in 1903, and during his early years visited several of the other West Indian Colonies. For some ten years he served with Frame & Co. in the Gold Coast, leaving that Colony in 1932 to take up an appointment in the United States. He settled in London some months ago.

CAPTAIN R. WRIGHT-NOOTH, M.C.

Captain Rodney Wright-Nooth, M.C., who died at Bedford on June 19th, had been Colonial Engineer of St. Lucia since 1936. He was severely injured in November last when the Simon Bolivar, in which he was travelling with his wife and family to the West Indies, struck a mine, and was taken to a hospital at Ipswich where he was confined to bed for some months.

Captain Wright-Nooth, who was born in 1884, served with the Royal Engineers throughout the last war in Kenya and German East Africa, was wounded severely, twice mentioned in despatches, and awarded the Military Cross.

He was Superintendent of Public Works in Antigua from 1922 to 1926 when he became Assistant Director of Public Works, British Guiana, remaining in that office until 1931. He then proceeded to Northern Rhodesia, and five years later returned to the West Indies, as Colonial Engineer of St. Lucia.

MR. GEORGE CHRISTIAN

Mr. George J. Christian, the well-known lawyer, died suddenly at Sekondi, Gold Coast on April 17th. A few hours earlier he had attended Court for the first time after a long illness.

Mr. Christian, who was born in Dominica, was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn, in 1902, and travelled extensively before making the Gold Coast his home. He was a keen Freemason and was a founder of the Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826). He contributed generously to African and West Indian charities.

His funeral was attended by a large number of Africans and Europeans and some of his West Indian friends acted as bearers. On the following day a high tribute to his memory was paid in Court by Mr. Justice Doorly and by Mr. R. Crowther Nicol.

MARRIAGE

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 5/- for 3 lines and 1/6 for each additional line. Cheques, Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

PUNNETT-SERÉNYI. On February 6th, 1940 at Budapest, Hungary, Roy Limond, Acting British Vice Consul Budapest, son of the Hon. A. M. Punnett, J.P., and Mrs. Punnett of Diamond Estate, St. Vincent, B.W.I. to Marie Henriette, daughter of Count and Countess Zaszlo Serényi of Sandor Utca 10, Budapest, Hungary.

The Late Mr. Moody Stuart

At a meeting of the Governing Body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, held at the Colonial Office on June 12th, Mr. Eric Macfadyen moved the following resolution which was carried unanimously, all present standing:—

THAT the Governing Body hereby record the sorrow with which they learnt of the death on May 30th of their colleague, Mr. George Moody Stuart, C.B.E., one of the pioneers of the movement which led to the foundation of the College, and their appreciation of his services as Chairman of the Finance Committee for twenty years; and that they desire to convey to his family their condolence in the loss which they have sustained.

Sir John Shuckburgh, the representative of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the Governing Body, supporting the resolution, spoke of the eminent services rendered by Mr. Moody Stuart not only to the College, but also to the British West Indian Colonies, especially in connexion with the sugar industry.

Mr. Moody Stuart played a prominent part in the foundation of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. The idea of an agricultural college for the West Indies had been originated some years before by Sir Norman Lamont, but it was undoubtedly Mr. Moody Stuart who brought the matter to an issue when, in 1920, at a meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, he requested the Governor to take up the proposal with Lord Milner, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and further to impose export duties on agricultural products with a view to raising funds for the establishment of such an institution. The resolution was seconded by Sir Norman Lamont and carried by acclamation. Sir John Chancellor, the Governor, remarked that it was the first time that he had heard of planters asking to be taxed!

The idea appealed to Lord Milner, and, following a report from a specially appointed committee, the West Indian Agricultural College was born. A few years later it was developed into the Imperial College.

Some New Books

Among books of West Indian and Bermudian interest recently published are the following. Space permitting, a further reference to these publications will be made in a subsequent issue.

THE FAMILY OF THE BARRETT. A Colonial Romance. By Jeanette Marks. The Macmillan Company, New York. pp. 709. 48 illustrations. 9½ in. by 6 in. Price 25/- net, postage 6d. inland, 1/- overseas.

BRIDE OF A THOUSAND CEDARS. A novel of Bermuda. By Bruce Lancaster and Lowell Brentano. Cassell & Co., Ltd. pp. 344. 8 in. by 5½ in. 9/- net, postage 6d.

BERMUDA BURIAL. By C. Daly King. Published for the Crime Club by Collins. pp. 251. 7½ in. by 5½ in. Price 8/- net, postage 6d.

Copies of these and other books recently published may be obtained from the West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, on the usual terms, cash with order.

Round the Markets

June 25th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	June 10th.	June 24th.	
Canada ...	4.45	4.45	\$ value 4/5.9
U.S.A. ...	4.03	4.03	\$ " 4/11.6
France ...	176.62	no quotation	Fr. "

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

RUM is a dull market and no business has been reported by the first-hand market or by dealers.

COCOA. A small sale of fine Grenada on the spot has been made at 59/- but holders generally are asking 62/6. There is nothing doing in Trinidad on the spot, with good plantation to fine estates quoted nominally at 65/- to 72/-; there is no quotation for Trinidad " to arrive." West African on the spot is quoted at 34/- for old crop and 35/- for new.

BALATA. No business has been reported in this market, with sheet and block quoted at 2/6 nominal.

BANANAS. There is a good demand for Jamaicas with the prices to wholesalers unchanged at £30 5s. per ton delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces. The quality of the fruit arriving continues very good.

HONEY. Jamaica descriptions continue in good demand. Sales on the spot have been made in dark liquid to pale amber at 80/- to 90/- ex wharf, according to quality. Pale to white is quoted at 92/6 to 97/6.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is valued nominally at 45/- per lb. and Distilled is quoted at 25/- to 27/6 per lb. **Lime Juice.** There is a very limited demand for Concentrated at £9, and Raw is slow of sale and valued nominally at 2/9 to 3/- per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued at about 6/- per lb. and Bitter at about 11/- per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** is lifeless, but the c.i.f. value is nominally unchanged at about 105/- for June-July shipment; spot is quoted at 10½d. per lb. ex store. Small sales have been made in Jamaica **Ginger** at 50/- per cwt. ex wharf for No. 3 old crop parcels, and at 52/6 for bright small new crop No. 3. No. 2 medium is quoted at 57/6 to 60/- and medium No. 1 at 62/6 to 65/-. There is some demand for bright bold No. 1 at about 75/- in barrels. **Nutmegs** are quiet and prices are unchanged at 7½d. for sound unassorted, 9d. for sound 80's and at 10d. for sound 65's, ex wharf. In **Mace** small sales have been made at 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale with choice pale quoted at 2/6 to 2/7.

THE subscription rates for candidates admitted to the West India Committee during the second half of the year to December 31st are 12/6 for individuals and 31/6 for firms. Members are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing candidates for election. Forms of application for membership can be obtained from the secretary, the West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.

An Irresistible Appeal

Though space in the CIRCULAR is greatly restricted, we make no apology for publishing the following letter, addressed to the President of the West India Committee, and feel sure that some of our readers will gladly respond to Donald Smith's irresistible appeal.

Dear Sir,

I hope you will not be mad at me for writing you, if so I am sorry. I am 12 years old, and my favourite hobby is collecting stamps. I take quite a interest in this hobby. It helps me in my school lessons too, especially geography. The guys on our street don't go in for this hobby, they say its a sissy's hobby, but I know it is not so, for lots of rich men and our King saves stamps. I can't afford to buy any stamps for I don't make much selling papers, and what I get I give my Mother for Dad is not working. He is a Veteran of the last big war and is not in good health. He tried to enlist again but they wont take him. He would like to go if they would let him. Dad was born in London, England, and used to be a Post Office Telegraph boy. I havn't any stamps of Virgin Islands or any from the little Islands in the West Indies. I would be so tickled if I could get a few used stamps.

Would you please save me some. I would be so grateful to you. Dad says you will never see this letter, and that it will go into the Waste Paper basket. Gee, I hope not. Excuse my pencil for Mother wont let me use ink. I spilt some once on her table cloth, I sure did get a licking, for Mum told me to leave the ink alone, so excuse me please.

I am trying to make a collection of British Colonies. Please do write me.

Greetings from Canada,

Best Wishes,

Your friend

1619, Highland Avenue,
Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

DONALD SMITH.

[A letter asking for stamps has also been received from the Rev. Cecil M. Lancaster, Wanets, British Columbia, who is a leader of a group of boys.]

Trinidad Cocoa Exports

TRINIDAD exported 4,602,082 lb. of cocoa during March, bringing the total for the first quarter of the year to 10,973,330 lb. Although this figure is much higher than that for the corresponding period in 1939 it is below the average shipments for January-March during recent years.

The following table shows the destination of this cocoa and of that exported in the first quarter of the two preceding years:—

	1940 lb.	1939 lb.	1938 lb.
United States ...	5,416,350	1,474,122	8,453,100
France ...	868,800	413,659	554,446
United Kingdom ...	2,307,425	786,564	2,025,440
Germany ...	—	468,140	1,754,960
Netherlands ...	876,200	778,900	841,692
Australia ...	33,632	26,829	76,736
Canada ...	149,440	389,600	993,200
Belgium ...	1,034,323	308,800	1,272,400
Italy ...	—	54,648	64,387
Norway ...	10,000	106,000	50,000
Sweden ...	160,000	—	165,200
Denmark ...	9,000	153,054	80,000
Argentine Republic ...	—	—	128,700
New Zealand ...	25,284	48,020	98,439
South Africa ...	6,616	8,804	212,972
Other countries ...	76,260	43,943	62,000
Total ...	10,973,330	5,061,083	16,833,672

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. JULY 11th, 1940. No. 1090.

Telephone:
TEMPLE BAR 8922
Telegrams:
CARIB. ESTRAND, LONDON

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.

July 10th, 1940.

As we go to press it is officially announced that H.R.H. The Duke of Windsor has accepted the appointment of Governor of the Bahamas in succession to the Hon. Sir Charles Dundas.

Comptroller of the Welfare Fund

LORD LLOYD, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, made, on July 2nd, the important announcement that SIR FRANK STOCKDALE had been appointed Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund. Readers of the CIRCULAR will recall that on the day when the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission and the Government's Statement of Policy on Colonial Development and Welfare were published, MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD, then Secretary of State, assured the House of Commons that the Government accepted the main Recommendation of the Commission. This was to create a special organisation under a Comptroller to develop social services throughout the West Indies and to make provision for a fund of £1,000,000 a year. The Government have wasted no time in keeping their promise. The necessary Bill and Money Resolution have been passed by the Commons and LORD LLOYD made his announcement when moving the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords. We all unfortunately realize that, as he said, it was useless to pretend that under present circumstances we could carry on as usual with Colonial Services. The Bill would, however, at least ensure that such development as was possible was not stopped for lack of funds and in the special case of the West Indies there was, LORD LLOYD said, less reason to hold up development and more reason for going ahead with it.

The task with which SIR FRANK STOCKDALE has been entrusted is indeed a heavy one. In the first place he will have the great responsibility of the control of the Welfare Fund, the objects of which are very wide and far reaching, affecting the whole economic and social life of the West Indies. They include, as set forth by the Royal Commission, the improvement of education and health services, housing and slum clearance, development of labour departments, the provision of social welfare facilities and land settlement. But the Comptroller will be much more than an almoner. The Commission lays on him the duty of framing, in consultation with the local Governments, long range programmes for the approval of the Secretary of State and of making grants for schemes which he accepts as

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		COST OF LIVING IN JAMAICA ...	170
COMPTROLLER OF THE WELFARE		THE CARIBBEAN LODGE ...	170
FUND ...	165	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	171
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	166	COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE ...	172
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	167	OUR ILLUSTRATIONS ...	172
THE FIRST BRITISH SUGAR		MAKING INSURANCE ON SUGAR ...	172
PLANTER ...	168	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	173
LAND MISUSE AND RURAL		WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER ...	175
POVERTY ...	169	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	176
THE LATE MR. MOODY STUART ...	170	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEET-	
COLONIAL SUGAR CERTIFICATES	170	INGS ...	176

conforming to sanctioned principles. He will also be charged with supervising the administration of the grants. The fact that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has chosen for these responsible duties his own Agricultural Adviser indicates that the contemplated improved social welfare in the West Indies is to be founded on economic, that is predominantly agricultural, welfare. SIR FRANK is well fitted to fill the dual position of architect and master builder of the new British West Indies. His personal experience of those Colonies dates back to 1905 when he was appointed Mycologist and Agricultural Lecturer on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, formed some seven years previously on the recommendation of the Royal Commission of 1897. He was subsequently for four years, 1908 to 1912, Assistant Director of Agriculture in British Guiana, then Director of Agriculture for a similar period in Mauritius and for thirteen years in Ceylon. His wide experience and administrative ability brought him to the Colonial Office to fill the newly formed post of Agricultural Adviser in 1929. In that capacity SIR FRANK has not only been directly concerned with every important agricultural development in all the Colonies but in his numerous tours he has visited most of them, renewing his acquaintance with conditions in the West Indies in 1932.

It is thus in no sense of flattery that we say that there is no one with such a wide and such a practical first-hand knowledge of agricultural conditions in the Colonial Empire. It may be urged that agricultural development in the West Indies is already well provided for. There is the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, efficient local departments of agriculture and the new Inspector General of Agriculture is already on his way out. It must be remembered, however, that as the Royal Commission pointed out the support of the increasing population and the improvement of living conditions in the West Indies must largely depend on the more intensive use of the soil in the direction, on the one hand, of mixed farming, with greater home production of food-stuffs, and on the other of improving the position of the agricultural exporting industries. One important function of the Welfare Fund must thus necessarily be to act as a fertilising influence to promote agricultural and, in consequence, social welfare. We are confident that with SIR FRANK's personal wide knowledge and administrative experience supplemented by the help of an expert staff, the Welfare Fund will be used to secure, to the fullest possible extent, the economic and social advancement of the British West Indies.

From a Londoner's Notebook

WHEN historians come to assign a name to the present conflict, it seems likely that they will have to call it the War of the Traitors. Even the shameful examples of Major Quisling, the Norwegian accomplice of Hitler, and King Leopold of the Belgians, who deserted his post in the crisis of the battle, had not prepared us for the revelation that the most famous soldiers of France were quite unworthy of the gallant people they claimed to lead. The world can form no right judgment on the tragic decision to seize the French fleet without first realizing the depth of the betrayal of which Marshal Petain and his colleagues have been guilty.

* * *

Mr. Churchill's account to Parliament of these deplorable events has been universally acclaimed as one of the greatest and most moving speeches of his career. He recalled the solemn promises exchanged between Great Britain and France that neither would make peace without the other. The late French Prime Minister, M. Reynaud, was entirely faithful to his plighted word, and, when his military advisers insisted that it was necessary to sue for an armistice, he asked the British Government to release him from his undertaking. There can be no reproach to him for acknowledging the hard fact of defeat; and the British Government eventually agreed to release France from her promise, on the reasonable condition that, before the surrender, the French fleet should be placed out of reach of the Germans in British ports. But before M. Reynaud could comply with this condition he was overthrown and the new Cabinet was formed to negotiate with the Germans and Italians.

* * *

Marshal Petain proceeded to surrender on the most abject terms, with no regard whatever for the Ally whom he was leaving to face the enemy alone. One of his acts of betrayal, quoted by Mr. Churchill, was to cancel an order already given by M. Reynaud for transferring 400 captured German air pilots to safe custody in England, and to hand back these men, many of whom had been engaged in bombing or shooting down civilian refugees on the roads of France, to continue this evil work in Great Britain. But his real stab in the back of England, if he had been allowed to carry it out, would have been vastly more dangerous. By ordering the whole French Navy, the second largest in Europe, to surrender to the enemy, he was threatening to neutralize that mastery of the seas on which the future of liberty in the world, and the only hope for the ultimate restoration of his own country, now entirely depends. The promise on which he pretended to rely, that the French ships would not be used in the prosecution of the war, depended on the word of Hitler, and no statesman in the world would attach the slightest weight to it.

* * *

In these circumstances the action ultimately taken by the British Government was the only one possible, and was fully justified by the Marshal's breach of faith, excessively painful as it was to turn the guns of the Royal

Navy upon their recent comrades-in-arms. It is clear that in the distressing affair at Oran, of which all the world knows, the British Admiral Somerville—who had been responsible for saving 100,000 French soldiers at Dunkirk—was striking against Germany, not France. As the result of the whole series of actions we now know that the larger part of the French fleet has been put out of the enemy's power, and the terrible danger threatened by the terms of the Petain armistice has been averted. In the fortnight of suspense since the armistice was signed rumours had gained currency, especially in America, that England might follow the example of her Ally and make peace. It may be assumed that this bold *coup* has silenced such rumours once for all. Alone now in the cause of liberty, the Empire will fight on at any cost until victory is achieved.

* * *

The sense that we now confront our dangers alone has had the most exhilarating effect on the British people, who fully understand their danger but are absolutely resolute to meet and overcome it. All the coasts of Europe from the North Cape to Brittany are ranged against us, and accounts are coming in of the assembly of transports in Norwegian and Dutch ports, presumably intended for invasion. For about a fortnight there have been bombing raids over most parts of the country every night and latterly in the daytime as well. They have been made by comparatively small forces, and have done little damage, but are evidently rehearsals for much more serious attack. Eventually troops and even light tanks may be landed by air. For all these things we are making ready.

* * *

Signs of preparation are everywhere. Concerning the greater ones it is desirable to maintain silence. But the lesser details are conspicuous enough in daily life. Thousands of children have been packed off to the Dominions and Colonies, and to the United States. All round the southern and eastern coasts are protected areas, into which no civilian is admitted without good reason. (The bathers, paddlers and sand-castle builders have been banished from half the beaches of the island.) Every signpost has been removed from the roads, and even the names of railway stations have been obliterated, for fear of helping parachutists to find their way. There has been a mighty rounding-up of aliens. Concrete blockhouses have sprung up in the most unexpected places, and trenches command the bends in country lanes. The Local Defence Volunteers and the Home Defence Battalions, in which men over military age and boys not yet called up have a chance of a shot at the enemy, are on guard everywhere. Meanwhile the Army proper, reinforced by large contingents from all over the Empire, is ready for instant action, the Navy keeps its ceaseless watch and the Royal Air Force maintains the offensive with constant and damaging raids on German territory. There is a very warm reception waiting for Hitler.

The West Indies and The War

ANTIGUA

War Comforts Organisations. When the Administrator and Mrs. Harford left for St. Kitts the wharf was crowded with friends bidding them farewell. Miss Helen Goodwin records that Mrs. Harford organised and for some time ran weekly sewing and knitting meetings for making war comforts for soldiers. This work is now being carried on by Mrs. C. H. Hobson. Two other war comforts organisations have been working for some time—Mrs. J. C. McMichael holds weekly afternoons for ladies to meet and knit, and Mrs. W. McSevney has similar meetings at the Diamond each week. The finished articles are now sent to the War Services Committee at 40, Norfolk Street. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryson who are members of that Committee take a special interest in the distribution of the excellent work contributed.

BAHAMAS

Gift of Aeroplane. Sir Harry and Lady Oakes, of Nassau, recently telegraphed £5,000 to the Ministry of Aircraft Production for the purchase of a fighter aeroplane. Sir Harry, who was created a baronet last year, is a member of the Bahamas House of Assembly.

BARBADOS

Further War Contributions. The Barbados Legislature, which earlier gave £25,000 in aid of the prosecution of the war, has now voted £100,000 as a free gift to Great Britain for the same purpose. In order that local needs should not suffer, it was decided that the money should be made good by additional taxation imposed for a limited period. It was also decided to lend the British Government the whole reserve of the Colony, totalling £100,000, free of interest.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has sent the following telegram to the Governor of Barbados:

"I am desired by His Majesty to request you to convey to the House of Assembly his sincere thanks for their renewed affirmation of loyalty and of their desire to play their part in our common cause. Please convey also His Majesty's Government's warm appreciation of the further timely gift of £100,000 towards the cost of the war voted by the Legislature. It is acts like these which prove, if further proof were needed, that the Empire is never more united than when danger is greatest."

Voluntary War Workers. In the CIRCULAR of May 2nd a gift of £200 to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund from the Barbados Voluntary War Workers Association was reported as making, with a former donation, £300. We are indebted to the Hon. Secretary of the Association for the information that the previous donation was £300, making the total £500.

BRITISH GUIANA

A Gift of £3,000 was received last week by the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund from the People of British Guiana who have now contributed a total of £6,000.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Utmost Assistance Pledged. The Federal Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands and the Antigua Legislative Council, towards the end of June, submitted a resolution (seconded by the planters and the Trade Union) to the effect that they desired, in this time of crisis, to record and declare to H.M. Government the earnest readiness of the people of the Leeward Islands, already expressed in the Presidencies in many forms, to give the utmost assistance to the war effort of the British Commonwealth of Nations by direct contributions of service and material, by increasing local production, by local self-support and organisation of local industries, and by whatever means might be within the powers of the people of the Colony.

Lord Lloyd has asked the Governor to convey his appreciation, on behalf of the Government, of the message contained in the resolution and his admiration of the spirit expressed of all members of the community to assist in the war effort.

The Secretary of State added that they would have learned from the announcement just made of the appointment of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies that the Government were not unmindful of the needs of the West Indies, but that everything that the Colonies could do to help themselves and the Mother Country at this juncture was doubly welcome.

MONTSERRAT

Girls Work for Red Cross. A parcel of comforts has been received by Lady Lethem from Miss Wilson, Commissioner for Girl Guides in Montserrat. The parcel contained 13 pairs of cuffs, 1 helmet, 25 surgical masks, 9 Dorothy bags. These articles have all been made by Girl Guides and girls of the Secondary School, Montserrat. Grateful acknowledgment has been sent by the representative of the Red Cross Depot, Edinburgh.

Useful Gift of Cotton. The bale of raw cotton which the Hon. H. R. Howes generously sent to this country was handed over to the British Red Cross and Order of St. John of Jerusalem. This cotton is being made into pillows, and the Red Cross were particularly grateful for this gift at a time when hospital service is undergoing rapid expansion.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Private War Gift. The sum of £1,150 has been collected privately for presentation to the Government of the United Kingdom for war purposes.

ST. VINCENT

Red Cross Gift. As a result of a collection, the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund has received the sum of £200.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

West Indian Seamen's Fund. In acknowledging the gift of £200 from Messrs. Andrew Weir & Co. the

owners of the s.s. Inverdargle, to the Trinidad and Tobago British West Indian Seamen's Fund, Sir Hubert Young expressed on behalf of the Fund Committee and himself thanks for this spontaneous and generous help. Every section of the community had, he said, taken part in raising the Fund to the splendid total of \$14,915 and it stood as a bulwark against the financial distress which so often accompanied sudden and heart-breaking disaster. All the needy Inverdargle cases were receiving constant care.

"Win the War" Association. As reported in the CIRCULAR of June 13th this Association representing all classes was formed on the initiative of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. In a communication issued to the Press the public are asked to keep themselves prepared for such co-operative work as the Association may advise, and by every means in their power, to do their bit.

Schools to Aid Food Production. With the object of assisting in the Grow More Food Campaign it was agreed at a meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Teachers' Union to form farm and poultry clubs in the primary and intermediate schools. Reference was made to the success achieved by the first Juvenile Farm Club which was started in Tobago two years ago, as mentioned in the CIRCULAR for December 14th, 1939.

Red Cross Special Appeal. On June 2nd Sir Hubert Young appealed to all to join in a great drive for the Red Cross throughout the period June 5th (the Empire Flag Day for the Red Cross) and August 5th (Discovery Day). At the same time Lady Young also appealed for gifts of women's and children's clothing for refugees. His Excellency said he set no limit to the sum he hoped would be collected by Discovery Day, but he hoped it would be in the neighbourhood, not of \$37,000 but £37,000.

A remittance of £10,000 has been cabled to the Joint War Organisations in London, thus raising the Colony's total contribution to overseas funds to £14,000. This £10,000 was the first instalment from the proceeds of the special appeal. The response in three weeks is two and a-half times greater than the Colony's total overseas contribution during the previous nine months of the war.

Imports of Steel and Condensed Milk. As a result of restrictions imposed by H.M. Government a sub-committee of the Colony's Board of Control has been set up to scrutinise all orders for steel and manufactures thereof, irrespective of the source from which it is proposed to order such goods. Orders will only be certified in cases where it is clearly shown that the goods are essential for requirements of the first importance. The Board has also announced that orders for condensed milk from Empire sources will be licensed up to a total of 12,000 cases a month. All orders must be certified by the Board before despatch.

\$5,000,000 in Gifts and a Loan. The Governor has announced that the unofficial members of the Legislative Council unanimously requested His Majesty's Government to accept without interest the loan of \$2,500,000 for the duration of the war. The Secretary of State has asked the Governor to convey to the unofficial members his deep gratification at this further generous gesture. The Colony had previously made

two gifts, amounting to \$2,500,000, in addition to the sums subscribed for the Red Cross Fund and other objects.

The loyalty and devotion of all classes is shown by the following selection of a few observations made by unofficial members when the second gift was discussed in the Council. "A token to mark the indomitable spirit of the B.E.F."—"This is a worker's war and workers are in it to see it won."—"Rich and poor will open their purses. We know what Hitler has done in Germany to working class organisations."—"Every son and daughter of this Colony, side by side."

The War Services Fund

Over £1,000 has been contributed to the War Services Fund of the West India Committee. Since the publication of the last list of subscriptions, the following sums have been received and are gratefully acknowledged:—

	£	s.	d.
Barbados Voluntary War Workers Association	50	0	0
Mrs. Randolph Rust	20	16	8
Sale of Pictures presented by Mrs. John Bromley	10	15	6
P. D. Ince, Esq.			5 0
Previously acknowledged	951	0	11
	£1,032	18	1

Books and Magazines Wanted

There is a constant demand from the men of the three Services for books and magazines. Readers of the CIRCULAR are invited to forward any reading matter, carriage paid, to the War Services Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, who will have it distributed to the best advantage. Books devoted to fiction—especially thrillers—travel and biographies are the most popular.

The First British Sugar Planter

Mr. Noel Deerr contributes to the *International Sugar Journal* for July a short article on "The First British Sugar Planter," the preparation of which has obviously involved much research. He says that although "the first sugar canes planted in the British Empire were those brought in 1616 to Bermuda by Captain Wilmot in the ship *Edwin*, sent for this purpose to the Savage Islands by the Governor, Daniel Tucker, it is Barbados that can claim the credit of being the parent of the British sugar industry."

"Contemporary evidence is at one in ascribing the distinction of being the first, both to plant cane and to make sugar, to a certain Holdip or Holduppe. Thus Major John Scott writing in 1667 records: 'Though the sugar cane has been had from Brazil a few years before by an accident, and was first planted by one Coll. Holdup who was the first that made sugar in Barbados. . . . The sugar cane was brought hither by Pieter Brower of North Holland from Brazil, arriving in 1637.'"

Land Misuse and Rural Poverty

Lessons from Haiti and Puerto Rico

IN 1936, as the result of action initiated by the Jamaica Imperial Association, Mr. A. Wimbush, Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras reported on the forestry problems not only of Jamaica, but also of the Windward and Leeward Islands. In reviewing his report, in the CIRCULAR of September of that year, it was pointed out that the continued prosperity of any agricultural community is fundamentally based on the soil which is its capital. Allow that to be squandered and ruin will inevitably follow. In the tropics, conservation of the soil is often very closely bound up with care of the forests, and Mr. Wimbush's report showed only too clearly that the present position in the islands reported on was very unsatisfactory and the outlook for the future still worse. Mr. C. Swabey, then Assistant Conservator of Forests, Trinidad, was in 1937 appointed Forest Officer Jamaica, and last year he paid a visit to Haiti and Puerto Rico where deforestation and soil erosion are known to be serious. His well illustrated report* deserves careful study throughout the West Indies by all concerned in the vital problem of using the available land to the best advantage to meet the needs of a steadily increasing population.

Mr. Swabey points out that, subject to certain modifications in for example Santo Domingo and Trinidad, the economy of the West Indies as a whole is based primarily on four major factors (a) limited land areas, (b) rapidly increasing population, (c) complete dependence on agriculture and (d) decline in value of primary export crops. In the past extensive methods of agriculture and high export crop values have sufficed to maintain a limited population without rendering land misuse transparently obvious. To-day pressure of population has pushed wasteful cultivation methods on to lands quite incapable of supporting them. The resulting deforestation and soil losses have caused problems of major importance, and it has become necessary to conserve soil and water resources and, at the same time, to provide land for the rapidly increasing population.

HAITI

The Republic of Haiti, with an area of 10,204 sq. miles, has a population of approximately 3,000,000, that is, 294 people to the square mile, compared with 230 in Trinidad, 254 in Jamaica, 1,150 in Barbados and less than four in British Guiana. Mr. Swabey describes the extent to which deforestation in Haiti has proceeded as nothing short of appalling; bar some scrub growth in dry areas and a few thousand acres of degraded mountain pine forest, nothing is left of Haiti's forests. "The effect of this denudation on the economic and social life of the country is disastrous; general rural impoverishment, caused by soil losses and reduction of

soil fertility, marches hand in hand with an ever mounting bill for flood damages, gradual desiccation of once fertile valleys and depletion of water resources, both for domestic and irrigation purposes." Although legislation to prevent deforestation has been passed "the law has remained virtually a dead letter." Mr. Swabey says that insecurity of tenure appears to be a formidable bar to securing satisfactory use of the land. To this he attributes the complete absence of permanent tree crops—mangos, avocados, breadfruit, citrus—in some areas of intensive peasant settlement. Moreover the exclusive use of the land for annual crops has aggravated the evils of deforestation over wide areas. Although Haiti provides "a tragically illuminating picture of the results of excessive denudation of a once fertile and flourishing country" there is, however, he states, some hope that before long active steps may be taken to remedy the situation.

PUERTO RICO

The area of the island of Puerto Rico is 3,400 sq. miles, the population is 1,700,000 giving a density of 500 per sq. mile. As in other of the Greater Antilles there is a central mountain chain, rising to 4,400 ft., surrounded by coastal plains of alluvium or low limestone hills. The rainfall ranges from as low as 20 inches on the Leeward plains to 250 inches in the mountains. Sugar is the dominant crop on the fertile lowland soils while coffee and tobacco are the principal upland cash crops. Density of population has resulted in unsuitable agricultural methods and excessive deforestation followed by the inevitable erosion problems. The extraordinarily cohesive nature of the volcanic soils renders it possible to maintain some sort of cultivation on slopes which in other islands would be completely unproductive. In spite of this, however, the problem of land misuse is of fundamental importance.

Mr. Swabey describes the very complex forest administration and draws an interesting comparison between the £5 per acre per annum spent on the forest area of Puerto Rico and the 9d. per acre per annum in Jamaica.

In Puerto Rico, which is administered as an integral part of the United States, the American conception of forests as recreational areas has been applied. "The forests are opened up with wide asphalted motor roads; there are restaurants, week-end bungalows, swimming pools, trails, shelters, outlook towers, etc., and a trained landscape artist in charge." Mr. Swabey remarks that although one may be tempted to be slightly sceptical of the value of this work, the tourists apparently like it and "one has to discount the green-eyed goddess."

The silvicultural work in various areas is described with particulars of the trees which are being used for afforestation. The Extension Service annually distributes free over a million young plants for windbreaks, timber, coffee, pasture shade and ornamentals. Practic-

* *Forestry and Erosion in Haiti and Puerto Rico.* By C. Swabey, Forest Officer. Department of Science and Agriculture, Jamaica, Bulletin No. 21 (New Series), 1939.

ally all the roads are lined with ornamental and shade trees and "the contrast between the tree-lined roads running through the open cane districts and similar bare and dusty roads in the British islands is extremely striking."

Of special interest and importance is the information he gives respecting the schemes for government land settlements and the complementary activities of the Soil Conservation Service. Plans for the use of the land are drawn up, based on large scale aerial survey sheets, supplemented by soil and crop data. Contour strips and trenches, terraces, outlet channels, etc., are laid out and the settler is then placed on the land and is supposed to carry out a definite cropping programme. Settlers are regarded as tenants for twenty years, by which time their rental payments have made up the purchase price and they become freeholders. During the twenty years as tenants they can be evicted for failure to follow substantially their cropping programme or to maintain their contour drains, etc. The marketing of their crops is undertaken by centralised co-operatives. Mr. Swabey says that "these courageous schemes are a very definite contribution towards solving fundamental problems of land misuse and rural impoverishment which are common to all the islands of the West Indies and their progress should be carefully watched."

The Late Mr. Moody Stuart

In the *Leeward Islands Gazette* for June 6th the Governor of the Colony announced with deep regret the death of Mr. George Moody Stuart on May 30th. After recapitulating his many activities in connexion with the sugar industry, the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the Church and education, the Governor concluded with these words: "Throughout his long connexion with West Indian affairs and particularly in the developments for which he was responsible in the Leeward Islands, Mr. Moody Stuart showed a remarkable prescience, length of view and courage in the maintenance and resuscitation of the sugar industry on the most modern and progressive lines. The islands of Antigua and St. Kitts owe very much to his endeavours and foresight.

"Mr. Moody Stuart was a man of marked personality and high qualities of heart. His passing in the fullness of honour and years will be learned with the deepest regret in every part of the community. The sincere sympathy of the Colony is extended to his daughters and sons."

Colonial Sugar Certificates

Sugar importers have been concerned with the possibility of difficulty arising, owing to war conditions, with the customary financing of Colonial Preference certificates. The West India Committee raised the question with the Sugar Division of the Ministry of Food and has been informed that whilst the risk of any difficulty is very remote, it is recognised that it does exist, and the Treasury have, therefore, authorised the Sugar Division to state that the Ministry of Food will pay the face value of a certificate on the date when it normally expires.

Cost of Living in Jamaica

THE lack of adequate statistical data concerning the conditions of the life of the working people of Jamaica led Mr. F. A. Norman soon after taking up, in June, 1939, the duties of Labour Adviser to institute, as a beginning, a cost of living inquiry. Without such figures it is, as he points out in the report recently published(*), difficult to consider adequately questions of wages, hours of work and other conditions of employment. A conference between officials and prominent social and health workers decided on a plan for a cost of living survey to relate to the poorer or labouring classes of Kingston.

The first task was to ascertain the prices ruling in markets and stores frequented by the section of the population under investigation, for foodstuffs, clothing and household goods habitually purchased by them. Small amounts of foodstuffs ($\frac{1}{4}$ d. and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. worth) were bought and weighed to ascertain whether the purchasers received correct proportionate weight. Subsequent to the initial inquiry price changes in foodstuffs were obtained each month and in clothing and furniture at the end of three months.

The more onerous part of the investigation consisted in visiting 500 families in the urban district of Kingston with the object of securing weekly budgets which would show the income and expenditure of the class under review and the proportions spent on food, clothing, rent, etc. The statistical results of this laborious survey are summarized together with very full notes on various difficulties encountered, and in many cases overcome, which will be of service to others making similar investigations. The conclusion reached is that the survey may be said to have established a base (showing proportional expenditure) on which to reckon all future rises in the cost of living.

The Caribbean Lodge

At a meeting of the Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826) held at the Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, on July 2nd, Bro. Victor Lee was duly installed by Wor. Bro. V. L. G. Gerrard as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and proceeded to invest his officers: Wor. Bro. V. L. G. Gerrard, I.P.M., Wor. Bro. Parrott, S.W., Bro. G. J. Dent, J.W., Wor. Bro. A. Windridge, Treasurer, Wor. Bro. A. L. Jupp, Secretary, Wor. Bro. H. S. Bell, D.C., Bro. E. Palmer, S.D., Bro. A. M. Armour, J.D., Bro. J. C. Lamb, A.D.C., Bro. Cecil Murray, I.G., Bros. H. G. Clark, J. Norman Rose, H. L. Q. Henriques, Bro. T. A. Gall Stewards and Bro. F. G. Warren, Tyler.

The newly installed W.M. is well-known in the Mincing Lane sugar market and is in the service of the British Sugar Corporation.

At this meeting Mr. John Wilfred Freeman, who recently returned from the West Indies, son of Wor. Bro. H. J. J. Freeman, a Past Master of the Lodge, was elected a member and duly initiated into Freemasonry.

(*) Report on the cost of living survey, carried out in Kingston, Jamaica, by the Labour Department, August—November, 1939. Government Printer, Duke Street, Kingston, 1940. Price 3d.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"**E**VERY time fowl lay egg, him try fe tell de whole wull."

* * *

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON, B.Sc., A.M.I.S.E., has been appointed Colonial Engineer of Barbados.

* * *

MR. C. H. V. TALBOT, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Bermuda, has been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary, Grenada.

* * *

SAVA BOTZARIS, the portrait sculptor, is at present in Jamaica, and hopes to visit most of the other West Indian islands.

* * *

A SON—James Michael Gordon—has been born to Mrs. Walker, wife of Mr. H. A. Walker. This happy event took place at Angmering-on-Sea, Sussex, on June 24th.

* * *

MRS. R. E. SIMONS, only daughter of Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott, gave birth to a daughter on May 22nd, and thus made Mr. Elliott a grandfather—a very youthful looking one.

* * *

MR. HERBERT LAURENCE BAYLES, Financial Secretary of Nigeria, who died at Lagos, on June 24th, was Treasurer of Trinidad and Tobago, and chairman of the Agricultural Bank, from 1931-33.

* * *

It was announced in the London Press on July 6th that correspondence for Jamaica and parcels for Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and British Honduras, posted between May 21st and 25th, have been lost through enemy action.

* * *

CAPTAIN H. S. M. HARRISON-WALLACE, R.N. (Retired), who has been appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, "in recognition of services rendered off the Norwegian coast" was for a time a member of the London Committee of the Jamaica Producers' Marketing Co., Ltd.

* * *

DR. H. N. G. HUDSON, whose marriage to Miss Barbara Johnson is announced on another page, is the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hudson, of "Hope Vale," Port-of-Spain, and an Island Scholar of Grenada. He is at present stationed at Tindal House, Emergency Hospital, Aylesbury.

* * *

It was with great regret that we learned that 2nd Lieut. Edward Percy Jourdain, Royal Sussex Regiment, was killed in action on May 29th. Much sympathy will be felt for his father, Mr. J. H. Jourdain, a director of Blyth, Greene, Jourdain & Co., Ltd., in his great loss.

* * *

SIR LEONARD LYLE was on June 27th returned unopposed as M.P. for Bournemouth in succession to

Sir Henry Page Croft who was recently created a Baron. Sir Leonard, who is the president of Tate & Lyle, Ltd., formerly sat in the House of Commons as member for West Ham, 1918 to 1922, and for Epping, 1923 to 1924.

* * *

On June 29th at St. Mary's Parish Church, Finchley, Flying Officer Lionel Cecil Bartram, R.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bartram, of Oxford, was married to Miss Ida Mollie Souness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Souness. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Stewart F. L. Bernays. Mr. T. Souness is the assistant secretary of the West India Committee and executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Trade section.

* * *

THE Antigua Beach Hotel—to which reference has already been made in the CIRCULAR—is now open to visitors, writes Miss Helen Goodwin. The spacious and airy rooms, the large verandahs, the bar with its modern furniture—all give the impression of luxurious comfort unhampered by formality. The hotel, which occupies the crown of a hill overlooking the sea, about six miles from St. John, commands magnificent views on every side.

* * *

A FEW minutes walk down the garden path is sufficient to reach the bay with its long stretch of white sand and its inviting blue water. The culinary department is in the hands of a trained West Indian chef, and excellent meals are served by an efficient staff.

* * *

LIEUT.-COLONEL M. D. HARREL, who has been appointed an Area Officer in the Devon Special Constabulary, was Inspector-General of Police and Commandant of the local Forces, Barbados, from 1916 to 1925, when he became Inspector-General of Police, Jamaica. One of his sons, as reported on another page in this issue, is serving with the Royal Navy, while another is in the Indian Army.

* * *

CAPTAIN T. DOWDALL HAMPSON, assistant secretary of the West India Committee from 1928 to 1938, and now a Staff Captain in the South of England, has been appointed Staff Officer to the Local Forces in Jamaica. Captain Hampson hopes to reach Jamaica before the end of this month to take up his appointment. His wife, a daughter of Mrs. Parsons and of the late Mr. Dudley Parsons of Kingston, will return to her "home town" with him.

* * *

THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of Medals of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service to William Leslie, Elkanah Williams and Ronald Seivewright of Jamaica. The official announcement records that "during the hurricane period they took off in a canoe, pulled to outside the harbour, and then for over a mile along the coast in the raging sea, and rescued a man on a raft."

Colonial Civil Service

Lord Lloyd's Advice to Cadets

WE are meeting here today under circumstances so remarkable that you might well have hoped you would have been spared an address from the Secretary of State of the day, but I want to say one or two things to you this evening before you go out to break a lance in life's tournament and to govern and protect that strange agglomeration of willing peoples that we misname the British Empire.

I have asked you to come here today to this room of rare recollections in the hope that it might score a mark in your memories for your dramatic take-off in times of great peril, but also of great opportunity.

I sit here, "magni nominis umbra," in the chair of Joseph Chamberlain, Milner, and others who fashioned the destinies of our great Colonial Empire. I say great because of the noble conception in the minds of its creators and of the spirit which still animates it, as witness the splendid rally of every unit, island, and coral reef from the Falklands to Hong Kong, and from Freetown to Fiji.

For the last ten or fifteen years we have been knee-deep in the hostilities of peace, and find ourselves today right up against reality with too little material preparation made, but with the spiritual defences triumphantly strong.

But let us forget about the neglect of the past and come to the present. I know that many of you are asking yourselves whether this is the time to leave your country. You are wondering whether you are doing right in joining the Colonial Service and whether you should not instead be joining the Army or the Navy or the Air Force. You need have no doubts. In the first place you are not leaving your country: you are going from one part of it to another. Then I want to make this clear to you beyond all possibility of misunderstanding: it is the considered view of His Majesty's Government that it is your duty to take up the job for which you have been selected and trained. I want you to regard this as a definite instruction from His Majesty's Government.

Let me explain why we are taking this line. First because there is a lack of man-power in the Colonies and you are trained to meet that need. Here, on the contrary, there is no lack of man-power. We have as many men as we can train.

Secondly, because the war has already brought a great many very difficult problems to the Colonies and it looks as if it would soon bring a great many more. We must have picked men, such as you are, to deal with these problems and to carry on the great traditions of the Colonial Service.

And thirdly, because we must have men, knowing the local people and their language, ready if necessary to join the fighting services in the Colonies themselves. In many Colonies the local forces are already on active service. There will be an increasing demand for officers, and it may well be that sooner or later your Governor will assign you to military service with these local forces.

I do ask you not to think of military service in your Colony as in any sense a "second line" form of service. It may at any time become the front line. The events of the last few days have made that clear to all of us. Africa—and Malaya too—may at any time find itself right in the thick of things. We must have officers there with political training and judgment. For all these reasons I have no doubt that our decision was a right one, and I think you yourselves will agree that this is so.

You are not going to have a soft job. You will indeed have plenty of hard work and not too many of the comforts of life and quite possibly no lack of danger, but I know you would not have it otherwise. When all is said and done you are going out to a grand life. I can speak with some experience, having been nearly 30 years overseas, and I have regretted not a day of those years. Think of the opportunity. In what other task can you have so much power so early? You can at the age of 25 be the father of your people—you can drive the road, bridge the river and water the desert; you can be the arm of justice and the hand of mercy to millions. You can in fact, serve England. You can indeed, in this vital moment, serve something that is greater than England itself. You can serve and secure the cause of Christian civilization.

Our Illustrations

A correspondent in Jamaica writes as follows—

"I regret to see that you have stopped the picture pages of our CIRCULAR, and I have no doubt that 100 per cent. of our membership looked forward to them in every issue: I suppose the exigencies of the moment demand the practice of more and more economy."

That our illustrations were appreciated is a matter for great satisfaction and we hope it may soon be possible to resume their publication. The reason for their omission is not merely economy, though postage alone on the CIRCULAR, since the recent Budget, has increased by £130 per annum, but, because the Government has asked every periodical to use less paper and thus save shipping and other charges.

Marine Insurance on Sugar

The Ministry of Food, Sugar Division, notified brokers on July 1st, that in view of the increase in rates for war risks insurance operative as from 3 p.m. on June 26th, it would be necessary for the percentage to be adjusted as under:—

	<i>Percentage to be covered on Marine for account of Sugar Division</i>
U.S. (Atlantic) and/or U.S. Gulf (Atlantic) and/or Canada (Atlantic)	2
West Indies (including British Guiana and Central America)	2½
South America	3½
Africa (West, South and East, excluding Red Sea ports) via Cape	2½
Australasia via Cape or Panama	3½

THE British residents in the Republic of Honduras have contributed £460 14s. 5d. to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Mining Developments in British Guiana—Jamaica Broadcasts
Church Restoration in Antigua



ANTIGUA

St. Philip's Church. The vestry and parishioners of St. Philip's have proudly realized a great ambition, writes Miss Helen Goodwin. On May 5th, at a thanksgiving service held for the restoration of the church, new pews were dedicated by the Bishop, and a brass tablet with suitable inscription was unveiled by the Acting Governor. For many years the people of the parish have been working towards this end; the church has been re-roofed and re-ceiled; and new pews (several being given by relatives or friends to the memory of past parishioners) added. The completion of the work has been made possible by the sale of an old chalice and paten, "Ye gift of David Dekoster to ye Parish of Saint Phillip in Antigua," as is inscribed on the newly erected tablet by the door. This gift was made to the first church of this parish at Bridgetown, Willoughby Bay, in the 17th century, but records give us no further information about David Dekoster.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 20th, at St. Joseph's Church of Helen Maude, daughter of the late A. E. Collens and Mrs. Collens, and Mr. Charlesworth Ross of Portsmouth, Dominica. Mr. Collens, who died in 1936, was for many years Government Chemist in Antigua. The parents of the bridegroom too are well known to all friends of Antigua. Mr. and Mrs. Ross spent part of their honeymoon at the Beach Hotel, and will reside in Portsmouth, Dominica where Mr. Ross is Magistrate.

More Seaborne News. Another bottle, containing the following message, has been found off the east coast of Antigua:—

"s.s. Heronspool—14/11/39. Attacked by U boat; we will fight to the last man. J. Jones. Chief Engineer." This bottle was handed to the police on April 30th, 1940.

Grant from the Welfare Fund. The Acting Administrator has announced with pleasure that a free grant of £4,900 has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the West Indian Welfare Fund to be expended on relief works. Amongst the more important objects for which the grant will be used are minor roads and village streets, £1,500; special repairs to the prison, £1,200; Falmouth district water supplies, £550; clearing bush near villages, £500; repairs to camp quarters at English Harbour, £450; clearing and fencing communal pastures at Barbuda, £300.

BAHAMAS

Crawfish Industry. By an Order-in-Council made on May 8th the crawfish has been declared a marine product which may be packed, preserved, or otherwise prepared for export, in the factory of the Grand Bahama Packing Co., Ltd.

BARBADOS

Water Shortage. In February this year the Government of Barbados urged strict economy in the use of water owing to the possibility of a serious shortage. The Colonial Secretary states in the *Official Gazette* of April 29th that the position has deteriorated and the yield of water has again diminished. He therefore asks members of the public to co-operate with the Waterworks Department by using the minimum quantity of water and exercising every possible care to prevent waste.

BRITISH GUIANA

Legislative Council Elections. Our Honorary Correspondent wrote on April 23rd that a Public Meeting held in the Town Hall, Georgetown, on April 3rd, under the auspices of the various Trades Unions, to consider the question of postponing the General Elections for the Legislative Council (which are due to take place next autumn) pending action being taken on a recommendation of the Royal Commission for the extension of the franchise. A resolution was passed requesting that the Secretary of State be approached for postponement of the elections until the requisite changes have been made in the Constitution, and asking that such changes should be carried out immediately.

Demerara Bauxite Company Ltd. It is reported in the Press that, in order to be in a position to supply anticipated increased requirements of bauxite this year and in 1941, the company is undertaking the installation of additional machinery and equipment at its plant and mines up the Demerara river.

Mr. E. S. S. Burrowes, Class 1 clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, has been appointed an Inspector of Labour in the Department of Labour and Local Government.

The Swingler Murder Case. On May 9th, writes our honorary correspondent, Ramjeet Singh, a chauffeur and motor-mechanic, was unanimously acquitted of the murder of the late Mr. W. T. Swingler, resident engineer of the Port Mourant sugar estate, after a protracted trial in the Supreme Court in its criminal jurisdiction. [A brief report of the murder, which took place on December 22nd of last year, was given in the CIRCULAR of January 11th and a more detailed one in the issue of March 21st, p. 71. Ed. W.I.C.C.]

The Cuyuni Goldfields Ltd., a company incorporated in Canada, has recently been registered in the Colony with the intention of carrying on a mining business. The capital stock is 5,000,000 shares, without nominal or par value provided the shares do not exceed \$1 each. Mr. Archibald Kenneth Leitch is the manager and company director.

Adulteration of Milk. There is in Georgetown a

large number of milk vendors whose milk is beyond reproach, on the other hand there are many selling milk adulterated to an almost unbelievable extent. Recently a case was brought to court by the Chief Sanitary Inspector where three samples of milk, taken from the vendor, showed on analysis added water to the extent of 11.7, 16 and 10.6 per cent. respectively. The Inspector stated that the vendor normally sold 43 gallons of milk per day. His rate of adulteration was about one pint per gallon. Taking 40 gallons of milk per day, the accused in a year would have sold 1,825 gallons of water for \$547.50. During the last ten years the vendor had had five convictions for adding water for which he had paid fines totalling \$72.50 while on the above figures he would have received \$5,475 during the period for selling water. He was fined \$50, or two months imprisonment, and ordered to pay \$2.40 costs.

DOMINICA

Social Welfare. The Administrator has appointed a social welfare committee consisting of the Agricultural Superintendent (chairman), the Senior Medical Officer, the Education Officer and the District Officer, Northern District.

GRENADA

Mr. R. A. Kelly who has been appointed Colonial Treasurer, Collector of Customs and Excise, Manager of the Government Savings Bank, Registrar of Shipping, etc., arrived on April 20th.

JAMAICA

Jamaica's Loyalty. The Governor stated in the Legislative Council, on June 5th, that he had received a reply from the Imperial Government expressing very deep appreciation and grateful thanks for the attitude taken by the honourable members, and for their expression of confidence in the ultimate result of the war.

2nd Lieutenant Sewell. The War Office has reported the death in action of 2nd Lieutenant David William Berre Sewell, of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. Mr. Sewell, who was 22 years of age, was the elder son of Brig.-General H. S. Sewell, Custos of Tre-lawny.

Jamaica Institute. The Governor, on May 31st, opened the Junior Centre of the Jamaica Institute. Mr. Robert Verity, Supervisor of the centre, dealt in his address with the Junior Free Library, the Carnegie and School Library Services and the other educational activities which were being undertaken by the centre.

A Daily Local Broadcast Service was inaugurated by the Hon. B. H. Easter, Information Officer, in a talk given from the Government Broadcasting Station on June 3rd.

MacPhail—Wortley. On June 1st, Mr. Frank MacPhail, son of Mrs. MacPhail and the late Dr. Digby MacPhail, was married to Miss Hope Wortley, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Wortley, at Half-Way Tree Parish Church.

Major A. L. Allwood. The death took place, on June 4th, near Chapelton, of Major Aubrey Lind Allwood, a member of a well-known St. Ann family established in Jamaica for many generations.

Poultry Industry. On June 5th, the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society

appointed, on the motion of Mr. C. O. Cover, a committee of seven to investigate means of stabilising and developing the poultry industry.

TRINIDAD

The Bishop. June 29th was the 22nd anniversary of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Dr. A. H. Anstey as Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago.

Beekeeping. In his annual report to the Agricultural Society, Mr. E. A. Esmond, Inspector of Apiaries and Instructor in Beekeeping, said that he felt sure that the industry would continue to show marked progress. Beekeepers were making efforts to improve on methods of producing and packing honey for the market and were now able to dispose of their crops at what might be called satisfactory prices. During 1939 the production of honey amounted to 109,138 lb., and the exports to 32,769 lb.

Trade Unions. In a brief annual report, the Registrar, Mr. T. Malcolm Milne, records that at the end of 1939 there were 19 registered Trade Unions in the Colony. Two are employers' and thirteen employees' organisations. The statutory objects of three others are the imposition of restrictive conditions on the conduct of trade and business and one exists for the "provision of benefits to members." The new Unions formed during 1939 were the Civil Service Association, Tobago Industrial and Tailor's Industrial.

TOBAGO

The s.s. Tobago has been withdrawn from the Coastal Service. Mr. Kenneth Reid wrote on April 13th that it was understood that she was now under the Admiralty and whilst the curtailed service would cause inconvenience and some loss, there could be no complaint, if she was helping to win the war.

Mr. Gervaise Casson, who was Private Secretary to the Governor up to a few weeks ago, had sailed for England with His Excellency's two elder sons, who are returning to school.

Weather and Crops. The dry season started rather early but there had been frequent showers, and so far, mid April, the weather this year had been quite good. Cocoa planters were getting to the stage when they could feel less anxiety about their future, with slightly better prices and a fair crop. It was not known what was the Government's policy as regards "Subsidy." Coco-nut planters were not in such a happy position but it was reasonable to suppose that copra prices would return to a more normal level in time, in view of the enormous consumption of fats for war purposes.

The Report of the Royal Commission and the action taken by the British Government to make a start in carrying out some of the recommendations had caused great satisfaction. It was hoped, however, that the principle of the "dole" would not be carried too far—it would, said Mr. Reid, be much better to take steps to see that our produce was sold at a fair price and not subject to unfair competition helped on by subsidies or by "sweated labour." He thought he was right in stating that after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire the "Old Country" still bought slave-grown commodities from other, less enlightened, countries, not to mention Bountiful Sugar from the Continent—with results we know of.

West Indies at Westminster

Price of Sugar

In reply to MR. JAGGER who, on May 29th, asked whether, assuming the present basic allotment of special preference was continued, there would be any reason for a varying price for sugar to be paid to the different Colonies, MR. G. HALL, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies said: "No, the intention is to continue to pay the same basic price to all Colonies."

Bananas and Sugar

On June 26th, MR. SILKIN asked whether, as the food value of bananas was substantially less than sugar while being more expensive, the import of bananas might be reduced, so that the import of sugar might be increased.

MR. BOOTHBY, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, replied that no decrease in the imports of sugar had resulted from any lack of shipping which could have been made good by the transfer of the specially built banana boats to the transport of sugar. Moreover, owing to the different types of shipping employed in these two trades, the adoption of the suggestion would not easily produce the results desired.

West Indies Sugar

MR. ROBERT GIBSON on May 22nd asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether he would consider, with the Minister of Shipping, the releasing of tonnage for the importation from the West Indies of an increased amount of raw sugar to this country in order that the necessary supplies of refined sugar for preserving home-grown fruits and wild fruits would be available, keeping in view the available refining plant available at Greenock and elsewhere. MR. BOOTHBY replied that arrangements had long since been made for the purchase and transport of the whole of the raw sugar supplies available from the British West Indies, and the question of releasing additional tonnage for imports from that source did not arise. On MR. GIBSON inquiring whether the arrangements made took into account the increased plantings of sugar cane in the West Indies MR. BOOTHBY replied: "Yes, Sir."

Increasing Colonial Production

On May 29th COLONEL WEDGWOOD asked the Under-Secretary of State whether he would obtain reports from the Governors of the various Colonies, as to how production and exports, at home or abroad, might be increased up to a maximum, irrespective of the market prices of produce, together with suggestions of fresh plant required for such production, and of the possibility of producing the plant locally or raising a loan locally wherewith to buy the plant.

MR. GEORGE HALL replied that the Secretary of State had carefully considered this suggestion, but did not feel that it would be useful to call for such reports. There was no shortage of Colonial products, but rather a superfluity of them, and the problem was to sell the supplies which were available, rather than to encourage more production. As regards plant, it was exceptional in Colonial conditions for the production of plant to be necessary for an increase of output. In those cases in

which it would be necessary, it was practically certain that plant could be obtained only from the United Kingdom or from foreign sources; and to make it available would involve the diversion of resources from more urgent needs.

West African Cocoa Crop

MR. CREECH JONES (for Dr. Haden Guest) on June 26th asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would reconsider the decision to destroy a large quantity of cocoa in Nigeria and the Gold Coast, amounting in value to about £300,000 and paid for by the British Government; and instead either provide additional storage for twelve months to create a food reserve, in view of possible emergencies, or transfer it to the United States, by gift, for the manufacture of cocoa butter, or give it to the Red Cross for refugees, or civil populations impoverished by war.

MR. GEORGE HALL replied that all the possibilities mentioned were fully considered before the decision was taken. No figure of cost could be given, as the position was being reviewed from month to month. He would remind his hon. Friend that markets to the extent of nearly 300,000 tons annually, which was equivalent to the whole of the Gold Coast crop, had now been lost for the duration of the war. In addition, there were difficulties in providing shipping space for cocoa. Consequently, the existing large storage capacity in West Africa was full to overflowing, and there was an ample reserve of cocoa on which the world markets could draw whenever shipping and other considerations permitted. Additional stores in West Africa would not solve immediate difficulties. Further, even the best quality cocoa would not keep indefinitely without serious deterioration. The question was, however, continuing to receive attention, together with a number of other suggestions which had been received.

MR. CREECH JONES then asked whether the cocoa had been destroyed and MR. HALL said that a very small proportion was being destroyed, but the position was being kept under review and examined once a month.

On the point raised by MR. BURKE that Lancashire cotton exports to the Gold Coast would come to an end unless the people there had means of paying for them. MR. HALL said that the Government had undertaken the responsibility of purchasing the cocoa crop of the Gold Coast and Nigeria. He also informed MR. LIPSON that the Government had considered the suggestion made by the Committee on National Expenditure. [This was to make the fullest use of the available cocoa as a food. See CIRCULAR, June 13th, pp. 146-147. Ed. W.I.C.C.]

ENGAGEMENT

MARTIN-SPERRY—MONEY. The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Anthony Douglas Martin-Sperry, R.F.C., only son of Mr. Cecil Martin-Sperry and the late Mrs. Martin-Sperry, formerly of Georgetown, British Guiana, and Margaret, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Rowland Money, of Windlesham, Surrey.

MARRIAGE

HUDSON—JOHNSON. At St. Richard's Church, Haywards Heath, on May 29th, by Rev. W. P. Wylie, Barbara Louise only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Johnson of "Oakdale," Oathall Avenue, Haywards Heath, Sussex, to Dr. H. N. G. Hudson, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.(Eng.).

Round the Markets

July 9th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below :—

	June 24th.	July 8th.	£ value	4/5.0
Canada ...	4.45	4.45	8	4/11.6
U.S.A. ...	4.03	4.03	8	4/11.6

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are :—

Dividend Latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 9s. 9d. per cent.)	72 72½
3½	War Loan	99½ 99½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	17/6 1
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	1½ 1½
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	31/- 35/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1/- 1/3
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	6d. 1/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1 1½
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/9 3/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/9 3/9
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
—	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	37 41
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/3 13/9
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	4/- 5/-
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	2½ 2½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	1½ 1½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	3/9 6/3
8½	United British Oilfields 6/8	5/3 6/3

COCOA. The market is dull for all descriptions and prices generally are nominal. No business has been reported in fine Grenada and quotations are irregular at from 59/- to 62/6. There is nothing to report in Trinidad on the spot, and good plantation to fine estates continues to be quoted at 65/- to 72/- spot; the first three marks are quoted at 58/- c. & f. West African on the spot is quoted at 34/6 for old crop and 35/6 for new, with only a small business passing.

BALATA. Both sheet and block continue to be quoted at 2/6 nominal, but no sales have been reported during the fortnight.

BANANAS. A steady all-round trade has been done in Jamaicas at the unchanged price, to wholesalers, of £30 5s. per ton delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. The demand has been quiet and the value of Jamaica descriptions is unchanged at 80/- to 90/- ex wharf, for dark liquid to pale amber, and at 92/6 to 97/6 for pale to white.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. The nominal value of Handpressed is unchanged at 45/- per lb., but sellers of Distilled now ask 27/6 per lb. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand for Concentrated, and Raw is quiet and unchanged at 2/9 to 3/- per gallon, nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is now quoted nominally at 6/6 per lb., and Bitter, which is wanted, is worth about 11/6 per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** has been lifeless during the fortnight and values are nominal at 10½d. per lb. spot, ex wharf, and 95/- c.i.f. for shipment. Jamaica **Ginger** has been quiet and prices are unchanged at 50/- per cwt. ex wharf for No. 3 old crop parcels, and 52/6 for bright small new crop No. 3. The No. 2 medium is valued at about 57/6 to 60/- and medium No. 1 at 62/6 to 65/-. Prices of **Nutmegs**

show no change at 7½d. for sound unassorted, 9d. for sound 80's and 10d. for sound 65's, ex wharf. There is nothing doing in **Mace** which is quoted at 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale and 2/6 to 2/7 for choice pale.

Company Reports & Meetings

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

The directors on June 13th declared an interim dividend of 12½ per cent. (7½d. per share), less income tax at 4/3 in the £ in respect of the year ending September 30th, next, payable on July 20th. This is at the same rate as a year ago.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The report for 1939 shows that the profit for the year, after providing £214,012 for depreciation, amounted to £134,303, to which is added £22,062 brought forward, making a total of £156,365. The dividend (less income tax) on the 8 per cent. preference shares absorbed £22,233, leaving a balance of £134,132.

The directors recommend that a dividend of 7d. per share, less income tax at 4/9.92d. in the £, be paid on the ordinary shares, absorbing £99,575, leaving a balance of £34,557 to be carried forward.

The company, in common with other oil companies, has not published reports of production since the war. In accordance with this policy, no figures of crude oil production are given in the report, but it can be stated generally, that the rate of development was maintained with satisfactory results.

Exploration drilling in the Cedros Peninsula was continued during most of the year with two strings, but without obtaining production on a commercial scale. Since the prospects of this field do not appear to be attractive, the directors have decided to transfer from share premium account to exploration reserve account the sum of £200,000, bringing the latter account up to £250,000.

In view of war conditions, all the companies operating in Trinidad applied to the Government for a moratorium on the rentals and working obligations of Crown licences and leases. This was not granted, but a further extension for 12 months of all exploration licences has now been given, together with a suspension of the issue of leases for alienated lands.

Exploration work and test drilling was continued by Trinidad Northern Areas Ltd., but the results of the first two wells were negative, both being completed as dry holes.

With the somewhat larger production and increased purchases of oil, the refinery was working at maximum capacity during most of the year. The construction of the new distillation unit, which should have been completed in the autumn of 1939, was delayed by war conditions. It was, however, completed early in 1940 and is operating satisfactorily. An increase in Gulf prices in the latter part of the year made the average return on products somewhat higher than that for 1938.

THE importation into Jamaica of medicaments of any nature, the formula or composition of which is not clearly printed in the English or French language on the container, will be prohibited from January 1st next.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. JULY 25th, 1940. No. 1091.

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40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.

July 24th, 1940.

Bahamas Royal Governor

THE appointment of a member of the Royal Family as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of a Colony is a memorable event. The news that HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF WINDSOR, K.G., is to be Governor of the Bahamas—one of Britain's oldest territories—has given profound satisfaction not only to the Colony which he will administer but throughout the British West Indies, emphasizing the strength of the attachment between them and the Mother Country and clearly demonstrating their importance to the Empire.

The DUKE OF WINDSOR succeeds the HONOURABLE SIR CHARLES DUNDAS who, with an interval, has been associated with the Bahamas, first as Colonial Secretary and then as Governor, since 1927. SIR CHARLES and LADY DUNDAS will carry with them to Uganda the good wishes of innumerable friends and the gratitude of all classes in the Bahamas.

The DUKE will no doubt have vivid recollections of his tour of the Caribbean in 1920 on his way to and from Australia and New Zealand. Travelling from England in H.M.S. Renown, he called at Barbados and on the homeward journey visited many of the other West Indian islands and the mainland Colony of British Guiana.

In June 1921, after his return, he was the guest of honour at a banquet given by the West India Committee, one of the most important of many notable gatherings in its long history. A large and distinguished company assembled under the chairmanship of the late Earl of Harewood whose presence in the chair was particularly appropriate not merely because he was then the President of the West India Committee but because his family have held estates in Barbados for some two centuries. Replying to the toast of "Our Guest" His Royal Highness left his hearers in no doubt of his deep-felt appreciation of the enthusiastic reception accorded him in the Caribbean Colonies. The impression made on him may be summed up in his own words: "I did have a wonderful time." Expressing regret that it had not been possible for him to visit Jamaica, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis, he added: "Next time I will go to these islands and I hope to be able to include the Bahamas." It is of interest to recall that on this occasion the toast of "Prosperity to the British West Indies coupled with the West India Committee" was proposed by MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The appointment of the DUKE OF WINDSOR to

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		SIR CHARLES C. F. DUNDAS	185
BAHAMAS ROYAL GOVERNOR...	177	EDUCATION IN THE WEST INDIES	186
WAR SERVICES	177	EXAMPLE BETTER THAN PRECEPT	186
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	178	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER...	186
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	179	TROPICAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	186
LADIES' WAR SERVICES COM-		COMPANY REPORTS AND	
MITTEE ...	181	MEETINGS	187
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ...	183	ORITUARY...	187
COLONIAL WIRELESS CHAIN ...	183	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	188
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	184	PETROLEUM PRODUCTION	188
FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	185	BRITISH GULANA AND WOOD PULP	188

administer the Bahamas will add another chapter to the story of the association between our Royal House and the British West Indies. Far back in the eighteenth century Prince William Henry, afterwards Duke of Clarence (and later King William IV) served as a naval officer on the West Indies station, which Nelson called the Station of Honour. A few years later his brother Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, took part, as a soldier, in the reduction of Martinique and St. Lucia. Some sixty years afterwards came the famous visit, as naval cadets, of Prince George (afterwards King George V) and his brother Prince Albert Victor in H.M.S. Bacchante. That visit was followed by a period of service on the American and West Indies station by Prince George, who, it will be remembered, commanded H.M.S. Thrush. History was destined to repeat itself as the Prince George of to-day, now Duke of Kent, like his father, served on the same naval station. At a later period the Duke of Kent spent part of his honeymoon in the West Indies. Our present King, as Prince Albert, also visited some of the Colonies in 1913, when he sailed the Caribbean as a naval cadet in H.M.S. Cumberland. The Duke of Gloucester has also visited Jamaica.

The welcome which awaits the new Governor and the Duchess of Windsor, who are shortly leaving for the Bahamas, will be enhanced by the pride which every Bahamian feels in the honour paid to his historic Colony. Proof of this has been given by the unprecedented action of the Bahamas House of Assembly in passing two resolutions, one to be sent to the King thanking him for appointing the Duke as Governor and the other to the Duke conveying the Colony's welcome.

War Services

THE Report of the Ladies War Services Committee of the West India Committee, published in this issue of the CIRCULAR, affords striking testimony to the energy and zeal with which the peoples of the West Indies have thrown themselves into the task of providing comforts for men of the Forces—whether in the field, at sea, in the air, or in hospital—and for refugees. The object of the Ladies Committee has throughout been to secure that all the outcome of this magnificent voluntary effort should be used to the best possible advantage and that the generosity and patriotism which inspired it should receive full recognition. All readers of the Report will, we feel sure, agree with us that this object has been fully attained.

From a Londoner's Notebook

HITLER'S speech to the Reichstag on July 19th was heard perfectly in London, the English translation being most cleverly synchronized on the wireless with occasional interpolations of the actual voice of the speaker—much more restrained in tone than usual. Apart from this characteristic exhibition of German technical efficiency, there was little to be said for it. The Führer seemed to be speaking mainly for internal consumption, and such of it as was addressed to his enemies or the outside world contained hardly anything definite enough to require an answer.

* * *

The speech culminated in an appeal to the "common sense" of Great Britain to make peace and so spare the world the immense suffering that must come of the continuance of war to the death. But it was obvious that this "peace offer," for all Hitler's evident desire to appear moderate and reasonable, was mere words, seeing that no suggestion of terms accompanied it. There can be no doubt that any terms he might offer, if they did not demand unconditional surrender, must at least be based on British acceptance of what he calls the new order in Europe. It so happened that Mr. Roosevelt earlier in the day had supplied the answer, when he denounced this new order as not new at all, but the oldest kind of tyranny known to the world, a sheer relapse into the barbarism of the dark ages. With this answer the British people may be content to associate themselves; they will fight on to the ultimate extremity and will not lay down their arms until not only their liberty is secured, but every nation in Europe is released from this hideous system of slavery.

* * *

The peace offer has been followed up by an unofficial conjecture, coming from German sources by way of Japan, of the nature of the terms that Hitler has in mind. The two points quoted are a reduction of British armaments and the displacement of Mr. Churchill and his friends in favour of a government centred on Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Oswald Mosley. The first point evidently represents Hitler's hope for a weakened Britain, which he can devour afterwards at his leisure, and no time need be wasted upon it. The second betrays his complete ignorance of our public men and their standing with the people. Sir Oswald Mosley, who is at present under lock and key, has never been regarded, by the overwhelming majority of us, as anything but a bad joke. Mr. Lloyd George being the hero of the last war, is perhaps assumed to be the British Petain; if so, Hitler's delusion is pathetic, for the Prime Minister himself is not more adamant than this veteran in his determination to see the struggle through. As for Mr. Chamberlain, though the nation has never regretted compelling him to make way for a more dynamic personality, he is known to be completely at one with the Prime Minister, whose efforts he is faithfully seconding.

* * *

The real interest of these so-called peace terms is

that they harmonize with the repeated attempts in Hitler's speech to sow discord between the British people and their leaders. Again and again he sneered at Mr. Churchill as a war-monger, condemning his dupes to unimaginable horrors at the hands of the German conqueror while he himself would by that time have escaped to safety in Canada. There is of course not the faintest chance that this childish propaganda will have any effect in England. Mr. Churchill is accepted by all parties as the very embodiment of the nation; his prestige has never stood higher, and his vigorous leadership is breathing redoubled courage into all of us. It is true that he has warned Hitler that, even if the mother country should be conquered, we should fight on in the Empire overseas; but the Nazis are nursing a pathetic delusion if they think that such a desperate expedient is already within sight.

* * *

Indeed there was clear evidence in Hitler's speech that he himself is already disillusioned upon this point. Its most striking feature was that, although he was so recently and so stridently proclaiming his intention to dictate peace in London on August 15th, he was now concerned to prepare his people for the probability of a long war. There was no word about a coming *Blitzkrieg*; on the contrary, he used his best eloquence to persuade his hearers that Germany could hold out against the British blockade, "however long the war may last." The significance of this change of tone needs no emphasis.

* * *

On the other hand, we cannot infer from this that the intention to invade the British Isles has been abandoned. On the contrary, when the arch-deceiver speaks thus, there is all the greater need for vigilance; and the country is standing on guard more resolutely than ever before. The key-note is struck by Mr. Churchill's declaration that we would rather see London laid in ruins than tamely and abjectly enslaved.

* * *

As evidence how seriously the capital itself takes the threat there is the report of the Civil Defence Committee of the London County Council. From this document it appears that in London alone there are about ninety feeding centres, continuously staffed, for the provisioning of people rendered homeless by air-raids; there are 100 depots, manned by 10,000 men, for such purposes as rescue from the ruins of demolished buildings; 20,000 members of the auxiliary fire service, with 320 stations added to the usual sixty; besides the vast organization of the air-raid wardens. What has been done in London is only typical of a network of preparations covering the whole country.

* * *

For active military defence we now have a million and a-half men under arms in Great Britain, a greater force than ever before in history. Over and above these there have been enrolled in a few weeks over a million men for the Local Defence Volunteers, or Home Guard, four-fifths of whom are trained soldiers of the last war.

The West Indies and The War

We publish below the third list of men connected with the West Indian Colonies who are serving in H.M. Forces. Any assistance which our readers can give to

make this record both complete and accurate will be greatly appreciated. The previous lists appeared in the CIRCULAR of May 16th and June 27th.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
AITKEN, HARRY	Jamaica	5th Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	Lieutenant
BARRETT, C. D. H.	Jamaica	Royal Tank Regiment	
BURROWS, JAMES TAYLOR, B.A.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Flying-Officer
CANE, JACK RICHARD	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	1st Class Aircraftsman
CARYLL, NOEL BRIAN	Jamaica		
CROSSWELL, H. D., M.B., B.S.	Jamaica	Royal Army Medical Corps	Captain
DE ROUX, LOUIS	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	1st Class Air-Mechanic
EARLE, EDWARD F. H.	Jamaica	Middlesex Regiment	
GIDEON, T. R.	Jamaica		Captain
GRANNUM, COLIN	Jamaica	Royal Army Service Corps	
HARREL, D. B.	Jamaica	Indian Army	2nd Lieutenant
HARREL, H. T.	Jamaica	Royal Navy	Lieutenant
HARRISON-WALLACE, H.S.M., D.S.O.	Jamaica	Royal Navy	Captain
HAYWARD, CHARLES H.	Trinidad	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Lieutenant
KIEFFER, J.	Jamaica	Royal Army Pay Corps	Private
LEACH, ANTHONY, M.C.	Jamaica	Fleet Air Arm	Wing Commander
PITTS, REX	Trinidad	Royal Air Force	Sergeant
POWELL, E. B.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force (Specialist Signalling Branch)	
POWELL, G. K.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	
POWELL, G. T. WYNNE	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Flying-Officer
POWELL, J. A.	Jamaica	Southern Rhodesian Air Force	Squadron-Leader
RHODES, J. W. P., M.C.		Gordon Highlanders	2nd Lieutenant
ROBERTSON, S. A. F.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Flying Officer
ROBERTSON, R. A. A.	Antigua	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Lieutenant
SCOTT, T. A. II.	Trinidad	Royal Marines	Lieutenant
SMART, DAVID BARRINGTON...	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Air Force	
VALENTINE, E.	Jamaica	115th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery	Gunner

BAHAMAS

A Gift of £1,344 has been received by King George's Fund for Sailors from a committee formed recently in the Colony to help the Fund.

Other Help. The Bahamas Citizens' War Relief Committee recently started a drive for £10,000 to buy an American Curtiss dive bomber as a gift to Britain, and the War Materials Committee is making a first shipment of scrap metal and canned Bahamian fruit as a gift. The local Branch of the British Red Cross has sent 13,000 articles, made by voluntary workers, and £500.

BRITISH GUIANA

A Further £10,000 has been received from the residents of Georgetown towards the cost of bomber and fighter aeroplanes.

Shouldering the Burden. The Legislative Council unanimously passed a resolution expressing the desire of all inhabitants of the Colony to assist, as far as lies in their power, in the successful prosecution of the war

by relieving His Majesty's Government of the burden of rendering financial assistance to the Colony during the period of the war. The Resolution, in conveying the profound loyalty and support of all the people of the Colony to His Majesty's Government "waives any claim to reimbursement to His Majesty's Exchequer of the sum of \$250,000 authorised as a grant to cover expenditure on special work this year and any further contribution or payment from the Colonial Development Fund towards the cost of work now in progress and that this Council further pledges itself to provide the necessary funds for maintenance and continuance of all services relating to the government of the Colony during the war to the utmost limit of our available resources."

Lord Lloyd in expressing the Government's appreciation of the message and grateful acceptance of the offer, said "This practical demonstration of the deep loyalty of the people of British Guiana is a source of very real satisfaction to His Majesty's Government. It affords yet another striking example of the determination and unity of the Colonial Empire in the just cause for which

we are fighting and their belief in ultimate victory.

BRITISH HONDURAS

£2,000 for Red Cross. A gift of £1,000 to the Red Cross Fund, bringing the total to £2,000, has been made on behalf of the people of British Honduras.

JAMAICA

The Jamaica War Fund passed the £50,000 mark on June 18th.

The Jamaica Bombing Planes Fund, collected by the *Daily Gleaner*, now exceeds £35,000.

On receipt of the sum of £20,000 for the first bomber, Lord Beaverbrook cabled to the *Daily Gleaner* as follows:—

"I have the most immense pleasure and satisfaction in acknowledging, on behalf of His Britannic Majesty's Government, the magnificent gift which Jamaica makes through the *Gleaner* to the strengthening of Britain's defences.

"I have at all times recognised that Jamaica means much to the imperial structure. It has a high place in the hearts of all who cherish the vision of a United Empire. Now they see their faith justified by your noble gift in their hour of peril. I am proud to send the gratitude of Britain to the people of Jamaica. We shall not forget."

Lord Beaverbrook subsequently cabled on June 21st, on receipt of a further £5,000:—

"The second plane will be named according to your desire Jamaica No. 2. On the eve of battle we are sustained in spirit by Jamaica's devotion and defended in our homes by two powerful 'Jamaicas' about to take the skies."

Subsequently £10,000, for the purchase of two more bombers (Jamaica No. 3 and Jamaica No. 4), was transmitted from the Colony.

New Control Board. The Imports and Exports and Prices (Foodstuffs) Board, the Imports Restrictions (Hardware, Materials, Fuel, etc.) Board, and the Exports and Prices (Hardware, Materials and Fuel, etc.) Board, having completed their fundamental tasks of defining the policy to be adopted in regard to the control of prices and of imports and exports, have now been abolished and the undermentioned Board appointed to carry on the policy inaugurated by them:—

Imports, Exports and Prices Board: Mr. F. E. V. Smith, Food Controller, chairman; Hon. A. H. Hodges, H.M. Trade Commissioner, the Canadian Trade Commissioner, Mr. W. D. Bruce, Mr. H. J. Evennett, Mr. G. Hargreaves, Mr. P. E. N. Mortimer, Mr. W. Torrie and Mr. D. J. Verity.

ST. LUCIA

A First Instalment of £2,100 towards the cost of a fighter aeroplane has been received from the people of the Colony.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The "Fighter Fund." The special fund started early in June by the people of Trinidad towards the purchase of a fighter and other aeroplanes for the defence of the mother country has grown very rapidly. The people of Trinidad were asked by the Appeal Committee, the president of which is Sir George Huggins, to show their gratitude for the great benefits they have received from the Mother Country, and they have given quickly and generously. By mid-July two sums of £21,000 each had been received by the Secretary of State who, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, accepted them with gratitude, and "as a further tangible and generous expression of loyalty and determination in our hour of trial." As an instance of the

spirit of sacrifice shown we may quote the *Trinidad Guardian* which records that a cheque for \$1,000 sent as a first instalment from the Officers, N.C.O.'s and Gunners of a coast defence battery was accompanied by a note from the Commanding Officer stating that the money had been subscribed spontaneously from all ranks and represented in many cases the men's total pay for periods up to two months and more. In numerous other cases the men have undertaken to contribute from one-half to three-quarters of their pay for periods of several weeks.

The Navy Fund. In accordance with the objects with which the Fund was started by Mrs. Walter Short, one of the survivors of the Simon Bolivar disaster (see CIRCULAR of March 21st, p. 66), £500 has been forwarded to the Admiralty for distribution to officers and men of H.M. ships who took part in the rescue work, as a partial recompense for clothing and personal effects so willingly given up to survivors. The balance, some £170, will be sent to the King George's Fund for Sailors.

Scrap Iron for Great Britain. According to the *Trinidad Guardian* about 200 tons of scrap iron had been collected to send to Great Britain, and it was estimated that approximately 2,000 tons would be obtained. £500 to meet the cost of breaking up, etc., had been readily subscribed. Labour and transport in the Colony were being provided free, as also handling and shipment by lightermen, stevedores and drogher owners.

Help for War Funds. At the Flower Show, held by the Horticultural Club in June, nearly \$200 was raised for the Red Cross by the sale of teas, ices, cut flowers, fruit and vegetables. The British Red Cross Fund benefited by approximately \$300 from a competition between Brechin Castle and Pointe-a-Pierre Golf Clubs held on the Brechin Castle course. The hon. treasurer of the Trinidad St. Dunstan's Association for the Blind reports that \$1,827 was obtained by sales on Cornflower Day.

£10,000 for Aircraft. The London Press reports that Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister of Aircraft Production, has sent a letter expressing to "a Trinidadian," the anonymous donor of £10,000 worth of 3½ per cent. War Loan for the purchase of aircraft, his deep gratitude for "the splendid gift."

A LETTER has been received from the Colonial Office asking that the warm appreciation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies be conveyed to the West India War Services Committee and the Ladies Committee for the assistance given to the survivors of the Simon Bolivar disaster.

FLYING OFFICER PENRITH BEAUCHAMP, R.A.F., who was recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, was born in Dominica 24 years ago. He is a son of Mr. A. K. Beauchamp, formerly Headmaster, Dominica Grammar School and Inspector of Schools, St. Lucia, and of Mrs. Beauchamp (née Baynes) formerly of Antigua. Mr. A. K. Beauchamp retired from the Nigerian Service (Education Department) two years ago.

MR. P. V. DURRAD, a member of the staff of the West India Committee for over three years, has been called to the Colours and is serving as a gunner in the 39th Signal Training Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Ladies' War Services Committee

First General Report to June 30th, 1940

PATRON: H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: †Lady Aspinall, Lady Burdon, O.B.E., †Lady Burns, Lady Byatt, Lady Cordeaux, Lady Denham, Lady Evans, Mrs. Gordon Gordon, †Lady Grier, †Mrs. J. Gordon Miller, Lady Olivier of Ramsden, Lady Robertson, Lady Rodwell, Lady St. Johnston, Lady Seton-James, Lady Stubbs, Lady Thomson.

† Also members of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Lady Davson, O.B.E.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Lady Wilson.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: Mrs. R. Beaumont, Mrs. J. Bromley, Mrs. R. Bryson, Mrs. H. de Pass, Mrs. J. Alan de Pass, Mrs. Alexander Elder, Mrs. W. G. Freeman, Mrs. T. Greenwood, Mrs. H. L. Q. Henriques, Mrs. T. Harrison Hughes, Mrs. C. Murray, Mrs. T. H. Naylor, Mrs. Kenneth Previté, Mrs. L. Rose, Mrs. H. A. Walker, Mrs. G. B. Westwood.

HONORARY SECRETARY: Mrs. V. Hoyle.

Formation of the Committee

The Ladies War Services Committee of the West India Committee was formed on November 17th, 1939, with the cordial approval of the Colonial Office, to give information, advice and help to the voluntary organisations set up in the West Indian Colonies, and to assist them to provide comforts and surgical supplies for the men of the fighting Forces. Further it was arranged that the offices at 40, Norfolk Street, should be used as a Depot and distributing centre for such gifts and supplies. It was also decided that the Committee should keep in touch with those men coming from the West Indies who are serving in the Forces and auxiliary services, by the distribution of comforts to those either on active service, or in hospital, by re-addressing letters and parcels, by giving supplementary information to relatives in case of illness or wounds, and by making arrangements for hospitality for West Indians on leave. It would also help cases of distress among ship-wrecked West Indian civilians who might find themselves stranded or in hospitals round the coast.

To give effect to these objects and to ensure the smooth working of the organisation, a large and representative Committee was formed composed of wives of members of the Executive of the West India Committee. The Vice-Presidents were nominated from those whose husbands had been officially connected with the West Indies or with the West India Committee.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal graciously consented to become Patron.

The Depot is recognised as an official voluntary organisation by the Admiralty, War Office, the Air Ministry, and the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem as well as by the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations. In May this year the Commissioner of Customs and Excise decided that for the period of war all gifts, with the exception of tobacco, spirits and playing cards, sent from abroad to approved organisations might be imported without payment of duty and without restriction as to their use and also that the West India Committee should be included in the list of organisations entitled to the benefits of this concession. It was further arranged that the dutiable articles might be included duty free in parcels sent to individual Colonials serving with the Forces so long as their contents were clearly stated on the outside, and that they were addressed care of the West India Committee, which, in forwarding them, could be responsible to the Customs Authorities for the bona fide Colonial status of the recipients. This official recognition and these concessions have enabled the Committee, amongst other things, to distribute to special units consignments of citrus fruit and other gifts free of rail charges in this country. All the shipping companies carry these gifts freight free and the following steamship lines have carried on the outward journey

consignments of knitting wool to various organisations free of charge: Jamaica Banana Producers Steamship Co., Ltd. (Kaye, Son & Co., Ltd.), Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and Messrs. Thos & Jas. Harrison, the latter company have consented to carry freight free on both journeys. The Port of London, Liverpool and Bristol authorities have waived port and dock charges on all shipments except on very large consignments of fruit.

Provincial Representation

The assistance afforded by the Committee to the British West Indian survivors of the sinking of the *Simon Bolivar* on November 18th has been fully dealt with in a separate report but it may be noted that as a result of their experience in this case the Committee decided to set up a system of provincial representatives. The following is a list of members and others who are prepared to render assistance to West Indians who may be in need of help through being shipwrecked or in hospital, in, or near their districts.

Glasgow: Mr. and Mrs. John Easton; Chester: Mrs. T. H. Naylor; Bristol: Mr. Caws (Elders and Fyffes); Bournemouth: Mrs. A. Warner; Portsmouth: Mrs. K. Previté; Ipswich and Felixstowe: Dr. and Mrs. Giuseppi; Bury St. Edmunds: Mrs. Bural; Aldebury, Southwold: Mrs. H. B. Wade; Great Yarmouth: Mrs. Aitken.

In addition to these definite coastal places the network formed by those vice-presidents and members who are living out of London affords the Committee a wide range of helpers who would be willing to get in touch with casualties among West Indians should these occur.

Wool

The Ministry of Supply has released a certain quantity of yarn to a firm of export wool manufacturers on behalf of the Committee. This enables the West Indies to buy wool at wholesale rates which is shipped out free of charge, with the exception of insurance, to official organisations in the Colonies who knit it up and return the garments to the Depot for distribution. The Committee has in all shipped 2,591 lb. of wool during the past six months. The following Colonies have availed themselves of this service: Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and Trinidad.

Helpers at Depot

The following members have attended at the Depot and given valuable help in the packing and despatching of parcels: Lady Burns, Mrs. Elder, Mrs. H. de Pass, Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Westwood.

Gifts and Assistance

The following members and friends have sent gifts of comforts to the Depot for distribution with the consignments received from the West Indies: Lady Asser, Miss Bailey, Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Cobden, Lady Davson, Mrs. H. de Pass, Mrs. W. G. Freeman, Mrs. Hoyle, Mrs. Leggett, Mrs. Gordon Miller, the Misses H. and O. Moore (Bahamas), Mrs. Naylor, Mrs. Spinks and Mrs. Warner.

Mr. Lauchlan Rose has provided an office desk for the War Services room and has placed a van at the Committee's disposal to help in the distribution of cases and parcels.

Mrs. Bromley has contributed to the War Services Fund by presenting a number of pictures of St. Kitts-Nevis which have been sold at the Depot in aid of this Fund.

Analysis of Consignments Received

Donations to the War Services Fund and particulars of the many gifts received by the Depot have been published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. The schedule given below shows in greater detail the gifts received and handled month by month by the War Services Committees since their inception.

No further tribute need be paid to the work of the Royal

Navy and the Merchant Service than to state that no consignment has yet been lost.

Colony, Organisation or Donor	Description	Distribution	
(p denotes a parcel and c a case)			
December			
JAMAICA— Dr. Sinclair	Kentucky tobacco (228 p.)	2nd Bn. Sherwood Foresters.	
January			
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies (2 p)	Central Hospital Supply Service.	
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies (2 p)	C.H.S.S.	
February			
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Hospital supplies (20 c)	C.H.S.S.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Hospital supplies (1 c) Knitted comforts (2 c)	C.H.S.S., Navy League, Army Depot Reading, R.A.F. Depot.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Preserves (8 c), Knitted comforts (1 c)	B.E.F. Army and Navy Depot.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Confectionery (2 c) Hospital supplies (6 c)	Daily Sketch Fund, C.H.S.S., Finland Fund.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Knitted comforts (1 c)	Army, Navy and R.A.F. Depot.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Citrus (1,550 c)	B.E.F.	
BAHAMAS— West Hill Group	Hospital supplies (13 p)	C.H.S.S., British Committee of the French Red Cross, Norway Fund, Army Navy and R.A.F. Depots and Navy League for Mine- sweepers.	
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies (7 p)		
March			
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies (8 p)	C.H.S.S., British Committee of the French Red Cross, Norway Fund, Army Navy and R.A.F. Depots and Navy League for Mine- sweepers.	
BAHAMAS— West Hill Group	Hospital supplies (10 p)		
BARBADOS—	Knitted comforts (1 c)		
BAHAMAS— West Hill Group	Hospital supplies (14 c)		
TRINIDAD—	Red Cross goods and Knitted comforts (1 c)		
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Red Cross goods and knitted comforts (12p)		
ST. VINCENT—	Red Cross goods and knitted comforts (1 c)		
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Citrus (700 c)		B.E.F.
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Citrus 904 c)		B.E.F.
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Citrus (1,639 c)		Royal Navy.
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies (6 p)	C.H.S.S., British Committee of the French Red Cross, Army and Navy Depots.	
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies and knitted comforts (12p)		
BAHAMAS— West Hill Group	Hospital supplies (12 p)		
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Confectionery (1 c)	R.A.F.	
April			
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Citrus (261 c)	R.A.F.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Citrus (946 c)	R.A.F.	
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Knitted comforts (1 c)	Director-General of Voluntary Organisa- tions.	

Colony, Organisation or Donor	Description	Distribution
TRINIDAD— Sir George Huggins	Citrus (200 c)	R.A.F. Coastal Com- mand.
May		
TRINIDAD— Red Cross Society	Hospital supplies and knitted comforts (2 c)	C.I.S.S. and British Committee of the French Red Cross.
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Coffee (100 barrels)	R.N., B.E.F., R.A.F.
GRENADA—	Knitted comforts and hospital supplies (1 c)	Hospital supplies to C.H.S.S. and British Committee of the French Red Cross. Woollen goods held against Service re- quisitioning by the D.G.V.O. C.H.S.S.
ST. LUCIA	ditto (1 c)	
BARBADOS— Voluntary War Workers	ditto (5 c)	
ANTIGUA— (via Mr. Bryson)	Hospital supplies (3 c)	R.N., B.E.F., R.A.F.
JAMAICA— War Assistance Ctee.	Coffee (102 barrels)	
TRINIDAD— Sir George Huggins	Citrus (13 c)	Orkneys and Shet- lands, R.N. Units.
MONTSERRAT— Hon. H. A. Howes	Cotton for Red Cross pillows (480 lb.)	C.I.S.S.
June		
ST. KITTS	Hospital supplies (1 c)	C.H.S.S.
BARBADOS— Produce Exporters Association	Extra fancy Molasses (100 barrels)	Canadian troops.
BAHAMAS— Red Cross Centre	Hospital supplies and knitted comforts (26 p)	C.H.S.S. Woollen goods held against D.G.V.O. requisit- ioning.
ST. KITTS	Hospital supplies (1 c)	C.H.S.S.
TRINIDAD	Hospital supplies (1 c)	C.H.S.S.
BRITISH HONOURAS	Hospital supplies and knitted comforts (2 c)	C.H.S.S. Woollen goods held against Army requisitioning.
BAHAMAS Red Cross Centre	ditto (18 p)	

In addition the Committee has been notified that the following consignments are on their way

JAMAICA— War Assistance Committee	Hospital supplies (4 c).
TRINIDAD— Red Cross Society	Hospital supplies, knitted com- forts and refugee clothes (4 c).
TRINIDAD— Red Cross Society	Hospital supplies (2 c). Refugee clothes (8 c).
ANTIGUA	Hospital supplies (4 p).
JAMAICA— War Assistance Committee	Hospital supplies (2 c) and knitted comforts.
BARBADOS— Voluntary War Workers	Hospital supplies and knitted comforts (3 c).

In all some 80,400 articles of surgical supplies, hospital clothes and woollen comforts have been handled in the Depot, and very high standards of workmanship, packing and fidelity to the approved official patterns have been maintained by all the contributing organisations.

Correspondence

Many letters of thanks and appreciation for the work done and gifts sent by the West Indies have been received from:—

The Admiralty, War Office, Royal Air Force, Lady Falmouth and Lady Bridgeman of the Central Hospital Supply Service Committee, R.N. Comforts Depot, Army Comforts Depot, R.A.F. Comforts Depot, Navy League, H.E. the French Ambassador, Vicomtesse de la Panouse (President of the British Committee of the French Red Cross), Personal Service League, Officer Commanding, 2nd Bn. Sherwood Foresters, the Finland Fund, the Norway Fund, the Daily Sketch War Relief Fund, the Colchester Hospital, the Ipswich Hospital, the Soldiers',

Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, Orkney and Shetland R.N. Units, the Women's Voluntary Service on behalf of the Belgian, French and Dutch Refugees, R.A.F. Coastal Defence, Army Units on Salisbury Plain, the Merchant Navy Services Fund, and the Lord Mayor's Silver Paper Fund.

May I in conclusion take this opportunity of saying what a pleasure it is to the Ladies Committee to be able to assist the Governments and the local organisations in the Atlantic and Caribbean Colonies in their efforts to afford every assistance to the Mother Country at this time of crisis. The various voluntary bodies in the Colonies have tackled the problem of making and packing the vast quantities of comforts which have passed through this Depot with energy and efficiency. This has greatly facilitated our task, and has richly deserved the recognition received from the Fighting Services, Red Cross and other Authorities.

The harmonious and businesslike relations which exist between the overseas organisations and my Committee enable us to direct the outcome of all their work into the channels which are from day to day most in need of assistance and to forward to the Colonies concerned the many letters of thanks and appreciation received.

MARGOT DAVSON,
Chairman.

4th July, 1940.

The West India Committee

Meeting of the Executive

A MEETING of the Executive of the West India Committee was held on July 18th, under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson. The following members were also present: Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. F. A. Greenaway, Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, Mr. Cecil W. Murray, Mr. M. S. Moody Stuart, Sir Edward Stubbs, Mr. H. A. Walker and Mr. E. J. King (secretary), Mr. T. Souness (assistant secretary) and Mr. Hugh Paget (secretariat).

Before proceeding to the business of the meeting the chairman referred to the recent appointment of H.R.H. the Duke of Windsor as Governor and Commander in Chief of the Bahamas and said that this honour to an historic Colony would give great pleasure not only to the Bahamas but to the West Indian Colonies demonstrating as it did their importance in Imperial affairs.

The following five candidates were elected to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. A. J. WAKEFIELD (Trinidad)	{ Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Mr. J. Gordon Miller.
MR. P. J. WALLBRIDGE (Barbados)	{ Mr. John W. Freeman. Sir George Huggins, O.B.E.
GRENADA TOURIST COMMITTEE (Grenada)	{ Mr. H. J. J. Freeman. Lt.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E.
MISS MARION S. MOODY STUART (London)	{ Mr. Mark Moody Stuart, M.C. Mr. James du Buisson.
MR. R. C. MAIS (Jamaica)	{ Captain O. H. Keeling. Mr. John M. Pringle.

The resignation from the Executive of Mr. H. Crum Ewing, who had also resigned from the chairmanship of the West India Association of Glasgow, was received with regret. The chairman referred to the long and intimate connexion which Mr. Crum Ewing had had with the British West Indies whose interests he had lost no opportunity of advancing. It was very gratifying to know that Mr. Crum Ewing had promised to continue to take a close interest in the work of the Committee and had expressly asked to be kept informed of all

important matters relating to Jamaica and the West Indian Colonies as a whole.

A discussion took place in regard to iron and steel supplies for sugar factories. Owing to vital service requirements producers had been requested to postpone for the time being orders for materials which were not indispensable to the maintenance of production. The position, however, needed further clarification and the Committee were in consultation with the Ministry of Food and the Colonial Office in order to ensure that no misunderstanding should arise particularly in regard to purchases from foreign countries.

The difficulties with which the citrus industry was faced had formed the subject of representations to the Colonial office and it was understood that the Overseas Purchasing Board were now dealing with the whole question of the importation of grapefruit from the British West Indies and that a decision might shortly be expected.

Among other matters considered were the supplies of grocery yellow sugars and the handling of molasses sugars of low sucrose content. It was reported that representations had been made to the Liner Division of the Ministry of Shipping with a view to the existing services to the West Indian Colonies being augmented.

Matters affecting the West Indies expected to arise at the forthcoming Pan-American Conference were discussed and it was agreed that constant vigilance was necessary.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. James Williams for the gift to the Library of *Dutch Plantations on the banks of the Berbice and Canje Rivers* and to Mr. Calvin Lambert for *Stardust*, an Anthology of Poems.

Colonial Wireless Chain

The setting up of a Colonial wireless chain was announced by Sir Edward Wilshaw, chairman, at a general meeting of Cable and Wireless, Limited, held in London recently.

He said that the necessary apparatus was sent out from England early in the war, and, as an auxiliary service in cases of emergency or interruption of the cables, the installations should add greatly to the flexibility of the system. Apart from the benefit to the public, trade, and the Government, it required little imagination to appreciate the importance of the scheme as a whole in the spheres of strategy and the safety of shipping. The sets had far exceeded expectations. They were available for any emergency in which they might be needed, and indeed this had already been tested by events.

The setting up of these wireless sets has enabled some parts of the Colonial Empire to speak direct to each other for the first time. Newspapers throughout the West Indies have published accounts of talks achieved for the first time between islands of the group.

MEMBERS of the West India Committee are reminded that, under the new Rules, the Subscription rates for Candidates elected during the second half of the year to December 31st, are 12/6 for individuals and 31/6 for firms. They are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing candidates for election.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"MEK friends when you no need dem."

* * *

MR. ISAAC N. SHILLINGFORD has been appointed a Nominated Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Dominica.

* * *

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FREDERICK SYKES, chairman of the Royal Empire Society, has been returned unopposed as Conservative Member for the Central Division of Nottingham.

* * *

ALL food handlers, bar tenders and barbers have been notified by the chairman of the Health Board, Nassau to attend at the Bahamas General Hospital for medical examination.

* * *

MR. A. R. STARCK, Assistant to H.M. Trade Commissioner in Trinidad, returned to that Colony on June 24th, after having acted as Trade Commissioner in Jamaica since April.

* * *

MR. EDWARD BAYNES, formerly Administrator of St. Lucia, who retired from the Colonial Service, has been appointed secretary of the Association of Consulting Engineers, London.

* * *

MR. J. ALAN DE PASS is returning to the Grenadier Guards as a Second Lieutenant. In consequence he will, he writes, be unable to attend meetings of the Executive of the West India Committee for some time to come.

* * *

COCOA growers in St. Vincent were informed by notice in the *Government Gazette* of June 11th that the export quota for the 1939/40 crop had been increased from 10 to 20 tons, and that export licenses should be applied for.

* * *

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DENIS BERNARD, the Governor of Bermuda, has assented to a resolution, passed recently by the Legislature, authorizing him to take steps under the Emergency Powers Act to bring in conscription.

* * *

AN Ordinance (No. 1 of 1940) has been passed in British Honduras which provides that when the Governor in Council is satisfied that the wages paid for any occupation are unreasonably low he may by proclamation fix minimum rates.

* * *

THE High Court of Justice has granted a petition by St. Dunstan's to amend the memorandum of association so as to permit the treatment of all eye cases arising out of the war whether of soldiers, sailors, airmen or non-combatants, including women.

* * *

MANY persons in the West Indies will be grieved to hear of the death of Rear-Admiral Dobson, V.C., D.S.O., who was well known in the Leeward Islands

when in command of H.M.S. Colombo at the time of the hurricane in Montserrat about twelve years ago.

* * *

AT the Trinidad and Tobago Scout Rally, held at San Fernando on June 3rd, great cheers greeted the announcement by the Governor that the son of Colonel Barrington, the Officer commanding the Troops, was one of the B.E.F. which had been safely convoyed back to England.

* * *

MR. H. C. COLLIER contributes to the June issue of the *Canada-West Indies Magazine* an illustrated article reviewing the trend of art in Trinidad as portrayed in the work of Mr. Hugh Stollmeyer, whom he describes as "at once perhaps the most industrious, the most versatile and the most independent of an ever widening circle of West Indian artists."

* * *

THE Imperial Institute cinema is giving a continuous programme of films on Saturdays and Sundays from 2.15 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. Those of West Indian interest which will be shown during August are "Pleasure Island, Bermuda" on August 3rd and 4th; "Bananas" on August 10th and 11th; and "Plantation People, Trinidad" on August 24th and 25th.

* * *

It is announced in the July issue of the *British Sugar Beet Review* that, as experimental and research work has been so greatly curtailed, it is reasonable to suspend publication of the journal until further notice. Reference is made to the statement broadcast by the Minister of Agriculture on June 29th, that whilst increased cost of sugar beet production could not be finally determined until after January 1941, an appropriate interim adjustment would be made forthwith adding 3/9 per ton to the prices already fixed for 1940.

* * *

SIR LEONARD LYLE made his maiden speech as member for Bournemouth on July 18th when the general activities of the Ministry of Food were being discussed. Sir Leonard concentrated on the one question of waste. He considered that the masses were not being reached by "the present high-brow methods of the Ministry of Food propaganda" and suggested certain simpler measures, by which, put over in a way people could understand, many ships, lives and money could be saved and greater food supplies made available.

* * *

MR. DENIS MIDDLETON CAMPBELL, who was married on July 8th to Miss Helen Christian Macpherson, is the second son of Mr. Colin Algernon Campbell, a director of Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd., and of Mrs. Campbell, of Underriver House, Sevenoaks. His grandfather, Mr. William Middleton Campbell, was chairman of the West India Committee from 1910 to 1917. The bride is the only child of Brigadier-General A. D. Macpherson and Mrs. Macpherson of Holme House, Inverness. The marriage was solemnised at St. Leonard's Church, Turner's Hill, Sussex, the Rev. Duncan Macpherson, the bride's uncle, officiating.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



New Industry in Jamaica—Trinidad Appointments

British Guiana Rice Crop



BRITISH GUIANA

THE Rice Crop. The anticipated exportable surplus of rice, to September 30th of this year, is placed at 30,000 tons by the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board in their report for the period ending March 31st, published in the *Official Gazette* of June 22nd. This is considerably less than the quantity previously expected due to the Spring crop having almost completely failed owing to the severe drought. An account is given of the negotiations for export to other West Indian Colonies.

GRENADA

Shortage of Water. Regulations were issued early in May declaring it to be an offence to use, within the parishes of St. George and St. Andrew, water from any tap for washing motor or other vehicles, or for watering gardens, etc.

The Hon. F. H. Collier has been appointed by the Governor to be a Lieutenant in the Grenada Volunteer Corps and Adjutant of the Local Forces.

Colonial Secretary. Official announcement has been made of the transfer of the Hon. W. L. Heape to the Bahamas as Colonial Secretary, and of the selection by the Secretary of State of Mr. C. H. V. Talbot, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Bermuda, to succeed Mr. Heape as Colonial Secretary, Grenada.

Vital Statistics. The estimated population of the Colony on December 31st last was 90,085, compared with 89,415 a year previously. The Registrar General's annual report, published with the *Government Gazette* of May 11th, shows that births exceeded deaths by 1,465; on the other hand emigrants exceeded immigrants by 795. During the last decade the birth rate has fallen, with slight fluctuations, from 32.63 per thousand in 1930 to 28.92 in 1939. The death rate in 1939 was also the lowest for the decade, 12.6 per thousand; the average for the period was 14.6, compared with 17.5 for the preceding decade, and 20.1 for 1910 to 1919.

JAMAICA

Mr. F. F. Gick, recently appointed to succeed Mr. S. A. Deacon as H.M. Trade Commissioner for Jamaica, has arrived in the Colony with his wife and daughter.

The Factories Bill. On June 12th, the Attorney General in the Legislative Council moved that a Bill entitled "A Law to make Provision for the Registration and Supervision of Factories and for the safety of Workers employed therein" be read a second time and carried through its remaining stages. The Bill, which is designed to enable control to be established over factories in Jamaica, this control to be exercised by a Chief Factories Inspector, assisted by inspectors appointed under the law, was passed by the council.

The Registration of Motor Vehicles becomes compulsory by Order No. M. 94, made under Regulation

50 of the Jamaica Defence Regulations, 1939. It is understood that this measure is a preliminary to the rationing of petrol in the Colony.

Chemicals from Molasses. It is understood that this industry should be under way at the end of the year. A building is being erected to accommodate the plant of British W.I. Chemicals, Ltd., near the Bybrook sugar factory.

Mr. Cyril G. X. Henriques, LL.B., has now been confirmed in the substantive appointment of Crown Prosecutor; he has been acting since September 1939.

Cost of Living. A table published in the *Jamaica Gazette* for May 9th shows that the cost of living for working-class people in Kingston was 116.85 in April compared with the pre-war base of 100 in August last year. The largest rises occurred in food and clothing. The figures for food, fuel and cleaning are collected monthly, clothing and "all other" quarterly, and rents twice a year.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mr. J. E. Wightman, formerly an Administrative Officer in Kenya, has arrived and assumed duty as an extra Assistant Colonial Secretary in succession to Mr. R. R. Black, who is probably returning to Malaya.

The Attorney General. On June 22nd, Mr. Leslie Bertram Gibson, LL.B., arrived in the Colony to succeed Mr. J. L. Devaux, K.C., as Attorney General. Mr. Gibson, after being a Flight Sub-Lieutenant R.N.A.S., attached to the Grand Fleet, and a Lieutenant in the R.A.F., entered the Straits Settlements Civil Service in 1920. Since then he has held many offices, the last being that of Crown Counsel.

Institute for the Blind. When the Governor and Lady Young visited the Institute on June 6th, His Excellency said he had been particularly interested and impressed by the determination of the Committee to go ahead, despite the war, and build new premises and he would, if possible, lay the foundation stone. It was quite right to carry on with all the social activities which are so important whilst doing all they could to win the war.

Sir Charles C. F. Dundas

It was announced by the Colonial Office, on July 8th, that the King had appointed Sir Charles Cecil Farquharson Dundas, Governor of the Bahama Islands, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda Protectorate in succession to Sir Philip Mitchell, who has relinquished the governorship of Uganda in order to take up a special war appointment as deputy-chairman of the Conference of East African Governors.

Education in the West Indies

A Bishop's Appeal

THE following letter, written from St. Vincent, on June 7th, by the Bishop of the Windward Islands, to the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, was published in that journal on July 10th:—

"A good deal of the £1,000,000 to be expended by the United Kingdom Exchequer during the next ten years on economic and social services in the West Indies will be used on education, which means that many more West Indian children will be taught to read. Surely it is fallacious to do this and yet fail to provide them with something to read. Our Empire must be made more and more worthy of fighting for.

"There must be thousands of school books and books of standard literature, lying unused on shelves, that would be of incalculable service to bush and out-island children in remote places. Any sent to me would be carefully distributed and acknowledged."

In a letter published in *The Times*, of July 12th, the Bishop asks if the time has not come when children should be taught the faith of their parents with the active encouragement, co-operation, and support of His Majesty's Government everywhere. He continues:—

"I speak feelingly, since it is my lot to live in a Colony where the problem is aggravated by reason of the fact that the faith of parents is not allowed to be taught their children in Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, or Government schools, and where time devoted to 'religious instruction' is reduced to the minimum. Do we really want an Empire composed of convictionless, supine, half-hearted, nominal Christians with lost ideals?"

Example Better Than Precept

In 1920, just before the visit of the Prince of Wales to Barbados, a wayfarer, greatly daring, drew the attention of the Civic Circle of that island to the pitiful state of the naval and military cemetery at Needhams Point and the dirty condition of Nelson's statue. The response was immediate. The hero of Trafalgar was given a "wash and brush up" and the cemetery was put in order, special care being devoted to the tomb of James Sims, the schoolmaster of H.M.S. Bacchante, who was buried there on New Year's day 1880 when Prince George, afterwards King George V, was midshipman in charge of the firing party.

Founded in 1916 by Miss Maude Law the Civic Circle, with Mrs. E. C. Yard as president and Miss N. Manning honorary secretary, continues its good work today. Its 23rd annual report records that the public monuments are being cleaned and relettered, gardens kept neat and tidy and unsightly spots beautified. The Circle also organises school garden competitions. As a result of these activities the public is learning the virtue of tidiness. "At the moment in the Garrison people no longer sit," for example, "and suck cane and scatter the peelings around." The Civic Circle of Barbados cannot be too highly commended for what it is doing. It should have more imitators in the West Indies.

West Indies at Westminster

Colonial Development and Welfare.

Two amendments made by the Lords in the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill were agreed to by the Commons on July 16th. One deals with the granting of reasonable facilities for the establishment of trade unions and the second is a definition of the Fair Wages Clause.

Jamaica Banana Crop

On July 10th, MR. RILEY asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he had any information regarding the great decrease in the exports from Jamaica, said to amount to 33½ per cent., since the outbreak of war; was he aware that such decrease was causing serious concern in the island, lack of employment, increased taxation and consequent labour agitation; and what measures were being taken to ameliorate the situation. In reply MR. GEORGE HALL stated that the decrease was mainly due to a fall of 56 per cent. in the value of the export of bananas. That crop suffered severely from a hurricane in November last and certain losses had also been caused by the Leaf Spot disease. Spraying for disease control had been organised and production was expected to increase materially during the later months of the year.

Control of Prices

On July 19th Mr. Sorensen asked whether, in view of the actual or possible rise in retail prices of imported and other commodities purchased by Colonial populations without a corresponding rise in either wages or in raw materials sold by them, consideration would be given to minimising the resultant hardship by effecting some means of establishing those prices at a reasonable level. Mr. George Hall, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied that the protection of Colonial populations as far as possible from the economic effects of war time conditions was under constant consideration but he feared that there would be insuperable difficulties in any general scheme of stabilisation of the prices of imports into the Colonial dependencies. Some increases were unfortunately inevitable in view of increased freight and manufacturing costs, but the Colonial Authorities already had machinery which enabled them to control prices in order to prevent undue profiteering.

Tropical Health and Welfare

A meeting of the Ross Institute Industrial Advisory Committee will be held in the Council Chamber of the Rubber Growers' Association, 19, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3, on Tuesday, 6th August, 1940, at 2.30 p.m. The discussions will deal mainly with the health, welfare and comfort of those working in the tropics and the results of recent disease preventive measures. Mr. G. H. Masefield, the chairman of the Committee, will welcome any members of the West India Committee who would like to attend.

Company Reports & Meetings

The Demerara Storage Co. Ltd.

This company was registered recently in Georgetown with a capital of \$50,000 divided into 500 shares of \$100 each.

Its objects are to acquire the property and assets of the Demerara Wharf and Storage Co. which is at present carrying on the business of warehousemen, wharfingers and real estate owners. The first directors are Mr. Cyril Pereira, Mr. Cecil Claude Pereira and Mr. Carl Ignatius Pereira who are also the first subscribers.

The Demerara Mutual

The Hon. Percy C. Wight, chairman, presided at the 48th annual meeting of the Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd., held recently in Georgetown.

Moving the adoption of the report (reviewed in the CIRCULAR of June 13th) Mr. Wight said that to his mind the report was one of the most favourable, if not the most favourable, since the inception of the society. The yield on the assurance fund continued to show satisfactory results, the ratio for the year being 5.1 per cent. As the rate of interest assumed for the valuation by the actuary was 3 per cent., a handsome profit from that source was being ensured. The issue of new business for the year had amounted to \$733,074 with an annual premium income of \$39,856. Claims for death totalled \$55,190 including bonus additions.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

Proposing the adoption of the report and accounts (reviewed in last CIRCULAR) at the annual meeting, on July 9th, Sir Robert Waley Cohen, the chairman, after dealing with the drilling programme and the completion of the new distilling unit, said that a large construction programme had been carried out in respect of staff houses and the new housing scheme for junior staff and labour to which he referred last year. The programme was being continued, but recent increases in the cost of labour and materials had made it necessary to revise the original cost estimates and the fulfilment of the programme might have to be spread over a longer period.

With regard to labour, it was thought that the Arbitration Award, to which he referred last year, whereby a considerable increase in rates of pay was introduced, would ensure industrial peace for some time, but the outbreak of war with an increase in the cost of living brought new problems, and after a partial strike in January, 1940, a new agreement, sponsored by the Governor, was signed between the Oilfield Employers Association and the Oilfield Workers Union, providing for further increases in wages to cover advances in the cost of living, on a sliding scale, and stabilising wages for two years or until six months after the end of the war.

Apart from that increase in labour costs, the Trinidad Government imposed a new tax of 2 cents a barrel on production. With increased costs of material and labour and additional taxation to bear, industry in Trinidad, as elsewhere, had difficult problems to face.

Prices during the first part of the year remained at a very low level, but in the second half there was a distinct

improvement, and in average their returns were slightly above those for 1938.

He would not be expected on that occasion to make any detailed forecast in regard to their current operations, but he could say that both their own production and that of the producers whose crude oil they purchased and marketed on long-term contracts, had been maintained.

They were restricting expenditure, as far as was reasonably possible, consistent with maintaining plant and machinery and fields in good order and carrying on their work efficiently.

Obituary

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

MR. EDWIN CHARLEY

Mr. Edwin Alexander Charley, J.P., who died in Kingston on June 18th, after a short illness, had been for many years a leading figure in Jamaica's sugar and rum trade.

Born in British Columbia in 1873, he went to Jamaica in 1892 and started business at Spanish Town as a manufacturer of aerated water and native cordials. In 1906 he transferred his business to King Street, Kingston, but his premises were destroyed a few months later in the earthquake and fire. The building was restored shortly afterwards, and in addition to his other activities, Mr. Charley became a blender of rums which made his name famous throughout the trade. His wine and spirit business was sold to Fred. L. Myers & Son, Ltd. in 1937.

Mr. Charley was also a successful sugar planter, and his Innswood Estates at Saint Catherine were a model of efficiency. He had been a Life Member of the West India Committee since 1929.

Mr. Charley was laid to rest on the following day at Half Way Tree Cemetery following a service at St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads, conducted by His Lordship the Bishop of Jamaica.

MR. DONALD LEE

Mr. Donald S. L. Lee, who died in New York on June 23rd, at the age of 88, was chairman of the board of directors of Middleton & Co., Ltd., the produce merchants, of that city, who have been connected with West Indian trade for more than a century.

Born in Bermuda, and educated in England at Newton Abbot College, he joined Middleton & Co. in 1872 and four years later became a partner. He was the oldest active member of the Maritime Association of the Port of New York, his membership dating from 1882, one of the oldest members of the New York Produce Exchange which he joined in 1883, and a charter member of the New York Cocoa Exchange.

A memorial service, attended by many of his friends and business associates, was held at St. James Protestant Episcopal Church, New York on June 25th.

As we go to press we learn of the death at Brighton, of Mr. Thomas Beddard Jackson, for many years Official Reporter to the Legislative Council of Trinidad.

Round the Markets

July 23rd, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	July 8th.	July 22nd.	\$ value
Canada ...	4.45	4.45	4/5.9
U.S.A. ...	4.03	4.03	4/11.6

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend Latest year		Price
2½	Consols (yield £3 9s. 9d. per cent.)	71½ 72½
3½	War Loan ...	98½ 98½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	16/3 18/9
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	1½ 1½
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/- 36/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	3d. 4½d.
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	9d. 1/3
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	18/9 21/3
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/- 3/-
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30 40
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
7	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/- 13/-
—	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	4/- 5/-
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	2½ 2½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	35/- 37/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	3/9 6/3
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	5/- 6/-

COCOA. With the exception of a small trade in West African on the spot at 34/- for old crop, and 35/6 for new, no business has been reported in this market during the fortnight. Trinidad is valued nominally at 67/6 to 70/- for good plantation to fine estates, and Grenada at 60/- to 62/6, nominal.

BALATA. The nominal value of both sheet and block is unchanged at 2/6 but there is no business to report.

BANANAS. Jamaicas continue to be quoted, to wholesalers, at £30 5s. per ton delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces and there is a steady all-round demand.

HONEY. There is a good demand for Jamaica parcels on the spot, and business has been done in dark liquid to pale amber at from 85/- to 95/- per cwt., ex wharf, according to quality. Pale to white is quoted at 95/- to 105/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There is only a small demand for Handpressed which is valued nominally at 40/- to 45/- per lb. Distilled is quoted at 27/6 per lb. Lime Juice. Concentrated is valued at about £9 per pipe but there is only a limited demand. Raw is quietly steady at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued at about 6/- per lb. while Bitter is worth about 11/6 per lb.

SPICES. Small sales of Pimento on the spot have been made at round 10d. per lb., ex wharf, but consumers are not showing much interest. On c.i.f. terms, the value of July-August shipment from Jamaica is 75/- to 80/- per cwt., but there is no buying support from speculators. Jamaica Ginger has continued quiet and prices are unchanged at 50/- per cwt. ex wharf for No. 3 old crop parcels, and 52/6 for bright small new crop No. 3. The No. 2 medium is valued at about 57/6 to 60/- and medium No. 1 at 62/6 to 65/-. The

prices of Nutmegs have declined during the fortnight to: defectives 5½d. per lb., sound unassorted 6d., sound 80's 7d., and sound 65's 8d., landed terms. Mace is also lower, and business has been done in mixed reddish to pale at 2/- to 2/2 ex wharf, and in pickings (dark to pale) at 9d. to 1/2. Choice pale is quoted at 2/2 to 2/4.

Petroleum Production

The following particulars of the world output of oil were given in the House of Commons by the Secretary for Mines in answer to a question put by Mr. R. Morgan.

	1936	1937	1938*
	Millions of Statute tons		
U.S.A. ...	148.3	172.5	163.7
Venezuela ...	22.6	27.3	27.6
U.S.S.R. (including Sakhaline) ...	27.0	28.4	29.0
Iran ...	8.2	10.2	10.2
Netherlands East Indies ...	6.3	7.1	7.3
Roumania ...	8.6	7.0	6.5
Mexico ...	6.1	6.9	5.7
Iraq ...	4.0	4.3	4.3
Columbia ...	2.6	2.9	3.0
Trinidad ...	1.9	2.2	2.5
Argentina ...	2.2	2.3	2.4
Peru ...	2.3	2.3	2.1
India and Burma ...	1.3	1.4	1.4
Bahrein Is. ...	0.6	1.0	1.1
Other Countries ...	2.8	3.2	4.1
Total million tons ...	244.8	279.0	270.9

* Provisional.

British Guiana and Wood Pulp

Regret that the cabled summaries of the West India Royal Commission's report contained no specific recommendation for loan assistance to establish a wallaba woodpulp industry was being expressed, wrote the Georgetown correspondent of the *Economist* in an interesting article on "British Guiana's Possibilities."

The Colony's forests, which occupy 86 per cent. of its area, were the only commercial source of greenheart in the world. The pulp potentiality of an area of 367 square miles, which was excellently situated for starting the industry, had been conservatively estimated at 200,000 tons a year. An industry like wallaba pulping would make clear felling of the greenheart and mora possible. There was, he considered, no doubt of the part this industry must play in opening up the hinterland, and equally no doubt of the part a developed British Guiana could play in solving the economic difficulties of the West Indian islands.

IN Venezuela as in Trinidad the petroleum industry today is the principal factor in the economic life. Crude petroleum is by far the most important export, representing about 84 per cent. of the shipments to foreign countries. If petroleum derivatives are included, this figure approaches 90 per cent. Coffee accounts for about 5 per cent. of exports and cacao for less than 2 per cent., but these products are of great importance in the economy of central Venezuela. Other exports include cattle, hides, skins, balata, pearls, tonka beans, hard woods and bananas.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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CONTENTS

LEADING ARTICLES—	PAGE		PAGE
CITRUS INDUSTRY IN WAR TIME	189	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	197
THE COLONIES' PRACTICAL LOYALTY	189	BRITISH GUIANA AND THE ARCTIC	198
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	190	USES FOR SWEET POTATO STARCH	198
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	191	SOIL CONSERVATION IN TRINIDAD	198
RUM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM...	193	THE CONTROL OF MALARIA	198
COLONIAL LABOUR PROBLEMS ...	194	CENSORSHIP IN JAMAICA...	199
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	195	JAMAICA'S SUGAR CROP ...	199
MR. ROBERT BRYSON ...	195	BOOK REVIEWS ...	199
PAN AMERICA ...	196	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	200
SEA ISLAND COTTON CROP ...	196	COCO-NUT SHELL CHARCOAL	200
		EXPORT NEWS ...	200

Citrus Industry in War Time

THE development of a greater variety of export crops has long been recognized as absolutely essential if the British West Indies are to be freed from undue dependence on sugar. The Royal Commissioners of 1897 put it in the forefront of their recommendations and the Imperial Department of Agriculture was created with this as one of its principal functions. Last autumn, after a little over another forty years had passed, the Moyne Commission stressed the necessity of taking whatever steps were possible to improve the position of the existing agricultural exporting industries.

Amongst these the citrus industry has high claims for any possible assistance. As we said in the CIRCULAR of April 18th the cultivation of citrus fruits, and particularly grapefruit, is one of the more recent of the many efforts made by the West Indian Colonies in their uphill fight to recover from the desperate condition to which many had been reduced. The effort has been crowned with success inasmuch as British West Indian grapefruit and oranges have secured, on their merits, a recognized place in the United Kingdom markets. This position has not been won without considerable outlay of capital. Taking Jamaica and Trinidad, the two principal exporting Colonies, the capital invested in cultivation, packing houses and by-products factories may be placed at about £320,000 in the former, and £400,000 in the latter. There have also been large investments in British Honduras. The labour directly employed in the industry in these Colonies is approximately 10,000, which means that, including their families, some twenty or thirty thousand people are dependent for their livelihood on the citrus fruit industry. It would be nothing short of a calamity if, owing to the stern necessities of war, there should be any serious check to this industry which, in the present depressed agricultural conditions of the West Indies, plays a most essential part in providing labour for a considerable section of the population. There are also the needs of the home front. Citrus fruits constitute one of the important sources of vitamin C which is essential to health. It is expected that supplies of fresh citrus from such important sources as Palestine and Spain will necessarily be short this winter. Already it has been suggested that the resulting deficiency may have to be made good by the manufacture of synthetic vitamin C tablets which indicates that citrus fruits are, in effect, an essential foodstuff.

We are aware how great is the task set the Ministries concerned to provide for keeping the United Kingdom

supplied with all essential foods and other necessities, and that freight space cannot be spared for commodities which do not come into these categories. Should, however, the question arise of having to curtail the importation of citrus fruits we trust that it will not be considered solely on the basis of whether they are essential foods or not but will be regarded as one on which the principles underlying the Government's Colonial Policy are at stake and would be seriously jeopardised should such action be taken. We have every confidence that the Government, in their known desire to develop the economic life of the Colonial Empire, will use every possible means to enable the citrus fruit industry, which, as we have shown, is essential to the welfare of so many in the West Indies, to be maintained even in these difficult times.

The Colonies' Practical Loyalty

ABUNDANT proof of the whole-hearted manner in which the Colonial peoples have thrown themselves into the task of winning the war was given on July 24th when MR. G. H. HALL, Under Secretary of State, in response to a question in Parliament supplied a list of contributions in money and in kind they have made to His Majesty's Government, and various war charities and organisations. In money alone they have subscribed over nine and a quarter million pounds as gifts, or loans free of interest. Towards this total the West Indies have contributed no less than approximately one million as gifts, making, with one loan of £500,000, a total of one and a half million pounds. In supplying other forms of aid to war organisations and charities the West Indies have also played their part well. This is shown not only by the summary in *Hansard* and, in more detail, in the report of our Ladies' War Services Committee published in the last issue of the CIRCULAR but by the appreciation of their efforts expressed by H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL when, as reported on page 191 of this issue, she inspected the War Services Depot on July 26th.

MR. HALL regarded the large number of recent gifts for fighter and bomber aircraft, which as our readers know include many from the West Indies, as symbolic of the fact that the Colonial Empire thinks first of what it can do to help Great Britain in this time of trial not only to help Great Britain to protect herself, but also to strike back hard at those who dare to attack her.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THERE has been a marked change in the trend of German propaganda, beginning with Hitler's Reichstag speech of three weeks ago, which seemed to be preparing his people for the prospect of a war of attrition. His organs now announce almost openly that the idea of the *Blitzkrieg* against England has been much modified; and the docile Signor Gayda diligently translates the arguments into Italian and publishes them as if they were an independent discovery of the Duce's. Axis subjects are now being told that they have misunderstood the nature of the *Blitzkrieg*; it has already begun, and takes the form of the increasing air attacks on Great Britain, which have been gathering intensity ever since the collapse of France and will eventually wear down the resistance of the obstinate island Power.

* * *

Of course, air attack is indeed by far the gravest menace that we have to face, for we must never forget that we are still vastly outnumbered in the air, and at any moment much greater forces may be flung at us than we have yet seen in action. For all that, if this is indeed the basis of the *Blitzkrieg*, the early results are most encouraging. In the month of July we brought down 240 of the raiders, for a loss on our own side of not more than a fifth that number; and in the most thrilling air battle of the war so far, arising out of the attempt at a surprise attack on Dover, the R.A.F. scored a dazzling victory, bringing down seventeen of the 80 attackers in an action of twenty minutes, and that without allowing the enemy to drop a single bomb on land. Meanwhile night after night our men are raiding all the nerve centres of Western Germany, working fearful havoc to harbours, munition works, aerodromes, oil depots and communications. The damage done is out of all proportion to that which we suffer from the German raids.

* * *

But although it is quite possible that the German high command has had some sobering second thoughts about the chances of an invasion—and the obstacles to such an attempt are today many times more formidable than they were even six weeks ago—we should be sadly mistaken if we allowed the utterances of German propaganda to induce us to relax one whit of our vigilance. It is not too late in the year; the invasion may be launched at any moment. The Prime Minister's brief message to the nation, warning them anew of the possibility, was perfectly sound, but perhaps scarcely necessary.

* * *

It is the feeling of confidence of the people, and their eagerness to get to grips with the enemy, which gives the inner meaning to a fresh storm that has just broken upon the most battered department of the Government, the Ministry of Information. The Ministry has for some time been making a statistical study of public opinion, through the medium of house-to-house canvassers. Mr. Duff Cooper, who inherited this scheme from his predecessor, has had to defend it against a furious Press campaign, echoed in Parliament. The campaign, though it does reflect a widespread popular feeling,

seems to me to have been supported largely by the wrong arguments. The investigation itself is really harmless, though probably a sad waste of money. The housewife who is questioned on her doorstep about her reactions to Hitler, does not boil with wrath against the inquisitiveness of "Cooper's Snoopers," as one newspaper calls them; she feels that her opinions are being treated as important—as indeed they are. The real objection to the survey is that it comes as a climax to a long series of efforts by the Ministry to stiffen the "moral" of the people by broadcast exhortation and otherwise; and the newest activity seems once more to suggest that the Government has doubts about the absolute determination of the people to fight to the death. The people, for the sake of the cause, will stand absolutely anything from their accredited leaders, except the slightest doubt of their own staunchness. When they feel that they are doubted, their tempers rise against the doubters, as now. On the supreme issue there is only one mind in England, and the Ministry of Information should know it, without asking questions.

* * *

How much this country will endure in order to make certain of destroying Hitlerism is shown by the reception of the third war budget. The income-tax is raised to the immense figure of 8s. 6d. in the pound, and the purchase tax will increase the price of many commodities by 12 or 24 per cent. Yet the only general criticism is still that the taxpayer is not being asked for enough.

* * *

There is, however, one provision in the budget that has roused a storm of opposition. It is proposed to extend the purchase tax to books, and against this nearly everyone who cares for the higher interests of the mind, from Mr. A. P. Herbert to the Archbishop of Canterbury, is up in arms. The publishing trade, already in grave difficulties owing to the war, say that the tax will practically bring the publication of new books to a standstill. On the publication of new books (or newspapers, which are also to be subject to the tax) depends the free interchange of thought, which is the very essence of the civilization that Nazism is trying to destroy. Moreover, if English books cannot establish themselves in the home market, it will certainly be impossible to export them; and the English point of view will be left unrepresented in foreign countries. Sir Kingsley Wood, like Lord Simon before him, clings to his proposal; but it will be a sad surrender of ideals if the House of Commons—for the sake of a very small and problematical revenue—allows him to carry it.

* * *

The accession of Lord Beaverbrook to the War Cabinet is an undoubted enhancement of its fighting strength. At the Ministry of Aircraft Production—which he retains—he has done marvels in a few months, and has set the country well on the way towards the achievement of parity of numbers in the air. His immense energy, and cheerful buccaneering spirit, are akin to those of Mr. Churchill, and just what we need for the rough work of grappling with the Nazis.



COLONEL DAVSON PRESENTING Mr. H. J. J. FREEMAN TO THE PRINCESS ROYAL



UNPACKING HOSPITAL SUPPLIES AND COMFORTS FROM THE WEST INDIES
THE PRINCESS ROYAL VISITS THE WAR SERVICES DEPOT

The West India Committee

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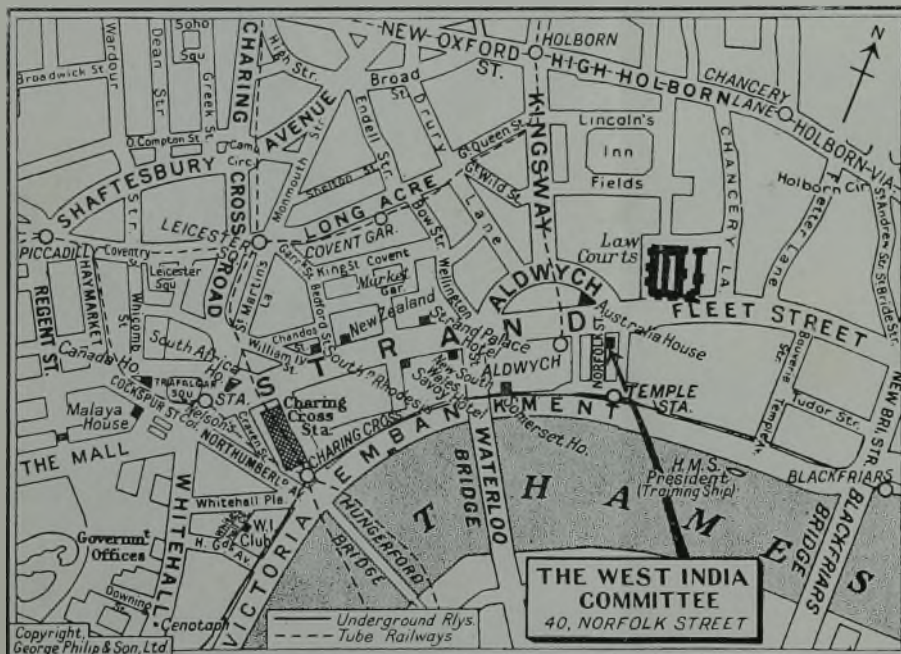
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Assistant Secretary :

THOMAS SOUNESS.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, which was established about 1750, and Incorporated by Royal Charter of King Edward VII in 1904, is an association of British Subjects and Firms interested in the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras.

Its main object is to promote the interests of such industries and trade and thus to increase the general welfare of those Colonies.



Members of the West India Committee have, at 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, a large room, where they may conduct their correspondence, meet friends and read the West Indian newspapers, official gazettes, and London market reports.

In addition, there is a well stocked library of books relating to the West Indies, which to quote Dr. Lowell Ragatz of Washington University is "without question the finest in the world for any one interested in the Antilles."

The West Indies and The War

Princess Royal Visits War Services Depot

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL, Patron of the Ladies Committee, visited the rooms of the West India Committee on July 26th to inspect the War Services Depot. Her Royal Highness, wearing the uniform of Commandant-in-Chief of the British Red Cross, was received by Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, Chairman of the West India Committee, and Lady Davson, chairman of the Ladies Committee, accompanied by Sir Alan Burns, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. H. Beckett, head of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office, and by the deputy chairmen, Mr. J. Gordon Miller and Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, and the Secretary of the West India Committee.

Among the vice-presidents, members of the Ladies Committee, and other voluntary helpers presented were: Lady Wilson, deputy chairman, Mrs. Robert Bryson, Lady Cordeaux, Mrs. J. Alan de Pass, Miss Elder, Mrs. Thomas Greenwood, Lady Grier, Mrs. Mears, Lady Rodwell, Mrs. Lauchlan Rose, Lady Graeme Thomson and Mrs. G. B. Westwood. Duties elsewhere unfortunately prevented several other members from attending.

Her Royal Highness inspected great quantities of medical supplies, comforts, and garments which had recently arrived from the voluntary organisations in the West Indian Colonies for distribution to the British Red Cross, the men in the fighting forces, and refugees, bringing the total number of items received since the outbreak of war to over one hundred thousand. Every Colony had participated generously in the effort. In some cases school-children, who had sent knitted articles, had pinned on to each an attractive hand-painted label showing island scenery.

Her Royal Highness showed a keen appreciation of the standard of workmanship, grading, and packing of both knitted and surgical work and asked that her congratulations might be conveyed to all the workers overseas for the excellence of their efforts and the steady flow to the Depot of really serviceable and practical supplies.

BAHAMAS

£10,000 in three days was collected by the Bahamas War Committee to purchase a Hurricane fighter. Lord Lloyd has asked the Governor of the Colony to convey to the committee and all concerned, the heartfelt thanks of His Majesty's Government for this welcome gift, which had been so speedily raised.

BARBADOS

Win the War Fund. The opening of this Fund was reported in the CIRCULAR for June 27th. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has recently telegraphed to the Governor conveying the warm appreciation of H.M. Government to subscribers for their gift of £8,000 from the Fund.

Voluntary War Workers' Association. The receipts of this Association up to May 31st amounted

to £3,240. A statement received from the President, Mrs. M. Collymore, shows that the "Fair of Nations" realized £1,132, numerous small concerts, sales, etc., £903, the balance coming from personal donations. The total disbursements itemized below total £2,678 5s. 5d., leaving a balance in hand on May 31st of £561 14s. 7d. —

	£	s.	d.
Expenses	4	13	4
Purchase Wool and Shipping	61	3	8
Remittances to England:—			
Tobacco Fund (Sir E. Wrench) ...	137	15	7
British Sailors' Society ...	300	0	0
Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	582	13	5
West India Committee War Services Fund ...	50	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors ...	300	0	0
St. Dunstan's ...	241	19	5
National Y.M.C.A. War Services ...	600	0	0
Church Army ...	300	0	0
Navy League ...	100	0	0

BRITISH GUIANA

Overseas Volunteers. The second batch in Georgetown, who had been passed as fit, commenced their preliminary training on June 25th.

BRITISH HONDURAS

War Contingents. British Hondurans of military age are anxious to serve in H.M. Forces overseas. It is hoped, writes Captain M. S. Metzgen, that an opportunity will be given to them to aid the Mother Country in the darkest hour of her history. The patriotism and loyalty of the Colonists are beyond question, and their ability to give a good account of themselves in defeating the enemy was proven in Mesopotamia, Palestine and Egypt during the last war.

War Effort Committee. On July 3rd, at a meeting convened by Mr. Rod. A. Pitts, chief clerk, Public Works Department, who served during 1915-18 with the British Honduras Contingent in Mesopotamia and Palestine, a British Honduras War Effort Committee was formed to assist the Mother Country in every way possible to prosecute the war to a speedy and victorious conclusion. The chairman of the Committee is Mr. Calvert M. Staine. It was decided to inform the Government and public at once of the formation of the organisation and to start propaganda work immediately.

Defence Regulations. Legislation has been passed giving the Governor power to require persons to place themselves or their property at the disposal of the Government for the efficient prosecution of the war. His Excellency has also power to order the detention of any person subject to foreign influence or control, or associated with persons concerned in an enemy Government.

Red Cross Fund. The total collected in the Colony up to June 30th for the British Honduras Red Cross Fund was £2,400. An effort is being made by various organisations to supplement this amount and it is estimated that the £3,000 mark will soon be reached.

GRENADA

Win the War Fund. The Chamber of Commerce has issued an appeal to the people of the Colony to make an island-wide effort to collect funds to be remitted to the Imperial Government to be used in whatever manner may be thought fit for the purposes of the war. Every citizen is asked to view it as a sacred duty and an inescapable obligation to make a monthly contribution, even at the expense of curtailing luxuries and pleasure, so that the Colony's gift to the Mother Country may be appreciable. The appeal ends with the words, help us to materialise the slogan "WE SHALL WIN."

JAMAICA

Registration for Military Service is now invited by the Government of Jamaica for all men between the ages of 18 and 45 who are prepared to offer themselves (a) for active service overseas or (b) for Garrison Duty in Jamaica.

The Food Production Board having completed its

fundamental task of defining the policy to be adopted in regard to food production in Jamaica has, it was announced on June 25th, been abolished and the undermentioned executive board has been appointed to carry on the policy inaugurated by the previous board: The Director of Agriculture, chairman; Mr. H. V. Alexander, vice-chairman; the Deputy Marketing and Trade Commissioner; the Secretary, Jamaica Agricultural Society; Mr. C. E. Johnston; Mr. N. W. Manley, K.C.; Dr. W. E. McCulloch; Mr. H. H. Croucher, secretary.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Importation of Foodstuffs and Milk. Notice has been given that from June 4th all orders for foodstuffs from the United Kingdom, whether subject to quota or not, must be submitted to the Control Board for examination. Also that importers of condensed milk may submit orders for supplies for three months ahead instead of monthly.

We publish below the fourth list of those connected with the West Indian Colonies who are serving in

H.M. Forces. The previous lists appeared in the CIRCULAR of May 16th, June 27th and July 25th.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
ABRAHAM, L. G.	...	Royal Artillery	...
ARCHER, HAROLD W.	Jamaica	Royal Engineers	Cadet
BACQUE, G.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Fitter
BEAUCHAMP, P., D.F.C.	St. Lucia	Royal Air Force	Flying Officer
BODDEN, R. R.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Leading-Aircraftman
BELLHOUSE, A. P.	British Honduras	Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps	Captain
BOWRING, T. L.	British Honduras	Royal Engineers	Major
BRAY, F. W.	Jamaica	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	Private
CALDER, DR. C. A.	Jamaica	...	...
CLERK, R. D.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Aircraftman
COKE, L. S.	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	Major
DA COSTA, —	Barbados	Leicester Regiment	Lieutenant
DE FREITAS, H. A.	Trinidad	Royal Air Force	Acting Pilot-Officer
DE PASS, J. ALAN	...	Grenadier Guards	2nd Lieutenant
FITT, STANLEY W.	Trinidad	Royal Air Force	Flying-Lieutenant
GILCHRIST, W. J., D.C.M.	Trinidad	...	Sergeant
GOODING, I. M.	Barbados	Canadian Seaforth Highlanders	...
HUMPHRIES, R. C.	Jamaica	East Surrey Regiment	2nd Lieutenant
LANGAN, A.	Jamaica	...	...
LLOYD, I. M.	...	...	...
MANNING, J. H.	Barbados	Royal Air Force	...
MARESCAUX, G.	Grenada	Fleet Air Arm	Lieut.-Commander
MAYO, S. E.	British Honduras	Royal Army Service Corps	Corporal
MILBANKE, R.	...	10th Royal Hussars	Captain
MILLINER, VIOLET	Jamaica	Women's A.	A.C.W.2
MOSS, RUPERT G.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Aircraftman
MCKINSTRY	Barbados	Leicester Regiment	Major
OXFORD, A. W.	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	Lance Sergeant
PARKER, IAN R.	...	Royal Air Force	Wing Commander
PERCELL, H.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	...
POWELL, G. T. WYNNE	Jamaica	Royal Air Force (Auxiliary)	Acting Flight-Lieut.
RERRIE, EUSTACE	Jamaica	...	...
RHODES, R. A.	British Guiana	Royal Air Force	Pilot-Officer
ROBINSON, C. H.	Barbados	Royal Artillery	Lieutenant
SPEIGHT, L.	...	Royal Engineers	...
STUART, ROBIN	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	Lieutenant
STURDY, R. G.	Jamaica	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Sub-Lieutenant
WALKER, A. D.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	Aircraftman/2
WATSON, R. M.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	...
WEBB, F. S.	Jamaica	Royal Corps of Signals	Signalman
WYATT, L. A.	...	Royal Artillery	Gunner

Rum in the United Kingdom

Eighth Report of the Rum Propaganda Committee

THIS report, the eighth to be issued by the Rum Propaganda Committee, differs from those previously published in that it covers not the winter season only, but the work undertaken during a full twelve months. The decision to launch an all-the-year campaign was announced in the seventh report, published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of August 10th, 1939.

The Committee have to record with deep regret the death, on August 31st, of Mr. Christopher W. Gurney, who had been a member of the Committee since October, 1938.

During the year Mr. H. A. Walker was elected a member of the Committee which now comprises the following: Sir Alfred Sherlock, chairman (British Guiana), Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, Mr. J. Gordon Miller (Trinidad), Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood (Jamaica), Captain Ralph Milbanke (The Sugar Manufacturers' Association [of Jamaica] Ltd.), Mr. O. T. Norris (Portal, Dingwall & Norris, Ltd.—rum merchants and distributors), Mr. H. A. Walker (Caroni, Ltd. and West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd.) and Mr. R. Woodhouse (Messrs. E. D. & F. Man—rum brokers).

The cost of the Press and other advertising authorised by the Committee, and the concomitant expenses, were met, as heretofore, from funds provided for the most part by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd., and producers in British Guiana. Material assistance was provided by producers in Trinidad, the West India Rum Refinery, Barbados, and a number of distributor firms in the home trade.

The summer campaign brought encouraging results, and the advertisements of that period were devoted entirely to Rum Fizz, a "long" drink composed of rum and ginger ale, with a slice of lime or lemon. In this connexion, coloured showcards, together with a covering letter, were sent to 2,071 road houses and golf clubs. The advertising of rum during the summer months was, it will be recalled, proposed originally by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd. The trade generally were agreed that many consumers who had previously confined their purchases to the winter months were induced to continue their custom throughout the year and that many new channels of distribution were obtained.

Owing to the outbreak of war, the publicity campaign for the winter months, which had been prepared and approved, had to be considerably modified. On the advice of the Committee's publicity agents, it was decided to divert the expenditure, which had been allocated for poster advertising, to the national daily Press, and to certain London and Provincial evening newspapers, and to concentrate on the slogan: "If you're feeling cold or glum, why not take a tot of Rum." Some specimen advertisements were published in the CIRCULAR of January 25th.

The following sales aids were distributed during the year:—

<i>Pamphlets</i>				
Spirit of the Party	...	...	...	56,900
Why When and How	...	...	...	3,450
<i>Streamers</i>				
Keep Fit	...	...	...	3,394
Nothing Like Rum	...	...	...	1,558
Rum and Hot Water	...	...	...	125
<i>Showcards</i>				
If you're feeling glum	...	...	...	5,218
Rum Fizz	...	...	...	2,724
Keeps Troop Warm	...	...	...	2,489
Warm Up the Party	...	...	...	2,489
Keep Fit	...	...	...	1,713
Get Winter Spirit	...	...	...	394
Makes Milk Marvellous	...	...	...	392
Sailors Know	...	...	...	356
Rum and Hot Water	...	...	...	280
<i>Celluloid Cutouts</i>				
Rum and Lime	...	...	...	511
Rum and Ginger Ale	...	...	...	511
Pocket Calendars	...	...	...	32,825
Adhesive label with slogan	...	...	...	26,600
Counter Cash Mats (Rubber)	...	...	...	3,230
Total				145,169

The two Franco signs, situated on the London—Portsmouth Road and the London—Brighton Road respectively were maintained throughout the year.

Mr. C. P. Rees, for several years the outdoor representative of the Committee, visited hotels, public-houses, off-licences and licensed grocers making over 900 calls. Personal contact was made with brewery firms who have the control of over 2,000 licensed premises. In the course of his report on his work during the year, Mr. Rees states: "That Rum is a drink for the summer as well as the winter, is what has to be instilled into the mind of the great public. To this end, our literature should be devoted in simple telling language and the showcards go a long way in this direction. . . . The rubber mats and calendars are very popular and the demand is illimitable."

Advertisements were inserted in the principal "trade" journals throughout the year. These journals, and the Press generally, devoted considerable editorial space to the merits of rum, its history, distribution, etc., and further free publicity was secured as a result of several manufacturers of mineral waters pointing out in their advertisements that their product combined pleasantly with rum. In addition, several dealers, as for many years past, advertised their own particular brands of rum, thus helping to strengthen the general campaign.

At the beginning of the year under review, the duty on rum imported from Empire countries amounted to 72/10 per proof gallon, and that from foreign sources to 75/4. By the war budget of September 27th, 1939, both these rates were increased by 10/- per proof gallon.*

In a general comment on the campaign, the Committee's agents, Industrial Publicity Service write—

"It is satisfactory to know that the sales of Rum have been so good that at the moment it may be said there is no longer any problem of creating demand but rather a problem of ensuring an adequate supply.

"Whilst the large demand for Rum on behalf of His Majesty's Forces of course is to a great extent responsible for this state of affairs, there is also a steady demand for Rum by munition workers, bargees, and many engaged on night work, a demand likely to increase during the colder months. An interesting report from an important Off Licence Combine is that after an air raid there is a perceptible increase in demand for the pocket size flask. It is encouraging that the sales of Rum should have been so good, bearing in mind reports from the Trade Press that generally speaking sales of spirits are not so good. War time budgets with inevitable heavy taxation account for this fall in the sale of spirits.

"There is some encouraging evidence that Rum Fizz as a long refreshing drink is appreciated, but the amount hitherto spent up to date on this form of Rum drink is too small to expect very substantial results to date; and with the taxation prevailing at the moment the consumption of cocktails is probably likely to be somewhat reduced."

A. P. SHERLOCK,
Chairman.

EDWARD J. KING,
Secretary.

July, 1940.

* Since the close of the year, the duty on both Empire and Foreign rum has been increased by 15/- per proof gallon. With the duty on spirits standing at nearly £5 per gallon—and with other taxation at a high level—it is anticipated that consumption may show a decline. Rum will probably be further affected as Government orders may be on a smaller scale as a result of the withdrawal of the B.E.F. from France.

by its members.* The Colonial Office was very glad to see that that most useful piece of work had been undertaken, because the cost of living in relation to wages was one of the things which would certainly have to be watched most carefully by all Colonial Labour Departments during the war period.

Mr. Hall went on to say that the trade union movement in some of the Colonies had developed with amazing speed during the last few years. Three years ago they had practically no trade unions at all, although the laws permitted of their being formed. To-day nearly 200 unions had been registered under the various Colonial trade union laws, the majority of which were in Ceylon, Mauritius, Cyprus and the West Indies.

* A summary of this report was published in the CIRCULAR for July 11th, p. 170.—(Ed., W.I.C.C.).

Colonial Labour Problems

Cost of Living and Wages

A SECOND course (the first was in October, 1939) of instruction on labour problems in the Colonial Empire, held at the Colonial Office last month, was attended by a number of Administrative and Labour Officers. Mr. G. H. Hall, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, in his opening address said that during the last few years the necessity for grappling with many pressing labour problems had been fully realised in the Colonial Office and by all Colonial Governments, and a very large volume of labour legislation had been enacted. He emphasised the necessity of having adequate staff to see that the protective laws were carried out. Three years ago there were only seven Colonial Dependencies who had either separate Labour Departments or had appointed full-time Labour Officers or Inspectors. To-day the number of such Territories was 27 and the total number of full-time Labour Commissioners, Advisers and Inspectors, was more than three-fold the total in 1937. When the war broke out Mr. MacDonald impressed upon Colonial Governments the valuable contribution which could be made by them to the war effort by the maintenance of their labour and other social services during that critical period. He (Mr. Hall) was glad to be able to say that the Colonial Governments had responded wholeheartedly to that appeal. The conditions imposed by the war of necessity entailed some slowing up of progress, but the Government was determined that no-one should have grounds for saying at the end of the war that everything possible was not done to maintain vital social services and the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill included the establishment or expansion of Labour Departments.

The policy of the Colonial Office in regard to the staffing of Colonial Labour Departments or inspectorates, continued Mr. Hall, was to allow Colonial Governments, wherever possible, to select officers of their own administrations. In the case of the smaller Colonies which had no large administrative staffs, the labour appointments had been filled either by the secondment of experienced officers from other Colonies or by the selection of recently retired officers of the Colonial Service, or, in certain special cases, by the secondment of officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. He mentioned one instance of early last year. The Ministry were asked by Mr. MacDonald to second an experienced officer from their Industrial Relations Division for a year for appointment as Labour Adviser to the Government of Jamaica. The Ministry lent a most experienced officer who, during the year he had been in the Colony, had established a Labour department of about a dozen officers, all recruited from persons resident in the Island, whom he was actively engaged in training to undertake the numerous duties which a Labour Department would eventually have to perform. The Department had already produced an excellent report in the form of a survey of the cost of living which had been carried out

(Continued in preceding column)

Notes of West Indian Interest

"TRY you' fren' in small t'ing, use him in great."

* * *

MR. MARCUS GARVEY, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, died in London on June 11th. It is understood that his remains are to be taken to Jamaica for burial.

* * *

MR. C. G. LANGLEY, who was recently appointed Chief Justice of British Honduras, is at present in England on leave. He is staying at the Royal William Hotel, Painswick, near Stroud, Gloucester.

* * *

THE Government of India have informed the International Sugar Council that having regard to the United Kingdom's desire for additional sugar supplies they wish arrangements made to enable India to export up to 200,000 tons of sugar. The question will, we are informed, be considered shortly.

* * *

MR. A. R. STARCK, who recently returned to Trinidad after acting as H.M. Trade Commissioner in Jamaica for three months, informed a representative of the *Trinidad Guardian* that he saw no reason to suppose that Jamaica would not eventually be able to supply the whole of the West Indies with condensed milk.

* * *

Now that more attention is being given in some West Indian Colonies to the question of making greater use of available fish, attention may be called to a brief article on the Preservation of Fish in Warm Climates, accompanied by references to literature on the subject, which appear in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* for October December, 1939.

* * *

THE engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place between Cadet Carl Cecil Seaford, R.A., eldest son of the Hon. F. J. Seaford and Mrs. Seaford, of Georgetown, British Guiana, and Miss Deirdre Ann Sainsbury, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pomroy Sainsbury, of 46, Queen Anne Street, W.1 and Chalders, Broadbridge Heath, Sussex.

* * *

DR. HYACINTH B. MORGAN, who needs no introduction to readers of the CIRCULAR, has become Member of Parliament for Rochdale, and took his seat in the House of Commons on July 23rd. He is no stranger to Westminster having represented North-West Camberwell from 1929 to 1931. Dr. Morgan, who was born in Grenada 55 years ago, has been an active member of the Labour Party for many years, and is the medical adviser to the Trades' Union General Council and to the Union of Post Office Workers.

* * *

At the invitation of the Labour Party in Trinidad, he visited the island last year to assist in preparing evidence for the Royal Commission, but his trip was cut short owing to the illness of the late Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., whom he was asked to accompany to England.

Dr. Morgan was able to pay a brief visit to Grenada, where his brother is a district medical officer.

* * *

THE August issue of the *Empire Review* contains the second of a series of articles on The Colonial Empire at War in which Mr. W. Minshall describes the splendid contribution made in many different ways, and by every section of the community of Trinidad and Tobago. Not the least significant aspect of the unity of purpose displayed is, Mr. Minshall says, the fact that it loyally reflects the united front in the Mother Country which has been such an inspiration to the Colony.

* * *

AMONGST the useful activities of the Society for Comparative Legislation is the publication of an annual review of Empire legislation. The *Journal* of the Society for July, 1940 (vol. XXII, pts. 2-3) contains a summary of the more important laws passed during the year 1938 in the British Isles, the Dominions and the Colonies. The information regarding the West Indies, often compiled by the Attorney-General of the Colony, is very complete and indicates how problems, more or less common to all, are being dealt with in the different Colonies.

* * *

CALVIN S. LAMBERT, a West Indian medical student, contributes two charming poems to Aida Reubens anthology *Stardust*. (London: Spearman Publishers, 2/6). In one he pleads

"Oh for more time! I've lived one-third my span:
Two arts to serve within so short a time
Is great injustice for an earnest man."

--a frank impression of his thoughts. In the other he extols the Tropic Man about which he writes with much feeling and appreciation. If Mr. Lambert serves medicine as well as he does his Muse he will pass his examinations with ease.

* * *

MR. MERVYN AP RHYS-PRYCE who, we regret to learn, was killed in action on June 3rd while serving with the Auxiliary Air Force, was a popular figure in Trinidad where he had been engaged in the oil industry for some six years before the outbreak of war. He arrived in the Colony in 1933 to take up an appointment with Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd., and later became assistant manager. In 1938 Mr. Rhys-Pryce resigned his appointment and formed a company which carried out drilling work under contract in various parts of the island. He was a son of General Sir Henry ap Rhys-Pryce. He was keen on sailing and flying, and had actively interested himself in the development of flying in Trinidad.

Mr. Robert Bryson

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Mr. Robert Bryson, O.B.E., a member of the Executive of the West India Committee since 1925, died at his home at Bourne End, Buckingham, on August 2nd. A memoir will appear in the next issue of the CIRCULAR.

Pan America

Plans for Agricultural Co-operation

THE Pan American Conference, recently held at Havana, reached agreement on two urgent matters of vital importance. One was that the American Republics should defend and, if necessary, temporarily administer any European territories in the western hemisphere threatened by the events of this war. The second that the available surplus exports of the Pan American countries should be jointly marketed with the financial assistance of the United States.

It was very fitting that these important agreements were arrived at in the Golden Jubilee year of the Pan American Union, the international organisation created and maintained by twenty-one American Republics to promote peace, commerce and friendship by mutual collaboration and co-operation. Apart from the particular war problems dealt with by the Havana Conference, of which fuller details must be awaited, it is of interest to call attention to proposals for "Inter-American Agricultural Co-operation" which were put forward by Mr. H. A. Wallace, the United States Secretary for Agriculture, in the April number of the *Bulletin of the Pan American Union*, the "commemorative issue" of the fiftieth anniversary of the Union.

Mr. Wallace says that in the past the ties of the United States and their Latin American neighbours have been with Europe. "Bonds of trade and bonds of interest have kept our interest centered across the Atlantic." The outbreak of war in Europe has however created difficult situations and more than ever it is essential that the co-operation of the American Republics should be whole-hearted and effective. Agriculture is of such vital importance in the economics of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere that particular attention must be paid to the major crops now being produced and those whose production might with advantage be developed or expanded. Greater collaboration is required in the marketing and production of those commodities which the Western Hemisphere already produces in excess of its needs, together with the greater production of tropical and semi-tropical products which might find a market in the United States and thus enhance the purchasing power of the countries of origin for products of temperate zone countries.

Mr. Wallace then summarises the position of a number of important economic products, for which the possibility of collaboration on a commodity basis within the Western Hemisphere, at least during the period of the war, is being actively explored. As a minimum, he says, collaboration would contemplate no further production of these items for which world supplies, especially in Western Hemisphere countries, are in excess of world requirements when considered on either a peace time or a war time basis.

The average production of cotton during recent years in the Western Hemisphere has averaged about 15 million bales exceeding domestic requirements there by 6 to 7 million bales. Sugar and coffee are similarly all being produced locally far in excess of Western Hemisphere consumption.

Another and what Mr. Wallace describes as a very

significant phase of the work of inter-American agricultural co-operation aims to give Latin American countries greater purchasing power, not by means of loans, but by the development of a wider basis of complementary trade between them and the United States. He expresses the opinion that any very considerable and permanent increase in the trade between the United States and Latin America must await the production in the latter of new products, amongst which he instances rubber, Manila hemp, cinchona, some tropical vegetable oils, perfumes, tea and tropical fruits. He concludes that there appear to be in the American tropics the physical resources for the commercial production on an extensive scale of these various commodities but that the available resources will not be developed unless effective assistance is given by the United States to the countries involved. In addition to various forms of practical assistance cited, Mr. Wallace says that one project, which looms large in plans for future inter-American agricultural co-operation, is the proposed Tropical Institute of Agriculture, which would be established with private funds in a Latin American Republic, and that it is hoped the United States Government can help to initiate this project, co-operate in maintaining it, and furnish some of the technical specialists.

Sea Island Cotton Crop

THE President of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, in a letter dated June 25th, informed the Advisory Committee in England that the crop for 1940 was estimated at 2,563,000 lb. of lint made up as follows:—

		Montserrat Strain		Pounds of Lint
<i>Crop complete *</i>				
Antigua ...	...	...	...	450,000
Nevis ...	...	...	...	450,000
Anguilla and Virgin Islands ...	...	...	...	45,000
<i>Crop sown March-May:—</i>				
Montserrat and St. Kitts (provisional estimate)	...	...	...	1,000,000
Total				1,945,000
		Superfine Strain		
<i>Crop complete *</i>				
St. Vincent ...	...	...	...	608,000
Barbados ...	...	...	...	10,000
Total				618,000
Grand total ...				2,563,000

*Ginning incomplete

The information was also given that the area planted under Sea Island cotton in the United States for 1940 was reported to be 30,000 acres. This corresponds with the acreage of two years ago; last year it was only about 18,000 acres.

L/SERGEANT CYRIL ROBERTS, son of Sergeant G. Roberts late of Trinidad, who was reported missing, is a prisoner of war.

MR. L. A. WYATT is the second member of the staff of the West India Committee to be called to the Colours in recent weeks. He is serving as a gunner in the Royal Artillery.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Crop finished in Barbados—Higher Income Tax in Jamaica
East Indians in Trinidad*



BARBADOS

SUGAR Crop Estimate. Dry weather had continued during May and good rains were badly needed in all districts stated the Director of Agriculture in his monthly notes dated June 18th. Reaping operations were finished and although final figures had not been received, the crop was estimated at the equivalent of 97,331 tons sugar made up as follows: vacuum pan sugar, 67,264; muscovado sugar, 3,067; fancy molasses (equated at 330 wine gallons per ton sugar), 27,000.

Peasant Agriculture. A more detailed survey had been started with the object of obtaining information to be used as a basis for formulating policies to effect fundamental improvements in peasant agriculture. The prolonged drought had retarded the planting of food crops, a feature which was specially unfortunate at a time when every effort was being made to increase local food production. Prædial larceny was still very prevalent. Prospective settlers at Vieux Fort in St. Lucia had been interviewed and ninety-four had sailed during the month.

The Average Rainfall. The rainfall records of Barbados have, Dr. Saint reports, been brought up to date. The mean annual rainfall for the period 1847-1939 is 60.15 inches, and for 1929-39 it is 60.48 inches. During that last decade, 1929-39, there have been very wet and very dry years. Between the rainfalls of 1930 and 1938 there is a difference of fifty inches. These extremes, however, have cancelled out to give an average very close to the mean annual rainfall for over 90 years.

BRITISH GUIANA

Gratuities for Non-Pensionable Employees. Our hon. correspondent wrote on June 15th that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had approved of the Legislative Council being invited to authorise the payment of gratuities and allowances to non-pensionable Government employees, including the employees of the Transport and Harbours Department. A message would accordingly be laid before the Council at its next session setting out the basis of the proposed award of these superannuation benefits.

BRITISH HONDURAS

New Colonial Secretary Arrives. We learn from Captain M. S. Metzen that Mr. R. E. Turnbull, who was appointed Colonial Secretary with effect from May 9th, arrived in the Colony and assumed office on June 23rd.

Bishop of Haiti. The Rt. Rev. Spencer Burton, Assistant Bishop of Haiti, is paying a visit to the Colony as the guest of His Grace, The Archbishop of the West Indies, the Rt. Rev. E. A. Dunn.

The Anglican Synod, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop, was due to be held during the second week of July. It would be attended by clergy from various parts of Central America.

JAMAICA

Major-General F. P. Nosworthy, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., second son of Mr. Richard Nosworthy, a former Collector General of Jamaica, has been appointed Commander of the 18th Division of the British Army and has been granted the acting rank of Lieutenant-General.

The Hon. Sydney R. Cargill has, it is learned with regret, tendered his resignation of the office of Custos of St. Andrew, which he has held since 1931.

Income Tax rates will, it is proposed in a Bill, entitled a Law to Amend further the Income Tax Law, introduced in the Legislative Council on July 4th, be increased in order to bring them approximately into line with those prevailing in the United Kingdom before the present war but with modifications in the lower income ranges.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Increasing Population. Last year there was an increase of a little over 8,500 in the population of the Colony. In his *Annual Report* for 1939 the Registrar-General states that on December 31st, 1938, the estimated population was 464,889. During 1939 births exceeded deaths by 7,034 and immigrants exceeded emigrants by 1,532, which made the estimated population 473,455 on December 31st, 1939.

The population of the City of Port-of-Spain (which since June, 1938, has included St. James) has reached 91,200.

Agricultural Credit Societies. The Finance Committee has approved that the rate of interest charged on loans to Agricultural Credit Societies should be reduced from 6 per cent. to 3 per cent. per annum, and that the rate charged by the Societies on loans to members should be reduced from 12 per cent. to not more than 7 per cent., made up as follows: 3 per cent. for repayment of Government interest; 1 per cent. for general reserve, and 2 or 3 per cent. at the discretion of the Societies, to meet working expenses.

East Indians. The Protector of Immigrants in his *Annual Report* for 1939 says that the estimated number of East Indians in the Colony on December 31st was 161,106. The land owned by them amounts to 113,861 acres, of which 50,188 acres are in cocoa, and 20,125 in sugar. Excepting mixed cultivation, 11,761 acres, rice comes next with 7,384 acres. Of the 12,914 cane farmers in the Colony, 9,444 were East Indians. The Protector also records that three East Indians continue to be Elected Members of the Legislative Council, and that the East Indian Advisory Board, established in 1939 to advise the Government on East Indian matters, functioned satisfactorily during the year. Many East Indians are landlords, merchants, shopkeepers, dairymen and peasant proprietors, while others are professional men and civil servants.

British Guiana and the Arctic

A Problem in Place Names

Mr. H. N. G. Cobbe has sent us an interesting problem which some of our readers may, he suggests, be able to solve. He points out that at the mouth of the Mackenzie River in Canada, within the Arctic Circle, Tuktoyaktuk is the name of a place with stormy or "rough" waters. In Greenland also there is Ketortuk, close to the sea if not on a river, where there are still remains of a Norse church. Mr. Cobbe says that in British Guiana we know that "tuk" is a waterfall, or a steep rapid and that we thus have in British Guiana, south of the equator and also within or close to the Arctic Circle three place names ending in tuk.

Mr. Cobbe says he is a believer in the view that the Japanese, or whoever lived in Japan at the time, came across to Alaska, down the American coast and so to Panama. He points out that the West Indian islands and British Guiana were not far away and that these early voyagers seem to have taken their language with them to the mouth of the Mackenzie river and if so, he is inclined to ask, why not to Greenland?

Uses for Sweet Potato Starch

Three materials are used in the making of gum drops and similar sweets. In order of quality they are gum arabic, gelatine and boiling starch. Confectionery Production for January contains an article in which it is stated that starch gums suffer from being opaque but that hopes had been expressed in the United States that clear starch gums would soon be obtainable. Another writer in the same issue says this view is confirmed in an article in the Manufacturing Chemist of Illinois in which a great future is predicted for sweet potato starch which has great advantages over other starches for the manufacture of gums.

The valuable properties claimed for sweet potato starch are that it absorbs water very readily, is pure white, has no odour or taste and boils well without frothing.

Another use of sweet potato starch which might become of commercial importance is the outcome of experiments reported on by L. E. Stout and C. G. Ryberg in Industrial Engineering Chemistry, vol. XXXI, 1939, pp. 1454-57. Their work indicated that a sweet syrup can be made from sweet potato starch comparable in appearance and flavour to corn syrup made under similar conditions from Indian corn or maize.

have, as stated, defrayed the cost. To facilitate distribution overseas and to avoid duplication, the principal offices of the associated companies of the Shell Group will hold stocks, and requests for copies should be made direct to them. Distribution in Great Britain will be through the Ross Institute and applications should be addressed to the Organising Secretary, Emergency Office, 29, Inglis Road, Ealing, W.5.

* A HANDBOOK OF MALARIA CONTROL, by R. Svensson, D.S.O., M.C., M.B., B.Ch., published by the Shell Group of Oil Companies, pp. viii and 73, with six plates and thirteen figures. The Raven Press.

Soil Conservation in Trinidad

Depression in the cocoa industry, the greater demand for food crops and the fear of prædial larceny have contributed to the increased soil erosion, flooding and landslides in the western portion of the Northern Range of Trinidad. In his annual report for 1939, Mr. R. J. Brookes, the Conservator of Forests, said that the greater part of the land in this district had been for many years under private ownership.

Until about 1932 it was mainly covered with cocoa, forests, or second growth but, with the advent of the cocoa depression, owners began to rent out increasing areas of steep hillsides to peasants on which to grow maize, tomatoes, etc. The peasants prefer the highest, steepest and most inaccessible portions as the danger of loss by prædial larceny is thus reduced. The position, which already gave cause for considerable anxiety had been further complicated by the call to produce more local foodstuffs. The Lands Advisory Committee has urged the adoption of the following principal remedial measures:—

(1) The acquisition by Government over a period of years of all privately owned land still maintained by the owners under forest for protective reasons, together with such other land, particularly at elevations exceeding 500 ft., as may be considered necessary for protective purposes, the purchase being made either by cash or by the issue of bonds.

(2) The layout of all peasant gardens under a contour strip or other system designed to minimise the danger of run-off and erosion.

The Control of Malaria

Sir Malcolm Watson, Director of the Ross Institute, in his preface to Dr. Svensson's book*, says that the need has recently been expressed for a simple compact work of reference on certain aspects of malaria control for the use of planters, engineers and other laymen who have to undertake anti-malarial work in the Tropics.

When this was brought to the notice of the Shell Group of oil companies, already very generous supporters of the Institute, the directors volunteered to defray the expenses of production and distribution of such a book if the Institute would be responsible for its compilation. Hence this excellent little volume by Dr. Svensson, an Assistant Director of the Ross Institute, full of sound practical advice on how to wage effective war on the "World's Public Enemy No. 1."

After dealing briefly with the nature of malaria, and how it is transmitted, the means of control are very fully described. Underlying principles are first explained, and then the various methods, suited for different species of mosquitoes and different conditions, detailed with the help of clear explanatory diagrams. These include natural methods—alteration of salinity, of larval food supplies, of light and shade, the introduction of enemies—regulation of water flow or level, draining, oiling and use of insecticides. One of the eleven useful appendices is of particular interest, containing as it does an account of the species of mosquitoes which are the carriers of malaria in the seven principal regions of the world.

It is usual to mention the price of a book in a review, but in this case that is not necessary as the Shell Group

(Continued in preceding column)

Censorship in Jamaica

In the House of Commons on July 3rd, Mr. Parker inquired whether the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies was aware that the assistant chief censor in Jamaica had ordered newspapers, on May 28th, to omit all reference in future to conscription of wealth, and to the recent legislation with regard to Government control of industry of the United Kingdom; whether this ban had his approval and whether freedom of discussion on such important matters of policy was to be allowed in future in Jamaica.

Mr. G. Hall replied that, as he had no information on the matter, inquiries were being made by telegram. Mr. Parker repeated the question on July 9th when he was informed by Mr. Hall that the Governor of Jamaica had reported that the publication in the Colony of abbreviated information on the subject of the Emergency Powers Act gave rise to an unfortunate rumour that the Government contemplated the acquisition of savings and bank accounts. This resulted in a marked increase in withdrawals and the Government thereupon decided to restrain the publication of anything likely to aggravate the position. This restraint was imposed as a temporary measure as it was considered that uninformed criticism might have had unfortunate results. The position was now normal and restrictions had been lifted although the Press had been asked to use care in dealing with the subject in its columns.

Jamaica's Sugar Crop

Mr. D. J. Verity wrote on July 6th that since his notes of May 4th (see CIRCULAR of June 13th) the sugar crop had been practically completed, and that with only two factories left grinding, it was estimated that the total would be approximately 99,400 tons. The two factories which had yet to finish were Cambridge and Raheen, and both of these would complete their crops within the next fortnight.

The crop had been disappointing from the point of view of tonnage of canes reaped, and also extraction of sugar from cane. However, from the figures they had seen, Jamaica was not singular in this regard and some other Colonies appeared to have had crops comparatively worse than Jamaica.

There was, Mr. Verity said, not much sugar left to be shipped at the time of writing. All of it was allotted to Canada and was being moved by the Canadian National ships, which for the first time since the Trade Agreement came into operation had been taking substantial quantities of sugar to Canadian ports from Jamaica.

It was too early as yet for him to be able to say much about the prospects for next season, as it was the July and August rains—or lack of them—which “make or break” sugar crops in the following year.

A RED Cross match will be played at Lord's on August 22nd between Sir Pelham Warner's XI and a team of West Indian cricketers. It is hoped that C. B. Clarke, Constantine and Martindale will be in the West Indian team.

Book Reviews

The Villages of British Guiana

THE Rev. James Williams, talented author of works on the languages of the Makuchis, Waraus, and the aborigines of British Guiana has added to the archives of that Colony a list raisonnée of Dutch plantations on the banks of the Berbice and Canje rivers and an account of the evolution of “villages” from the estates after the abolition of slavery.*

A most painstaking and accurate investigator—as Mynheer C. H. de Goeje justly calls him in a foreword—Mr. Williams has had recourse to many authorities in the Netherlands, which gave Guiana its economic birth, and at the Public Record Office in London, he found a “list of estates” submitted to the British Foreign Office by the Dutch Ambassador in 1819. Many of the old Dutch names are still in use in the Colony—Zorg-en-Hoop, Gelderland, Bestendigheid, Mara, to mention a few only. The first named was purchased by thirty labourers after the abolition of slavery and Mr. Williams quotes Brumell as stating that before 1838 (when apprenticeship was ended) a traveller might have passed from one end of the country to the other without seeing a single house or an acre of land which did not belong to the proprietor of the estate through which the highway ran. Conditions are very different to-day, and the villages form an integral part in the economic structure of the coastlands. Mr. Williams has again performed, with marked ability, a difficult task.

Maid No More

A new novel from the pen of Helen Simpson provides an intellectual treat in these days when erudition and style are all too rarely combined with interest. In *Maid No More*† Miss Simpson takes us back three centuries to the time of the Reformation and such is her skill in portraiture that we feel we are on the Nonsuch sharing the adventures of passengers and crew.

Her descriptions of scenery and the sea are also excellent. The scene of the novel's final chapter is on an uncharted island in the Caribbean Sea but its action mainly takes place at Oxford, at St. Jago in the Cape Verde islands and on the high seas. Its central theme is the eternal struggle between spiritual and physical forces. The story is equal to Miss Simpson's best and no higher praise is necessary.

THE Postmaster-General announces that owing to the sinking of the s.s. Davisian the following letters and parcels have been lost:—

Letters and parcels for Barbados and St. Lucia and parcels for the Leeward Islands posted approximately between June 3rd and 17th; letters for British, French and Dutch Guiana, and letters and parcels for Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Venezuela (Ciudad Bolivar) posted approximately between June 11th and 17th; letters for the Leeward Islands posted approximately between June 15th and 17th.

*DUTCH PLANTATIONS ON THE BANKS OF THE BERBICE AND CANJE RIVERS IN THE COUNTRY KNOWN SINCE 1831 AS THE COLONY OF BRITISH GUIANA. By the Reverend James Williams, F.R.Hist.S. The *Daily Chronicle* Ltd., Georgetown.

†MAID NO MORE. A novel by Helen Simpson. London. William Heinemann, Ltd. Price 8/3 net. Obtainable from the West India Committee, 8/9 post free United Kingdom.

Round the Markets

August 6th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	July 22nd.	August 5th.	£ value	4/5.9
Canada ...	4.45	4.45	£	4/11.6
U.S.A. ...	4.03	4.03	£	

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend Latest year		Quotations	
2½	Consols (yield £9 8s. 0d. per cent.)	73½	73½
3½	War Loan	99½	100½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6	nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/-	nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3	13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1	1½
8½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	28/6	31/6
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/-	35/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	3d.	4½d.
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	9d.	1/3
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	18/9	21/3
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/-	3/-
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/6	3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d.	1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30	40
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar...	1½	2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/-	13/-
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3	7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d.	1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	38/-	40/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	½	¾ x.d.
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/-	7/-

COCOA. A small trade has been done in West African on the spot at from 35/- to 36/- but there is no business to report in other descriptions. Trinidad is valued nominally at 65/- to 70/- for good plantation to fine estates, and Grenada fine at 59/- to 62/6, nominal.

BALATA is a slow market. Both sheet and block are quoted at 2/7 per lb.

BANANAS continue in reasonably good demand but there is some competition from soft fruit. Jamaicas are unchanged, to wholesalers, at £30 5s. per ton delivered London and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. The market generally is quiet but firm. Sales of Jamaica have been made on the spot at 85/- to 95/- for dark liquid to pale amber, ex wharf, according to quality. Pale to white is quoted at 95/- to 100/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is quiet and valued nominally at 40/- to 45/- per lb. Distilled continues to be quoted at 27/6 per lb. **Lime Juice.** The demand for Concentrated is still limited; the value is about £9 per pipe. Raw is quiet and unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon.

ORANGE OIL. The value of Sweet is about 6/- per lb. and Bitter continues to be quoted at 11/6 per lb.

SPICES. A few hundred bags of **Pimento** have been sold on the spot at prices ranging from 10d. to 10½d. ex store. There have been some inquiries for small quantities for shipment to United Kingdom ports, with shippers quoting 80/- c.i.f. London for August shipment. Small sales of Jamaica **Ginger** have been reported at: 47/6 to 52/6 ex wharf for small mixed to bright No. 3, 55/- to 57/6 for good medium No. 2; 60/- to 65/- for medium No. 1 and at 75/- to 80/- for bold bright plump in barrels. A fair business has been done in West Indian **Nutmegs.** Wormy and broken have sold at 5½d., sound unassorted at 6d., and sound 80's at 8d.

Buyers of **Mace** are showing rather more interest. Mixed reddish to pale is quoted at 2/- per lb. ex wharf, choice pale at 2/2 to 2/3, and pale pickings at 1/2.

Coco-nut Shell Charcoal

The need for equipping both the armed Forces and civilians with gas masks has enormously increased the demand for what is known as activated charcoal. One of the best materials readily available in quantity for the manufacture of such charcoal is the shell of the coco-nut. Ceylon, one of the chief Empire sources of coco-nuts, has for several years manufactured charcoal from their shells and statistics published in the Ceylon Trade Journal show how greatly the exports have increased both in quantity and value during recent years. They were, in round figures: 1933, 40,000 cwt. valued at Rs. 90,000; 1936, 135,000 cwt. and Rs. 377,000; 1938, 220,000 cwt. and Rs. 824,000; in 11 months, January to November, 1939, the output rose to 352,000 cwt. and the value to no less than Rs. 1,262,000 (£94,650). Whilst the increase is primarily due to the demand for gas masks, it should be mentioned that coco-nut shell charcoal has long been used for sugar and oil refining, water, gas and air purification and for various other industrial and domestic purposes.

Export News

S. WOLF & Co., LTD., manufacturers of "Wolf" portable electric tools, have acquired from Acton Electric Tools the entire interests and stocks of "Rotax" electric tools. For the time being, users of "Rotax" should address their inquiries for service or spares to a Wolf distributor or agent, or to the company itself at Hanger Lane, Ealing, London.

THE METAL BOX Co., LTD., recently announced the introduction of flattened cans, which when packed for transit to the Colonies or other overseas territories, occupy only one-fifth of the space needed for made-up cans. The savings made in freight charges quickly repay the cost—£85 f.o.b.—of the simple re-forming machinery. Further particulars may be obtained from the company at 28, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

OVER 400 guests, the majority in uniform, attended a party given recently for members of the overseas forces, at Over Seas House, Park Lane. Sir Jocelyn Lucas, chairman of the committee responsible for the party, said that it had been sponsored by BOVRIL, LTD., whose vice-chairman, the Duke of Atholl, gave a hearty welcome to the guests.

THE Keeper of the Privy Purse has notified Mr. Ernest Thomas, managing director of the Humber Fishing and Fish Manure Co., Ltd., that a Royal Warrant has been granted to him, appointing his firm fish fertiliser manufacturers to H.M. King George VI. The Royal Warrant is strictly personal, and Mr. Thomas was privileged to receive a similar honour from King George V.

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August 21st, 1940.

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLE—		BET SUGAR PROFITS ..	208
AMERICA AND THE WEST		HANDLE BANANAS CAREFULLY	208
INDIES	201	PLANT INSECTICIDES	209
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	202	SIR P. WARNER'S XI WEST	209
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	203	INDIES ..	209
THE DUKE OF WINDSOR	205	PRICE OF WEST AFRICAN COCOA	209
RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN	204	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	210
MR. ROBERT BRYSON, O.B.E.	206	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	211
MEDICAL ADVISER IN WEST INDIES	206	LAND SETTLEMENT IN TRINIDAD	211
WEST INDIES SUGAR	206	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	211
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN IN-		JAMAICA MILK CONDENSARY	211
TEREST ..	207	ROUND THE MARKETS ..	212
YOUNG CANADA AND THE WAR	208	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEET-	
HOME BET SUGAR IN WAR	208	INGS ..	212
TIME ..	208	THE NEW TOBACCO DUTIES	212

America and the West Indies

EVERY now and then someone in this country feels impelled to write to the Press in order to confess to an overwhelming desire to sell one or more of our British West Indian Colonies. This phenomenon has never so far been satisfactorily explained but all students of West Indian history and affairs are familiar with it. The people who make these suggestions do not as a rule know very much about the West Indies. By the very nature of things the chances are that they are not very strong on the history of the British Empire. It is certain that they know nothing of the character of those fellow subjects of theirs whose good fortune it is to live in the West Indian Colonies.

Why, it may be asked, do we never hear it suggested that Scotland or Cornwall or the Isle of Man should be sold? Such a proposal, we know, would shock everyone who heard it. There would be an immediate outcry against any man who dared to suggest selling his countrymen and trafficking in British soil and his name would, very properly, be stamped with everlasting infamy. Why then, if it is despicable to suggest selling Cornwall or Scotland is it permissible, or even meritorious, to propose the sale of Antigua or Barbados? Wherein lies the difference? Are the inhabitants of our West Indian Colonies in any sense less British than are the people of Great Britain? Is British citizenship a perishable commodity which cannot survive a long voyage? If this were so, the British Empire would be no more than a purposeless accumulation of territory: the chief glory and all the meaning of our history would have vanished.

The letter from SIR THOMAS MOORE which appeared in the *Sunday Times* on August 4th furnishes a good example of the sort of correspondence to which we have referred. It has all the familiar characteristics. In the proposals therein put forward for the sale of British West Indian islands to the United States there is the usual preoccupation with the interests of British subjects in Great Britain at the expense of British subjects in the West Indies, and there is the familiar assumption that the transfer of West Indian islands to the United States of America would be generally acceptable to the people of that country.

It is not necessary to give detailed consideration here to SIR THOMAS MOORE'S proposals. They have been dealt with sufficiently faithfully by correspondents in the *Sunday Times*. Any importance that the letter may have lies in the fact that it has been published at a time when the British Empire is engaged in a life and

death struggle in defence of those very principles which the proposals set forth in that letter set at defiance. It would hardly be possible for Great Britain to maintain her character as the protector of small nations and communities against forcible absorption by their more powerful neighbours if she were forcibly to transfer communities now under the British flag to another power. Nowhere is this fact better understood than in the United States of America. It is an American and not an Englishman who wrote (in a book entitled "The United States and the Caribbean"): "In spite of their trade dependence on the United States, the population of the British islands is strongly British in spirit." The following passage from a letter which appeared in the *Sunday Times* on August 18th puts the matter concisely:—

"Friendship between the United States of America and this country must always be an integral part of our foreign policy and a vital factor in the maintenance of the peace, and liberties of the world. Friendship between countries, however, like that between individuals, can only be founded upon mutual respect and understanding. It is not recorded, for example, that the relations between Esau and Jacob were at all improved by the transfer of the former's birthright to the latter for a mess of pottage."

In the consideration now being given by the United States Government to the possibility of acquiring new naval bases in the Caribbean it has been made abundantly clear that there is no suggestion of the buying of territories and peoples. MR. ROOSEVELT showed a truer appreciation of the nature of British citizenship than that exhibited by certain people in this country when he stated on August 16th that the proposed arrangements were merely for the leasing of naval bases and that no proposal was being made which would in any way compromise British sovereignty in our West Indian Colonies.

This point was underlined by MR. CHURCHILL in the House of Commons on August 20th when he said: "There is, of course, no question of any transference of sovereignty—that has never been suggested—or of any action being taken, without the consent or against the wishes of the various Colonies concerned, but for our part, His Majesty's Government are entirely willing to accord defence facilities to the United States on a 99 years' leasehold basis, and we feel sure that our interests no less than theirs, and the interests of the Colonies themselves and of Canada and Newfoundland will be served thereby."

From a Londoner's Notebook

SHORTLY after the collapse of France, Hitler announced that he would dictate peace in London on August 15th. On that day an irreverent London paper-seller chalked up on the blackboard, that owing to paper economy now takes the place of a poster, "Der Tag.—and he's only in Madam Tussaud's!" The day was in fact the most disastrous that has yet befallen Germany in this war, for in the course of mass raids by 1,000 aircraft no less than 180 were shot down, while the Royal Air Force lost only 34, and of these half the pilots were saved.

* * *

This was the crowning day of a truly marvellous week, in which the Germans lost nearly 500 planes at an average daily rate (since there was one blank day) of over 80. The British losses were less than a quarter of this figure. This evidently is Hitler's idea of the *Blitzkrieg*, although whether it is to lead up to the much-trumpeted land invasion we still do not know. The raids seem to have been organized on a methodical plan, which, if they had been successful, would clearly have prepared the way for a landing. The first object of attack was our shipping in the Channel. Apparently the enemy hoped to make that sea way impassable for our ships, so rendering our eastern harbours, including the Port of London, useless, and causing such congestion of our western ports that our whole supply system would be thrown out of gear. This project may be considered to have broken down with the crushing defeat of the *Luftwaffe* in the battle over Dover; at any rate, the Channel is the English Channel still.

* * *

The next phase was the concentrated attack on the harbours themselves—Plymouth, Portland, Portsmouth and Southampton have all been the targets of repeated attempts, and some damage has been done, though nothing like enough to cause serious inconvenience either to the Navy or to merchant shipping. Then the Germans tackled the aerodromes inland, from which came the fighters that caused them such devastating losses and would come the bombers to overwhelm any landing force. After these there were onslaughts upon arsenals and munition works, and finally, at the end of the week, half a dozen efforts to pierce the defences of London, in some of which bombs were dropped on the outer suburbs. All the attacks were beaten off with very heavy loss; for instance, of the score of German machines that bombed Croydon, on the southern outskirts of London, not a single one escaped.

* * *

We have of course suffered casualties on the ground, both in the services and among civilians. But it is safe to say that the material damage and the loss of life are utterly negligible in comparison with the enormous destruction wrought night after night by the R.A.F. bomber squadrons upon the airfields, harbours, arsenals and oil depots of the enemy. A most remarkable exploit has been that of the bombers who shattered the apparent security of Hitler's ally by flying 1,600 miles

to North Italy and back and bombing the great Fiat and Caproni works. By spectacular exhibitions of power and enterprise like this the prestige of Great Britain in Europe has been suddenly raised, and neutral countries who had been awed by Hitler's long run of successes, and may have contemplated submitting to the domination of the Axis, seem inclined to think again.

* * *

Stories illustrating the complete calm of the civil population under the German attacks are coming in from all over the country. A typical one is of the old age pensioner who, on the sounding of the sirens, failed to turn up in the local air raid shelter. After about twenty minutes someone went to her house to look for her. The old lady was found eating a square meal, and explained that, as the canary seemed nervous, she had stayed to keep it company.

* * *

Mr. Leopold Amery, making his first speech from the Treasury Bench for many years, scored a notable success and found the whole House with him on his new proposals for the future of India. He made it quite clear that we desire to see India admitted to free and equal partnership as a Dominion of the Commonwealth at the earliest possible moment, and that nothing stands in the way except the failure of Indians to agree among themselves. The chief point of the new offer is that the future Constitution shall be entirely the work of Indians, representing Indian social and political ideas, and drafted by a representative body of Indian leaders meeting as soon as possible after the war.

* * *

The indications at present are that the Hindu extremists of the National Congress, who stand out for an independent India under a Constitution imposed by the majority (themselves) and not settled by agreement with the Moslems and other minorities, are still unreconciled. But moderate opinion is impressed by this real advance towards meeting Indian aspirations.

* * *

The tragic and humiliating trials of the former leaders of France at Riom seem bent upon two objects. One, and that quite legitimate, is to fix the responsibility for the wretched weakness of the French military system when tested by the German onslaught. It seems clear that there must have been the gravest negligence, if not treachery, in high places. The second object, under the dominance of Hitler, is to find the members of M. Daladier's Cabinet guilty of letting Great Britain drag them into war against their will, and then involve them in defeat by giving inadequate support. In reply to this contention it is necessary to say, first that France stood as deeply committed as ourselves to maintain the cause of Poland; and secondly, that the exact extent of British military support that could be afforded on the outbreak of war, and at each stage of our progressive rearmament afterwards, had been made known to the French high command long before, and that at every phase we sent more men and guns than we had promised.

The West Indies and The War

Summary of Gifts to July 17th, 1940

IN the last issue of the CIRCULAR (p. 189) we referred to the announcement made in Parliament on July 24th by Mr. G. H. Hall, the Under Secretary of State, that the Colonies had contributed over nine and a quarter million pounds as gifts, or loans free of interest, to H.M. Government and various war charities and organisations. A summary of these contributions in money, as well of those in kind, made between September 3rd, 1939 and July 17th, of this year was published in *Hansard*. As our readers are aware, the endeavour has been made since the beginning of the war to publish in the CIRCULAR as complete a list as possible of all these gifts, as soon as they come to our notice. It has not been an easy task and we were glad to find on checking the official list with the records which have appeared in the CIRCULAR that only a few had escaped our notice.

The following summary, prepared from the statement issued by the Under Secretary of State, shows that the gifts in money from the British West Indies amount to £958,019 18s. 8d. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago has made a loan of £520,833 6s. 8d. free of interest, thus making the grand total £1,478,853 5s. 4d.

BARBADOS		£	s.	d.
The Government ...	...	125,000	0	0
"Win the War" Fund ...	...	12,000	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	915	6	8
King George's Fund for Sailors ...	...	300	0	0
		<u>138,215</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>

BRITISH GUIANA		£	s.	d.
For aircraft, through local Committee ...	...	40,000	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	6,010	0	0
		<u>46,010</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

BRITISH HONDURAS		£	s.	d.
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	1,000	0	0

JAMAICA		£	s.	d.
By Central War Assistance Committee—				
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	31,005	16	3
Y.M.C.A. War Service Fund ...	...	500	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors ...	...	5,100	0	0
Through the <i>Gleaner</i> for bombing planes	...	25,000	0	0
By Children to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth for War Charity ...	...	100	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	169	7	8
		<u>61,875</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>

LEEWARD ISLANDS		£	s.	d.
ANTIGUA				
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	52	0	0
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS				
Red Cross Ambulance Fund ...	...	1,200	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	228	12	8
VIRGIN ISLANDS				
Red Cross and St. John Fund ...	...	15	0	0
		<u>1,495</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO		£	s.	d.
The Government ...	...	520,500	0	0
Trinidad Guardian Fund for fighter planes	...	42,000	0	0
"A Trinidadian" (3½ per cent war loan) for aircraft	...	10,000	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	14,016	17	6
Chinese Section Red Cross Society for ambulances	...	1,042	0	0
Royal Navy Fund ...	...	268	10	0
		<u>587,827</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

Also loan from the Government, free of interest for the duration of the war	...	520,833	6	8
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WINDWARD ISLANDS		£	s.	d.
GRENADA				
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	505	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors	300	0	0
Trinidad West India Seamen's Fund	...	40	0	0
DOMINICA				
From Lebanese Syrians towards aircraft	...	360	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	218	0	0
St. Dunstan's	...	16	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors ...	...	20	0	0
ST. LUCIA				
Fund for military aircraft	...	2,100	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	250	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors ...	...	20	0	0
ST. VINCENT				
Co-operative Arrowroot Association for aircraft	...	5,000	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	200	0	0
		<u>9,029</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

BAHAMAS		£	s.	d.
The Government ...	...	22,000	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	14,510	0	0
Sir H. and Lady Oakes—fighter plane	...	5,000	0	0
King George's Fund for Sailors ...	...	1,444	0	0
		<u>42,954</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

BERMUDA		£	s.	d.
The Government ...	...	40,000	0	0
Corporation of City of Hamilton	...	1,000	0	0
"An Englishman settled in Bermuda"	...	10,000	0	0
Bermuda War Fund	...	11,000	0	0
Subscribed at Empire Fete	...	3,396	7	11
Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons and members of Gibbons Company to British Red Cross for ambulances	...	2,750	0	0
Red Cross and St. John Fund	...	1,367	0	0
St. Dunstan's	...	100	0	0
		<u>69,613</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>

Total Gifts	...	£958,019	18	8
Loan (free of interest)	...	520,833	6	8

Grand Total	...	£1,478,853	5	4
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Mr. Hall's statement also included a summary of all the gifts in kind. The majority from the West Indies came from the local organisations to the West India Committee and will be found in more detail in the report of the Ladies War Services Committee published in the CIRCULAR of July 25th. Amongst those sent in other

ways the following should be mentioned here although some have previously been reported: Citizens Committee of the Bahamas, 600 gallons of preserves and 750 gallons of lime juice as a contribution to supplies in the United Kingdom; Barbados Produce Exporters Association, 100 barrels of extra fancy molasses for H.M. Canadian Forces; British Guiana, Mr. Boodhoo, 5,000 lb. of rice for H.M. Forces; Jamaica, Messrs. H. O. Merren & Co. of Grand Cayman, 50 live turtles for the Royal Navy; the people of Grenada, 10 tons of cocoa for H.M. Forces.

BAHAMAS

Increased Import Duties. Under the War Relief Tax Act an additional duty of 1 per cent. *ad valorem* has been imposed on all imported goods and wares and merchandise which are subject to customs duties.

Red Cross and St. John. A gift of £731 from the Bahamas Citizens War Relief Committee to the Lord Mayor's Fund has been acknowledged.

BARBADOS

Life Assurance Society's Gift. It was reported in *The Times* on August 7th that, at a meeting of qualified policy holders, the Barbados Mutual Society had voted £5,000 as a gift to Great Britain to aid in the prosecution of the war. Also that another contribution is to be made in the near future.

Voluntary War Workers Gift. The list of donations to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund, issued in London on August 8th, included £1,891 3s. 0d. as a fourth instalment from the Barbados Voluntary War Workers Association.

DOMINICA

The Lebanese-Syrian Community, whose contribution of £360 is recorded in the list of war gifts (p. 203), forwarded it to the Administrator with a letter, which is published in the *Official Gazette* for July 22nd. In it they say "we consider our contribution to be exceedingly small, and would like to have made it much larger but, unfortunately, present business conditions prevent this."

Scrap Metal Collection. A central dump in Roseau and district collecting depots have been arranged to which donors are asked to convey scrap iron and steel. Brass, lead, copper and aluminium will be stored at the Government Marketing Depot in Roseau. The Central Committee, of which the Hon. F. G. Harcourt is chairman, has appealed to able bodied men to give their labour free in collecting and preparing the metal for transportation and shipment. The committee has accepted with pleasure the offer of assistance by the Boy Scouts, and in Roseau a house to house collection is being arranged.

GRENADA

For Liberty and Freedom. The Legislative Council has voted £15,000 to the British Government "as a token of the Colony's desire to assist in the war for the preservation of those principles of human liberty and freedom held dear by all people of His Majesty's Colonial Empire."

JAMAICA

Red Cross Contributions. The Lord Mayor's Red Cross and St. John Fund list, published on August 8th,

included £3,500, the seventh instalment from the Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee. Adding this to the amount recorded by the Secretary of State on July 24th, the total contributions made by the Committee are £34,505 16s. 3d.

"Jamaica No. 5." Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister of Aircraft Production, has gratefully acknowledged in the Press the receipt of £5,000 collected by the *Daily Gleaner* for the purchase of aircraft. The money is to be applied to a new plane, "Jamaica No. 5." In the CIRCULAR of July 25th previous gifts from this source amounting to £35,000 were recorded. Since that date the above £5,000 has been sent by the *Gleaner*, and a further £5,000 subscribed by the firm of Henriques Bros.

Import and Export Regulations. By Order No. 124, issued on July 17th, all licenses to purchase abroad, issued up to March 31st, are cancelled, with the exception of those for purchases within the British Empire. The Order also restricts the validity of licenses, granted since April 1st, to purchase from foreign countries, to four months from the date of issue. This limited validity will apply to all such licenses issued in the future.

Exporters of produce are warned that imports into the United Kingdom of many commodities are now controlled by licenses issued by the Ministry of Food and other authorities. Export licenses will not be issued unless satisfactory evidence is given that the importers in the United Kingdom have obtained the necessary import licenses. Fruit, and most other commodities regularly exported from Jamaica, are affected, and exporters are invited to apply, in writing, to the Imports, Exports and Prices Board for information about commodities in which they are interested.

MONTSERRAT

The Legislative Council unanimously passed a resolution on June 28th recording its gratitude to the Imperial Government for the generous treatment accorded the Presidency at a time of National emergency in remitting indebtedness to the extent of £38,750, also that H.M. Government be informed that the Presidency wished to forgo any further assistance from the Colonial Development, or West Indian Welfare Funds in view of the heavy calls being made upon the Imperial Exchequer due to the war.

Children's Gift for Children. The Ladies War Services Committee has received, through the Montserrat War Charities Committee, £3 12s. contributed by the children of the Sunday School of St. Anthony's Anglican Church. Canon Vanier, the rector of the Church, asked that the money be devoted to a fund for British children whose homes have been affected by the war. The gift has been forwarded to a Women's Voluntary Service Centre which is specially dealing with children from an area which has been a target for air raiders.

ST. KITTS NEVIS

£1,200 for Ambulance Fund. The Administrator announced on July 8th that as the result of the enterprise and efforts of Mr. C. A. L. Shepherd, actively assisted by Mr. E. S. Delisle and Mr. D. Sahely, the sum of £1,200 had been collected and forwarded to H.M. Government. The gift has been gratefully accepted

by the Secretary of State for the Red Cross Ambulance Fund.

Sound Finance a Real Contribution.—With the object of co-operating in the Empire's effort the Presidency offered, amongst other ways, to contribute £15,000 from surplus funds to H.M. Government for war purposes. The Secretary of State in a cabled reply, published in the *Official Gazette* of July 18th, states that the offer of the Executive is much appreciated and if it is not accepted as it stands it is "solely because he considers maintenance of sound financial position of the Presidency is, too, in itself a contribution of real value." A gift, of say £5,000, towards aircraft or ambulances would be gratefully received. He agreed to the suggested surrender of certain relief grants, but whilst appreciating attitude towards assistance from the Development and Welfare Fund thought this question should be left for consideration with the Comptroller.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mr. Fred Benedict de Verteuil, who served with the British Expeditionary Force, has been reported missing and presumed dead according to information received in Trinidad on July 7th. Mr. de Verteuil, a grandson of the late Hon. Carl de Verteuil, was twenty-one years of age and attached to the West Kent Regiment.

Training R.A.F. Pilots. The Trinidad Light Aero-plane Club is to be congratulated on having advanced to the position of being able to do useful war work. On March 30th when its two training planes "Ajax" and "Exeter" were named, the Governor, as reported in the CIRCULAR of May 2nd, said the Government would do all they possibly could to help those who wanted to qualify so as to take their part in flying during the war. It is now announced that the Air Ministry has accepted an offer made by the Club to give preliminary training for pilots for the R.A.F. and that the Government of the Colony will bear the cost of the scheme.

The "Trinidad" in Colonial Air Fleet. Lord Beaverbrook has expressed his deep gratitude to the people of the Colony for their splendid gift from the Fighter Fund. In a message cabled to the Governor, and published on July 2nd, he said: "We propose to name a powerful new aircraft the 'Trinidad' and we fight encouraged by the devotion of the Colony and the sustained assistance it sends us." The Governor in a letter to Sir George Huggins, the chairman, congratulated the Fund Committee on the success of their appeal. The "Trinidad" will probably take its place in the Colonial air fleet comprising 40 heavy bombers and 160 Spitfire fighters which the British Government announced on July 18th was ready to take the air.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. The Government was empowered by the Naval Volunteer Ordinance, of December last, to raise and maintain a force of volunteers for the naval defence of the Colony. An amending Bill, which was passed through all its stages on July 12th, sanctions the maintenance by the government of vessels of war and provides for service and training outside the territorial waters of the Colony. The personnel enlisted for general service are also given the status of members of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

The Duke of Windsor

Great Welcome in the Bahamas

THE Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who sailed from Lisbon on August 1st in the American Export Line's steamer *Excalibur*, arrived at Nassau, via Bermuda, on August 17th.

They passed through cheering crowds to the Council Chamber where the Duke was sworn-in as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas.

Replying to an address of welcome from the Legislative Council the Duke expressed confidence that his wide travel and experience would aid him in his first appointment as a Colonial administrator. However long or short the duration of his term of office, he would help the Bahamas to solve the problem of reconciling their interests with the changed conditions which the war had imposed.

Red Cross and St. John

Need for Ample Funds in Reserve

FIELD MARSHAL SIR PHILIP CHETWODE, writing in the August issue of the *Summary of Work*, issued fortnightly by the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, says that as chairman of the Executive of that body he has been criticized because more money had not been spent. The criticism was based on figures previously published showing that the Organisation had spent to the end of June £800,250 out of funds which amounted to £2,121,000 at that date. Sir Philip points out that the balance of the Fund, although it may seem large to some persons, is to those responsible for the Services of the War Organisation not so ample as to remove anxiety respecting future calls upon it.

In the first place the maintenance costs of many services will go on increasing to a degree to which they cannot at present place a limit. In addition to maintenance costs the Fund has from the beginning been called on to incur considerable capital expenditure. What the future demands may be cannot be foreseen. As an instance, Sir Philip mentions that, up to the end of June, £85,000 had been spent on ambulances, X-ray tents and their equipment. But, he asks, who in the spring of this year would have asserted that we should lose seventy-six ambulances and £30,000 worth of stores in an evacuation from France and Flanders.

Again until recently it was not expected that the War Organisation would be called upon to provide thousands of hospital beds as during 1914-18. Yet, a few weeks ago, they were asked to establish convalescent homes containing 10,000 beds and to assist in organising what may well be a hundred auxiliary hospitals. They have a responsibility for injured civilians as well as for the sick and wounded of the Forces and what this may mean in expenditure no one can say. Consideration of these and other conditions compels the Organisation, Sir Philip states, to proceed cautiously so that they may never have to refuse to undertake some urgent but unexpected service through lack of funds.

Mr. Robert Bryson, O.B.E.

As announced, with great regret, in our last issue the death took place suddenly, on August 2nd, of Mr. Robert Bryson, O.B.E., at his residence, "Dunmara," Bourne End.

Robert Bryson was born at Edinburgh in 1865, his father, James Mackay Bryson, being a member of a well known scientific family of that city. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and at Fettes. Inspired by the late Mr. William Gillespie with the prospects of a successful commercial career in the West Indies he went out to Antigua in 1893 and, in partnership with the late Mr. Bennett, founded the business of Geo. W. Bennett, Bryson & Co., Ltd. In addition he was for many years a director of the Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd., and also connected with other business enterprises. For close upon thirty years he lived in Antigua and took a deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the island. After his return to England in 1922 he maintained, throughout his life, interest not only in Antigua but in the West Indies generally.

After being a member of the West India Committee for many years Mr. Bryson was elected to the Executive Committee in 1925 and took an active part in its work right up to the time of his death. He was also a member of the West Indian Club and a Founder Member of the Caribbean Lodge. In 1925 he received the honour of being appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his work on behalf of the West Indies at the Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

He was Sidesman in Cookham Church, to which he was much attached, and, since September last, he devoted much time to the Waterside Hospital Supplies Depot, of which he was the Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. Bryson is survived by his widow and daughter, to whom we tender our deepest sympathy—his only son was killed in 1918.

The interment at Hove, on August 6th, was preceded by a service in Cookham Church conducted by the Rev. Hayward Brown, Vicar of the parish. Amongst those present were: Mrs. Robert Bryson, Miss Peggie Bryson, Mr. A. G. Bryson, Mrs. D. D. Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Fisher, Mr. Alexander Elder, Sergt. A. G. Elder, R.A.F., Mr. Mark Moody-Stuart, Mr. W. G. Freeman (representing the Executive Committee of the West India Committee), Mr. H. P. Sheldon (representing Barclays Bank, D.C. & O.), Mr. W. J. Cook and Mr. H. Wakeford (Gillespie Bros. & Co., Ltd.). The gifts of flowers included many from friends in Antigua.

Medical Adviser in the West Indies

It is announced by the Colonial Office that Sir Rupert Briercliffe, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.B., Director of Medical Services, Nigeria, has been selected for appointment as Medical Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies.

Sir Rupert served during the last war in Egypt, Gallipoli, and Palestine, and held the post of Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services both during the Gallipoli campaign and Palestine. In 1920 he was appointed to the Colonial Service as Deputy Director of Health, Palestine, and he received his appointment to Nigeria in 1936.

West Indies Sugar

Estimated Exports, 1940-41

WHEN reporting in the CIRCULAR the Government's offer to purchase all the disposable sugar of the British West Indies and British Guiana it was mentioned that the Acting Director of Sugar Supplies had said at one of the meetings held with the Executive of the West India Committee that in the event of the offer being accepted the assistance of the Committee as a clearing house where details could be dealt with centrally would be greatly welcomed. The first task was the compilation of the statistics for the 1939-40 crop which were published in the CIRCULAR of November 16th. The Committee was invited to undertake other similar statistics for the 1940-41 crop. The following summary is based on information supplied as before by the Sugar Associations in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana, the Colonial Secretary of the Windward Islands and the London representatives of the sugar producers in British Guiana and the Leeward Islands.

BRITISH WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA Estimated Exports of Sugar for the Quota Year, ending August 31st, 1941

		Tons	Tons
BARBADOS ...	Greys ...	95,000	
	Muscovados ...	1,675	
	Molasses Sugars	2,750	
	Fancy Molasses	27,000	
			126,425
JAMAICA ...	Greys ...	133,800	133,800
TRINIDAD ...	Greys ...	86,765	
	Yellows	27,445	
	Molasses	180	
			114,390
LEEWARD ISLANDS	ANTIGUA ...	Greys ...	29,000
	ST. KITTS ...	Greys ...	36,500
			65,500
WINDWARD ISLANDS	ST. LUCIA ...	Greys ...	9,550
		Fancy Molasses	144
ST. VINCENT ...	Greys ...	100	
			9,794
BRITISH GUIANA	Greys ...	184,350	
	Yellows	4,000	
	Molasses Sugars	2,500	
	Molasses	1,350	
			192,200
Total ...			642,109

Summary under Grades

	Tons
Greys ...	575,065
Yellows ...	31,445
Muscovados ...	1,675
Molasses Sugars ...	5,250
Molasses ...	1,530
Fancy Molasses ...	27,144
Total ...	642,109

The Government price will be 8/10½ per cwt. raw sugar, not exceeding 96 deg., c.i.f. United Kingdom, plus the Imperial preference of 3/9 and the value of the Colonial Sugar Certificates.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"HOLLOW gourd mek mos' noise."

* * *

MR. N. J. B. SABINE has been appointed by the Secretary of State to act as Public Relations Officer for the Colonial Office.

* * *

SIR FRANK STOCKDALE, Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, will be the principal guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon to be held on Wednesday, August 28th, 1.0 for 1.15 p.m., at 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.1. Sir Alfred Sherlock, chairman of the Club, will preside.

* * *

THE arrival has been reported at San Diego, California, of the Rev. Dr. John Antle, after an 11-month voyage from Great Britain in a 48 ft. sloop, with a single deck-hand. He sailed through the West Indies and via the Panama Canal, and is making for Vancouver to take part in the thirty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Columbia Coast Mission, which he founded.

* * *

WE learnt with great regret from Mr. Carter Braine that he had received a cable from Barbados announcing the death of Mr. Alexander Fitzpatrick on August 7th. Mr. Fitzpatrick, who became a director of Messrs. Da Costa and Co. when that firm acquired the business of Messrs. Shilstone and Fitzpatrick, had been a member of The West India Committee since 1922.

* * *

MRS. ANNIE HENRIETTA DAVIDSON-HOUSTON who we regret to state died at the Old Red House, Esher, on August 14th, was the wife of Lieut.-Colonel Wilfred B. Davidson-Houston, successively Commissioner of Montserrat (1906-18) and Administrator of St. Lucia (1918-28), to whom we extend our deep sympathy. She will be remembered for her charitable works in those islands which included the organisation of a successful guava jelly industry among the peasantry in Montserrat.

* * *

MR. C. H. BISCOE is retiring on pension after forty years service with the London Merchant Bank Ltd. and previously four years in Mincing Lane. In 1909 he opened the produce department of the bank and organised it until the banking and produce business was given up last year. Originally the produce transactions were mainly with Jamaica and the West Indies and Mr. Biscoe hopes to maintain touch with his many friends overseas who with those at home will wish him many happy years in his retirement.

* * *

AN interesting discussion on Old Plantation Customs at a meeting of the Barbados Historical Society in March is reported in the *Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society* for May. The main feature was Mr. Shilstone's account of the introduction of sugar into the Colony and the naming of plantations. The Hon. J. D. Chandler recalled that windmills had names

like schooners and ships, and always feminine, and that up to twenty years ago at Portland, when there was a good wind blowing, the labourers would say "the Betsy Bella is sailing today."

* * *

ARRANGEMENTS have been made in Jamaica to grant loans for growing crops under the Food Production Scheme to those persons who have either no land to offer as security or who cannot get others to stand security for them. A borrower must be registered and must have prepared a plot for planting, or already planted all or part of his crop. He will have to sign a crop lien agreement and sell his crop through the Marketing Department at prices guaranteed by the Food Production Board which will be empowered to deduct the amount due to the Loan Bank.

* * *

THE Very Rev. H. Y. Shepherd, M.A., M.B.E., formerly Dean of Antigua, keeps the Diamond Jubilee of his ministry on August 29th. The Secretary of the Antigua Association has received a cable from the Bishop stating that it is desired to raise £60 and asking him to collect from friends. The Rev. L. Spinks, East Bradenham Rectory, Thetford, Norfolk, will accordingly be glad to receive contributions from any who may desire to take part in this commemoration and recognition of one who has given so many years of devoted service to the church, especially in the Diocese of Antigua.

* * *

THE Mirrlees Watson Co. Ltd., of Glasgow, which has played a prominent part in supplying machinery to the cane sugar producing industry of the world celebrates its centenary this year. The firm was founded in 1840 by three brothers, Peter, William and Andrew McOnie, under the title P. and W. McOnie with Andrew McOnie as works manager. The name Mirrlees was brought to the firm in 1848, when Mr. J. B. Mirrlees became a partner, and that of Watson in 1868 in which year Mr. W. R. Watson (later Sir W. Renny Watson) succeeded Mr. W. Tait in Mirrlees, Tait and Watson. After other changes the company was reconstructed under its present name in 1899. In the one hundred years of its existence the firm has built 119 two-roller crushers and 2,162 cane mills of all sizes, as well as the driving machinery, evaporators, vacuum pans, heaters, condensers and pumps which go to make a sugar cane factory.

The West India Committee

The treasurers of the West India Committee make a special appeal to those members whose subscriptions are in arrear to forward a remittance without delay. To send a series of reminders involves the staff in much extra work, and the Committee in needless expense. Subscriptions, which became due on January 1st, may be sent direct to 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, or paid into the local branches of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Nova Scotia or the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Young Canada and the War

The following letter has been received from Donald Smith, aged 12, by one of our readers who answered his "irresistible appeal" for West Indian stamps which was published in the CIRCULAR of June 27th. Donald in a letter to the Editor very modestly asked for a little room in the CIRCULAR "to thank the kind people who so kindly sent me some stamps. . . . To all, I say from the bottom of my heart 'Thanks a million.' I will be writing to all those nice people who have written me very shortly."

1619, Highland Avenue,
Windsor, Ontario,
Canada.

July 22nd, 1940.

Dear—

I really don't know how to start this letter for I am so surprised and happy from the dandy stamps you sent me. Gee, you are very good to me and I am so grateful to you. I don't know how I can repay you for the kindness, and from my heart I say "Thanks a million."

It was very kind of the CIRCULAR to print my letter, I never dreamed it would be printed. I have written to the Secretary and thanked him. Yes, I always answer folks letters sent me, I sure would be one heck of a guy if I did not.

We have terrible hot weather here; hot enough to fry eggs on the side walks (pavements). Our winters here are the other way, very very cold with lots of snow. Windsor is only a 10 minute ride from Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. To get to the U.S.A. we take a 'bus which goes through the tunnel under the Detroit River, and we have a Ambassador Bridge too, for Auto's and people to walk across. Windsor is a automobile city. Daddy is in uniform again, on Guard duty. He wished he were a young guy, fit to serve Overseas again. We are having a semi-conscription soon, all men 16 to 45 have to train so many months or weeks a year.

We are going to have a good crop of grain in Canada. We have lots of food which England could have, and as long as our sea lanes are protected England won't see a shortage. Old Hitler's words are like words written on ice, soon fade away. He wants everyone to look upon him as the Savior, but before long England will take him down a peg or two. He is a dirty skunk. This winter will see him in a fix, for already they are short of crops to feed the people and the cold weather helping things may change over there. They may have a revelation against there little "god." When there tummy hurts, the Germans will squeel. The Italians are just copy cats, and are gutless, they run for shore instead of a fight. I and all of us here have faith in Mr. Churchill, and in time we will win this war too. Hitler's peace offers show he is weakening. He might try one big blow, and if he can be sent flying to H—1 he is done for. I guess there will be lots of damage but with courage, and a mind to win, God willing, we will come out on top. My Grand Ma and Auntie are in Yorkshire and they wrote Daddy "that they would sooner die than let Hitler take their beautiful country." Daddy was in London during the last war when the Zeppelins came over and dropped bombs. Everybody here has a Victory Garden. Well, I hope this letter gets over O.K. I won't bother you anymore, but if you do care to send me some more stamps, Oh Boy, I would not refuse.

Some day I hope to have a good collection of stamps. I am going to keep on saving them till I am big and big.

Hope you won't be mad at me writing this long letter.

Good luck and keep your "chin up" and Go to it. We will win.

Your friend,

DONALD SMITH.

Dad and Mum send their kind regards and me too.

P.S.—I am going to save my pennies for "War stamps" now. I have \$2 in my penny bank and I am going to take it out for War stamps to help win this war. I was going to get a new album but this can wait till later.

DON.

Home Beet Sugar in War Time

A copy has been received of the *Sugar Beet Manual* published by the British Sugar Corporation Ltd., containing an illustrated account of the cultivation and handling of the crop, together with a brief history of the beet sugar industry in Great Britain and a description of sugar manufacture. Referring to the industry in war time it is stated that while in a normal year about two million tons of sugar are consumed in Great Britain, the experience of the last war showed that this figure could be curtailed by about half in time of emergency. Thus the home beet sugar industry, which is permitted by law to produce up to 560,000 tons of assisted white sugar (about 28 per cent. of total normal requirements) is enabled to make available 56 per cent. of reduced war consumption.

Beet Sugar Profits

In the House of Commons on August 13th, Mr. Parker asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was aware that the trading profits of British Sugar Corporation had increased this year from £383,312 to £1,182,143; that £330,000 of this was described by the directors as being adventitious profit arising from the increase of the Sugar Duty; and whether he would either impose an excise duty to remove this advantage or revise the subsidies given to this concern. Sir Kingsley Wood replied that the answer to the first two parts of the question was in the affirmative. The directors' report stated that of the £330,000 mentioned in the question £255,000 would be absorbed by Income Tax and Excess Profits Tax. The changed situation resulting from the war and the consequent alteration of the method and extent of Government assistance to this Corporation were receiving careful consideration, but it was not yet possible to make any further statement on the matter.

Handle Bananas Carefully

In his annual report for 1938-39 on the St. Lucia Banana Association, the chairman directed special attention, as noted in the CIRCULAR of June 15th, 1939, to the increase in the percentage of fruit rejected by the shippers due to bruising.

To secure the "protection of fruit when cut and in transport," regulations were subsequently issued which must be posted conspicuously in every produce depot and on every premises where bananas are delivered for export. No. 5 reads "No person shall sit, stand or lie upon bananas intended for export in transit or for shipment, nor shall any driver, cartman, chauffeur, waggoman or person in charge of any vehicle in which bananas are being conveyed, sit, stand or lie or convey any person who sits, stands or lies on such bananas."

As we go to press, we learn with regret of the death of Mr. Hubert Galway Sturridge, J.P., of Mandeville, Jamaica.

Plant Insecticides

Their Production and Uses

THE objects and scope of the latest publication of the Plant and Animal Products Department of the Imperial Institute cannot be better described than in the following quotation from the preface:—

"The production of insecticide materials derived from plants is of increasing importance in Empire countries. Of well-established industries the production of derris root in Malaya and of pyrethrum in Kenya may be mentioned, whilst experimental work on various plants of insecticidal value is being conducted in many other countries. Information as to the sources of these materials and their production and trade is not readily available, and the Imperial Institute Consultative Committee on Insecticide Materials of Vegetable Origin considered that the time had come when a survey of the current position might usefully be made for the benefit of actual and potential producers, as well as buyers and users. The results of the inquiries are embodied in the present monograph."

Empire producers have a double interest in these products. The fact that they are non-toxic to man and the higher animals renders them particularly suitable for use (cost permitting) where their application has to be entrusted to unskilled labour. The extension of their use will offer scope for the growth of additional or alternative crops in the tropical or sub-tropical areas suited to their cultivation.

By merely collecting and reviewing the many scattered references to this group of products the Sub-Committee appointed to assist in the task, and the editor Mr. H. J. Holman, would have rendered signal service to all concerned. The monograph, however, is more than a mere record of published work. The compilers have made use of first-hand information supplied by authorities in both producing and consuming countries, and the result is a surprisingly exhaustive presentation of all aspects of the subject within the compass of an octavo volume with 140 pages of letterpress.

The products are discussed under five heads:—Alkaloid, containing materials (nicotine, etc.), Plants containing rotenone and allied compounds (Derris, etc.), Pyrethrum, Quassia and Plant Oils, and there is a useful bibliography containing 372 references. The subject-matter is presented in a form that makes consultation particularly easy, and the introduction gives an admirable review of the present position with regard to the production and use of these materials.

A Survey of Insecticidal Materials of Vegetable Origin, edited by H. J. Holman, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., The Imperial Institute, London, 1940. Price 3s. 6d. net; post free 3s. 10d.

We regret that we omitted to give the names of all the persons shown in the illustrations which appeared in the last issue of the CIRCULAR. They were as follows:

Upper picture, from left to right: Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, H.R.H. the Princess Royal, Lady Carrington, Lady-in-Waiting to her Royal Highness and Lady Davson.

Lower picture, from left to right, Sergeant G. Roberts, Miss Longden and Lady Davson.

Sir P. Warner's XI. v. West Indies

We have great pleasure in announcing that Sir Pelham Warner has very kindly promised to write for the next issue of the CIRCULAR, an account of the match between his team and the West Indies which is being played at Lords to-day in aid of the funds of the British Red Cross Society. Sir Pelham has got together a strong team with R. H. Twining (Middlesex) as captain. The West Indies team has not been announced up to the time of going to press but it is understood that Constantine, Martindale and Clarke are certain to turn out.

It may be of interest to mention that batting for a Yorkshire eleven against the Bradford League last week Captain Herbert Sutcliffe scored 127 runs in 110 minutes. Although Constantine and Martindale were amongst the bowlers off whom he scored so freely, it was encouraging to note that in the same match Constantine reached a century within an hour against good bowling.

Price of West African Cocoa

The Raw Cocoa (West African) (Maximum Prices) Order, 1940, made by Ministry of Food on August 9th defines "West African raw cocoa beans as the product of the British and French Dependencies in West Africa, the Mandated Territories of Togoland and the Cameroons and the Republic of Liberia.

The order provides that: "Except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence granted by or on behalf of the Minister of Food, no person shall sell or offer for sale or buy or agree or offer to buy any West African raw cocoa beans situate in the United Kingdom at any price exceeding the price of 35s. per cwt. 'ex quay' or 'ex store' as the case may be, with the addition of:—

- (a) the amount of any Customs duty paid in respect of the cocoa,
- (b) a sum in respect of brokerage at a rate per cwt. not exceeding 2d."

2ND LIEUT. ARTHUR PROCTOR McARTHUR, of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, who was reported as missing, is a prisoner of war in Germany. He is the son of Mr. Arthur McArthur, of Old England, Mandeville, Jamaica.

AMONG recent visitors to 40, Norfolk Street were Mr. E. O. Kernahan, Mr. F. A. von Weiller, and Mr. J. W. Day, all of Trinidad, Mr. S. Murphy of Barbados and Mr. H. J. P. Pearson of Bermuda. Their visit gave particular pleasure because they were all survivors of the disaster to the M.V. Accra in which they were completing their journey from the West Indies to West Africa to take up appointments in the Customs Service; Mr. Day and Mr. Kernahan of Nigeria, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Murphy, Gold Coast, and Mr. von Weiller, Sierra Leone. Having lost nearly all their possessions they were very glad to be able to obtain a few necessaries from the store of gifts received from the West Indies for the use of refugees and other victims of the war.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Antigua and St. Lucia Sugar Crops—Jamaica Appointments
Teak doing well in Trinidad



ANTIGUA

POPULATION. The Registrar General in his report for 1939 states that the population of the Presidency, that is Antigua and Barbuda, on December 31st last was 35,527, an increase of 404 on that of a year previous. Births exceeded deaths by 445 but the departures were 41 more than arrivals.

Sugar Crop. We learn from Miss Helen Goodwin that the Antigua Sugar Factory finished this season's crop on June 29th, having made 14,001 tons of sugar from 121,072 tons of cane ground.

BRITISH GUIANA

New Maternity Wing at Georgetown Hospital. Our honorary correspondent wrote on July 19th that a new maternity wing shortly to be opened would relieve congestion as it should be able to deal with all cases requiring hospital care. The wing will contain 60 to 70 beds including private rooms, and will be fully equipped with all modern appliances.

Aerated Water Factory. Wieting and Richter, Ltd., manufacturers of the locally known and highly appreciated C.S.I.D. aerated drinks, have recently installed a complete range of modern machinery at their factory to ensure that the whole bottle washing and bottling process should be fully automatic and mechanical so that all possibility of contamination is eliminated. Bacteriological tests are made every fortnight by independent qualified chemists who take samples without notice to the firm. The new machinery was made by Barnet and Foster, Ltd. of London.

JAMAICA

Mr. J. W. S. Hardie, younger son of the Right Rev. W. G. Hardie, Bishop of Jamaica, has been appointed Headmaster of Cornwall College, in succession to the Rev. E. B. Baker, LL.B.

Mr. George Seymour Seymour, chairman of the Water Commission and formerly Member of the Legislative Council for St. Andrew, has been appointed Custos Rotulorum for that parish in the place of Mr. S. R. Cargill, whose resignation from that office was announced in our last issue.

Mr. G. S. Webster has been appointed Custos Rotulorum for the parish of Hanover in succession to the late Mr. Hugh Sanftleben.

Dr. G. V. Helwig, Inspector of Schools, has been appointed Supervising Inspector of Schools and secretary to the Jamaica Schools Commission, with effect from the 5th October, 1939.

MONTSERRAT

A Cause of Soil Erosion. The most serious factor in the problem of soil erosion in Montserrat at the present time is, states Mr. W. E. Bassett, the Curator, the practice of always pulling the soil downhill when

cultivating with hoes. In a half-yearly report (*Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, April-June, 1940), Mr. Bassett records that although labourers at the Botanic Station at first complained of the strain of extra work which they said was entailed in dragging soil uphill instead of down, they have become accustomed to the new method and seem able to work as easily and quickly by it as by the old way. It may, however, be considered prove impossible to hoe uphill on very steep slopes.

ST. LUCIA

Dry Weather. Mr. E. T. Ward wrote on June 29th that May had been a dry month, the rainfall at Castries being only 3.39 inches as compared with the 50 years average of 6.83. Although occasional welcome showers occurred rain was badly needed in all coastal areas.

Reduced Sugar Crop. The sugar crop was completed on all four estates during May and amounted to 7,929.9 tons, which was much below earlier estimates owing to the dry weather and poor recovery. The ratoons and young canes were growing well.

Bananas. A slight increase in production was shown with rejected fruit at a low figure. There were three shipments during the month; sales to the Canadian Banana Company amounted to 7,991 stems (67.8 per cent. counts).

Other Crops. Green limes were still scarce, and the crop likely to be somewhat reduced in some districts due to drought. The bulk of the coco-nut crop was being manufactured into copra for export and for local edible oil production. Picking cocoa had been completed. The dry conditions had delayed flowering on estates at the lower elevations which may spoil earlier prospects for the main crop. Supplies of ground provisions had been considerably reduced owing to the continued dry weather, but there was evidence that earlier plantings in the wetter areas would soon be harvested. Preparations for general planting in all areas, as soon as the rainy season appears, were evident.

TRINIDAD

Planting more Teak. It would appear to be reasonably safe to regard teak as a successfully established exotic in Trinidad. The Conservator of Forests reports that the oldest individual trees are 61, and the oldest plantations 26 years old. The results to date are so satisfactory from the aspects of health, volume production and costs of establishment, that the future planting programme has been considerably expanded. Mr. Brooks adds that it is interesting and encouraging to record that a recently retired Forest Officer from Burma, who was kind enough to inspect a considerable area of teak plantations early in 1939, pronounced them to be "if anything better than the average in Burma."

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers and re-appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

Promotions and Transfers:—

- PEARSON, H. J. P. (Collector of Customs, St. George's, Bermuda),
Collector of Customs, Gold Coast.
HALLINAN, E. (Crown Counsel, Nigeria), Attorney-General,
Bahamas.
CHASE, E. A. (1st Engineering-Assistant, Public Works Department),
Manager of the Waterworks Department, Barbados.
DAY, J. W. (Customs and Excise Department, Trinidad),
Collector of Customs, Nigeria.
DUNN, H. A. (Assistant Traffic Superintendent), Traffic Manager,
Trinidad Railways.
HELVIG, G. V. (Inspector of Schools), Supervising Inspector of
Secondary Schools and Secretary of the Jamaica Schools
Commission.
LARTIGUE, L. COOLS (Chief Clerk, Administrator's Office),
Treasurer, Dominica.
SMITH, A. R. (Senior Clerk in the Secretariat), Assistant Colonial
Secretary, Bermuda.

Re-appointment:—

- HENDERSON, G. (formerly Resident Engineer for Sewage Scheme,
Grenada, Windward Islands), Colonial Engineer, Public
Works Department, Barbados.

Among the first appointments, is that of Mr. J. H. Hughes, who becomes Assistant Conservator of Forests, British Guiana.

Land Settlement in Trinidad

A Standing Committee consisting of the Director of Surveys and Sub-Intendant as chairman, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Medical Services, the Conservator of Forests and the Deputy Colonial Secretary was appointed on April 11th, 1939, to advise on the selection and purchase of lands for the establishment of Land Settlements.

In his annual report for 1939, Mr. J. W. Macgillivray, the Director of Surveys, states that as a general rule the committee has been recommending the purchase of suitable alienated lands for the establishment of settlements, rather than the clearing of Crown lands for this purpose and, other conditions being equal, properties mortgaged to the Agricultural Bank are being given choice of selection.

The sum of \$28,174 was expended during 1939 on the purchase of 582 acres for the establishment of three new settlements and on the construction of roads leading to allotments already laid out. Negotiations were also in progress for the purchase of 203 acres for two other settlements. In addition to these settlements, which had not been laid out when the report was made, there were 329 allotments awaiting allocation in settlements already surveyed and 1,272 allotment holders were in occupation of lands aggregating over 1,637 acres.

It has been decided that in future the allotments in new Land Settlements will be leased for a period of 25 years with an option of renewal for a further 25 years.

MR. RODERICK CAMERON MAIS, who was married at Chelsea, on August 14th, to Mrs. Margery Ventris, is the son of Mrs. Mais, of St. Ann's, Jamaica, and of the late Mr. E. M. Mais.

West Indies at Westminster

Jamaica (Undesirable Literature Bill)

MR. DAVID ADAMS asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on August 13th, whether, as the law conferred upon the Governor of Jamaica in Council a general power to prohibit the importation of any publication if he considered such importation to be contrary to the public interest, and as general resentment was expressed in Jamaica against the Undesirable Literature Bill, he would refuse to endorse the same. MR. GEORGE HALL replied that the introduction of this measure was in order to prevent the importation of subversive publications which had been arriving in that Colony in increasing quantities. The legislation conferred upon the Governor-in-Council a general power to prohibit the importation of any publication if he considered such importation to be contrary to the public interest. Legislation of this kind had been in force in certain other Colonies for some time, and the introduction in Jamaica of this particular measure was the outcome of suggestions made in 1938 by the Secretary of State at that time to all the Colonial Dependencies. In the circumstances the Secretary of State saw no reason to take exception to this legislation.

Jamaica Constitution

In reply to MR. CREECH JONES who asked on August 14th whether, in the consideration of the Constitution of Jamaica, political reform would be instituted as recommended by the Royal Commission Report, before the next general election in the Colony MR. GEORGE HALL stated that the question of constitutional reform in Jamaica was at present under consideration, and he was not yet in a position to make a statement on the matter. He added that he would be able to do so as soon as they heard from the government.

Jamaica Milk Condensary

On July 17th two laws concerned with the recently established condensed milk industry were passed by the Legislative Council. The object of the first, "A Law to Impose an Excise Duty on Condensed Milk Manufactured in Jamaica," is to replace the revenue lost by the substitution of locally manufactured milk for imported condensed milk. The second, "A Law to Amend Further the Tariff Law by Adding Fresh Milk to the Articles Enumerated in the Second Schedule thereto," exempts from customs duty fresh milk imported for manufacture into condensed milk. This step has been found necessary to enable the condensary to import fresh milk from Cuba, local supplies being insufficient to permit the condensary working at its maximum capacity. The amount of milk purchased at the factory is at present 7,000 quarts daily. The total island requirement, however, would be the equivalent of something like 28,000 quarts daily.

THE burning of mid-crop cocoa on the Gold Coast continues. Some farmers refuse to sell their cocoa, preferring to hold until the burning has been discontinued.

Round the Markets

August 20th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below :—

	August 5th.	August 18th.	\$ value	4/5.9
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$	4/11.6
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$	4/11.6

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are :—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Consols (yield £3 8s. 0d. per cent.)	73½ 73½
3½	War Loan ...	100½ 100½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory ...	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1 1½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	28/6 31/6
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/- 36/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell ...	24 24
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	3d. 6d.
—	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/9
3	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/6 20/-
—	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/- 3/-
8	Kera Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30 40
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar...	1½ 2
—	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/6 13/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	5/6 6/6
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	39/6 41/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/- 7/-

COCOA. No business has been reported during the fortnight in West Indian descriptions and values are quite nominal. Trinidad continues to be quoted at 65/- to 70/- for good plantation to fine estates, and Grenada at 59/- to 60/- for fine. A fair business has been done in West African on the spot at the controlled price of 35/-.

BALATA. There is only a small demand for the limited supplies on offer. Both sheet and block are quoted at 2/7 to 2/8 per lb.

BANANAS. There is a steady to good demand, and Jamaicas are unchanged, to wholesalers, at £30 5s. per ton delivered London and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. During the fortnight sales have been made of Jamaica at 85/- to 95/- for dark liquid to pale amber, and 95/- to 100/- for pale to white, ex wharf.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is valued nominally at 40/- per lb. with Distilled quoted at 27/6 per lb. on the spot. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand at present for Concentrated. Raw is valued on the spot at 3/- to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued nominally at 6/6 per lb. and Bitter at 11/6 to 12/6 per lb., nominal.

SPICES. There has been a little more inquiry for **Pimento** from home trade buyers, and with only small stocks offering prices have advanced. Sales on the spot have been made at 11d. per lb, whilst for shipment, small quantities have sold at from 80/- to 83/- per cwt., c.i.f. London, for prompt shipment from Jamaica. Further tightening up of import restrictions has brought in many buyers of **Ginger** for spot parcels; and sales have been made at 50/- per cwt. ex wharf for small mixed to bright No. 3, while 55/- to 57/6 has been paid for medium No. 2. Some parcels of bold bright No. 1

have fetched 82/6. **Nutmegs** are quoted at: Wormy and broken 5½d. per lb. ex wharf; sound unassorted 6½d.; sound 80's 7½d.; sound 65's 8d. to 8½d. Buyers of **Mace** have been showing rather more interest in parcels on the spot, and business has been done at 2/- ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale with choice pale quoted at 2/2 to 2/3. Pickings have been in demand, and buyers, it is stated, would pay 9d. to 1/3 for the dark to pale according to quality.

Company Reports & Meetings

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.

The directors in their report for 1939 state that after providing for London expenses, and writing off depreciation, the net profit for the year was £35,922. This includes a sum of £2,641 derived from the sale of assets no longer required. The balance on the profit and loss account is £40,181, and the directors recommend that £10,000 be transferred to general reserve account, that a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less tax at 8s. 6d., be paid for the year ended December 31st, 1939, and that the balance, £10,028, be carried forward.

The result of the year's working was derived from drilling production from the Guapo and Wilson areas. The profit and loss account has been debited with the expenses of closing down the Tabaquite field.

For obvious reasons, no publication of the company's production in Trinidad can be made, but it may be stated that in both areas there was some increase. Expenditure increased and the prices obtained for production decreased, so that the net profit is not commensurate with the increased output.

During the year Mr. F. Middleton resigned his directorship on leaving the service of the company to take up other work in Trinidad. Mr. W. J. C. Cooke was appointed general manager in Trinidad in his place, and also a director of the company. At the invitation of the directors, Brig.-General W. B. Caddell accepted a seat on the board.

The New Tobacco Duties

The new duties on tobacco imported into the United Kingdom, as imposed by the Budget presented to the House of Commons by Sir Kingsley Wood on July 23rd, are shown below. They became effective on July 24th.

	Duty per pound. £ s. d.
Tobacco unmanufactured—	
containing 10 lb. or more of moisture in every 100 lb. weight thereof—	
unstripped	0 19 6
stripped	0 19 6½
containing less than 10 lb. of moisture in every 100 lb. weight thereof—	
unstripped	1 0 6
stripped	1 0 6½
Cigars	1 8 1

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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September 4th, 1940.

Under present war conditions the editorial staff and the printers of the CIRCULAR are impeded by interruptions and delays. If occasionally these are reflected by errors or signs of haste in our pages we know that we shall have the indulgence of our readers.

The Aim of the Comptroller

THE speech made by SIR FRANK STOCKDALE at the West Indian Club, reported on page 215 of this issue, will be read with great interest throughout the West Indies where he will shortly enter on his arduous task as Comptroller of the Development and Welfare Fund. Our readers will remember that in the CIRCULAR of July 11th, we expressed the view that the appointment by the Secretary of State of his own Agricultural Adviser to this post indicated that the contemplated social welfare of the West Indies was to be founded on economic, that is in their case predominantly agricultural welfare. SIR FRANK made this clear when he said that social and welfare problems of the West Indies could only be solved satisfactorily if their economics were based on a sound production policy and that it was no good building up social services which the community were unable ultimately to support from their own efforts. He expressed full appreciation of the difficulties of the task with which he was proud to have been entrusted, and said that his aim would be development on sound economic lines for the benefit of the West Indian Colonies.

Later on the same day SIR FRANK was the principal guest at a reception of the League of Coloured Peoples held at the headquarters of the Overseas League. Addressing the gathering he said he was going out with an expert staff to study problems on the spot and get into touch with leaders, to talk with them in the hope of being able to plan sound schemes, based on sound economic foundations. Once again SIR FRANK said he did not minimise the difficulties, but he already had many friends in the West Indies, and he looked forward to making new ones. From them all he hoped to get assistance in making plans and co-operation in putting them into force after very careful consideration. It was essential, he said, to build up communities as centres of that happiness to which the peoples of the West Indies were entitled. He appealed to all in, or interested in,

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		THE WORLD'S RAREST STAMP ...	218
THE AIM OF THE COMPTROLLER	213	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	219
COCOA PROBLEMS ...	213	THE DUKE OF WINDSOR ...	219
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	214	AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES	220
SIR FRANK STOCKDALE ENTER- TAINED ...	215	THE WEST INDIES AT LORDS ...	221
THE LATE MR. ROBERT BRYSON	216	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL ...	222
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	217	MAINTENANCE OF SOIL FERTILITY	223
MR. NORMAN'S NEW APPOINT- MENT ...	218	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	224
		THE OUTLOOK FOR COCOA ...	224

the West Indies to give him and his staff their fullest co-operation.

We understand that SIR FRANK will be leaving for the West Indies in the course of the next few weeks. We wish him success in the work he is undertaking and once again express our confidence that under his direction the Welfare Fund will be used to secure to the fullest possible extent the advancement of the British West Indies.

Cocoa Problems

SOME of the problems with which the cocoa industry is confronted owing to the war were discussed in the CIRCULAR of June 13th. The dominant factor as regards disposal of Empire supplies is that former markets on the continent of Europe for an amount approximately equivalent to the production of British West Africa, that is some 300,000 tons, are closed. The Select Committee on National Expenditure, as we reported, had made various suggestions for dealing with the situation. One was the possibility of getting the United States to purchase more West Africa cocoa either by increasing total consumption or by reducing purchases from other countries. Another was the possibility of getting producers, such as the South American countries, to combine in some international marketing scheme so as to relieve the British Government of the whole burden of keeping the surplus supplies off the market. New York views on the problem, given on p. 224 of this issue, lead to the conclusion that to avoid ruinously low prices the two principal producing countries, West Africa and Brazil, must store cocoa until the world demand becomes normal again. It is also stated that action may be expected of producing countries withholding offers to bring about a more equitable price level. As we go to press we have received by air mail a communication, dated July 31st, from Comtelburo, Bahia, announcing that "the National Economy Defence Commission has laid down instructions to guarantee as far as possible the complete output of the State of Bahia cocoa crops, for 1940/41, at average compensating prices in order to avoid the lowering of values arising from 'cut-throat' offers made by one exporter against another to the detriment of the producer." Details are given of the necessary measures which space does not permit of detailing here. We trust, however, they will result in helping to maintain an equitable world's price for cocoa in the benefits of which the West Indian producers will share.

From a Londoner's Notebook

WE have reached the end of the first year of war ; and we must all agree that it has been a year of prodigious surprises. What most people expected, no doubt, was, first, a tremendously ponderous siege warfare on the western front, with continuous attrition of gigantic armies on the Maginot and Siegfried lines ; and secondly, as the main difference between this and the last war, the grinding of the great cities of England, France and Germany by bombardment from the air. As between the three great powers there has been very little mutual destruction of centres of civilian habitation ; and instead of the expected siege warfare we have had the *Blitzkrieg*. In only one theatre of operations has the first year's campaign gone as we should have foretold : the Royal Navy has retained unchallenged the command of all the seas.

* * *

A year ago certainly no-one would have dreamt that by this time we should have been left to face the two dictator powers practically alone, with the enemy commanding the whole resources of the continent of Europe, while we, by virtue of sea-power, can draw upon those of all the rest of the world. It has to be acknowledged, therefore, that most of the surprises of this surprising year have been unpleasant. And yet it is undoubtedly true that we all, from the Prime Minister to the humblest villager, feel, as we believe with good reason, even more confident of victory than we did on the day we declared war. This firm faith is grounded especially on two outstanding events.

* * *

Hitler reached his high-water mark on July 14th, the day he entered Paris. Up to then all his plans—except one—had been fulfilled to the letter ; and he announced that the next date in his calendar was the entry into London on August 15th. The very accuracy of his previous predictions lent increased significance to the fact that this one miscarried. It miscarried for the two reasons I have mentioned. The first was that he had already failed in one essential project—the destruction of the British Expeditionary Force. On the eve of the Dunkirk evacuation it is no secret now that the most expert judges expected that great army—not through their own fault but through the betrayal of the King of the Belgians—to be wiped out. If that disaster had occurred the British Isles, all but totally denuded of trained troops, would have lain at the mercy of the invader. By miracles of valour on the part of all three services combined it was prevented ; and as a direct consequence we have since then faced any possible invasion with a bigger army than has ever been mustered within our shores before, and many thousands more men training behind them. Almost more important than this, the battle of Dunkirk answered one of the great conundrums of modern war ; it proved that even vastly superior numbers in the air, flung in at a supreme opportunity for a decisive victory, could not drive the British Navy from its post at sea.

* * *

The second of the great setbacks that have wrecked

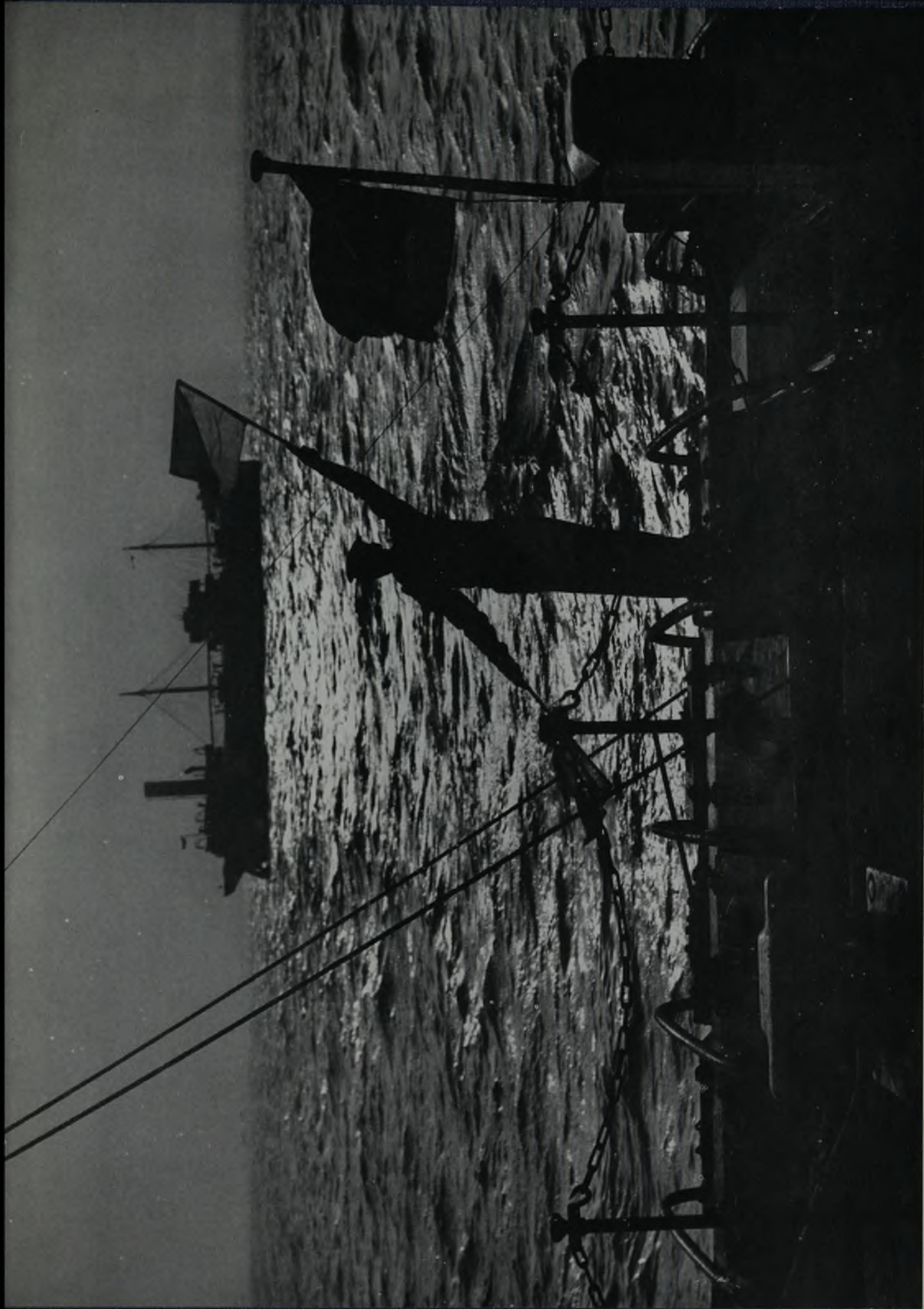
Hitler's loudly proclaimed programme for the overthrow of Great Britain was the result of the air battles in the first fortnight of August. I wrote of these brilliant victories of the R.A.F. fighters in my last notes ; they showed conclusively that, against men of such quality, there was no chance whatever for the sort of tactics that overwhelmed Poland. Since I wrote the Germans have practically admitted as much themselves. They broke off the battle ; and when they resumed it they had entirely changed their method of attack. In their daylight raids they have now reverted to a sort of tip-and-run system ; and by these more cautious tactics they have certainly reduced the proportion of their losses, although they also have less chance of doing serious damage to their targets on the ground. Our fighters of late have only been shooting down a little more than twice as many German machines as they lose of their own, instead of four times, as they did earlier in the month. It should however be remembered that, partly because we are the "home side," and partly because a bomber brought down means the loss of four or five men, while a fighter is a one-man machine, the relative losses of the *Luftwaffe* and the R.A.F. over England are in a proportion more like 15 to 1.

* * *

The more remarkable change of tactics on the enemy's part, however, is that he has at last taken to systematic night raids. His men from the beginning of the war have been notably weak in night flying ; but we know that he has for a long time been practising his pilots in this art far away in Eastern Europe, where they are immune from attack. The men thus trained have lately come over in isolated units, flying at a very great height, from which it is impossible for them to obtain an accurate aim at military objectives. They come, however, mainly as what is called "nuisance-raiders."

* * *

In London, for instance, we have had the bombers over us every night but one in the last week of August. Sometimes there has been more than one raid in the night. The German machines, in comparatively small numbers, cruise overhead for many hours, dropping an occasional bomb so that they cannot be entirely ignored, but doing very little real damage. Undoubtedly their object is to wage a "war of nerves." They hope to deprive the working population of sleep ; while their "tip-and-run" colleagues in the day time still further interfere with production by driving the already tired factory staffs to take shelter. At first the new method has undoubtedly achieved something in this direction ; but we are already adapting ourselves to the new conditions. There has been a tremendous demand for camp beds and other accessories of shelter life, and the great majority of Londoners have concluded that the sleep problem is already as good as solved. That of daytime work requires more organization ; but plans are already on foot to modify the system of air raid warnings, in order that essential production may go on, while a watchman on the factory roof stands by and gives the word to take shelter when the air battle is really imminent.



AT A CONVOY CONTROL BASE



THE DUKE OF WINDSOR BEING SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS

Sir Frank Stockdale Entertained

Guest of the West Indian Club

SIR FRANK STOCKDALE, Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, was the guest of the West Indian Club at luncheon at their headquarters in Whitehall Court, London, S.W. on Wednesday, August 28th. Sir Alfred Sherlock, chairman of the Club, presided over a large company.

THE CHAIRMAN read a telegram from Sir Leonard Lyle, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Club, regretting inability to attend, and expressing deep interest in the important task which Sir Frank had undertaken, and his firm belief that efforts for the future welfare of the West Indies could not be in better hands.

Sir Alfred continued: We have met here to-day to offer our sincere congratulations and heartiest good wishes to Sir Frank Stockdale on his recent appointment as Comptroller of the West Indian Development and Welfare Fund. I am sure we are all delighted that he has been appointed to this important position, principally, I think, because we know him and he knows us and some of our needs. It is quite unnecessary for me to refer to his many qualifications for the post because it seems to me that it has already been summed up in one line by *The Times* when it stated that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Lloyd, had decided to appoint one of the ablest and most experienced of his intimate advisers.

Sir Frank has spent many years in various parts of the Colonial Empire. He went out, I think to Barbados first, to the Imperial Department of Agriculture in 1905. In 1908 he was appointed Assistant Director of Agriculture in British Guiana and left there to take up the position of Director of Agriculture of Mauritius in 1912. From there he went to Ceylon. He has for the last ten years been Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office.

The appointment has been made, as we all know, following the recommendations of the Royal Commission that recently visited and reported on conditions in the West Indies. This Commission differed from all the others that visited the Colonies during the last 50 years by having their recommendations adopted by His Majesty's Government, whereas in the past many recommendations have been made but few of which, as far as I know, have ever borne any fruit. We have all to be very grateful indeed for the £1,000,000 per annum which is to be spent on Social Welfare Services, Development, Land Settlement and, I suppose, in such other ways as Sir Frank may decide. We congratulate him, too, on being entirely independent of local Governments and merely having to be responsible to the Secretary of State.

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

We gather he is going to have endless opportunities for promoting the prosperity and happiness of the people, and we welcome the Government's assurance

that its policy has been changed from that of encouraging only such Services as were within the compass of the respective Colonies to maintain out of their own resources.

Some witty Judge said not very long ago that shareholders are like sheep and only hold up their heads when they are not fed. (Laughter.) I imagine Sir Frank will find the West Indian Colonies not only holding up their heads but opening their mouths, and quite widely too. (Laughter.) But just as he is going to have endless opportunities to bring happiness, so also, I think, there will be a good many obstacles to be overcome—he will have to sift the wheat from the chaff and puzzle out and decide for himself the best way of helping, because each Colony has an entirely different problem.

I can imagine him sitting up late at night with a wet towel round his head, sipping iced coffee, and trying to work out some problem like this—"Let X=the needs of the Colony, Y=its means, and Z=the requests for Services. What am I to give?" And I would not be surprised if each time he does that sum he gets a different answer. (Laughter.)

Well, I do not think you want to hear me, but Sir Frank, so, Gentlemen, I now give you the toast of Sir Frank Stockdale, Comptroller of the West Indian Development and Welfare Fund, and in doing so wish to emphasize how much we wish him success, good health and enjoyment in his benevolent task. I cannot think of any better work in the world than that of trying to promote happiness and prosperity. (Applause.) I wish Sir Frank the very best luck in his important work. I hope that his position will be permanent and that he will continue for many many years in his useful work. I give you the toast of Sir Frank Stockdale, and I associate the name of Lady Stockdale with the toast. (Applause.)

SIR FRANK'S REPLY

SIR FRANK STOCKDALE, who was greeted most cordially on rising to respond to the toast, said that the chairman had reminded them of the time when he started his Colonial career in the West Indies. He spent eight happy years in the islands and on the mainland of British Guiana. He carried with him fond recollections of the time spent there as an irresponsible young man with no cares, looking for amusement, education and experience.

It was a surprise to him when he was asked whether he would accept his present appointment. He had had no ambitions in that direction. He was happy in the work which he was already doing. He felt, however, that in these days one ought to serve in that direction in which others thought he could do his best work. He accepted the appointment as part of the service which he had rendered to the Colonial Empire in the last 35 years.

Sir Rupert Briercliffe was to assist him in the medical field, and there was no one on whom one could rely with greater confidence. The Colonial Office had given him the services of Mr. Wakefield, Director of Agriculture in Tanganyika, and one of the most promising and able of the younger men in the agricultural service. The Colonial Office had also placed at his service Mr. Norman, Labour Adviser to the Government of Jamaica, who in that Colony had dealt with most difficult problems and had achieved a considerable amount of improvement. In Mr. Norman he would have a helpful adviser in connection with the labour problems which were bound to face one in the West Indies.

BLAZING A NEW TRAIL

The chairman had spoken of this new departure in Colonial administration and it was in that spirit that he looked upon the work that had been entrusted to him. This undertaking in the West Indies was the beginning of what he might describe as the blazing of a new trail in Colonial history. There was no doubt that there was an enormous number of problems in the West Indies which required amelioration and if possible, solution. "I have a great number of friends in the West Indies, and I see many of them here and I feel confident that I can rely on their assistance in the difficulties with which I shall be faced." On the agricultural side it was probable that he might be able to avoid some of the pitfalls to which the chairman had referred.

But the social and welfare problems which one had in the West Indies could only be solved satisfactorily if the economics were based on a sound production policy. It was no good building up social services which the community were unable ultimately to support from their own efforts. He hoped to be able to assist the people of the West Indies to help themselves in respect of these social requirements.

A BETTER WEST INDIES

There was need of the co-operation of all classes. He was going out to the West Indies with the feeling that a great example had been set in this country during the last few months. We had all been brought closer together in the prosecution of the war. So, in the West Indies we must have the co-operation of all in this endeavour to build a better West Indies.

Immediate results must not be expected. He proposed, with the expert advisers appointed to assist him, to visit the various West Indian Colonies; to survey the position in the Colonies and districts, and to ascertain, as far as possible, the priority of claims and needs of those Colonies and districts. When that had been done, then would be the time to consider, in collaboration with the local governments, the formulation of plans put forward by himself or his advisers or the Colonial governments themselves.

A vast expenditure of money at the present time could not be expected. All the money which the British Empire possessed must go towards the common effort of waging war. We had seen a wonderful response from the people of the Colonial Empire. The people of the West Indies had been most enthusiastic in finding money for the war. In the effort to help the Mother Country no part of the Colonial Empire had shown greater loyalty than the West Indies.

Having responded in that way they would not expect the Mother Country to pour out large sums of money on schemes of development or welfare during the next year or two. There was space during the time that the war went on to plan for the future. His aim would be development on sound economic lines for the benefit of the West Indian Colonies. (Applause.)

Mr. Eric MacFadyen, chairman of the Governing Body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, said that Lord Lloyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies, had shown rare judgment in having chosen Sir Frank Stockdale for the inauguration of this new policy in the West Indies. Sir Frank possessed qualities of character, experience, temperament and common sense in the highest degree to handle this new proposition in a way which would ensure some successful results. This new proposition would be looked back upon as a milestone in the history of the British Empire by reason of the choice of the man who was going to launch it. (Applause.)

Mr. MacFadyen then proposed the toast of the chairman who briefly responded.

Among those present were :—

Mr. A. M. Armour, Sir Algernon Aspinall, Mr. S. A. Bacon, Mr. W. J. Blanchard, Mr. N. Breton, Sir Rupert Briercliffe, Sir Alan Burns, Mr. S. Caine, Sir Donald Cameron, Mr. E. R. Campbell, Mr. J. M. Campbell, Mr. H. N. G. Cobbe, Mr. C. R. Corbett, Mr. W. A. Coupland, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, Mr. B. D. Edmonds, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. John Franklin, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Mr. H. P. Gisborne, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. J. K. Harrison, Mr. F. B. Hart, Mr. Hubert Henderson, Mr. G. Harford, Mr. A. G. K. Johnston, Mr. J. A. Kay, Mr. E. O. Kernahan, Mr. E. J. King, Mr. J. Lagden, Mr. Eric Macfadyen, Mr. T. G. Marriott, Mr. F. A. Maskell, Mr. E. Melville, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Mr. M. S. Moody-Stuart, Mr. D. Morrah, Mr. M. S. Murphy, Mr. R. H. Norris, Mr. H. Paget, Mr. J. W. Pearl, Mr. G. C. Rhodes, Mr. H. P. Sheldon, Mr. R. W. Smith, Mr. W. A. B. Smith, Mr. E. C. Stembridge, Mr. G. Vernon Tate, Mr. T. A. Twyman, Mr. F. A. von Weiller, Mr. H. A. Walker, Mr. A. I. Zaitzeff, Captain F. F. C. Messum, hon. secretary, Mr. G. J. Dent, assistant hon. secretary.

The late Mr. Robert Bryson

Miss Helen Goodwin writes: "We in Antigua are all very sad over the news of the death of Mr. Robert Bryson—that great-hearted friend of ours. You will have many tributes to his memory—and his connexion with the West India Committee is so intimate that there is little for me to tell. However I enclose a cutting from the *Antigua Star* in which Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin—a very great friend—pays his tribute."

Mr. Goodwin describes Mr. Bryson "as a real friend of Antigua, and one who has been generous in gifts to the Government and to the island generally, and who did more for the public and deserving cases than anyone I have met in my life before." He concludes his tribute with the words: "We in Antigua have truly lost a good friend—but he has done too much for the island he loved so well, to be easily forgotten. To Mrs. Bryson, and his only daughter, we offer our most sincere sympathy, hoping that some time later, they may come here and give us the chance of showing our appreciation of the work and life of Robert Bryson."

The West Indies and The War

THE following list of men connected with the West Indies who are serving with the Forces—the fifth to be published in the CIRCULAR—has been compiled by the West India Committee

from the latest available information. Members submitting names for publication should supply, if possible, particulars regarding unit, rank and number.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
ASHFIELD, A. R. W. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Artillery ...	Cadet
ATKINSON, KEITH ST. E. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
BANCROFT, H. G. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
BOVELL-JONES, L. C. ...	British Guiana ...	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve ...	Pilot Officer
BOYCE, H. E. L. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
BROWNE, C. G., C.M.G., D.S.O.		Royal Army Medical Corps ...	Lieut.-Colonel
CAMPBELL, O. N. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
CLARKE, STEPHEN, T. S., M.C.		Grenadier Guards ...	Captain
CLERK, R. D. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	L./A.C.
CONNACHER, W. ...	Antigua ...	Queen's Royal Regiment ...	Private
CRAMPTON, W. J. ...		Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
DE ROUX, M. E. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Northumberland Fusiliers ...	Private
ELDER, A. G. ...		Royal Air Force ...	Sergeant
FREEMAN, JOHN W. ...	Trinidad ...	Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps ...	Private
GALBRAITH, I. S. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
GILL, JOHN W. ...	Barbados ...	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve ...	Lieutenant
GOODING, LEOPOLD M. ...	Barbados ...	Canadian Seaforth Highlanders ...	Private
GREAVES, DR. E. ...	Antigua ...		
HAHN, FREDERICK M. ...	Trinidad ...	Royal Army Ordnance Corps ...	Major
HAMILTON, JOHN L. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
HOLLINSED, PHILIP ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
JACKSON, D. M. H. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Artillery ...	Gunner
JUNOR, N. K. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Navy ...	Ordinary Seaman
KIEFFER, F. J. ...	Jamaica ...	Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps ...	Private
LANKESTER, A. G. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve ...	Pilot Officer
LAWRENCE, W. U. H. ...	Barbados ...	A.O.N.S. ...	Wireless Operator
LLOYD, D. H. ...	Antigua ...	Grenadier Guards ...	Lance/Corporal
LYONS, C. M. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
MARTHUR, A. P. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Norfolk Regiment ...	2nd Lieutenant
MCDONALD, A. W. B., A.F.C.	Antigua ...	Royal Air Force ...	Wing Commander
MILLINER, J. H. S. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve ...	Sub-Lieutenant
MOODY, R. A. ...		Royal Air Force ...	A.C./1
MURRAY, F. L. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
NARCISSE, L. V. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
OSMENT, D. T. ...	St. Vincent ...	Royal Air Force ...	Pilot Officer
POWELL, E. B. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	Sergeant
PRENDERGAST, K. ST. A. O.	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
ROBERTS, D. E. A. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
ROWAN-ROBINSON, C. R. K. ...	Jamaica ...	2nd London Scottish The Gordon Highlanders	Private
STRACHAN, W. A. W. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
TUCKER, V. E. ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve ...	Pilot Officer
TURVILL, OWEN ...	Jamaica ...	Royal Navy ...	Cadet

ANTIGUA

The Red Cross Fund has received a donation of £135 from the Antigua War Charities Committee.

BRITISH GUIANA

Governor Speaks to People. The Governor spoke over Station VP3BG to the people of the Colony on June 16th. Our honorary correspondent said that his message was an appeal to all to put forth their maximum

effort, and bear their full share in the war effort of the Empire. He pointed out that the supreme and insistent demands of national security would leave little energy or material resources available to be diverted to what must now be regarded as secondary matters, however important they might be.

Bomber Fund. A committee under the chairmanship of Mr. A. C. O'Dowd has been formed to raise funds for the purchase of a bomber to be given as a

contribution from this Colony to the Mother Country. Up to the end of June a sum of \$178,000 had been raised, and subscriptions were still coming in freely. The committee is aiming at a total of \$240,000.

Dr. F. A. T. Snaith, Deputy Director of Medical Services, has been seconded from his substantive duties to be a Major on the reserve general list of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, and his rejoining has been at the instance of the Department on National Defence, Ottawa, Canada.

Red Cross Fund. In connexion with the latest remittance of £3,000 to the British Red Cross Society, a telegram has been received from the Lord Mayor of London expressing his high appreciation and sincere thanks for the gift.

JAMAICA

The Jamaica Infantry Volunteers were presented with their new drums by the Hon. A. G. W. H. Grantham, Colonial Secretary, on July 25th. The Governor was present in his capacity of honorary Colonel of the Local Forces. In his address on this occasion, Mr. Grantham paid a tribute to the commanding officer, Major Michael de Cordova, who was shortly retiring, and stated that it was largely through Major de Cordova's fine example and efficiency that the difficult period of transition from peace to war had been carried out smoothly.

The receipt of £2,500 from the Jamaica War Assistance Committee was acknowledged by the Red Cross Fund, in a list published in *The Times* on August 20th.

ST. LUCIA

"Documentary Passports." To avoid difficulties and delay to approved business men travelling within the Empire during the war the Government is issuing "documentary passports." The business documents of holders of such passports will be exempted from censorship or their examination expedited.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Red Cross Organisation. The task of providing on a large scale hospital supplies and comforts for H.M. Forces, refugees, and others demands not only enthusiasm but also good organisation. Information supplied to the Ladies War Services Committee of the West India Committee show that both these essentials have been attained in Trinidad and Tobago through the Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society of which Lady Young is the President. Ladies were asked to organise working parties of which there are now 48 in the Colony, some consisting of over sixty members. Most of these are supplied with materials direct from headquarters and they send their finished articles to Government House where they are dealt with by a packing committee which meets three times a week. The activities of the working parties in the south of Trinidad, including those of all the oilfields, are organised by Mrs. L. C. Hobson, through a branch depot at San Fernando, whilst similar work is done in Tobago by Mrs. Maingot and Mrs. Hutchinson. Great assistance is given not only in working parties, but in many other ways, by Guides and schoolgirls under the leadership of Mrs. James Forbes, Commissioner of the Guides and Miss Shrewsbury, Principal of the Bishop's High School. Mrs. C. H. Hall, the wife of the United States Consul, has

a large working party of American ladies. An indefatigable worker for the Red Cross is Mrs. Mahanna who owns the Renown shirt factory and provides machine cutters free for cutting out garments made by the work parties.

Recruits for the Air Force. It was announced in the *Leeward Islands Gazette* of July 25th that the Air Council are anxious to explore the possibilities of the recruitment in the West Indies of air crews, i.e., pilots, air gunners, observers and wireless operators. The Government had been asked to assist in the selection and medical examination of candidates, who, if found suitable, might be enlisted locally and sent to the United Kingdom or some Oversea Command, e.g., Canada, for training.

A further £15,000 has been sent by the people of the Colony to the Red Cross Fund. This instalment, the sixth, brings their contributions to the Fund to £29,000.

The Trinidad Fighter Fund Committee has issued an appeal to the people of the Colony to bring the fund for the purchase of aeroplanes for the defence of Britain to a minimum of \$500,000 by Christmas. Already some \$280,000 has been collected.

The Trinidad Government have deported to Martinique 31 French sailors who had been in Port-of-Spain for some weeks. A number of others who have declared their willingness to throw in their lot with Great Britain remain in Trinidad, and will be put on active service.

Mr. Norman's New Appointment

The Colonial Office announced on August 27th that Mr. F. A. Norman, Labour Adviser to the Government of Jamaica, has been selected for appointment as Labour Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies.

Mr. Norman, then assistant secretary in the unemployment insurance department in the Ministry of Labour, was seconded in May of last year to the Government of Jamaica, and in November he represented the British Government as an observer at the Regional Conference of the American States members of the International Labour Office at Havana. He entered the Civil Service in 1904.

The World's Rarest Stamp

BY "COLLECTOR"

The world's rarest stamp, the British Guiana 1 cent. of 1856, has again changed hands. The sale was made in New York, but neither the name of the buyer, nor the price paid, has been disclosed.

For some years, the stamp has been owned by Mrs. Scala, to whom it was presented by her first husband, the late Mr. Arthur Hind. He purchased it in the "Ferrari" sale of 1923 for £7,350. In October, 1935, it was offered at auction by Harmer Rooke & Co., Ltd., the Strand firm of stamp auctioneers, but withdrawn as the highest bid, of £7,500, did not reach the reserve.

The stamp was originally discovered by a schoolboy in Georgetown, British Guiana, who sold it for six shillings!

Notes of West Indian Interest

"WHEN you hab plenty 'member rainy day."

MR. G. H. F. INNIS, of Barbados, has received his Commission as a Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force.

THE Government of St. Vincent has removed the restriction on the import of grapefruit and oranges from Trinidad and Tobago and certain other British West Indian islands.

THE Postmaster-General announces that letters, printed papers, etc., for Jamaica posted approximately between August 9th and 11th have been lost through enemy action. A few bags of parcels were also lost.

MR. CLEMENT MALONE has, it is announced, resigned his seat as an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of St. Kitts-Nevis upon assuming the duties of Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Windward and the Leeward Islands.

THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION Co. announce that owing to the continued high level of running costs, they have decided to increase, as from October 1st, their pre-war passenger fares by 33½ per cent. The first-class fare to Jamaica or the Bahamas will be £53, and to Bermuda, £47.

SIR ALAN BURNS, formerly Governor of British Honduras, and now Assistant Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, was able to look in for a short time at the cricket match between the West Indies and Sir Pelham Warner's XI., and speak to several members of the West Indies team in their dressing room.

It is reported in the London press that Lord Lloyd has invited Sir John Chancellor, formerly Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, to become assistant chairman of the British Council for the duration of the war. It is understood that Lord Lloyd will remain chairman and continue to take a close interest in the work of the Council.

MR. ARTHUR POTTER, a son of Mr. T. I. Potter, of Trinidad, is in Hong Kong where he has been Science Master at King's College since August, 1937. His wife and their three children will go to Sydney but Mr. Potter, who served in the last war and lost a leg in a skirmish about three weeks before the Armistice, will probably remain in Hong Kong.

THE production of sugar in Japan, including the Island of Formosa, during the 1939-40 season totalled 1,320,000 long tons, raw sugar value, against 1,663,000 tons during last season, a decrease of 343,000 tons or approximately 21 per cent., according to Lamborn &

Co. The consumption during 1938-39 totalled 1,342,000 long tons, but that for the current year, is expected to show a decided falling-off because of the rationing programme instituted in various parts of the Empire.

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER is on his way to India as chairman of a Mission, appointed by the Ministry of Supply, to discuss means of increasing India's production of munitions and other war stores. At the request of the Government of South Africa, the Mission will call at Cape Town on its way out for similar consultations with the Union Authorities. Sir Alexander, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, was recently appointed chairman of the Tank Board.

SIR PELHAM WARNER suggests in the *Hampstead News* of August 22nd, that a fund should be opened to buy a fighter from contributions from all those who in days gone by have watched Middlesex play at Lord's. Sir Pelham says he understands that the arms of Colonies, cities, etc., are inscribed on machines they have presented and asks "how better could the arms of the Middlesex County Cricket Club—three scimitars—be carried than by a fighter of our incomparable Air Force." Subscriptions of a shilling, or more if possible, are invited, addressed to Sir Pelham, Middlesex C.C.C. Fighter Fund, c/o the Manager, Barclays Bank, Wellington Road, N.W.8.

AT the annual general meeting of the Ross Institute Industrial Advisory Committee, Sir Malcolm Watson, the Director of the Institute, in the course of his interesting report said: "When the war is over there will be the great problem of reconstruction. It has taken England one hundred years to realise that slums which create sick men are bad investments. A sick man produces nothing of value, and only too often spreads disease; whereas a healthy man is an asset. In the same way malaria and other tropical diseases, which hinder the development of our Colonial Empire, lower its capacity for the production of the things which Britain wants to buy from it. Diseases also prevent it buying from Britain and other parts of the Empire the things which they produce."

The Duke of Windsor

The second of the illustrations in this issue of the CIRCULAR will be of historical interest. It shows the scene in the Legislative Council Chamber on August 17th when the Duke of Windsor was sworn in as Governor of the Bahamas by the Chief Justice, the Hon. O. B. Daly. The Duchess is seen holding a fan and immediately in front of her, with their backs to the camera, are the Hon. A. K. Solomon, K.C. and the Hon. Harold Christie.

America and the West Indies

Leasing Naval and Air Bases

THE leading article in the last issue of the CIRCULAR on America and the West Indies was in type before the Prime Minister outlined the Government's proposals for leasing naval and air bases in the West Indies to the United States. We were thus only able to add a very brief extract from his statement as we went to press.

We give below, in full, the relevant part of Mr. Churchill's speech on the war situation made in the House of Commons on August 20th, together with such expressions of West Indian opinion as have appeared in the London Press. Others will doubtless follow.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

We have to think, not only for ourselves but for the lasting security of the cause and principles for which we are fighting and of the long future of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Some months ago we came to the conclusion that the interests of the United States and of the British Empire both required that the United States should have facilities for the naval and air defence of the Western Hemisphere against the attack of a Nazi power which might have acquired temporary but lengthy control of a large part of Western Europe and its formidable resources. We had therefore decided spontaneously, and without being asked or being offered any inducement, to inform the Government of the United States that we would be glad to place such defence facilities at their disposal by leasing suitable sites in our Transatlantic possessions for their greater security against the unmeasured dangers of the future. The principle of association of interests for common purposes between Great Britain and the United States had developed even before the war. Various agreements had been reached about certain small islands in the Pacific Ocean which had become important as air fuelling points. In all this line of thought we found ourselves in very close harmony with the Government of Canada.

Presently we learned that anxiety was also felt in the United States about the air and naval defence of their Atlantic seaboard, and President Roosevelt has recently made it clear that he would like to discuss with us, and with the Dominion of Canada and with Newfoundland, the development of American naval and air facilities in Newfoundland and in the West Indies. There is, of course, no question of any transference of sovereignty—that has never been suggested—or of any action being taken, without the consent or against the wishes of the various Colonies concerned, but for our part, His Majesty's Government are entirely willing to accord defence facilities to the United States on a 99 years' leasehold basis, and we feel sure that our interests no less than theirs, and the interests of the Colonies themselves and of Canada and Newfoundland will be served thereby. These are important steps. Undoubtedly this process means that these two great

organisations of the English-speaking democracies, the British Empire and the United States, will have to be somewhat mixed up together in some of their matters for mutual and general advantage. For my own part, looking out upon the future, I do not view the proceedings with any misgivings. I could not stop it if I wished; no one can stop it. Like the Mississippi, it just keeps rolling along. Let it roll. Let it roll on full flood, inexorable, irresistible, benignant, to broader lands and better days.

WEST INDIAN OPINION

BARBADOS. Any arrangements for the leasing of naval and air bases in these Colonies, however distasteful to the people of these islands will be loyally accepted if they serve to ensure American help for the Mother Country at this grave crisis in her history. (*Barbados Advocate*).

BERMUDA. The House of Assembly in a memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies said "Grateful for past protection and proud of our heritage, we pledge ourselves to play our part in the present struggle and shoulder our share of Britain's burden. . . . We recognise that H.M. Government, in weighing the merits of the new proposals, intend only to further the interests of the Empire at this critical juncture. We pledge our support to any agreement reached, but pray that such an agreement may take heed of our deep-rooted and fervent attachment to the Crown."

Lord Lloyd, in his reply, asked that the House of Assembly be informed of the great pleasure with which he had received their memorial and that His Majesty's Government were deeply touched by the loyal sentiments which inspired it and the pledge of sturdy and continued support which it contained. These were but in keeping with the tradition of their ancient Colony. His Majesty's Government desired to assure the House that there was no question of Bermuda, or any part of it, being separated from the British Empire or of the people of Bermuda ceasing to be British subjects.

DOMINICA. We shall be willing to swallow our pride and put no obstacle in the way of Imperial defence. (*Dominica Tribune*).

JAMAICA. The British West Indies would never dream of seeking to put any obstacle in the way of the proposal. New conditions demand a modification of the old arrangements, and every part of the Empire must do something to assist the Mother Country.

We should all have preferred that the defence of the Panama Canal could have been undertaken for America from the British West Indian Colonies by the Imperial Government itself, but it cannot be, and we need American help and good feeling in the prosecution of this struggle. So long as the present British connection with the British West Indies remains unaltered, we do not believe that there would be any objection to the arrangement proposed. (*Daily Gleaner*).

The West Indies at Lord's

By SIR PELHAM WARNER

WHEN the idea of this match was mooted the Committee of the M.C.C. readily gave their consent, and I was asked to get up the eleven against the West Indies. I was only too happy to do so for the West Indies are always very welcome at Lord's—and indeed on every ground in the Country—and family association with the West Indies was an additional incentive to me to do my best to collect a team worthy of the steel of my countrymen.

Though I experienced a disappointment in that Verity and Hardstaff were unable to play, my team included seven England cricketers—and two who had represented the Gentlemen—and the West Indies did well to dismiss this side on a beautiful wicket for a total of 263. The West Indies quickly claimed two wickets—both l.b.w.—and then the spectators had a treat in watching Hutton and D. Compton. These two young cricketers with Hardstaff, of Nottinghamshire, are three of the four best batsmen in England—Hammond being the other—and had Hitler not upset the world the Australian bowlers would already be suffering sleepless nights wondering how they were going to get them out this winter in Australia. Compton is a lovely player with a wealth of strokes, exceptional quickness of foot, and supple wrists. Much of the charm he radiates is due to his obvious enjoyment of the game. Hutton is a master. He seems incapable of making a false stroke, and his off drive is classic to a degree, while like all Yorkshiremen, woe betide the bowler who is short of a length. But in spite of these two, and a characteristic innings by Robins, six wickets had fallen for 189 runs. There was, however, plenty of sting in the "tail," with Griffith in excellent form, and it was generally felt that the total eventually achieved would take a lot of passing. The bowling of Martindale and Constantine deserved a greater measure of success, Clarke's leg breaks had both length and spin, and St. Hill claimed three illustrious victims. The fielding was very good—with the great Constantine making two fine catches—one at mid-off travelling with tremendous velocity from the bat of the powerful Brown who apparently thrives on Army rations. Looking back on an innings full of beautiful strokes perhaps the most beautiful of all was a square off drive by Compton, off Martindale, which hit the rails in front of the Tavern almost before one realised that the ball had left the bowler's hand.

Denis Compton's brother, Leslie, was attached for the day to the West Indies and kept wicket admirably, and later batted well. Eytley and Forde gave the West Indies a good start, but an old fault in their cricket—bad judgment in running—was once again to serve them ill. Robins is one of the best fieldsmen in the world and Emtage committed suicide when he answered a call by Eytley for a hit to cover point, the ball being beautifully picked up and returned like a flash of lightning to Griffith who lost not a fraction of a second in putting the wicket down. Later Constantine also threw his wicket away. He played a ball slowly to the left of mid-on, Farnes, and Brown the bowler took a

very hard return. A groan of disappointment went up. These two run outs seemed to take all the heart out of the side and the last few wickets fell rapidly, Compton taking three for no runs, the West Indies losing the match by 117 runs. Brown was the best of the bowlers, and Griffith kept wicket magnificently.

August 22nd was not exactly an ideal day for cricket for there was a N.W. wind with fifty per cent. of N. in it, but the sun shone brightly at times, and there was a crowd of some 7,000, 5,426 paying for admission. The Band of the Fire Brigade played during the afternoon, and the scene was full of animation. It is certain that everyone enjoyed the cricket. The proceeds of the match were given to the Red Cross and St. John Fund.

SIR PELHAM WARNER'S XI

†R. H. Twining, Middlesex, l.-b.-w., b. Martindale	...	0
Sergt. Instr. L. Hutton, Yorkshire, c. Martindale, b. St. Hill	...	44
G. F. H. Hearne, Notts., l.-b.-w., b. Clarke	...	15
Sergt. D. Compton, Middlesex, c. M. Farara, b. St. Hill	...	73
Cadet B. H. Valentine, Kent, b. St. Hill	...	1
Major G. O. Allen, Middlesex, b. Constantine	...	19
F./Lt. R. W. V. Robins, Middlesex, c. Constantine, b. Clarke	...	34
Lieut. F. R. Brown, Surrey, c. Constantine, b. Clarke	...	9
*Capt. S. C. Griffith, Sussex, not out	...	32
P/O R. M. Taylor, D.F.C., Essex, l.-b.-w., b. Clarke	...	14
K. Farnes, Essex, l.-b.-w., b. Clarke	...	13
Byes 5, l.-b. 2, w. , n.-b. 2	...	9
Total	...	263

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING

Name.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd.	N.-b.
Martindale	9	0	53	1	—	2
Constantine	10	1	46	1	—	—
Clarke	14	0	68	5	—	—
St. Hill...	10	0	69	3	—	—
A. Farara	2	0	18	0	—	—

WEST INDIES

E. B. Eytley, British Guiana, c. Griffith, b. Brown	...	47
H. M. Forde, Barbados, st. Griffith, b. Robins	...	27
J. B. Emtage, Barbados, run out	...	6
M. Farara, St. Kitts, c. Farnes, b. Brown	...	0
E. A. Martindale, Barbados, c. Allen, b. Taylor	...	5
*L. Compton, Middlesex, c. Griffith, b. Compton	...	25
L. N. Constantine, Trinidad, run out	...	5
†C. B. Clarke, Barbados, c. Allen, b. Farnes...	...	5
A. Farara, St. Kitts, st. Griffith, b. Compton	...	9
C. G. Nicholson, Trinidad, not out	...	4
E. St. Hill, Trinidad, b. Compton	...	0
Byes 7, l.-b. 5, w. 1, n.-b.	...	13
Total	...	146

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING

Name.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd.	N.-b.
Farnes	10	0	31	1	—	—
Allen	4	1	7	0	—	—
Robins	7	1	42	1	—	—
Brown	11	0	35	2	—	—
Taylor	1	0	6	1	—	—
Compton	2.5	2	0	3	1	—
Hutton	2	0	12	0	—	—

Umpires: Beet and Fowler. †Captain. *Wicket-keeper.
The following note on the score card will be of historical interest:—

In the event of an Air Raid good cover from shrapnel and splinters should be obtainable under the concrete stands. Public shelters will be found in St. John's Wood Church; the Synagogue, St. John's Wood Road; Wellington Court, Wellington Road; South Lodge, Circus Road. Spectators are advised not to loiter in the streets.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Agricultural Policy in Jamaica—Marketing British Guiana's Rice
Effects of Drought in Barbados and Trinidad



BARBADOS

Sugar Prospects. The Director of Agriculture, in his monthly notes dated July 13th, stated that the rainfall during June had been well below average and, by the end of the month, the young plant canes and ratoons were showing signs of suffering from the continued drought. It was, he said, pleasing to record that during the first week of July there had been general rains throughout the island amounting to an average of about three inches, and it was to be hoped that the wet season had now begun.

The latest estimate of the 1940 crop was the equivalent of 97,315 tons of sugar made up as follows: Vacuum pan sugar 67,226, muscovado 3,070 and fancy molasses (equated at 330 wine gallons per ton sugar) 27,019.

Cotton. An excellent price is reported to have been obtained for cotton and future price prospects were said to be good. With the continued absence of pink boll worm attack cotton growing should be an attractive proposition this year. So far applications had been received for seed for planting 140 acres.

BRITISH GUIANA

Rice Control. Under regulations, published in the *Official Gazette* of July 24th, the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board was given, from that date, control of the purchase, sale and distribution of all rice "manufactured" in the Colony. Manufacturers, that is persons who operate rice factories, must deliver all their rice to the Board which may establish storage depots. Rice may be exported by the Board or by an "exporting agent," the quantity permitted to leave the Colony being determined after provision has been made for local consumption, and the Board may sell rice for the latter purpose in quantities not less than a bag of 180 lb. gross. The Board is also given wide powers of price control. It may fix the minimum price at which padi is purchased from a grower. It may also fix the price at which it will (a) purchase rice, (b) sell rice for consumption in the Colony and (c) at which rice shall be sold to purchasers outside the Colony, either generally or in specified markets.

JAMAICA

Captain T. D. Hampson, the newly appointed Staff Officer of the Local Forces, arrived in Jamaica on July 23rd. Captain Hampson was formerly assistant secretary of The West India Committee. Mrs. Hampson is the daughter of Mrs. Parsons, of Half-way Tree, and the late Mr. Dudley G. Parsons.

Miss Mary Cowper, Headmistress of Wolmer's Girls' School for sixteen years, has tendered her resignation, which will take effect at the end of the present year.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society held their half-

yearly meeting in Kingston on July 25th. The Governor on this occasion emphasized the importance of pursuing a policy by which Jamaica could become, as far as possible, economically self-sufficient. He invited the whole-hearted co-operation of all landowners and cultivators in the measures which were being carried out by the Food Production Board.

A **Salvage Committee** has been appointed by the Governor. The members are: H. R. Fox, O. G. Macnair, W. J. Masterton, R. Aitken, W. Jervis, E. Watson, J. B. Cuthill and R. W. Youngman. The Committee invites donations of all scrap metals. When circumstances permit, selected material will be shipped to Great Britain free of cost and the balance will be sent to Canada and sold at prevailing market prices, to be used for the manufacture of war materials. All profits derived from this source will be placed to the credit of the Jamaica War Funds.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trade in 1939. The Colony's trade during 1939, with special reference to Canada's participation, is dealt with by Mr. G. A. Newman, Acting Canadian Trade Commissioner in the *Commercial Intelligence Journal* for July 20th and 27th. The domestic exports, valued at \$27,389,476 exceeded those of 1938 by 5.8 per cent., and constituted a record. 55.5 per cent. were consigned to the United Kingdom, 9.8 to Canada, 8.6 to British West Indies and 4.8 per cent. to the United States. The value of the exports was \$34,762,954, 2 per cent. below 1938, the percentage from the three most important sources being United Kingdom 35.79, United States 25.49 and Canada 14.50. With the outbreak of war Canada became of primary importance for supplying manufactured products, such goods from the United Kingdom and Europe being either delayed in shipment or completely stopped and those from the United States being restricted by the policy of conserving sterling exchange.

Hoping for Rain. Mr. T. I. Potter, writing on July 8th, said: We have had a very dry year, and our rainy season, which is now on, is rather inclined to be scanty. A strong southern breeze is prevalent in the afternoon, and it drives off the moisture of a rainy morning.

The cocoa planters are not very happy over the prospects of the present weather, and unless the rains improve during the present quarter of the year, cultivation is likely to suffer. Similarly the cane-farmer and the sugar planter are very much worried by this usual dry tendency of the early wet season; yams, tannias and other root crops are surely going to yield poor returns, if the rains are not sufficient this year.

So we are praying that our rainy season will come on in full force before the end of the current month, and will endure until the second fortnight of September.

Maintenance of Soil Fertility

Sir A. Howard's "Agricultural Testament"*

SIR ALBERT HOWARD needs no introduction to readers of the CIRCULAR. Some may remember that as a member of the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in its very early days he made valuable contributions to our knowledge of sugar cane diseases in the West Indies. More recently, in 1936, he contributed to the CIRCULAR an article on the Manufacture of Humus by the Indore Process as a means of maintaining soil fertility. This is dealt with in his book *The Waste Products of Agriculture*, published in 1931, of which he describes *An Agricultural Testament* as a continuation "embodying the work and experience of forty years mainly devoted to agricultural research in the West Indies, India and Great Britain."

The purpose of this book is in the author's own words "to draw attention to the destruction of the earth's capital—the soil, and to indicate some of the consequences of this; to suggest methods by which the lost fertility can be restored and maintained." By way of introduction Sir Albert reviews the various systems of agriculture which have been evolved and discusses how far they have been successful in maintaining the fertility of the soil—the first condition of any permanent system. He places these systems in four groups: (1) the methods of Nature; (2) the agriculture of nations which have passed away; (3) the practices of the Orient which have been almost unaffected by western science; and (4) those of Europe and North America to which much scientific attention has been paid during the last century.

The peasants of China, who pay great attention to the return of all wastes to the land, come nearest he considers, as others notably F. H. King in *Farmers of Forty Centuries* have previously, to the ideal set by Nature—"the supreme farmer." The agriculture of ancient Rome failed because it was unable to maintain the fertility of the soil. The farmers of the West are, he says, repeating the mistakes made by Imperial Rome. The soils of the Roman Empire had only to satisfy the hunger of a relatively small population. Modern demands which the soils of the West have to satisfy include not only those of a much larger population, many urban and entirely non-producers, but also the growing hunger of the machines which need raw agricultural products for manufacturing purposes. The Roman Empire lasted eleven centuries. Sir Albert puts the question: How long will the supremacy of the West endure? The answer, he says, depends on the wisdom and courage of the population in dealing with things that matter. Can mankind regulate its affairs so that its chief possession—the fertility of the soil—is preserved? On the answer to this question the future of civilization depends."

The future for the civilization of the western nations is portrayed as a very gloomy one due to their agri-

cultural malpractices. Amongst these are the employment of labour saving machines, which add nothing to the fertility of the soil, and the use of artificial manures. "What may be conveniently described as the N.P.K. [nitrogen, phosphorus, potash] mentality dominates farming alike in the experimental stations and the country-side. Vested interests, entrenched in time of national emergency [factories for fixing atmospheric nitrogen for explosives during the last war] have gained a stranglehold." The results are thus summed up: "Since the Industrial Revolution the processes of growth have been speeded up to produce the food and raw materials needed by the population and the factory. Nothing effective has been done to replace the loss of fertility involved in this vast increase in crop and animal production. The consequences have been disastrous. Agriculture has become unbalanced: the land is in revolt: diseases of all kinds are on the increase: in many places Nature is removing the worn out soil by means of erosion."

As a contrast to this gloomy picture Sir Albert depicts the results of Nature's methods. Crops and plants, he says, look after themselves. Nature has never found it necessary to design the equivalent of the spraying machine and the poison spray for the control of insect and fungus pests. All kinds of diseases are to be found in the forests but they never assume large proportions. The principle followed is that plants and animals can very well protect themselves, even when parasites are found in their midst. "Nature's rule in such matters is to live and let live."

The methods by which Nature secures this ideal are set out and may be briefly summarized thus: Never farm without live stock; always raise mixed crops; take great pains to preserve the soil and prevent erosion; convert vegetable and animal wastes into humus; avoid waste so that the processes of growth and decay balance one another; maintain large reserves of fertility; take great care to store the rainfall; leave both plants and animals alone to protect themselves against disease.

When the cultivator is troubled with pests and diseases he is asked to realize that this is Nature's method of indicating the inefficient crop. "Where the soil is infertile, where an unsuitable variety is being grown, or where some mistake has been made in management, Nature at once registers her disapproval through her Censor's Department. One or more groups of parasitic insects and fungi—the organisms which thrive on unhealthy living matter—are told off to point out that farming has failed. In the conventional language of to-day the crop is attacked by disease." Amongst the examples given in support of these generalisations is that of sugar cane in the West Indies which will be considered later.

W. G. F.

(To be continued)

* *An Agricultural Testament*. By Sir Albert Howard, C.I.E., M.A. Oxford University Press, London, New York, Toronto and Humphrey Milford, 1940. Price 15s., net.

Round the Markets

September 3rd, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below :—

	August 19th.	September 2nd.	\$ value
Canada	4.45	4.45	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	4/11.6

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are :—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 9d. per cent.)	73½
3½	War Loan	101½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1½ 1½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	29/- 32/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	33/- 37/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	24 24
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	3d. 8d.
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/9
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/8 20/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/- 3/-
8	Kora Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
8	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d. 1/-
—	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30 40
11½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar...	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/6 13/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3 7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½ 2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/3 7/3

COCOA. In the absence of business, prices of West Indian descriptions remain nominal. Trinidad continues to be quoted at 65/- to 70/- for good plantation to fine estates, and Grenada at 59/- to 60/- for fine. A small business has been done in West African on the spot at the controlled price of 35/-.

BALATA has continued quiet. Both sheet and block are quoted at 2/7 to 2/8 per lb.

BANANAS. There is a good all-round demand for Jamaicas and the prices, to wholesalers, are unchanged at £30 5s. per ton delivered London and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. A further business has been done in Jamaica dark liquid to pale amber at 85/- to 95/- per cwt. ex wharf, and at 95/- to 100/- for the pale to white. Some small sales of light amber have been reported at 87/6 to 90/- c.i.f., United Kingdom port, for August/September shipment.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed continues to be quoted nominally at 40/- per lb. Stocks of Distilled are firmly held for 27/6, but there is no interest in forward position and the demand generally is slow. **Lime Juice.** There is still no demand for Concentrated and Raw is quoted at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. The nominal values are lower on the fortnight with Sweet now quoted at 6/- per lb. and Bitter at 10/- per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** is a little firmer on more buying support from United Kingdom consumers, and with only small stocks offering the price has advanced to 11¼d. per lb. ex store London. For prompt shipment from Jamaica business has been done at 82/- to 83/- c.i.f. United Kingdom. There is a better tendency in **Ginger**, and prices are 2/6 to 5/- per cwt. higher for parcels on the spot. Sales during the fortnight include small bright No. 3 at 50/- to 52/6; small to medium No. 2 at 55/- to 60/-; medium No. 1 at 62/6

to 67/6; and bold bright plump No. 1 in barrels at 90/-. West Indian **Nutmegs** continue quiet and prices show little change at: wormy and broken 5½d. to 5¾d.; sound unassorted 6½d. to 7¼d.; sound 80's 7½d.; and sound 65's 9d. There is a better demand in **Mace** for parcels on the spot. Business has been done in West Indian descriptions at 2/- to 2/1 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale, and at 2/3 to 2/4 for choice pale. Dark to pale pickings are quoted at 10d. to 1/3.

The Outlook for Cocoa

A New York View

DISCUSSING the outlook for cocoa in their report of August 6th, Wessels, Kulenkampff & Co., the produce brokers of New York, state :—

"The fundamental cause of the steady price decline is the realization that the supply situation for this country has undergone a drastic change. Expected interference with the transport of cocoa from producing countries did not materialize. On the contrary, supplies from West Africa by the end of July actually established a new high, and with record heavy afloats more West-African cocoa will have been shipped to this country by the end of this crop year than ever before.

"According to present indications arrivals of all grades in U.S.A. ports by the end of September may actually exceed those of last year, while only three months ago a deficiency of 6/700,000 bags seemed certain on the basis of probable shipments from West Africa.

"Prospects for all cocoa producers are certainly anything but rosy just now. About 300,000 tons of cocoa, or roughly 40 per cent. of world's production, were absorbed annually by European countries which are now unable to import. Lack of outlet for such a large quantity means that corresponding stocks have to accumulate in producing countries, or shipments to this country will increase. Should the larger part of the aforementioned 300,000 tons be directed to our market a further decline in prices would seem inevitable. To avoid such development Governments will be forced to come to the rescue of producers in order to tide them over an obvious state of emergency. Without such assistance producers may have to force new crops on markets unwilling, if not unable, to absorb all offers. That would spell ruinously low prices and dire consequences to producing countries.

"There appears to be no other way out of the difficulty but that the two principal producing regions, West Africa and Brazil, store arrivals of New Crop until world demand regains its normal proportions. Producing countries must withhold offers for a considerable time to bring about a more equitable price level. We rather expect that action to that effect is contemplated."

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 5/- for 3 lines and 1/6 for each additional line. Cheques, Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

MAWSON-GREENHALGH. The marriage of Dr. Richard Mawson of Harrogate and Kings Langley, Herts, and Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Greenhalgh of Barbados, will take place in London on October 15th.

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CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		JAMAICA'S SUGAR CROP ...	230
THEIR MAJESTIES' ESCAPE ...	225	UNITED KINGDOM COCOA ...	230
WEST INDIAN BASES ...	225	CONTROL ...	230
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK ...	226	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST ...	231
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR ...	227	WEST INDIA ROYAL COMMISSION ...	232
THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT ...	228	SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA, ...	
CLOTHES FOR AIR RAID VICTIMS ...	228	1938-39 ...	232
PILOT OFFICER R. A. RHODES ...	228	THE NEW AGRICULTURAL ...	
THE LATE MR. ROBERT BRYSON ...	228	ADVISER ...	232
AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES ...	229	EDUCATION IN THE COLONIES ...	232
PAN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE ...	230	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS ...	232
PUBLIC HEALTH IN BRITISH ...		FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL ...	239
HONDURAS ...	230	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	234

Their Majesties' Escape

THE deliberate bombing attacks by Nazi airmen on Buckingham Palace have horrified not only his Majesty's subjects in the Empire, but all the other free peoples of the world. Happily, the KING and QUEEN, who were in the Palace during the attack carried out during day-time on September 13th, were uninjured, and left shortly afterwards for the East End of London to offer sympathy and encouragement to the many victims of German barbarity in that area.

Their Majesties have received numerous messages of congratulation on their escape. Up to the time of going to press the following have been received from the Atlantic Colonies:

THE GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS :—

"On behalf of the Government and people of this Colony I wish to convey to Your Majesty our congratulations and deep sense of relief for the escape of Your Majesty from the recent grave danger to which you have been exposed."

THE GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA :—

"On behalf of myself and people of Bermuda would be grateful if you would express with our humble duty our thankfulness for the safety of Their Majesties."

THE GOVERNOR OF BRITISH GUIANA :—

"On behalf of myself and the people of British Guiana please convey to Their Majesties the King and Queen our humble duty and an assurance of the profound and heartfelt relief felt by the whole Colony on their providential escape from the barbarous attack on Buckingham Palace. The Colony takes the occasion to reaffirm its devoted loyalty to the throne and its unshaken confidence in ultimate victory."

GOVERNOR OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS :—

"His Majesty's subjects in the Leeward Islands desire to express to His Majesty their heartfelt gratitude for the safety of the Royal Family on the occasion of the attacks on the Royal residence."

THE GOVERNOR OF TRINIDAD :—

"I shall be glad if you will express to Their Majesties the King and Queen on behalf of the Government and the people of this Colony and of my wife and myself with our humble duty our deep joy at Their Majesties' escape and our profound disgust and indignation at this fresh proof of insensate malignity of the enemy."

THE GOVERNOR OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS :—

"I have learnt with heartfelt thankfulness of Their Majesties' escape and with my humble duty to the King grateful if you will submit on behalf of myself and people of Colonies of the Windward Islands an expression of joy at Their Majesties' safety."

West Indian Bases

FUTURE historians of the present era will be confronted by an embarrassing wealth of material.

It will be necessary as never before to eliminate the non-essential and to lay emphasis on those events alone which are significant in relation to the larger patterns of history. Such events are rare and are not easily recognisable by contemporaries, but LORD SAMUEL was probably not exaggerating when he described the leasing to the United States of naval and air bases in the British Trans-Atlantic Territories as constituting "the most momentous happening recently in the political world." Wherein, it may be asked, does this particular significance lie? How will the matter be judged a century hence when the lease of the bases will have expired and the fifty destroyers transferred to us by the United States will long have been no more than a memory? Certainly the transaction cannot properly be regarded merely as a "deal" in which one principal may gain at the expense of the other. In the light of such an assumption we would not appear to have made a very good bargain. This short-view estimate is expressed by the *Baltimore Sun* when it declares that "the exchange is a bargain in which the United States gets far and away the better of the deal." In stating that "the agreement is epochal in the sense that it marks the recognition by the two Powers of their community of interest in the defence of the North Atlantic world," the *New York Times* would seem to display a deeper understanding of the implications of the arrangement. It is something more even than that. It creates a bond of a kind only possible between two peoples inspired by the same ideals, and each fundamentally convinced of the other's good faith and high purpose. The only logical outcome of such a process would appear to be that closer association of the English-speaking democracies of which MR. CHURCHILL spoke in the House of Commons on August 20th. It would be idle to pretend that the arrangement is welcomed without qualification in the West Indies. In the words of the *Jamaica Daily Gleaner* quoted in our last issue, "we should all have preferred that the defence of the Panama Canal could have been undertaken for America from the British West Indian Colonies by the Imperial Government itself." The important fact, however, is that British West Indians are anxious to do all in their power to play their full part in the Empire's war effort and to make any sacrifice short of impairing their status as British subjects. On this point, as we emphasized on August 22nd, no British West Indian will yield an inch.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE news of the fortnight is entirely of the air war; and London, slightly battered and a good deal harassed, is feeling a queer pride at being in the forefront of the thickest battle. The fighting has been complicated, and needs some sorting out. Perhaps it will be best understood by those who grasp that the strategic situation is that which we have all studied in our school history books, at the time of Queen Elizabeth's war with Spain. Just as in 1588, the Channel ports are packed with troops and transports, waiting to attempt the invasion of England; but they cannot hope to make a successful landing until the way has been cleared for them across the Narrow Seas. In order to clear the way for his troops, King Philip sent the Invincible Armada. Hitler sends his air force, which he proclaims invincible just as loudly as did King Philip—but with no greater justification.

* * *

The new development of the past week has been the persistent large-scale bombing of London. I happened to see the beginning of it from the heights of Hampstead—wave after wave of German machines streaming up from the south-east, catching the light of the afternoon sun so that they looked like bright leaves fluttering before the wind, and with the smaller British fighters hanging on to their flanks, and now and then sending one crashing to the earth. We did heavy execution that Saturday evening; but very early in the raid a great mushroom of smoke went swelling up from the direction of the Thames, and we afterwards learnt that the enemy had started a big fire in the docks. After dark this fire became a beacon to guide the night-bombers on their way; and that night and every night since the people of London have had to get what rest they might in their cellars and air-raid shelters.

* * *

We have had considerable casualties—two or three hundred killed in a night. It sounds a large figure, but it is only about 1 in 30,000 of the immense population of London. The bombing has been utterly and shamelessly indiscriminate. At least half a dozen hospitals have been hit, two or three museums, many churches, the House of Lords (only slightly damaged) and Madame Tussaud's waxworks, besides such more properly military targets as railway stations and timber yards. Many poor people in the East End are homeless, and great inconvenience has been caused by the blocking of streets, either by wreckage, or through the presence of unexploded "delayed-action" bombs, of which the enemy has made great use. The place of all this in the strategic plan of invasion presumably depends on the hope of sending our civil population out as refugees to throng the roads and impede the operations of our defending troops. If that is the object, the attack has failed miserably, for the spirit of London is very far indeed from being intimidated. The defiant cheerfulness even of those who have lost their homes has amazed those of us who thought we knew the Londoner best.

* * *

The first place in maintaining the spirits of the people

has been taken by Their Majesties the King and Queen. Buckingham Palace has been bombed three times—at least twice certainly with deliberate intent. But in every interval between raids the King and Queen have been out and about, visiting all the bombed areas, talking to the people in the midst of the wreckage, and diffusing cheerfulness wherever they go.

* * *

Day after day we take toll of the German air armada at the rate of about three of their machines to one of ours, and six of their men to one—for many of our pilots survive the destruction of their machines, and every German bomber destroyed means that a crew of four or five is put out of action. Thus Drake's work of smashing the force designed to cover the invasion is going merrily forward. But we can go further than Drake; we can also strike at the invading hosts themselves before they set out for our shores. Indeed the increasingly dominant feature of the air war is our offensive against Germany. It is mostly done by night; but our airmen know a great deal more about night tactics than their opponents, and can concentrate upon essential military targets instead of scattering their bombs indiscriminately on civilian populations like the *Luftwaffe*.

* * *

In the first place, we have bombed selected targets in Berlin—500 miles from our coast. This is strategically an operation of secondary importance, but of considerable psychological value because it shows the duped German people that their warlords are powerless, for all their bluster, to prevent our men flying where they will. Then there goes on, what has been in steady progress night after night since the first break-through at Sedan, the daily onslaught on the key-points of Western Germany. Oil-plants, railway junctions, munitions works, aircraft factories and the like have been repeatedly attacked, not with an occasional stray bomb such as has fallen on London termini, but with a concentrated fury that razes many of them to the ground.

* * *

But in the last few weeks another set of targets has become ever more prominent in the communiqués. These are the forward communications of the invading force itself. All round the Channel ports the enemy has been crowding his fleets of barges ready for the crossing, and within easy reach of them are the camps of the invading army. These concentrations of late have been feeling the relentless fury of the R.A.F. attack. Hamburg, Antwerp, Flushing, Dunkirk, Boulogne and Calais—they have all been visited again and again, their fortifications laid in ruins, and the fleets of barges left in flames. We still do not know whether Hitler will dare to launch his invasion, in spite of the wretched failure of *Luftwaffe* to clear the defending air force—not to mention the intact Royal Navy—out of the way. But we do know already that, if it does come, the invading army will be a sorely battered force before it even leaves the protection of its harbours.

The West Indies and The War

ANTIGUA

AEROPLANE FUND. Miss Helen Goodwin writes that Antigua is keen to show her patriotic enthusiasm by, in addition to other gifts, presenting the British Government with an aeroplane. A very enjoyable entertainment, organised by Mrs. Ernest Dew and Miss Hester Bell, was given at the Convent High School on July 31st and August 1st. The major item on the programme was "Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks," and the performance of Mr. F. W. Purvis as Mrs. Jarley will be passed down in the dramatic history of the island. Every assistance was given to make the entertainment a success, and as a result about £36 will be added to the Fund which, when Miss Goodwin wrote on August 8th, had already reached £228.

The Training of Nurses. Miss Goodwin also relates the following story overheard at tea time one afternoon. "First the tramp of marching feet accompanied by the usual left—right—left—right—then 'Mark time! Halt!' My informer with usual feminine curiosity looked through the window to see a crocodile of small girls being drilled by one slightly larger than themselves. An onlooker must have registered amusement for the lady-in-command was justly indignant and said wrathfully: 'Why should you laugh because they drill? Do you not know that now the war is on nurses will be wanted,' and gathering her dignity she resumed her drill and marched her band of little nurses away."

BARBADOS

Financing the Gift of £100,000. The Official Report of the House of Assembly Debates of June 25th, just received, shows that when it was decided to give £100,000 to Great Britain for war purposes [See the CIRCULAR of July 11th, page 167], a Bill was also passed authorizing the Government to borrow from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank a sum not exceeding £50,000. The use of this loan with the available surplus balances in the Public Treasury would allow the £100,000 to be remitted immediately.

A further £7,000 has been received by the Government from the Committee of the "Win the War Fund," bringing their contributions to date to £27,000.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Win the War Fund. Our hon. correspondent, Captain M. S. Metzgen, writing from Belize on August 24th, stated that, thanks to the enterprising spirit of Mr. James W. Macmillan, a committee of public spirited men with the Hon. H. J. Hughes (Acting Attorney General) as chairman, had been formed to administer a "British Honduras Win the War Fund." This committee hoped to raise £5,000 with which to purchase a British Honduras bombing plane to be presented as a contribution to the National effort. When this was realised it was hoped that sons of British Honduras would be found in the R.A.F. to man the plane.

Red Cross Fund. Captain and Mrs. Bernard A. Melhado were, he added, arranging a monster Garden

Fete at the Memorial Park, Belize, as one of the efforts to secure another £1,000 for the Red Cross Fund referred to in the CIRCULAR of August 8th. Co-operation had been secured from all sections of the community.

Intercession Services. Every Wednesday night since May 15th a special War Intercession Service has been held in St. John's Cathedral, Belize. So great has been the response of the whole community that the building has nearly always been full to capacity. The devotions and addresses have been conducted by the bishops and clergy in turn and generally there have been officers and members of the Defence Force, attending. The service on August 14th was one of special interest owing to the fact that Mr. John Adams Hunter, Governor of the Colony, gave the ten minutes address, while the Archbishop of the West Indies took the prayers.

JAMAICA

The Mayor of Kingston has opened a fund on behalf of people in Britain who have suffered losses through air raids, and nearly £1,000 has so far been subscribed.

ST. LUCIA

The Air Plane Fund started during the latter part of June under the energetic influence of the Hon. Garnet Gordon and Mr. Maurice Swabey, has met with encouraging response from the public of the Colony.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Schools and the Food Campaign. Addressing the Union Conference of the Teachers of the Colony. Dr. J. L. Shannon, Government Livestock officer, urged the necessity of whipping up enthusiasm for growing more food and asked the teachers to regard their efforts in this connection as a task of vital interest. Schools could be made centres for encouraging children in food farming, and he advised the establishment of farm school clubs.

All Help the Empire. Mr. T. I. Potter, writing on July 8th, stated that they were doing all they could to assist the Mother Country in increasing the Air Force and everyone was subscribing what he or she could towards the "Fighter Fund." They were also aiding the Red Cross Fund in every possible way. It was not that the staple products of the Colony were in a flourishing condition—but they were determined to assist Great Britain to win the war.

Special Services were held in churches of all denominations in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday, September 8th, in response to the King's desire to observe the day as one of National Prayer. The Governor attended morning service at Holy Trinity Cathedral, where the Lord Bishop of Trinidad preached. The Roman Catholic Archbishop presided over High Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. There was a United Service of intercession during the afternoon in the Colony's largest cinema, which was arranged by the Port-of-Spain Ministerial Association.

The Red Cross Movement

Outline of the British Effort

LORD HUNTINGFIELD recounts in the *Empire Review* for September how the Red Cross movement attained international force.

In 1859 a Swiss financier, Henri Dunant, shocked by revolting sights encountered at Solferino, improvised a band of helpers to aid the unfortunate victims of the battle. He then decided to devote himself to founding an international organisation and, securing influential support, had the satisfaction of seeing the first International Congress at Geneva attended by sixteen nations including Great Britain. The movement has become world wide and to-day 62 National Red Cross Societies owe allegiance to the International Committee at Geneva. After describing the international work, during times of war and peace, centred at Geneva, Lord Huntingfield deals in more detail with the history of the British effort.

At the opening of the Franco-German war in 1870 a body was founded known as the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War. Queen Victoria was the Patron supported by the Princess Christian and Florence Nightingale. The central British Red Cross Committee, which was responsible for Red Cross work during the South African War, grew out of a movement originated in 1897 to bring together representatives of the National Aid Society, the St. John Ambulance Association and the Army Nursing Service Reserve. Three years after that war, 1905, the British Red Cross Society as it now stands was established, with Queen Alexandra as President. The Society was granted a Charter in 1908 by King Edward VII.

In the present war, as during that of 1914-18, the British Red Cross Society joins forces with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the war work is carried on by the body known as the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation of which Sir Arthur Stanley is chairman, with an executive committee under Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode. This executive committee directs the activities of the many departments. These include the Central Hospital Supply Service, the Comfort-Collection Department, the Foreign Relations Department, the Wounded and Missing Department, the Prisoners of War Department. Another department deals with supplementing the supply of trained nurses and two others, connected with but not under the direct control of the War Organisation, are the V.A.D. and Detachment Department, and the Red Cross and St. John library.

Behind all this effort is the vitally important organisation connected with the Lord Mayor of London's Red Cross and St. John Fund of the Overseas Committee of which Lord Huntingfield is the chairman. The British West Indies have already contributed nobly to this fund and in Lord Huntingfield's presentation of the many calls already met by the Fund and the need for reserves to meet demands which it is at present impossible to assess, they will find an incentive to continue giving all the assistance that is within their power.

Clothes for Air Raid Victims

In consequence of the intensification of the air attacks on the London area, many families, especially in the East End, have been deprived of their homes and personal belongings. They are being cared for by official and voluntary bodies who are supplying them with clothes and other necessaries.

In this connexion it was fortunate that the day before the opening of this new phase of the war, some 40 cases of men's, women's and children's clothes were received by the War Services Committee from generous donors in Barbados and Trinidad.

Communication was at once established with the Women's Voluntary Services, who gladly accepted this large consignment for distribution among the sufferers, particularly those living in the Bermondsey, Barking and South-eastern districts.

Pilot Officer R. A. Rhodes

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death, on active service, of Pilot Officer R. A. Rhodes. His commanding officer, Wing-Commander Ian R. Parker, writes—

"Young Rhodes was a pilot in a night fighter squadron and already had a Hun to his credit, whom he shot down after a 200 mile chase across England in the dark. He was killed in action last month whilst attacking another enemy aircraft at night.

"Quiet and unassuming, he was one of the best type of young officers. A capable and daring pilot, and keen as mustard. British Guiana may well be proud of him and the way in which he met his death."

The Late Mr. Robert Bryson

Miss Helen Goodwin wrote from Antigua on August 14th that at a memorial service held at St. John's Cathedral on August 11th, Canon Baker paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Robert Bryson, a true christian gentleman who had been such a good friend to Antigua.

Miss Goodwin also forwarded a copy of the Governor's message of regret published in the *Official Gazette*. After recounting the great public and private services rendered by the deceased, His Excellency concluded with these words: "Mr. Bryson was a man of fine personality, kindly and generous and enthusiastic, and his passing will be learned with the deepest regret in every part of the community. He leaves a wife and daughter to whom the sincere sympathy of the Colony is extended."

(Continued from page 229)

realised the danger underlying the activities of German agents in the Western Hemisphere, and is now prepared to protect the people in these parts. Above all it is the desire of the great English-speaking nations to work together for the betterment of civilisation. The agreement, made in a spirit of absolute goodwill, is a move in the right direction tending, as it must, towards better relations between the two outstanding nations who, at present, are doing all they can for the defence of the liberties of men.—(*Port-of-Spain Gazette*).

America and the West Indies

Leasing Naval and Air Bases

WE reproduce below (from the *White Paper*, Cmd. 6224), the text of the notes exchanged between Lord Lothian, the British Ambassador at Washington, and Mr. Cordell Hull, the American Secretary of State, regarding United States destroyers and Naval and Air facilities for the United States in British Transatlantic territories:—

No. 1. *The Marquess of Lothian to Mr. Cordell Hull.*

Washington, September 2nd, 1940.

I have the honour, under instructions from his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inform you that in view of the basis of friendship and sympathetic interest of his Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in the national security of the United States and their desire to strengthen the ability of the United States to co-operate effectively with other nations of the Americas in defence of the Western Hemisphere, his Majesty's Government will secure the grant to the Government of the United States, freely and without consideration, of the lease for immediate establishment and use of naval and air bases and facilities for the entrance thereto and operation and protection thereof, on the Avalon Peninsula and on the southern coast of Newfoundland, and on the east coast and on the Great Bay of Bermuda.

Furthermore, in view of the above and in view of the desire of the United States to acquire additional air and naval bases in the Caribbean and in British Guiana, and without endeavouring to place a monetary or commercial value upon the many tangible and intangible rights and properties involved, his Majesty's Government will make available to the United States for immediate establishment and use of naval and air bases and facilities for entrance thereto and operation and protection thereof, on the eastern side of the Bahamas, the southern coast of Jamaica, the western coast of St. Lucia, the west coast of Trinidad, in the Gulf of Paria, in the Island of Antigua, and in British Guiana within 50 miles of Georgetown, in exchange for naval and military equipment and material which the United States will transfer to his Majesty's Government.

All of the bases and facilities referred to in the preceding paragraphs will be leased to the United States for a period of 99 years free from all rent and charges other than such compensation to be mutually agreed on to be paid by the United States in order to compensate the owners of private property for the loss by expropriation or damage arising out of the establishment of the bases and facilities in question.

His Majesty's Government in the leases to be agreed upon will grant to the United States for the period of the leases all the rights, power, and authority within the bases leased, and within the limits of territorial waters and air spaces adjacent or in the vicinity of such bases, necessary to provide access to and defence of such bases and appropriate provisions for their control.

Without prejudice to the above-mentioned rights of the United States authorities and their jurisdiction within the leased areas, the adjustment and reconciliation between the jurisdiction of the authorities of the United States within these areas and the jurisdiction of the authorities of the territories in which those areas are situated shall be determined by common agreement.

The exact location and bounds of the aforesaid bases, the necessary seaward, coast, and anti-aircraft defences, the location of sufficient military garrisons, stores and other necessary auxiliary facilities shall be determined by common agreement.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to designate immediately experts to meet with experts of the United States for these purposes. Should these experts be unable to agree in any particular situation except in the case of Newfoundland and Bermuda, the matter shall be settled by the Secretary of State of the United States and his Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, etc., **LOTHIAN.**

No. 2. *Mr. Cordell Hull to the Marquess of Lothian.*

Washington, September 2nd, 1940.

I have received your note of September 2nd, 1940, of which the text is as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

I am directed by the President to reply to your note as follows:—

The Government of the United States appreciates the declarations and the generous action of his Majesty's Government, as contained in your communications, which are destined to enhance the national security of the United States and greatly to strengthen its ability to co-operate effectively with the other nations of the Americas in the defence of the Western Hemisphere. It therefore gladly accepts the proposals.

The Government of the United States will immediately designate experts to meet with experts designated by his Majesty's Government to determine upon the exact location of Naval and Air bases mentioned in your communication under acknowledgment.

In consideration of the declarations above quoted, the Government of the United States will immediately transfer to his Majesty's Government 50 United States Navy destroyers generally referred to as the 1,200-tons type.

Accept, etc.,

CORDELL HULL.

WEST INDIAN OPINION

(Continued from page 220)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. The welcome given in the Colony to the Anglo-American Agreement is indicated in the following statement issued on September 10th by the Colonial Office Press Section of the Ministry of Information:—

"Trinidad's public welcome of the Agreement between Britain and the United States is warmly expressed by civic and commercial leaders.

"Captain A. A. Cipriani, senior Elected Member of the Legislative Council, Mayor of Port-of-Spain and a Labour Leader, characterises it as 'a very great step forward.'

"Mr. T. M. Kelshall, a Nominated Member of the Legislature and ex-Mayor of San Fernando, said that the Agreement 'commanded the whole-hearted approval of every sensible person of this community and of the entire freedom-loving world.'

"The President of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce speaks of it as 'one of the greatest events in history. The implicit trust of one nation for another is in glaring contrast to Nazi 'protective occupation.'

"These and other representative opinions reflect, says the Governor of Trinidad, the widespread satisfaction over the non-transference of sovereignty and the prospects of economic advantages for the Colony."

West Indians will undoubtedly be extremely satisfied at the conclusion of negotiations which set aside all fears of the sale of the Colonies. The Mother Country has declared that none of them will be transferred and the United States has also categorically said that no steps will be taken for the acquisition of any of the Colonies. There will be general satisfaction in the knowledge that the United States has at long last

(Continued at foot of page 228)

Pan American Agriculture

National Resources, Soils and Education

IN the CIRCULAR of August 8th, we drew attention to the proposals for Inter-American agricultural co-operation put forward by Mr. H. A. Wallace, the United States Secretary for Agriculture. The July number of the *Bulletin of the Pan-American Union* contains resolutions passed by the Eighth American Scientific Congress, recommending action along lines similar to those mentioned by Mr. Wallace, which were submitted to and approved by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union on June 15th.

One resolution states that needless waste and destruction of natural resources everywhere threatens or will threaten, sooner or later, the welfare and security of peoples, and that throughout human history the exhaustion of these resources and the need for a new supply have been among the greatest causes of war. It proceeds to recommend the appointment of an Inter-American Conservation Commission charged with the duty of preparing an inventory of world natural resources and formulating a general policy and specific programme of action to promote their mutual conservation and prudent utilization for the welfare of all nations, in the interests of peace. Detailed recommendations are made of the procedure to give effect to this resolution.

The second resolution recommends the appointment of a Pan-American Soil Conservation Commission. The remaining two resolutions were linked together and the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union agreed to appoint a Committee, consisting of representatives of the Governments of Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Venezuela, charged with the following duties:—

(a) To organize the Inter-American Institute of Tropical Agriculture. The Committee will study all proposals relating to the creation of an Inter-American Institute of Tropical Agriculture, and will make specific recommendations to the Pan-American Union regarding its establishment;

(b) To exercise the functions of the Inter-American Rubber Committee. To promote and expedite the production of rubber in the Western Hemisphere. In this capacity the Committee will be considered permanent.

Public Health in British Honduras

DR. R. L. Cheverton, the Senior Medical Officer, states in his annual report for 1939, that the health of the Colony has been on the whole satisfactory and that in some districts a marked improvement has been noticed. Malaria continues to be one of the major problems, but distinct advances have been made in identifying some of the more dangerous vectors. School teachers are very satisfied with the results of distributing quinine to the schools despite the limitation imposed by the cost.

Dr. Cheverton says there has been an encouraging

awakening of the public mind on health matters and closer co-operation between the sanitary inspectors and the public. This co-operation should be of great value, as Dr. Cheverton, when referring to sanitation, says that big strides have been made "in spite of the vociferous opposition of a small minority."

The general housing conditions in the Districts are poor, the majority of inhabitants living in damp, overcrowded and poorly ventilated houses. Although British Honduras is essentially a timber-producing country practically all building materials are imported, cheap pine boards, subject to the ravages of termites, being used for houses and "even among the better classes of the population the idea of using concrete has not yet permeated the minds of the local builders." Another serious matter is that the water supplies to the towns and villages are very bad. Even in Belize the six public rain water tanks only give a limited supply to the people of the town in the dry season.

Jamaica's Sugar Crop

Mr. D. J. Verity, writing from Kingston, on August 3rd, states that in common with most of the West Indian Colonies, Jamaica is very disappointed with the outcome of the 1939-40 sugar crop which has just been completed.

"The total," he says, "is 99,329 tons, composed of 99,292 tons vacuum pan sugar and 37 tons muscovado sugar. The crop was originally estimated at 123,500 tons, but the drought during the late summer last year, followed by the November hurricane and then by rains lasting till well into January, reduced the yield of canes per acre and the yield of sugar from cane by very serious proportions.

"Rain is badly needed at the time of writing, but the skies look unpropitious. However, August rains are frequently experienced and 'make the crop' for the following year when they do come; so we are still hoping that the coming crop will turn out better than the last one. In any case, unless something cataclysmal occurs, the 1940-41 crop will exceed that of this year owing to plantings in the fall of 1939."

United Kingdom Cocoa Control

In order to ensure the even distribution of available supplies of West African raw cocoa, the Ministry of Food is to introduce a scheme of allocation to manufacturers on the lines followed for other commodities. The first allocation will be made on October 1st with subsequent allocations on the first of each month.

The introduction of this scheme should not be taken to mean that cocoa supplies will be short. It is intended only to ensure that should arrivals from the Gold Coast be unavoidably delayed, all manufacturers will receive equitable treatment until full supplies are again available. This scheme will have no effect on the existing system of distribution and retail sale of manufactured cocoa products, such as cocoa powder and chocolate.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"**B**ETTA fe keep one cat than fifty mouse."

* * *

THE appointment of Dr. A. G. H. Smart as Assistant Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, originally for two years, has been extended until March 27th, 1942.

* * *

IN addition to its annual Malaria Control Course for Laymen, the Ross Institute is now giving short courses in tropical hygiene and malaria control for Labour Officers in the Colonial Service. Two such courses have been held since the war started.

* * *

THE co-operative movement continues to render valuable assistance to some of the agricultural industries of Trinidad and Tobago. At the end of last year there were fifty-nine Agricultural Credit Societies in operation in the Colony to which the Government advanced \$54,593.

* * *

MISS ROSALINE SHAND, whose engagement to Lieut. George Burton Smith, R.N., was announced recently, is the youngest daughter of the late Mr. Francis B. B. Shand, and of Mrs. Shand, of St. Aroment, Dominica, and granddaughter of the late Sir Henry and Lady Nicholls.

* * *

ANOTHER engagement of West Indian interest is that of Flying Officer Cresswell Clementi, R.A.F.V.R., only son of Sir Cecil and Lady Clementi of Holmer Green, Bucks. His fiancee is Miss Susan Pelham, youngest daughter of Sir Henry and the Hon. Lady Pelham of Currant Hill, Westerham. Sir Cecil Clementi, who resigned in 1934 from the office of Governor of the Straits Settlements after a distinguished career in the Colonial Civil Service, was Colonial Secretary of British Guiana from 1913 to 1922, during which period he administered the Government on several occasions.

* * *

THE recently acquired United States destroyers are being renamed. The First Lord of the Admiralty informed the House of Commons that the King had approved the following list for the first flotilla: Churchill (Leader), Caldwell, Cameron, Castleton, Chelsea, Chesterfield, Clare and Campbeltown.

* * *

THE above were all names of towns or villages common to the United Kingdom and the United States. The First Lord added that names on a similar basis which would shortly be chosen for other of the destroyers would include a few names common to the West Indies as well.

* * *

SOME years ago experiments at a colliery showed, as reported in the CIRCULAR, that miners debilitated by profuse sweating and the consequent loss of salt from their systems recovered their strength and greatly increased their capacity for work when they were

dosed with salt and water. Now, according to *The Times'* Simla correspondent, the latest report on the health of the army in India, says that an extra salt ration is believed to have proved beneficial in the maintenance of the general health of certain troops in hot weather, and is considered to be useful in the prevention or reduction of heat-stroke and the effects of heat. The increased ration is issued in the hot weather when the drain of salt from the body is likely to have its greatest effect.

* * *

IN our last issue we mentioned how the production of the CIRCULAR is impeded by interruptions and delays due to the present war conditions. One very unfortunate example is that the MS. of Sir Pelham Warner's delightful article on the match between the West Indies and his eleven, through no fault of Sir Pelham's, went astray in the post. When at last it arrived, the CIRCULAR had been made up with the exception of one page, held in reserve to the last moment, and the article had to be "cut" a little to fit the available space.

* * *

The passage which, with great regret, was omitted, followed Sir Pelham's reference to collecting a team worthy of the steel of his countrymen and read: "In these tremendous days it is pertinent to recall the part the West Indies have played in our history. Anyone who knows anything of the deeds of our Navy does not need to be reminded that West Indian waters have been the scene of many a fierce engagement. It is sufficient here to mention but one—the battle of the 12th April, 1782—the battle of the Saints—when Rodney defeated the French fleet under de Grasse—a victory which altered the history of the British Empire. Did not the historian Froude write 'the Caribbean Sea is the cradle of the Naval Empire of Great Britain. If ever the exploits of the British Navy are done into an epic poem the West Indies will be the scene of the most brilliant cantos.' And to-day, as in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the West Indies are again playing their part with their generous contributions to various War Funds—an amazing financial effort when one considers how small both in size and population are these lovely islands."

Readers of the CIRCULAR are aware of the services which the West India Committee has been asked by the Government to render in connexion with sugar. Moreover the task of our War Services and Ladies Committees—gladly undertaken—is a heavy one. Complex problems of every kind are being dealt with in addition to our normal work which, even in peacetime, taxed our limited resources to the full. But you, in your turn, can help us in a very practical way. Tell your friends about the Committee and enrol them as new members. By doing so you will enable us to serve the Empire and our own Colonies with greater influence and strength.

West India Royal Commission

Statement by the Methodist Church

We have received from the Rev. G. E. Hickman Johnson, secretary for India, Ceylon and the West Indies of the Methodist Missionary Society, a pamphlet containing a statement addressed to Mr. Malcolm MacDonald embodying the views of the Methodist Church on the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission.

About the time the statement was presented Lord Lloyd succeeded Mr. MacDonald as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and on June 14th he, having considered the above statement, delivered an address to the conference of British Missionary Societies. His address, which is reproduced in the pamphlet, was dealt with at length in the CIRCULAR for June 27th. In a note added by Mr. Johnson he states that two facts will stand out clearly in the minds of all who read the above statements. Firstly that the Colonial Office desires co-operation with the Christian Churches in carrying through the Social Welfare Scheme. Secondly that the Colonial Office also desires that governments may be enabled to deal with the various branches of the Christian Church as a unit and that therefore in the West Indies the churches should get together and come to a common mind for this purpose.

Sugar Production in India, 1938-39

For the year ended on October 31st, 1939, the sugar production in India was about 300,000 tons below the normal consumption requirements of the country, reports Mr. R. C. Srivastava, Director of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore. It was about 30 per cent. less than in the season of 1937-38 and about 40 per cent. less than in 1936-37. The causes of the short production were: a reduction in the area under cane, the low yields of cane sugar per acre, owing to diseases and insect pests and poorer quality of the cane available for crushing.

Owing to the short production in 1938-39 and the meagre opening stocks, there was acute shortage of sugar in the country and prices began to move up. The average price of the best grades of Indian factory sugar (factory delivery basis) was Rs. 12 per maund in May, 1939. With prices at such a high level it became possible to import sugar from Java to fill the gaps in home production. Imports from Java during the year were 324,226 tons.

MEMBERS are invited to further the work of the West India Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election to the West India Committee, which is the oldest Colonial Body of the kind in the British Empire.

The subscription for Membership of the West India Committee, which is payable on election, is £1 5s. per annum for individuals and £3 3s. for firms, etc. In the case of individuals elected on or after July 1st in any year, the initial subscription is 12s. 6d. and in that of firms, £1 11s. 6d.

The New Agricultural Adviser

The many friends of Dr. H. A. Tempany throughout the Colonial Empire, and particularly those in the West Indies, where he began his career, will be happy to learn of his appointment as Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He succeeds Sir Frank Stockdale, who recently became Comptroller of the West Indian Development and Welfare Fund.

Dr. Tempany, who has been Assistant Agricultural Adviser since April, 1936, entered the Colonial Service in 1903 as Assistant Government Chemist of the Leeward Islands. Six years later he became Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture and, in addition to being an Official Member of the Legislative Council, held a number of other public appointments. In 1917, he was promoted to Mauritius, as Director of Agriculture, and during his 12 years in that Colony was chairman of several committees and principal of the Mauritius Agricultural College. From 1929 to 1936 he was Director of Agriculture of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

He is the author of numerous papers and reports on agricultural chemistry, cane sugar production, agricultural education and tropical agriculture.

Education in the Colonies

Two important educational appointments in the Colonies have just been made by Lord Lloyd, the Secretary of State for the Colonies—Dr. Ivor Jenning to be Principal of the University College of Ceylon, and Mr. Stanley A. A. Hammond to be Educational Adviser on the West Indian Comptroller's staff. These appointments are in further implementation of the policy of Colonial Development and Welfare, as announced in the White Paper published last February.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers and reappointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

Promotions and transfers:—

FORBES, A. G. (Crown Attorney, Dominica), Resident Magistrate, Fiji.

DOS SANTOS, A. P. C. (Accountant), Assistant Treasurer, Trinidad.

Reappointment:—

MACKENZIE, A. (formerly Education Officer, Leeward Islands), Education Officer, Nigeria.

Among the first appointments are those of Mr. J. W. Howieson, who becomes assistant to the Commissioner of Labour, British Guiana, and of Miss R. M. Sillitoe, who has been appointed Superintendent Sister (X-ray), Colonial Hospital, Trinidad.

SERGEANT F. J. KIEFFER, of Jamaica, who is serving with the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, is now an Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant, with effect from September 2nd.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Cost of Living rises in Trinidad.

Good Results from Sugar Research.

Parasite of Moth Borer Parasite in Barbados.



ANTIGUA

APPRECIATION of Sugar Research. Mr. P. E. Turner, Adviser on Sugar Cane Experiments to the Commissioner of Agriculture, gave the Agricultural and Commercial Society, on July 26th, an interesting account of the experimental work on cane cultivation carried on, under his direction, by the Agricultural Department with the willing co-operation of the estates. Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin, in proposing a vote of thanks, said it was impossible to increase productivity, as should be done, owing to shortage of labour. The Hon. A. Moody Stuart, who seconded the vote, asked the Administrator to note that when the Government had any unemployed to dispose of there was work on mulching awaiting them. A resolution, proposed by Mr. M. Moore and seconded by the Hon. L. I. Henzell, was unanimously passed recording appreciation of the work done and of the important results obtained.

BARBADOS

Moth Borer Control. Production of the egg parasite *Trichogramma* is being hampered by a severe infestation, which has now spread to all moth breeding units, of the parasite *Habrocytus*. It is not, writes Dr. Saint, possible to exclude entirely all unwanted insects and parasites from the breeding units. The moths *Ephesia* and *Plutella* were a hindrance in some years, the parasite *Habrocytus* in others. This year *Habrocytus* had appeared in large numbers, and though it was being controlled by all possible means it was bound to reduce the output of parasites. During June 34,763,100 *Trichogramma* had been bred and 30,417,700 liberated. It was hoped that the rains would be adequate to terminate the dry season resting stage of moth borer, and that sufficient supplies of *Trichogramma* would be available throughout the critical cane growth period to build up rapidly an extensive parasitism of the eggs of the moth borer.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Grapefruit, Sugar and Cassava. The exports of grapefruit during the first six months of this year were 14,925 cwt. an increase of 417 cwt. over the corresponding period in 1939. The *Trade and Information Report* for the quarter ended June 30th states that owing to difficulty in disposing of fresh fruit, 428 cwt. of canned fruit and 140 cwt. of grapefruit juice were exported. Neither of these products was exported during the first six months of 1939. The Corozal sugar factory ceased work in the middle of April. The crop was short, amounting to only 1,002 tons. The Empire starch products factory ran for a few days in June and dealt with 185 tons of roots. Work was then discontinued owing to immaturity of the crop. Yields were everywhere low. It was expected that 269 acres would be

ready for harvesting in August, and another 205 acres in 1941.

Refugee Children. Many prominent officials here, writes Captain Metzgen, have succeeded in evacuating their children from various parts of the United Kingdom, where they were at school. Several of these children have already arrived and others are on their way to the Colony.

Havana Conference. The deliberations of the conference held at Havana by the twenty-one Republics of America have aroused much interest in the Colony.

The Hon. C. R. Beattie, Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, is retiring on pension on September 1st after 40 years' service. He will be succeeded by Mr. Andrew F. Masson, brother of Capt. R. K. Masson, Collector of Customs in the Colony.

The Most Rev. E. A. Dunn, Archbishop of the West Indies, celebrated his 70th birthday on August 8th, and, four days later, the twenty-third anniversary of his Consecration as Bishop of British Honduras. The people of Belize and of his diocese marked these anniversaries by a supper party on August 8th organised by the Women's Auxiliary, at which the toast of the evening was proposed by Mr. John Adams Hunter, Governor of British Honduras.

GRENADA

Income Tax. Ordinance (No. 6 of 1940) provides, among other changes, that for the assessment year 1940, the tax payable under Section 21 of the principal Ordinance on chargeable incomes not exceeding £600 shall be increased by one quarter and on those exceeding £600 by one half.

JAMAICA

Quebec Trade Commissioner. Mr. Andrew Hersey, of Montreal, has been appointed Provincial Trade Commissioner in the West Indies. Mr. Hersey, who will investigate the possibilities of developing trade relations between the West Indies and the Province of Quebec, will have an office in Kingston.

Straw rope from the Cayman Islands, will, it is expected, be controlled and the entire output taken over by the Competent Authority (Cayman Islands) within the next few months. The selling price at present is 30s. per thousand fathoms c.i.f., Kingston.

Corn production is making marked progress according to a statement made by Mr. R. F. Williams, executive officer of the Food Production Board and Competent Authority. Tractors are to be used in preparing a large area of land to be planted in corn at Goshen, in St. Elizabeth.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Cost of Living. A memorandum, published in a *Gazette Extraordinary* of July 13th, shows that the

general average increase in the cost of living for a working class family on July 1st last was approximately 30 per cent. over the level of 1935, as compared with 29 per cent. on June 1st and 28 per cent. on May 1st of this year.

The Fishes of Trinidad. Captain A. L. Mendes is the author of a book *The Marine Fishes of Trinidad* which gives a list of 163 of the most important fishes found in Trinidad waters, together with much information of interest to the angler and the general public. The book is produced by the Trinidad Publishing Co., Ltd.

Visit of Salvation Army Chief. Colonel H. S. Hodgson, Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army in Central America and the West Indies, reached Port-of-Spain on July 27th in the course of a tour which began from his headquarters in Jamaica on May 21st. Plans for the future development of the Salvation Army's work in the Colony were discussed with the Governor.

Memorial to Mr. T. Geddes Grant. A tablet presented by the Queen's College Old Boys Association to commemorate the deep interest taken in the welfare of the college by the late Mr. T. Geddes Grant was unveiled on August 13th by Mr. Ralph Cambridge, formerly Principal of the College, in the unavoidable absence of the Governor.

ST. LUCIA

Sugar. Mr. E. T. Ward in his notes for June, which were accidentally delayed, wrote that the young canes were making very encouraging progress and in the drier areas had benefited greatly from the welcome rains which fell in all parts of the Colony during the month.

Bananas. Production was showing a welcome rise, but unfortunately shipping facilities were abnormal, two shipments occurring within two days. The total sales for the half year were 29,790 stems as compared with 24,922 stems for the same period in 1939.

Other Crops. Limes were developing fast but the demand for green limes had diminished. Good yields of coco-nuts continued and limited nut contracts were being supplied but the sales of copra were slow. It was evident that the copra crop would be later than usual, and yields in the drier areas were unlikely to come up to expectations.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. Mangos were plentiful and large quantities were being shipped to Bermuda. Avocado pears and pine-apples were still scarce. Supplies of ground provisions and other vegetables had been easier and were likely soon to be more plentiful. The breadfruit crop had been poor on account of the long dry season. Preparations for planting food crops were progressing with the return of favourable weather.

(Continued from next column)

have continued quiet and prices of West Indian are unchanged at: wormy and broken 5½d. to 5¾d.; sound unassorted 6½d. to 7½d.; sound 80's 7½d. and sound 65's 9d. There is a good demand for **Mace** on the spot with mixed reddish to pale quoted at 2/- to 2/1 and choice pale at 2/3 to 2/4 ex wharf. Dark to pale pickings continue to be quoted at 10d. to 1/3.

Round the Markets

September 17th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	September 2nd.	September 16th.	£ value	4/5.9
Canada	4.45	4.45	8	4/11.6
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	8	

Gold per fine oz. 168/- the same as a fortnight ago.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Consols (yield £3 8s. 0d. per cent.)	73½
3½	War Loan	101
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory ...	11/3
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	30/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	33/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell ...	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	3d.
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/6
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	1/6
8	Kero Oil Co. 3/4	2/9
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	3d.
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar ...	1½
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d.
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/-

COCOA. No business has been reported in West Indian descriptions, and values are nominally unchanged at 65/- to 70/- for Trinidad good plantation to fine estates and at 59/- to 60/- for Grenada fine. A further small trade has been passing in West African on the spot at the controlled price of 35/-.

BALATA. Both sheet and block are nominally unchanged at 2/7 to 2/8 per lb. with no business reported during the fortnight.

BANANAS continue to meet a good all-round demand and the prices of Jamaicas, to wholesalers, are unchanged at £30 5s. per ton delivered London and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. The market has continued firm. Business has been done in Jamaica descriptions at 85/- to 95/- per cwt. ex wharf for dark liquid to pale amber and 95/- to 100/- for pale to white.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is scarce and valued nominally at 40/- to 45/- per lb. The position in Distilled is nominally unchanged. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand for Concentrated, and Raw is unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued nominally at 6/- per lb. and Bitter at 10/- per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** is again a little firmer with further buying support from United Kingdom consumers. Business has been done at 11½d. per lb. ex store, London and only small stocks are available. **Ginger** continues a firm market and further business has been done in small bright No. 3 at 50/- to 52/6; in small medium No. 2 at 55/- to 60/-; and in medium No. 1 at 62/6 to 67/6. Some parcels of bright bold No. 1 in barrels have sold up to 90/-. **Nutmegs**

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		THE BARBADOS PUBLICITY COM-	
THEIR MAJESTIES' ESCAPE ...	235	MITTEE ...	240
SUGAR RATION ...	235	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	241
BROADCASTS TO THE WEST		SUGAR LIBEL ACTION ...	242
INDIES ...	235	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ...	243
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	236	TRINIDAD SUGAR INDUSTRY ...	244
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	237	TRACING THOSE MISSING IN THE	
CLOTHES FOR AIR RAID VICTIMS	238	WAR ...	244
THE KING AT COLONIAL OFFICE	238	OUR LIBRARY ...	244
SPECIAL RED CROSS FERDS ...	238	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL ...	245
COURAGE IN DISASTER ...	238	FIGHTING YELLOW FEVER	
ECONOMY OF A WEST INDIAN		MENACE ...	245
ISLAND ...	239	ROUND THE MARKETS ...	246
OBITUARY ...	240	TROPICAL AIR CONDITIONING ...	246
WEST AFRICAN COCOA ...	240	A CENTURY AGO ...	246

Their Majesties' Escape

IMMEDIATELY after last CIRCULAR had gone to press two further Messages, which are reproduced below, were received from the West Indies, expressing relief that no injury had been suffered by their Majesties in the recent bombing attacks on Buckingham Palace. They take the form of resolutions passed by the Legislative Councils of Jamaica and Barbados respectively.

THE GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA

"Whereas the Legislative Council and people of Jamaica have always held their Majesties the King and Queen in loyal affection and esteem and whereas enemy aeroplanes have delivered dastardly attacks on Buckingham Palace, which attacks happily did not injure their beloved Majesties, be it resolved that this Council on behalf of the people of Jamaica humbly express to their Majesties its profound relief and thankfulness for the escape of their Majesties.

"The people of Turks and Caicos Islands and of the Cayman Islands also wish to associate themselves with the terms of the resolution."

THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS

"Most Gracious Sovereign, at this their first meeting since the barbarous attack on Buckingham Palace the Legislative Council of Barbados desire to express profound relief that no injury has been suffered by your Majesty or by her Majesty the Queen. Council further desire to re-affirm the loyalty and devotion of your Majesty's dutiful subjects in this island and to assure your Majesty of their earnest prayers for the safety of your Majesty and of her Majesty the Queen."

A resolution in corresponding terms was also passed by the House of Assembly of Barbados.

Sugar Ration

READERS of the CIRCULAR are fully aware of the value of sugar as a food both in peace and war-time and endorse the view of the West India Committee that the larger the ration which the Government can give to the people of the United Kingdom the better for their health and stamina. As a Research Chemist recently stated in the Press: "You can no more win the war without sugar than you can fly without a 'plane.'" As a medical agent, as a strengthener of muscle during intense fatigue, and as an aid to longevity

and fitness, sugar is without a rival. He claims that scientific experiments carried out with the aid of the ergograph—an instrument for registering accurately variations of muscular power—show that sugar gives an increase of physical energy ranging from 60 to 75 per cent.

Among the many other merits which he ascribes to sugar is the less-known one of a surgical antiseptic which has led to its use on the Continent as a field dressing in war-time.

The importance from an economic point of view of sugar to many of our Colonies is too well-known to require any emphasis. For two cogent reasons therefore the West India Committee are anxious to see an increase in the sugar ration before long and are using their influence in that direction.

Broadcasts to the West Indies

IN these days when some of the results of man's scientific researches are being put to base uses it is gratifying to be able to record the important step taken, during the present week, to bring the British West Indies into closer touch with the Mother Country. On Sunday, September 29th, MR. F. W. OGILVIE, the Director-General of the B.B.C., introduced the new service which will provide listeners in Canada, the West Indies, North and Central America with a non-stop programme from London for six hours every night. The object of the B.B.C. is to provide programmes which by their variety and high quality will attract the widest possible audience. There will be five news bulletins every night, and MR. OGILVIE said "we mean to go on giving prompt and straightforward accounts of what is happening."

In a conference some weeks ago at the Ministry of Information, the Chairman and Secretary of the West India Committee urged that something of this kind should be considered. The welcome action by the B.B.C. will go far to meet the desire of the Colonies to receive more first-hand news from the United Kingdom which had been expressed to the Committee by many correspondents.

Under the new arrangement this broadcasting programme to the West Indies and Central America will be on a wavelength 25.38 m. (11.82 Mc/s.); the time 17.42 to 23.35 Eastern Standard Time (22.42 to 04.35 Greenwich Mean Time); and the call sign G.S.N.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE fiasco of the Dakar expedition has to be acknowledged though its importance must not be exaggerated. It is likely to damage the prestige of both Great Britain and Free France in Africa; on the other hand there has been no military or naval defeat, and more successful operations in the same region may be expected.

* * *

The source of the failure seems to be in a confusion of thought. The authorities apparently had not properly made up their minds whether they were engaged in a military offensive or a diplomatic mission. General de Gaulle had good reason to believe that the preponderance of feeling in Senegal was in his favour, and that if he showed himself at Dakar his friends on shore would welcome him, hoist the flag of Free France and carry on the fight like the French of Equatorial Africa. The British naval force, which accompanied him, was presumably intended to convoy him on the voyage, and to give confidence to those who wished to join his colours, rather than to fight for the possession of Dakar.

* * *

General de Gaulle's estimate of the position in Senegal was probably sound enough. But it seems certain that information about his plans leaked out; and by the time he arrived off Dakar the situation had fundamentally changed. The Germans, working through their puppet French Government at Vichy, had caused the defences of Dakar to be reinforced; General de Gaulle's principal supporters had been interned; and six French men-of-war sent from the Mediterranean in obvious collusion with the Germans, had arrived in the port. These ships were allowed to pass Gibraltar on the understanding that they were bound only for Casablanca; nevertheless the question why they were not stopped looks like being the most embarrassing yet put to the Government in Parliament.

* * *

The upshot was that General de Gaulle, who had expected to be welcomed with open arms, was in fact received with shell-fire; and, according to the understanding that he was not to be called to fight his fellow-countrymen, he drew off his forces. The British Admiral had no alternative but to follow suit.

* * *

The expansion of the Axis into a Triangle by the inclusion of Japan makes explicit a confederacy that was always latent, but it alters very little except on paper. Since the military side of the new alliance is to be invoked only against the intervention of a power not already involved in either the Anglo-German or the Sino-Japanese war, it is obvious that the pact is aimed primarily against the United States. By an apparent threat to American interests in the Pacific the Axis powers no doubt hope to frighten the State Department

into restricting its aid to Great Britain in the European conflict. Similarly, Japan probably hopes to bluff America into concessions by parading the might of her powerful friends. The immediate reactions of the United States seem to be in precisely the opposite sense; and a speech by Mr. Sumner Wells suggests that American help will be increased rather than diminished, for both China and Great Britain. The U.S.S.R., as usual, remains enigmatic; but obvious self-interest is now steadily urging Stalin away from the Axis camp.

* * *

The air battle of London goes on with unabated fury; but after three weeks we can now say that Goering has lost all chance of achieving either of his principal objectives—to destroy civilian morale and to break down the communications of the London area. There is much distress in the poor quarter of the East End, and the need for a much more vigorous policy to provide for the homeless has been acknowledged by the appointment of special Commissioners to grapple with the problem. But none of the refugees, even of those who have been bombed out of house and home twice over, ever seems to breathe a word of surrender; and though many thousands now spend every night on the tube platforms far underground, the tone of these multitudes is uniformly one of confident anticipation of victory, for which they are prepared to endure many months of continued discomfort.

* * *

Meanwhile the R.A.F. continues to smash every serious attempt to attack from the air in daylight, and attacks on Berlin have become a nightly routine, and last for many hours. Our increasing power to make these attacks is due to the now steadily rising strength of our bombing force. A most encouraging visitor to London this week has been the Canadian Air Marshall Bishop, V.C., one of the most famous pilots of the last war, who tells us that the Empire air training scheme is far ahead of schedule, and that "a steady flow of pilots, air observers and air gunners has already begun its course from Canada to this country." Those men are far more thoroughly trained than any the Germans can turn out; they will be able to maintain the immense individual superiority that the R.A.F. has so abundantly proved. Before long this stream of reinforcement will swell to an irresistible flood; and against that background the frenzy of the Luftwaffe's onslaught upon London, made in obvious haste now that the days of its numerical advantage are numbered, is eloquent of dying hope.

It was announced that planes of the Pan American Airways Inc. would, from September 1st, call at Antigua as follows: Northbound on Mondays at 12.05 and Southbound on Fridays at 10.55.

The West Indies and The War

THE following list of men connected with the West Indies who are serving with the Forces—the sixth to be published in the CIRCULAR—has been compiled by the West India Committee

from the latest available information. Members submitting names for publication should supply, if possible, particulars regarding unit, rank and number.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
CARYLL, N. B. ...	Jamaica	East Surrey Regiment ...	Lance/Corporal
FERNANDES, C. T. ...	British Guiana	Royal Engineers ...	Sergeant
HARRISON, B. ...	Trinidad & Tobago	Royal Canadian Artillery	Lieutenant
HARRISON, D. ...	Trinidad & Tobago	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Sub. Lieutenant
HAZELL, V. B. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	Flight Mechanic
HENDRIKS, HERBERT	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	Officer Cadet
KERR, T. ...	Jamaica	Royal Navy	Commander
KIEFFER, F. J. ...	Jamaica	Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps	A/C Q.M. Sergeant.
KING, P. ...	Barbados	Royal Navy	Ordinary Seaman
LA CORBINIERE, K. G. D.	St. Lucia	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
LANIGAN, A. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
MILNE-MARSHALL, G. G.	Barbados	North Staffordshire Regiment ...	Private
PARRIS, A. O. ...	Barbados	Royal Engineers ...	Driver
ROBERTS, M. F. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
ROSE, J. A. H. ...	Barbados	North Staffordshire Regiment ...	Private
SAWARD, A. C. ...	Jamaica	Royal Army Service Corps	Captain
THOMPSON, JAMES H. D.	Jamaica	Royal Military College ...	A.C./2
TURPIN, J. E. M. ...	British Guiana ...	Grenadier Guards	Guardisman
WARD, W. B. F. ...	Barbados	Royal Artillery	Gunner

BAHAMAS

King George's Fund for Sailors has received a further £200 from the Bahamas, bringing the Colony's contributions to £1,544.

BARBADOS

A Gift of £500 has been received by King George's Fund for Sailors from Mrs. M. Simpson.

The Governor recently started a fund for the relief of distressed persons in the bombed areas of England. Within a few days some \$4,000 was subscribed.

GRENADA

A further £600 has been sent to King George's Fund for Sailors, making a total from the Colony of £900.

JAMAICA

A Volunteer Force of well over 10,000 men, will, it is understood, shortly begin training in Jamaica. Parish Committees, set up in November, 1939, by the Governor, to deal with applications received from volunteers for service in His Majesty's Forces overseas, undertook in June, 1940, the compilation of registers of personnel of suitable age and qualifications who would be prepared for service. Major Moulton-Barrett, M.C., has been appointed Island Commandant of this new force.

Lord Beaverbrook sent the following telegram to the people of Jamaica, through the *Gleaner* (transmitted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on August 26th): "The rapid progress Jamaica is making towards full squadron strength excites the most immense admiration among our people. And the movement for aircraft which you launched has grown to a mighty flood. I am deeply grateful for what you have done and what you have inspired."

As the *Gleaner* points out, the idea of a planes fund originated with Mr. Alec Gordon, of Drax Hall, St. Ann, who, on May 22nd, made this suggestion in a letter to that paper.

ST. LUCIA

Airplane Fund. A sum of £2,100 subscribed by the people of St. Lucia to the Airplane Fund was forwarded to His Majesty's Government early in July.

A Scrap Metal Committee appointed by the Administrator, with the Hon. H. G. M. Devaux as chairman, has lost no time in organising collections from all accessible parts of the Colony, and already a very formidable pile of scrap iron has been assembled on the wharf side.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Red Cross Fund has received a further £1,000 from the people of the Colony whose contributions now total £31,000.

ST. VINCENT

The War Plane "St. Vincent." Lord Beaverbrook, when expressing his thanks to the Co-operative Arrowroot Association for the gift of £5,000 towards a war plane, said that the money would be used to the highest advantage in the purchase of an aircraft of the most formidable type, carrying the name of the Colony.

£25,000 Loan. According to a Press telegram from Kingstown, the Legislative Council, on September 14th, passed a resolution placing £25,000 at the disposal of Great Britain as a loan free of interest for the duration of the War. The Legislature also expressed its readiness to accept postponement of the financial assistance from Imperial funds recommended by the Royal Commission.

Clothes for Air Raid Victims

MANY generous gifts have been provided by the West Indian Colonies since the outbreak of war but few can have been more timely or more appreciated than the large consignments of clothing from various sources which, as reported in last CIRCULAR, reached the West India Committee by a lucky coincidence during the first days of the intensified air attacks on London.

These were immediately distributed by the War Services Committees, through such bodies and organisations as the London County Council, Women's Voluntary Services, and the Salvation Army, in various boroughs.

The donors in the West Indies will be gratified to know that their gifts have proved a godsend to many who have lost their homes and all their possessions—but not their courage—during the recent manifestations of Nazi barbarity. Several acknowledgments have already been received; the following are typical:—

From Branches of the Women's Voluntary Services

(a) "We received the most generous gift quite safely to-day and would like to express our unbounded thanks. We are very touched by the kind thoughts of the people of the West Indies for the unfortunate and homeless here in London who are suffering so greatly. These gifts will indeed be valued and I hope you will make known our appreciation and gratitude."

(b) "Please accept the hearty thanks of our Branch of the W.V.S. for your splendid contribution from the West Indies. The cases arrived safely and will prove of the greatest use."

(c) "I have just received the wonderful two parcels of blankets, etc., for the homeless in this Borough. It is a pity that I cannot record the thanks and appreciation of those who have been the recipients of these garments. You would then know what is London's gratitude. I can however convey to those united with you in the West Indies in this effort, our very sincere thanks."

(d) "Besides the homeless and destitute whom we have re clothed after air raids, there are now in the Borough several hundreds who have been moved from the raided areas of the East End of London. These consist of many women with small children, who have not availed themselves of the evacuation scheme, and aged and infirm people, all of whom are pathetically grateful for gifts of clothing. To clothe all of these is a severe strain on our people and we are most grateful for the generosity of the West Indies."

From the Salvation Army (National Headquarters)

"I must write to thank you very much indeed for the gift of clothing for relief amongst air raid victims. You will be glad to know that it was immediately unpacked, and distribution began at once to cases of desperate need. These are tremendously busy days for us all, but I felt I must send you a special note to express our very warm appreciation to the West Indian Colonies."

Copies of these letters have been dispatched by the West India Committee to the Colonies concerned and further acknowledgments will be forwarded as soon as they are received, but some delay will be inevitable—and understandable in these grim days.

The King at Colonial Office

On October 1st the King, for the first time since his accession, visited the Colonial Office. His Majesty inspected some of the historical records of the office, including the archives of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and he was interested to see a model of the exploration ship *Discovery*. Lord Lloyd showed him the mantelpiece in his room before which Nelson and Wellington had their first and only meeting.

During his informal tour of the office the King was especially interested to see from the work of the telegraph section, which operates in shifts for 24 hours, how the Colonial Office keeps in touch, from hour to hour, with all the Colonial Governments. The King was given a full account of the Colonies' war effort, with which he expressed deep satisfaction.

Special Red Cross Needs

The Red Cross and St. John War Organisation states (*Summary of Work*, No. 26, September 7th) that the closing of the special appeal for donations for ambulances has led to the belief in some quarters that the organisation has no need for more ambulances. Actually it needs some hundreds but the necessary material is not available in the United Kingdom for early delivery. From overseas, where there is no shortage of material, gifts of ambulances are being received so that the organisation is being able to meet the demand. For organisations and individuals who desire to earmark their donations the following particular calls to which contributions can be devoted are mentioned: Food parcels for prisoners of war, which cost 10s. per week per prisoner; upkeep of a bed or a ward for service patients in a convalescent home, cost £100 per bed a year; provision of a physio-therapy cabinet, cost £170 to £180; and finally recreation huts for service patients in hospitals and convalescent homes, cost from £700 to £1,000.

Courage in Disaster

Mr. Eric Davis, in a broadcast talk, on September 23rd, on the recent sinking by an enemy submarine of a British vessel conveying children and others to Canada, paid a tribute to the courage and coolness displayed by Mrs. R. S. Ducker, daughter of Professor J. Sydney Dash, Director of Agriculture in British Guiana. After describing other incidents in the disaster, Mr. Davis continued:—

"And there was the Canadian girl, Peggy Ducker, who is surely the calmest person in the world, who slid down a rope into a boat and took over its positioning until it was picked up dry and secure, the only boat which did not lose a single soul throughout that awful night of bitter wind and hail and turbulent seas."

THE HON. H. F. SHAND has been reappointed to be an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of the Presidency of Montserrat.

Economy of a West Indian Island

Agricultural Problems in Puerto Rico

UNDER the title *An Economic Background for Agricultural Research in Puerto Rico** Mr. E. B. Hill and Mr. S. L. Descartes have presented an analysis of the general economy of the island with particular reference to agriculture and some of its problems. The conditions of Puerto Rico closely resemble those of many of the British West Indian colonies, and in consequence very similar problems await solution. Some of these are indicated in the following brief summary.

Puerto Rico in common with most of the British West Indian Colonies is primarily dependent on agriculture for its existence. Agricultural products constitute about 90 per cent. of the net exports. Sugar and its by-products, molasses and rum, account for no less than 75 per cent. of the total; other important agricultural exports are tobacco, fresh and canned fruits, coco-nuts, coffee and winter vegetables. Unemployment, which has been serious for a number of years, has increased considerably during the past three years as the result of sugar and tobacco quotas, reduction in demand for cigar leaf tobacco and cigars, tariff concessions to competing countries on fresh fruits, coco-nuts and vegetables and the increased cost of labour. These factors, together with falling prices, have contributed to the severe economic depression now prevailing in the island.

As the authors point out, the economy of any region is determined by the interplay of physical, social and economic factors. The physical factors include, soils, topography, climate, and mineral and water resources. Amongst the important economic and social factors in Puerto Rico are the tariff policy of the United States, the density of the population, the limited demand in local markets, availability of outside markets and their distance with respect to time, cost, frequency of service, and distribution of shipments; lastly living conditions and social legislation, particularly the Wages and Hours Law.

A few points taken from the authors' detailed discussion of the effects of these factors will enable a comparison to be drawn between conditions in Puerto Rico, and those in some of the British West Indies. The most important underlying factor is the density of the population, about 540 to the square mile.†

The effects of the lack of balance between population and resources are said to be noticeable everywhere in Puerto Rico. Labour is cheap; productivity per man is low. On good lands cultivation is very extensive but the margin of cultivation has been pushed to lands of low productivity. The low per capita incomes of a large part of the population do not permit the maintenance, even in large cities, of the same standards in

education, sanitation, recreation, and restaurants found in small urban centres in the United States. As in several of the British islands the time, cost, frequency of sailing and destination of ships are important in determining which products can be exported.

Some of the problems of Puerto Rico's agriculture are then discussed. One criticism which has been made (as in some British territories) is that the agriculture of the island is too commercial at the expense of the production of food crops. Some have urged a greater self-sufficiency in food supplies, others state "that there are scores of new tropical plants of commercial value that can be grown successfully." The authors point out that the economy of Puerto Rico is based on the exchange of goods (sugar, tobacco, etc.) with other countries, principally with the United States. The reason for an exchange economy is that generally more goods, for example imported foods, are made available for the population than under a policy of strict self-sufficiency. Puerto Rico can produce sugar cheaper than the United States which in turn can produce rice cheaper than Puerto Rico. "Both areas benefit from the trade. The same situation is true of nearly all the other products exchanged." The authors express their belief "that emphasis should be placed on the increase in the total volume of agricultural production. Whether that increase should occur in the export commodities or in foodstuffs for local consumption, or in both, depends on the situation existing at a given time."

Dealing with the specific suggestion made a few years ago that it might be desirable to substitute food crops for sugar cane, they say that this idea has been proved to be wrong so many times that it is not often expressed at present. The suggestion made more frequently now is to diversify crop production. Much has been done in Puerto Rico in developing other export crops but most of them have not withstood the effects of depression and other economic changes of the last few years as well as sugar. The vicissitudes of a few of these products, in which the British West Indies are also interested, may be given. Owing to the decline in consumption of tobacco as cigars, the value of the exports of leaf and scrap has fallen from an average of \$15 million in 1926-30 to \$7.5 million in 1938-39. The comparative figures for manufactured tobacco are \$4.5 million and \$66,500. The value of pineapples fresh and canned exported in 1938-39 was \$1 million compared with over \$2 million in 1930. The grapefruit industry is in much worse plight. For 1930-39 the average value of exports—fresh and canned—was a little over \$1.5 million, with a peak of \$4.7 million in 1930. For the year ending June 30th, 1939, the total was only \$281,098. This disastrous fall is attributed mainly to largely increased production in the United States, Palestine and South Africa. In addition the Federal Wages and Hours Law, which became effective in October, 1938, doubled the average labour expense per case. Another factor which

* *Bulletin 51* of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Puerto Rico.

† Comparative figures are Jamaica 254, Trinidad and Tobago 230, Barbados 1,151, Grenada 655.

has operated adversely is the reduction, from September, 1936, in the tariff protection against Cuban grapefruit. The conclusion reached is that the Puerto Rico grapefruit industry will be unable to regain its former importance.

Other important matters, including small farms and local marketing arrangements, are fully discussed and the authors stress the need of giving full consideration to the many suggestions which have been put forward for improving the economic position. They point out, that "the fact remains that the present agricultural economy of the island is the direct result of the response to the particular economic, physical and market conditions of the island. The adjustments that farmers have made to the existing conditions are the result of long years of experience. Sudden changes in insular agriculture are not probable. The most fruitful research is that which seeks gradual improvements and more rapid adjustments to changed conditions."

Obituary

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

SIR ANTHONY DE FREITAS, O.B.E.

Sir Anthony de Freitas, O.B.E., who died in British Guiana, on September 21st, at the age of 71, was Chief Justice of that Colony from 1927 to 1934.

Sir Anthony, who was born in Grenada, and educated at Clare College, Cambridge, was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn. After acting as Attorney-General in St. Vincent in 1902, and as Chief Justice in 1904, he was appointed, in October of the latter year, a stipendiary magistrate in St. Lucia. He was Chief Justice in St. Vincent from 1915-19, and in St. Lucia from 1919-21, and acted many times as the officer administering the Government in both Colonies. He was then appointed to Jamaica as Puisne Judge, and acted as Chief Justice of the Colony for two short periods.

Sir Anthony married in 1899, Miss Edith Maud Short, and they had three sons and a daughter.

MR. B. A. SEQUEIRA

Mr. Bernard A. Sequeira, who with his wife died as a result of enemy action, on September 10th, was, from November, 1938, to February, 1940, London Inspector of the Jamaica Government Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture, and, in this capacity, always worked in very close and friendly association with the West India Committee.

He carried out the duties of this appointment with energy and enthusiasm until wartime conditions necessitated the closing of the office of the London Marketing Inspector. This did not terminate Mr. Sequeira's close association with Jamaican trade, however, as he had, in the succeeding period, held an appointment on the staff of the Jamaica Producers' Marketing Company.

Mr. Sequeira had held a Commission in the war of 1914-1918 and had recently made application for registration in the Army Officers' Emergency Reserve.

West African Cocoa

Government to Purchase New Crops

THE Colonial Office announced on September 26th that arrangements had been made for the purchase by the United Kingdom Government of the whole of the forthcoming cocoa crops in the Gold Coast and Nigeria. The statement continues:—

"The general scheme of control which operated last season will continue with certain modifications. In particular, the fixed price paid to the growers will be reduced by approximately 20 per cent. in view of the further restriction of markets which has resulted from the spread of the war in Europe. A West African Cocoa Control Board is being set up to administer the scheme and its constitution will be announced shortly. Purchasing will begin in the Gold Coast and Nigeria on October 1st.

"In accordance with the general undertaking to extend equal treatment to producers in those French Colonies which have given their support to General de Gaulle, His Majesty's Government have also offered to purchase the 1940-41 cocoa crop of the French Cameroons at a price based on the price being paid for British West African cocoa. The details of the arrangement still have to be worked out in consultation with the Government of the French Cameroons, but it has already been announced that as an interim measure, and in order to provide for the immediate resumption of the cocoa trade in the French Cameroons, His Majesty's Government have agreed with that Government to purchase up to 12,000 tons of cocoa, so far as possible from merchants' stocks of the past crop, 4,500 tons of which are being shipped to the United Kingdom immediately."

The Barbados Publicity Committee

IN their report for the year ended April 30th last, the Barbados Publicity Committee refer to the appreciable decline in the number of visitors to the island as a result of the outbreak of war. The first "summer tourist season" experienced by the Colony was, however, encouraging, over 3,600 visitors arriving in the seven cruise ships which called at Bridgetown during July and August.

The Committee refer with regret to the resignation, to take up voluntary work on behalf of the local Government, of the chairman Mr. Harold Wright. He has been succeeded by Mr. J. Niblock.

They also record the assistance they have received in London from the West India Committee, and in Montreal from Mr. H. C. Collier, secretary of the Canadian-West Indian League. Mr. C. E. Green, in New York, had completed one year's work on behalf of the Committee and in addition to making contact with steamship and travel bureaus in the United States, had attended the New York World's Fair to supply information to intending visitors.

The Committee also refer to the issue of a set of coloured postcards depicting scenes in the island—to the excellence of which the CIRCULAR can testify.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"BIG tree no cut down wid one blow."

* * *
IN the new half at Eton, the captain of the Oppidans is Sir Geoffrey Davson, elder son of the late Sir Edward Davson.

* * *
MR. WILLIAM ABBOTT, of Kingston, Jamaica, has joined an ambulance driving unit of the A.R.P. in a central London district.

* * *
MR. W. J. CRAMPTON, who has been in the service of the West Indian Club for many years, recently as head waiter, is serving in the Royal Air Force.

* * *
AMONG recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have been the following: Dr. H. A. Tempany, Mr. W. J. Rook, Mr. Robert W. Smith, Mr. Dermot Morrah, Mr. Gault MacGowan and Miss Peggy Cox.

* * *
The total contributions received by King George's Fund for Sailors up to September 20th, was £252,152. The preliminary grants made to nautical charities dealing with the individual cases amounted, at that date, to £102,812.

* * *
MR. ALLAN FORBES, son of Mr. James Forbes, manager of the Trinidad Cocoa Planters Association, has joined the head office of T. Geddes Grant, Ltd., Port-of-Spain. Mr. A. Forbes is a nephew of the Hon. F. G. Grant, managing director of the firm.

* * *
THE Legislative Council of Dominica, as its last act under the Leeward Islands' Federation, passed a resolution placing on record its deep appreciation of the services to the Presidency by the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, to whom it extended its thanks and best wishes.

* * *
A SMALL deputation from the League of Coloured Peoples recently discussed many West Indian problems with Sir Frank Stockdale at the Colonial Office. The members of the deputation were Dr. Harold Moody (Jamaica), Mr. Arthur Lewis (St. Lucia) and Dr. Belford Clarke (Barbados).

* * *
LIEUTENANT (TEMP. CAPTAIN) R. MILBANKE, Reserve of Officers, R.A.C. (Hussars), who was recently awarded the Military Cross, is the representative of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd., on the Rum Propaganda Committee, and a Member of the West India Committee.

* * *
BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR SAMUEL WILSON has been appointed chairman of Elders and Fyffes, Ltd. Sir Samuel was Governor of Trinidad and Tobago from 1921 to 1924 and of Jamaica from 1924 to 1925. In the latter year he was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies which post he held until his retirement in 1933.

THE League of Coloured Peoples is holding a reception at Overseas House on October 10th, at 5.30 p.m., when a presentation will be made to Dr. W. A. Lewis who has recently taken the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of London. Dr. Lewis, a son of St. Lucia, has, for six years, been a very active member of the executive committee of the League. During the past two years he has been a lecturer at the London School of Economics.

* * *
RECENT gifts to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross Fund include £247 from the Dominican Republic (making £394, plus \$8,000) and £343 from Mr. H. C. Hassell and the residents of the island of Aruba (making £760). Aruba, one of the Dutch West Indian group, has also recently sent £380 to King George's Fund for Sailors, bringing its contributions to the Fund to £475.

* * *
IN order to conserve foreign exchange, *The Bermudian*, now in its eleventh year, is being printed in Bermuda instead of in New York. The editor states that the fine screen engravings used for its illustrations must still be made abroad and their number as well as the size of page must be reduced until conditions warrant relaxation of the foreign exchange policy of the Empire.

* * *
WE acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the British Guiana Post Office Guide, a volume of nearly 300 pages, which will in future be on sale at every post office and agency in the Colony, price 12 cents. The Postmaster-General says that both his staff and the public will save time if the Guide, which gives full and clear information on all the activities of the Post Office, has a wide circulation.

* * *
MR. L. H. N. LARTER, acting Government Plant Pathologist, Jamaica, has recently pointed out that whilst various new processes for controlling Panama disease have been brought to the notice of the Department of Agriculture, none of the many tested has proved effective in reducing the spread of the disease. He warns planters that far more damage may be caused by the premature use of unproven methods of disease control than by continuing to use the established gas-oil control pending the perfection of a new method.

* * *
THE REV. HERBERT H. COLE, superintendent for the past three years of the Methodist Mission in St. Vincent, and for many years secretary of the Synod of the Methodist Church in the Barbados, Trinidad and Guiana District, has been granted furlough for one year. Owing to the international situation he is spending his vacation in Barbados, instead of proceeding to the United Kingdom. Mr. Cole returned to the mission field after furlough in 1932, and has since filled the important posts of superintendent of the Port-of-Spain Circuit and Kingstown Circuit, St. Vincent. In addition, he filled the post of acting chairman and general superintendent of the Methodist Church in the Barbados and Trinidad District in 1936-1937.

Sugar Libel Action

DAMAGES totalling £550 were awarded by Mr. Justice Atkinson in the King's Bench Division of the High Court, on September 18th, to Mr. William James Rook, Director of Sugar Purchases at the Ministry of Food, in the libel action which he brought against Mr. James Leslie Fairrie, sugar broker of Mincing Lane, E.C.

The action, of which the hearing lasted for fifteen days, and is estimated to have cost £10,000, is of particular interest to the West Indies because any impugment of the integrity of the Sugar Control is a matter of special concern to the sugar producing Colonies.

Mr. Rook claimed damages for alleged libel contained in cables from Galban Lobo & Co., a Cuban firm of sugar exporters, for whom Mr. Fairrie acted as agent. It was alleged by the plaintiff that Mr. Fairrie had "poisoned the minds" of the Cuban firm by untrue accusations that Mr. Rook used his official position at the Ministry for his personal advantage, and for the advantage of C. Czarnikow Ltd., of which he is vice-chairman. This was denied by Mr. Fairrie. H. U. Willink, K.C., appeared for plaintiff; G. O. Slade for the Defendant. Solicitors: For the plaintiff, Lawrance Messer & Co.; for the defendant, Ince Roscoe, Wilson and Glover.

Mr. Justice Atkinson, giving judgment, said that Mr. Rook was known in every sugar-producing country, and wherever he was known he was respected as an upright and honourable man of first-class business ability. Mr. J. H. Drake, a broker, who had been called as a witness for Mr. Rook, was a man of the same type—honourable and truthful—and in his Lordship's view entirely reliable as a witness. Mr. G. D. Hodge, another broker, also called for Mr. Rook, was too a witness of truth. His Lordship accepted without hesitation the evidence given in the case by Mr. Rook, Mr. Drake and Mr. Hodge.

He regretted, continued Mr. Justice Atkinson, that it was necessary for him to express his view of Mr. Fairrie. There could be no doubt whatever about Mr. Fairrie's ability and agility of mind. He wanted to be independent and wanted to be regarded as the one strong man in the sugar community. But unfortunately his ideas of strength consisted of a readiness to accuse anybody who did not do as he wanted him to do, of dishonesty and to insult him beyond measure.

Throughout the history of the case Mr. Fairrie had been actuated by enmity towards Mr. Rook and the Sugar Control and by a fixed determination to force Mr. Rook out of that Control or to change his buying policy.

After a reference to Mr. B. L. Oxley who, he was sure, was anxious to be truthful but was unreliable as a witness as he let Mr. Fairrie do his thinking for him, the Judge went on to say that in February, 1939, Mr. Rook was invited to join a committee to consider a scheme for sugar control in the event of war. He conceived the idea of forming a brokers' "pool" which he thought would go far towards meeting any suspicion of partiality. In March, 1939, he called a meeting of brokers and everyone welcomed the idea except Mr. Fairrie, who insinuated that Mr. Rook was doing

something for his own benefit. Mr. Fairrie's hostility throughout was apparent. The substance was that Mr. Rook was charged by Mr. Fairrie with "feathering his own nest."

Mr. Fairrie had denied hostility and also denied that he ever made a single one of the remarks attributed to him, but his Lordship did not believe a word of his evidence in regard to that. Apart from his (the Judge's) conviction that Mr. Rook, Mr. Drake and Mr. Hodge had told him what was true there were certain documents which pointed the same way.

Referring to a cable sent by Mr. Fairrie to Galban Lobo: "Believe have prevented repetition injustices," Mr. Justice Atkinson said there were no injustices and Mr. Fairrie knew there were none. The phrase was put in to help foster a feeling of distrust on the other side against Mr. Rook.

Mr. Fairrie was carrying on a secret campaign of his own behind the backs of Mr. Drake and Mr. Oxley, who were agents with him for Galban Lobo.

"I have no doubt in this case," said his Lordship, "that Mr. Fairrie was actuated by malice and hostility towards Mr. Rook. He wanted to make Mr. Rook's position difficult or untenable and to force him to give orders to Galban Lobo."

He was absolutely satisfied, the Judge went on, that there was malicious publication in every sense of the word. He found that Galban Lobo and Co. published the cables maliciously and requested the further publication of them to Mr. Drake and Mr. Oxley.

There was no evidence whatever in regard to the charge of advance information and he was certain that any jury would be satisfied that both Galban Lobo and Mr. Fairrie were malicious. Throughout Mr. Fairrie was actuated by malice. Again and again he had defamed Mr. Rook and lied to his principals, Galban Lobo.

His Lordship held that four documents out of nine in the case were defamatory of Mr. Rook, and he thought, putting himself in the position of a jury, that the proper sum to award him was a total of £550—£500 in respect of the main libel contained in the first three documents and £50 in respect of the other.

He had been told, said Mr. Justice Atkinson, that Mr. Rook was not out to make damages, but wanted a sum sufficiently large to indicate the view of the Court.

"A jury can only indicate its view by the size of the sum that it gives as damages," continued his Lordship "and I think it very likely that a jury would have said: 'We are not allowed to say what we think about this case, and so we will give a very big sum, which will indicate what we think' but I am a judge, and I have been able to indicate what I think of the case, and in my view it is unnecessary to give a larger sum than that to drive home my conviction, and indeed everybody's conviction that there never was the slightest foundation for any one of these libels, there never was the slightest justification for one word to be said against Mr. Rook in any shape or form, and that Mr. Fairrie knew it from first to last. . . . I hope that that sum is sufficient to indicate my view."

Judgment was then entered for Mr. Rook accordingly, with costs against Mr. Fairrie.

An application made on Mr. Fairrie's behalf for a stay of execution pending consideration of an appeal was refused.

Trinidad and Tobago

Social and Economic Conditions in 1939*

THE financial position of the Colony at the end of the year was satisfactory; the revenue, \$13,421,444, exceeded expenditure by some \$400,000, bringing the total surplus balance to \$9,154,627. A marked feature of the year was the great progress made in the way of labour reform and social services. In addition to clearing the ground for future development active measures were taken directly affecting land settlement, housing and agriculture.

The deep water harbour scheme was practically completed during the year. It was decided that the wharves as a whole shall be known as the Port-of-Spain Wharves. The deep water wharf has been named the King's Wharf, approach to which is obtained by the dredged Grier Channel, named after Sir Selwyn Grier who took an active interest in the scheme when Colonial Secretary and Acting Governor of the Colony.

Sugar maintained its position as the Colony's most important crop and although the area under cultivation, 82,000 acres, was less than half that of cocoa, sugar and its by-products provided over 70 per cent. in value of all agricultural exports; 128,524 tons of sugar were produced of which 114,344 were exported.

The cocoa industry, formerly the barometer of the Colony's social welfare, was very depressed during the year. Exports fell to the low figure of 17 million pounds, compared with the peak export of 75 million in 1921. Unfortunately the fall in crop has been accompanied by a fall in value. For the fifty years ending in 1923 cocoa realized an average price of \$21 per bag (165 lb.). Since then prices have been considerably below \$10 per bag for long periods. For the first nine months of 1939 the price was a little above \$10 and the subsequent rise to \$15-\$16 came at a time when there was no cocoa available. The Government subsidy to the industry was continued and \$479,670 disbursed as payment for an approved programme to make up arrears of field work and generally place the industry on a more efficient basis. Practically the whole of the subsidy was thus converted into wages which helped to relieve distress in country districts.

Coco-nuts, which occupy about 50,000 acres, produced exports to the value of a little over \$200,000. The area under citrus is approximately 6,000 acres, half grapefruit and half limes. Rapid expansion has ceased and few new areas are being planted. The exports of grapefruit were only 22,191 cases, valued at \$71,473, compared with 79,660 cases, valued at \$318,243, the previous season. This fall is attributed to adverse weather during 1938. To improve the marketing of limes the Trinidad and Tobago Limes Association was formed during the year.

The Tonka bean industry continues to grow in

importance and it is estimated that there are about 10,000 acres under this crop, but much is not yet in bearing. In the banana industry, recently developed to offset declining revenue from cocoa, disease reduced exports from 157,193 bunches in 1938 to 60,976. During the year the Government decided to lower the rate of interest charged on loans to Agricultural Credit Societies, of which there were 59 in operation, from 6 per cent. to 3 per cent. In addition to encouraging the cultivation of food crops every effort is being made to promote the rearing of livestock especially amongst the peasantry. Amongst other measures Montgomery or Sahiwal cattle and Jumnapari goats were imported from India in the hope that they will prove adaptable to local conditions. Investigations are also being made as to the possibility of increasing the supply of fish from local waters.

In the section dealing with labour questions it is stated that there were nineteen registered Trade Unions, an increase of three over 1938. The report continues: "Industrial relations in the major industries continue to improve and the favourable position of 1938 has not only been maintained but has progressed a stage further towards mutual understanding and stability. The acceptance by employers of Trade Union organisations in the Colony continues and Trade Unions are gaining wider recognition as a medium of negotiation. Collective bargaining continues to develop to a marked degree, and during the year under review successful results by this method have been achieved in several trades and industries." Details follow as to the relationships between employers and employees in the oil, sugar and other industries. There were 37 strikes during 1939 affecting nine industries and approximately 5,600 workers. All but two were of an unofficial character, ranging from one to twenty-two days in duration, and passed without any untoward incidents.

As regards wages and the cost of living it is reported that the earnings and hours per day or per week for the various categories of workers remained approximately as in 1938. Attention is, however, called to the fact that at the beginning of the 1939 crop one of the largest sugar manufacturers introduced three shifts of eight hours each (instead of the normal two shifts of twelve hours each), without loss of pay, with favourable results. On cocoa estates also working hours tended to decrease for the same average rates of earnings. Since the outbreak of war there had been a progressive rise in the cost of living and at December 1st, 1939, the average percentage increase was 18 over 1935.

Other sections of the report deal with education, welfare institutions, communications, the legislation of the year, whilst three appendices contain information on the agricultural exports, the principal imports and expenditure under the Development Scheme during 1939 and the estimated expenditure during 1940.

* Summarized from the *Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1939*.

Trinidad Sugar Industry

Reports on Prices and Wages

The Times contained on September 12th the following communication from their Trinidad correspondent :—

The Government have issued a statement on the findings of the Wages Committee and the Cane-farmers' Price Committee, appointed by the Sugar Board last January to inquire into the wages to be paid for the 1940 crop and the scale of prices for farmers' canes. The committees acted jointly to avoid duplication and, with the co-operation of all organizations interested in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, secured information of a comprehensive and in some cases of a private nature in an inquiry lasting five months.

The Price Committee found that changes of a magnitude and rapidity not contemplated by the Cane-farming Committee which reported in 1938 had occurred in the circumstances of the industry, and that there would probably be other important and rapid changes in the next few years, the effects of which could not accurately be forecast. It accordingly recommended certain modifications in the details of the formula for calculating the price of farmers' canes. The Wages Committee was not able to recommend any general wage increase for the 1940 crop beyond the war-time addition paid since January 15th, as it felt bound to consider the increased cost of materials and wages, the disappointing 1940 crop, and the price paid to manufacturers for export sugar. This price the committees regarded as one of the chief contributory factors in the unsatisfactory position of the sugar manufacturing industry. They stated that ruling prices during the past few years were inadequate to provide satisfactory wages, a fair compensation to farmers, and a reasonable return on capital, and that this was true also of the prices fixed for the 1940 and 1941 crops.

The committees' reports were adopted by the Sugar Board, of which the Governor is chairman, and which includes representatives of the manufacturers, farmers, and labour, subject to such further consideration as might be necessary in the light of comments from the industry.

Tracing those Missing in the War

As mentioned on page 228 the British Red Cross and St. John War Organization includes amongst its many activities that of attempting to trace those missing as the result of active war operations. The thorough nature of the search made to secure reliable information in order to relieve the anxiety of relatives is indicated in the following extracts from a memorandum supplied to the West India Committee by the War Office :—

Lists of personnel missing as a result of active operations are compiled by the War Office, the Admiralty and the Air Ministry and sent to the Wounded, Missing and Relatives Department of the Joint British Red Cross and Order of St. John, 7, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, who at once institute such further inquiry as is possible.

In the first place the lists of names are forwarded by that department to the International Red Cross Committee at

Geneva. This committee has access to special information, since, according to the International Convention of 1929 relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, each belligerent power is bound to set up an official bureau to give information about prisoners of war. The bureau in Germany sends reports to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, which thus receives information from the enemy government and can make inquiries for names sent out by this country.

In the second place, the Red Cross and St. John have an organisation of selected searchers, accredited to the military and civil hospitals throughout this country. Inquiries are made by these searchers from wounded personnel of the missing men's own units. When searchers' reports are considered reliable, the information is sent by the Red Cross and St. John to the Service Departments, which at once inform the next of kin.

Meanwhile all information obtainable from other sources, which might throw any light on the fate of missing individuals, is being collected by the Casualty Branch of the Service Department concerned.

It should be borne in mind that the announcements of the names of prisoners of war by German wireless stations are made for the purpose of inducing people in this country to listen to German views. The lists are incomplete and often inaccurate and should not be relied upon. The B.B.C. sends full transcripts of these lists to all three Service Departments, which then inform the relatives of those who can be identified from the particulars given in the broadcast.

Our Library

Mr. H. N. G. Cobbe has filled a place too long vacant on the shelves of the West India Committee's Library with a copy of Charles Whitehead's work *The Life and Times of Sir Walter Raleigh*, published in 1854.

Courtier, statesman, adventurer, man of letters, Raleigh has many detractors among his biographers. Whitehead is not one of them. On the contrary he considers, and readers of his book will agree, that the great Elizabethan was misjudged and a victim of political intrigue.

Condemned to death in 1604—nine years after his "discoverie of Guiana"—for alleged complicity in the plot to place Lady Arabella Stuart on the Throne, Raleigh was committed to the Tower. There he languished until 1616 when he was granted a commission appointing him general and commander-in-chief of a further expedition to the "'large, rich and beautiful' empire of Guiana." The enterprise failed disastrously. Raleigh's followers angered King James by attacking a Spanish settlement and shortly after his return to England, racked with fever, the discoverer of Guiana was arrested. The sentence passed on him more than twelve years previously was revived, and on 29th October, 1618, he was executed on a scaffold erected in Old Palace Yard at Westminster. So passed one of the most remarkable characters of the Elizabethan period.

IN reply to Mr. D. Adams who, on August 21st, asked in the House of Commons whether it was intended to provide the requisite convoyed shipping for the Palestine citrus crop during the season which would begin in October, Sir A. Salter said that in present circumstances the carriage from Palestine of a perishable cargo, such as citrus fruit, obviously presented considerable difficulty, but the matter was under consideration.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Jamaica Income Tax — Welcome Rains in St. Lucia

The British Guiana Volunteers

BRITISH GUIANA

Volunteer Forces. Our hon. correspondent, in a letter from Georgetown, dated August 10th, writes as follows: Regulations made by the Governor under the Volunteer Ordinance have recently been published and brought into operation. The Regulations provide for two Volunteer Corps with their headquarters in Georgetown, and one Volunteer Corps having its headquarters in New Amsterdam. The total strength of all arms in each Volunteer Corps will be fifty in number.

Each volunteer will at his own expense provide himself with articles of kit consisting of khaki shirt, khaki shorts, stockings and boots or shoes. He will be provided with a Lee-Enfield rifle and bayonet frog. Owing to a shortage of equipment and Instructors the number of volunteers who can be accepted at present is limited and cannot exceed one hundred and fifty men.

Prevalence of Use of Lethal Weapons. At the recent Sessions of the Supreme Court in Berbice, two men—East Indians—were sentenced to terms of penal servitude, for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to a compatriot. The presiding Judge in passing sentence remarked that the use of lethal weapons in the Colony was far too prevalent, particularly in the County of Berbice.

American Visitor. Mr. J. Forbes Amory, president of the Atlas Travel Bureau of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a cousin of President Roosevelt, is at the time of writing on a visit to the Colony. He arrived from Dutch Guiana. He has travelled by plane to the Cuyuni gold-fields, the Kaieteur Falls and the Rupununi district. In an interview with a Press representative he stated that he can "sell" the Kaieteur Falls—to the type of travellers in the United States whom we here will be glad to welcome in British Guiana.

JAMAICA

A Jamaican Exhibition of native products will, it is hoped, be held in Kingston during April or May of next year. This proposal was put forward at a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. M. G. Mendez, held at the Imperial Association's offices on August 21st.

Recent Deaths. Mr. James Dunn, a well-known Kingston merchant, died on September 4th at the age of 79. Mr. Vincent Kingsley Hull, president of the Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies Steamship Lines, who was born in Kingston, Jamaica, died in the United States on August 19th.

Income Tax. The Governor gave his assent, on July 26th, to a Law to Amend the Income Tax Law, by which the rates of income tax payable in respect of the year 1940 are increased, with certain exceptions, by sixty-six and two-thirds per cent.

ST. LUCIA

Sugar. Mr. E. T. Ward wrote, on August 16th, that the young canes were progressing satisfactorily, and preparations for planting were in progress. The weather during July had been warm, with satisfactory showers in most parts of the Colony, except the southern areas where more rain was still required. The rainfall during the month was 6.77 inches compared with the 50 years average of 11.8 inches.

Limes. A fairly satisfactory crop of limes was being picked. There was a limited demand for green limes and hand pressed and distilled lime oil were being manufactured on several estates. The planting season had commenced and Government nurseries had received a good demand for budded limes from certain estates which were continuing their programme of rehabilitation as far as circumstances permitted.

Coco-nuts. It was hoped that after a period of unfortunate delay the St. Lucia Coco-nut Growers' Association, Ltd., might soon be able to commence operations, a move keenly awaited by many producers owing to the limited nut contracts available and the further deterioration of the copra market.

Fighting Yellow Fever Menace

Whilst the possible danger of the spread of yellow fever was recognised at the recent Pan-American Conference of National Directors of Health it is very gratifying to learn that it was agreed that not much immediate concern was justified. As reported in the *Bulletin of the Pan American Union* for August the alarm created by reports—perhaps exaggerated—of the introduction and spread of the West African mosquito, *Anopheles gambiae*, had to a large extent subsided. A resolution was passed by the Conference congratulating Brazil on the splendid work in progress which affords hope of eventually eradicating this dangerous vector, or carrier of the disease, from American territory. It was stated that most of the South American sea and air ports are free of the vector as well as of the disease and that the present system of disinsecticizing planes, and the surveillance of passengers from yellow fever endemic zones, have amply proved their efficiency.

THE engagement is announced between Mr. Eaton Clarke, R.A.F.V.R., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Eaton Clarke, of Durban, South Africa, and Miss Rena Sands, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Sands, of Richmond, Surrey. Mr. Sands spent many years in the West Indies, first as Curator of the Botanic Station, Antigua, and then as Superintendent of Agriculture in St. Vincent before he joined the Agricultural Department in Malaya.

Round the Markets

October 1st, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.

	Sept. 16th.	Sept. 30th.	
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$ value 4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$ " 4/11.6
Buenos Aires (paper pesos)	17.03	17.01	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Consols (yield £3 7s. 9d. per cent.)	73½ 74½
3½	War Loan	101½ 101½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/5 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1½ 1½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	31/6 34/6
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/- 36/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	6d. 10d.
3	Caroui Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/9
6	Caroui Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/6 20/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	1/6 2/6
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	4½d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	39 40
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	12/6 14/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3 7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½ 2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/6 7/6

COCOA. Fine Grenada is quoted at 58/- to 60/- with some business reported during the fortnight at 58/-. Trinidad is nominally unchanged at 65/- to 70/- for good plantation to fine estates. No business has been reported in West African on the spot; the controlled price is unchanged at 35/-.

BALATA. The nominal value of both sheet and block is unchanged at 2/7 to 2/8 per lb. and the market continues quiet.

BANANAS. A steady trade has been done during the fortnight with a good demand from the Midlands and the North. The price of Jamaicas, to wholesalers, is unchanged at £30 5s. delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. The market has been quiet with some business done in Jamaica dark liquid to pale amber at 85/- to 95/- per cwt. ex wharf. Small sales of light amber have been made at about 87/6 c.i.f. United Kingdom port, for immediate shipment from Jamaica.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed continues scarce and is valued at 45/- per lb. There are sellers of Distilled at 27/6 per lb.; very little interest is shown in forward shipment. Lime Juice. There is still no demand for Concentrated and Raw continues to be quoted at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. The nominal value of Sweet is unchanged at 6/- per lb. and Bitter continues to be quoted at 10/- per lb.

SPICES. The market for Pimento has continued firm with further buying support from United Kingdom consumers. Only small stocks are offering at the unchanged price of 11½d. per lb. ex store. Some small sales have been for shipment to United Kingdom ports

at from 82/- to 83/- c.i.f. for prompt shipment from Jamaica. Ginger continues firm and sales have been made at: small bright No. 3 50/- to 52/6; small to medium No. 2 55/- to 60/-; medium No. 1 62/6 to 67/6 and bold bright plump No. 1 in barrels up to 90/-. The Africa description has advanced to 35/- per cwt. West Indian Nutmegs continue quiet and prices show little change at: wormy and broken 6d.; sound unassorted 6½d. to 7d.; sound 80's 7½d.; and sound 65's 9d. Parcels of Mace on the spot continue in good demand and business has been done in West Indian at 2/- to 2/1 ex wharf for mixed reddish to pale.

Tropical Air Conditioning

Last year the technical and commercial development of tropical air-conditioning—a system already described in these columns*—suffered a set-back in common with other civilising influences.

Dr. T. C. Angus of the Department of Industrial Physiology of the London School of Tropical Medicine speaking at a meeting of the Ross Institute Industrial Advisory Committee last month said, however, that not only had further gratifying results been obtained from air conditioning appliances already in use, but also the adaptation of the small air conditioning cubicle to military service. He then read a letter from Dar-es-Salaam, where recorded temperatures of 89 degrees have been reached with relative humidity of 91 per cent.

After experiencing discomfort in an ordinary bedroom, the writer and his wife removed to their own house, where a small air conditioning unit had been installed in the bedroom. The conditions were then controlled to 76 dry bulb and 55 per cent. relative humidity. Thereafter the whole of the rainy season was passed without the loss of a single night's sleep.

The writer concluded: "Apart from its incalculable value in relieving asthmatic conditions, both my wife and I have noticed that we have slept better, felt much more refreshed daily, and at the end of two rainy seasons during the past year, have not felt the usual run-down condition which one experiences after trying seasons in the tropics."

A Century Ago

The Times of September 23rd reprinted the following from its issue of September 23rd, 1840:—

"The present state of the British West India colonies is a subject that engages the attention of every British statesman and philanthropist. A great experiment is in progress. . . . After England has paid 20,000,000l. sterling to purchase the freedom of 800,000 slaves in the West Indies she finds that she has still to pay to the sugar-growers 21s upon every hundred-weight of sugar she consumes beyond what the same article would cost in the continental markets. . . . In consequence of the want of labour cattle have been allowed to roam at large and destroy whole canefields. . . . Slavery and slave-grown produce are enormously on the increase, it may be feared through the very means which England has adopted to diminish their amount.

* Circular of September 8, 1938, page 362.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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October 16th, 1940.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—		FINANCIAL WAR GIFTS ...	252
A MESSAGE FROM H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL ...	247	THE COLONIES' PART IN THE WAR	252
MAINTAINING MARKETS IN WAR TIME ...	247	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	253
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	248	COCOA, CITRUS FRUITS, SPICES...	254
COLONIAL AGRICULTURE	249	WEST INDIAN RAINFALL IN 1939	254
JAMAICA'S TOURIST TRADE	250	AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS	255
LETTER TO THE EDITOR ...	250	THE HOME GUARD ...	256
AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES	250	OBITUARY...	256
JAMAICA'S TRADE WITH CANADA	250	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	256
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	251	THE FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	257
		ROUND THE MARKETS ...	258

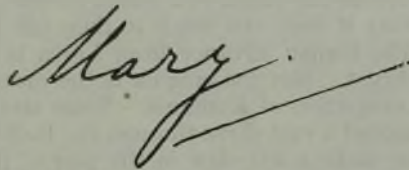
A Message from

H.R.H. The Princess Royal

AS patron of the Ladies' War Services Committee of the West India Committee, I should like to express my grateful thanks and deep appreciation to all the Voluntary Workers in the West Indies for their splendid and generous contributions of all kinds to the Empire's War effort through this Committee.

I was greatly impressed by the large consignments of Comforts and Hospital Supplies which I saw when I visited the Committee's workrooms, and I now hear of the substantial gifts of Refugee clothing which have just arrived.

It is yet another evidence of the link which binds us all so closely together in the service of the Empire to-day, and I do hope that the multitude of Voluntary Workers realise that their efforts, and the loyalty and keenness which lie behind them, are most truly valued.



October, 1940.

Maintaining Markets in War Time

AS is well known not merely the prosperity but the very existence of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the British West Indies depends on their being able to find markets for their agricultural products. Deprived of these they have inevitably to face hardship and even destitution. The anxiety of many thousands will thus be relieved by the announcements of the Ministry of Food, which appear on p. 254 of this issue of the CIRCULAR, with reference to the marketing during 1940-41 of cocoa, spices and citrus fruits. Fortunately for the West Indies as a whole, sugar, which is still their principal crop, is urgently required. The West India Committee on the invitation of the Ministry of Food undertook to communicate to the sugar producing Colonies the Government's proposals concerning the price and other conditions for the purchase of their crop and has since acted as a central clearing house where statistical and other information is compiled and assistance given in dealing with various

problems as they arise. There was however never any question of there not being a market for sugar. With citrus fruits, in particular, amongst the other important crops, the position was very different. Some three months ago the Home Government, faced with the great task of keeping the people of the United Kingdom supplied with all essential foods and other necessaries, were unable to promise that facilities would be available for the importation of any West Indian grapefruit for the following twelve months. Realising the great hardship this would entail to the West Indies we urged, in the CIRCULAR of August 8th, that the question of the importation of West Indies citrus fruits should not be regarded solely on the basis of whether they were an essential food or not but as one in which the principles underlying the Government's Colonial Policy were at stake. The threatened danger to the industry naturally produced consternation in the citrus producing Colonies. In Trinidad, for example, on that same day, August 8th, the President of the Agricultural Society emphasised the grave situation with which the citrus industry was faced and reported that, as the result of representations made by the Citrus Growers' Association, the Governor had cabled to the Secretary of State, and that the President of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, supported by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society, had asked the West India Committee also to take up the matter. Full particulars of the capital invested in the industry and the number of people who were dependent on it for their livelihood in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Honduras were subsequently furnished. With these facts, and supplementary information obtained from merchants and others in the United Kingdom, the Committee was enabled to present, through the Colonial Office, a very strong case for taking all possible steps to maintain a market for West Indian citrus.

All the difficulties have not yet been solved but we are glad to state that it is now the intention of the Ministry of Food to purchase up to the total of the fresh grapefruit crops in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Honduras if port and shipping facilities permit. Representations for securing facilities for the importation of uglis and tangelos from Jamaica have not been successful. Negotiations to obtain permits for canned grapefruit hearts and juice are still proceeding. The main obstacle is said to be that of diverting tin plate from other more important requirements. The Colonial Office are endeavouring to surmount this difficulty also and we trust that their efforts will meet with success to permit at least of a limited importation.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE disappearance of Mr. Chamberlain from the Government will be regretted on political grounds by most Conservatives, and on personal grounds by all who honour patriotic devotion to public service. Unhappily there is nothing "diplomatic" about his plea of ill-health; he really is seriously ill. His name will always be associated with "appeasement" and the Munich policy; and concerning that controversy remains as heated as ever. He is too single-minded a lover of peace to have been capable of becoming a great Prime Minister, either in war or in the preparation for war; but he did not flinch from the great issue of his time, and he brought his country into the present conflict with an impregnable moral case. But the best work of his career was done in the promotion of public welfare, whether in municipal administration at Birmingham or in the central government; and in that aspect there ends with his retirement a family tradition that goes back to the "seventies," when the passionate young Radical Mayor, Joseph Chamberlain, burst upon Parliament with his demand for a better life for the common people.

* * *

The other outstanding change in the Government is the appointment of Mr. Herbert Morrison as Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security. In this position he will be principally responsible for everything to do with civil defence, and especially for the protection of the people of London against air raids. Mr. Morrison is exceptionally well-known to Londoners as the fighting Labour leader of the London County Council in time of peace, and has made his mark as Minister of Supply in the last four months. The task in civil defence that he takes over from Sir John Anderson is formidable and is entering on a new phase. Mr. Churchill last week laid before the House of Commons an analysis of the results of the intensive bombing of London. The Germans often drop upon the Capital in one night nearly as much high explosive as they dropped in the whole of the last war. That we expected. What we did not dare to expect was that, ton for ton, a given weight of bombs now causes less than a tenth of the casualties than it did a quarter of a century ago.

* * *

Mr. Morrison's most urgent task is to make the shelters not only safe but as comfortable and healthy as is practicable. The public shelters constructed in the months before the outbreak of war were designed for temporary refuge during a raid lasting perhaps an hour or so. We now find that it is necessary for the bulk of the population to take cover every night and for the whole night. Taking the law into their own hands, the people have insisted on taking possession of tube railway stations, and sleep there in their thousands. Though by the original plans this was prohibited the authorities have had to recognise it. But neither in the tubes nor in most of the public shelters is there any

proper sleeping accommodation; and this it will be the just duty of Mr. Morrison to provide. He has made an energetic start by ordering the construction of a million bunks. Perhaps even more important is the question of health—in which Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Minister of Health, is also concerned. The danger of epidemics among the closely packed multitudes in the shelters, and in the rest-centres where congregate those whose homes have been destroyed, is obvious, and will test the powers of the public health services to the utmost.

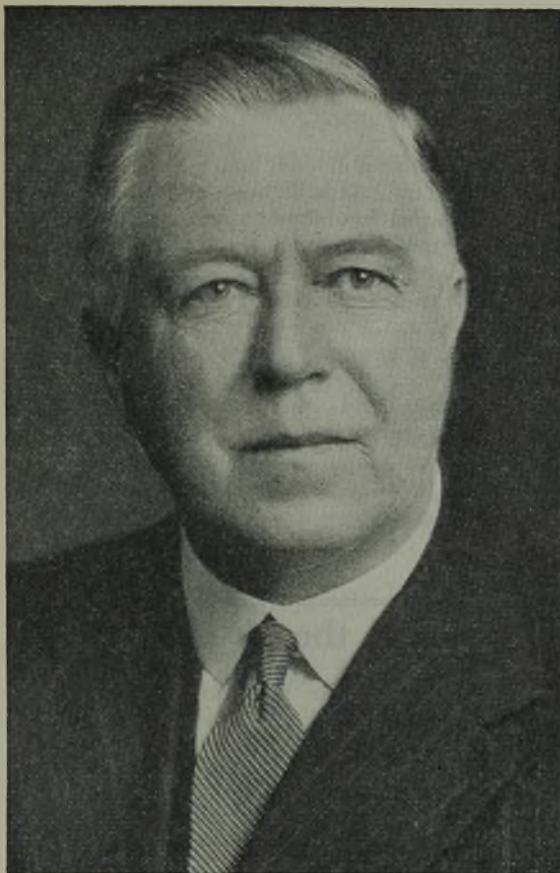
* * *

Famous buildings in London continue to suffer from the fury of barbarians—St. Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament head the list, though neither of these has suffered much damage. The destruction wrought among the homes of the poorest is heart-breaking. But in material, as in life, our loss has been less than was expected; and this is shown by the fact that the proposal for insurance against war risks, formerly rejected as too costly, has been revived by the Government on the strength of a month's experience. Insurance will be universal, compulsory, and of retrospective effect.

* * *

We are still on guard; but most of us now believe that the project of invasion has collapsed. The R.A.F. have smashed it. Instead, the hopes of the Axis seem now to be centred on the Middle East. They will devote the winter to a thrust for the Suez Canal, knowing that if they can reach it they cut the Empire in half. The Italian advance from Libya is of course the main thrust. But the enigma is the meaning of the German occupation of Rumania. Some strategists believe they intend a vast drive through the Balkans into Asia Minor, to make a left claw in the pair of pincers in which the Italian army is the right. The vast distances involved make such a scheme highly improbable, and in any case we are confident that our Turkish friends, very tough fighters, will stand firm. But probably the German intention is, first to make quite sure of the Rumanian oil supplies, and then perhaps, by seizing Greek territory, in conjunction with the Italians from Albania, to gain vantage points for their bombers to harass the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean. In any case, in proportion to their success, they must threaten the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, perhaps the most important strategic positions in the World; and that means that Russia, which from the days of Peter the Great has coveted the Straits and been determined at least that no other great power shall control them, will have matter for some very serious thought.

A Proclamation recently signed by the Governor of Bermuda requires men between the ages of 18 and 36 to register for military service. Those between 18 and 22 are to be called up immediately.



SIR FRANK STOCKDALE

Colonial Agriculture

SIR FRANK STOCKDALE, who, as announced in THE CIRCULAR of July 11th has been appointed Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, left London recently to take up his duties, travelling via Canada.

When Sir Frank was entertained recently by the West Indian Club he described the task entrusted to him as the blazing of a new trail in Colonial history. There were, he said, undoubtedly an enormous number of problems in the West Indies which required amelioration and, if possible, solution. While immediate results must not be expected he proposed, with the expert advisers appointed to assist him, to visit the various Colonies to study the position prior to considering, in collaboration with the local Governments, plans formulated by himself, his advisers, or the Colonial Governments themselves. Sir Frank already has great personal knowledge of the West Indies and their problems gained as a member of the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, as Assistant Director of Agriculture in British Guiana, and refreshed during his tour when Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State.

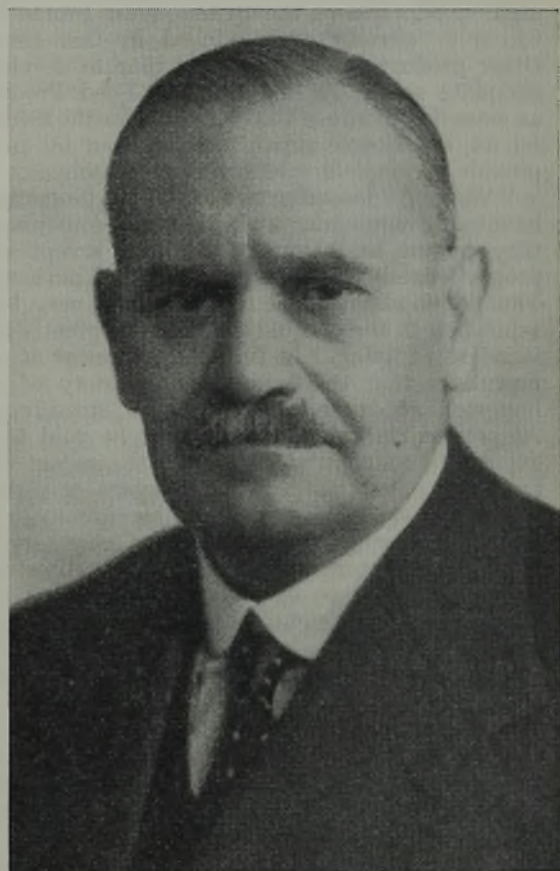
As already reported in these columns, Sir Frank is succeeded as Agriculture Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by Dr. H. A. Tempany who has been Assistant Adviser since 1936. Dr. Tempany also began his official career in the West Indies where as Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture

of the Leeward Islands he did much valuable work for the sugar, lime and other industries. Since then he has been successively Director of Agriculture in Mauritius and Malaya.

It may be recalled that the office of Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies was constituted in 1929 as a result of a recommendation by the Lovat Committee on Agricultural Research and Administration in the Non-Self-Governing Dependencies. The first occupant of the office was Sir Frank (then Mr.) Stockdale.

The duties of the Adviser include advising the Secretary of State on matters affecting agricultural policy in the Colonial Dependencies and the administration of the unified Colonial Agricultural Service, which was constituted as the result of another recommendation of the same committee. He is Vice-Chairman of the Colonial Advisory Council on Agriculture and Animal Health of which the Chairman is the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Council was inaugurated as a consequence of a further recommendation of the Lovat Committee; among other duties it considers and advises the Secretary of State on major questions of agricultural and veterinary policy and research in the Colonies.

In the course of his tenure of office as Agricultural Adviser, Sir Frank paid visits of inspection to practically the whole of the Colonial Dependencies, accounts of which are contained in a series of valuable reports presented to the Council.



DR. H. A. TEMPANY

Jamaica's Tourist Trade

MR. R. L. M. KIRKWOOD, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, discusses the outlook of Jamaica's tourist trade in an article which he contributed to the Jamaica weekly, *Public Opinion*, of September 7th.

Drawing attention to the fact that the war must involve an increasing dislocation of pre-war trade channels with consequent repercussions upon North American economy, he points out that the Canadian Government have recognised the vastly increased relative importance to Canada of the Tourist Trade under these circumstances.

"It is only in this way," he says, "that Canada can hope to acquire American dollar balances with which to purchase from the United States such goods and produce as are essential to the Canadian trade structure. With this end in view, the Dominion Government is now considering the appointment of a Cabinet Minister whose whole duty it will be to foster the Tourist Trade."

Mr. Kirkwood then asks whether Jamaica—an island relying almost entirely on two staples, bananas and sugar—is in a position to draw conclusions different from those which have been arrived at by these Canadian statesmen. He thinks not, and gives the following reasons for his belief: "If Canada will be hard hit by temporary interruption of her trade with the United Kingdom, Jamaica will be hit two or three times as hard. Canada cannot take more than a fraction of our banana output. She cannot even absorb the present sugar production of the British West Indian Colonies. Citrus is already overproduced in this hemisphere. Other products will take a long time to develop on an adequate scale. Again, although Food Production is an essential feature of the blueprints for the future of this Island, subsistence agriculture does not by any means provide a complete solution to our problems.

"We must face the fact that the Jamaican people have many requirements which must be imported because they cannot be manufactured here, except at a disproportionately high cost in terms of national effort. The people desire—and it is surely a very legitimate aspiration on the part of the masses—a greatly improved standard of living. In turn the fulfilment of this wish postulates that the amount and variety of low cost imported goods and produce shall steadily increase. At present these imports can only be paid for by the export of bananas and sugar, plus the import of tourist balances. That is why, in the event of further considerable dislocation of shipping services to the United Kingdom, the tourist traffic may easily rise to be of prime importance to the Island's wartime economy. In fact I would go so far as to say that the tourist traffic is the one bright trade prospect on an otherwise gloomy horizon."

(Continued from next column)

this over-riding consideration to a particular Colonial sugar industry, because its sugar goes to Canada and not, as does most Colonial sugar, to the United Kingdom. The authorities in Jamaica, as in other Colonies, had instructions to make exchange available to pay for any supplies which it was essential to import from Canada.

Letter to the Editor

The late Mr. G. Moody Stuart

DEAR SIR,

May I have a few lines of your space to thank any of our friends in the West Indies who sent messages of sympathy on the death of our father and who have received no acknowledgment. Many telegrams and letters were received and each was acknowledged, but it seems that some of our letters were lost, probably through enemy action.

We would like to express to any friends who have received no reply our deep appreciation of the kind messages they sent, and ask them to accept this explanation of our apparent neglect.

Yours faithfully,

MARK S. MOODY STUART.

Blackbrook House,
Blackbrook, Dorking,
Surrey.

October 13th, 1940.

America and the West Indies

In a long article* on the Havana meeting of the Ministers of Foreign affairs of the American Republics, which assembled on July 21st, 1940, Mr. L. S. Rowe, the Director-General of the Pan-American Union, says the outstanding result of the conference is to be found in the Act of Havana and the Convention concerning the provisional administration of European Colonies and possessions in the Americas.

Both the Act and the Convention deal with the policy of the American Republics with regard to the possible transfer of American areas now owned by European powers to other non-American powers. They clearly define this policy and give notice that such transference will be unacceptable to the American nations, and will be regarded as a menace to their safety. Furthermore, machinery is provided through which the American Republics can assume the administration of such areas in case there is any attempt to transfer them from one European Government to another. The full text of the Convention is appended to the article.

Jamaica's Trade with Canada

Sir Leonard Lyle, on October 16th, asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether in view of the substantial Canadian exchange profit by shipments of Jamaican sugar to that Dominion, he would arrange for the exchange authority in Jamaica to take a more broadminded view in regard to the purchase from Canada of commodities indispensable to sugar production, at present unobtainable in this country. Mr. George Hall replied that the Canadian dollar resources under the control of His Majesty's Government, which include those earned by sales of Colonial produce, were strictly limited and must be used to the best advantage to promote our war effort. It was not compatible with

(Continued at foot of preceding page)

* Bulletin of the Pan American Union—September, 1940.

The West Indies and The War

BAHAMAS

THE Citizens War Relief Committee have sent a further £1,000 to the Red Cross Fund, bringing the total of their contributions to £11,731.

BARBADOS

The Red Cross Fund has received a further £226 from the Barbados Voluntary War Workers Association who have now subscribed a total of £2,700.

£100 for R.A.F. Funds. The War Workers Association also sent £100 to the West India Committee for transmission to organizations concerned with the Royal Air Force. After consultation with the Air Ministry it was decided to divide this sum between the R.A.F. Comforts Fund and the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

BRITISH GUIANA

Guardsman Turpin. We are indebted to our hon. correspondent for the following: "Private Michael Turpin of the King's Company of the Grenadier Guards, recently writing to his father of this Colony, Rev. M. E. Turpin, of St. Simon's Vicarage, gave an interesting account of his escape from Dunkirk. His Company, he says, was the last of the Battalion to leave a town five miles from the coast which had undergone the heaviest bombardment known in history. Arriving in sight of Dunkirk, he and the others decided not to go in to that hell hole of a town, and made for the beach off which they saw a ship lying a quarter-mile away. A number of the Company got into a boat which before it could be pushed off was rushed, overcrowded and sank. Being a good swimmer young Turpin, hampered though he was with part of his equipment, struck out for the ship which proved to be a mine-layer. Having got on board he seized a Bren gun and started blazing away at every enemy plane overhead that he could see. Bombs fell all around, but none struck the ship owing to its clever manœuvring by the Captain. Private Turpin adds incidentally that he had only five hours sleep in the previous three weeks and four during the last 96 hours. Of such are the men who will carry the Empire's cause to that final victory of which all are certain."

Selection of Air Crews. A Selection Board has recently been set up to interview candidates for local air crews. The applicants are examined as regards their fitness by education and otherwise, and if passed are afterwards medically examined. Major H. H. Holley, Labour Adviser to the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association, who fought in the last war as an air pilot, is a member of the Board.

BRITISH HONDURAS

The War Efforts Committee. Over 3,000 attended a patriotic mass meeting held, under the auspices of the Committee, in front of the Public Buildings at Belize on August 9th. Mr. C. M. Staine, chairman of the Belize Town Board, presided and the speakers were Mr. R. A. Pitts, Mr. W. M. McField, Mr. B. S. Clarke and Mrs. Mabel Finlayson. Our hon. correspondent,

Captain M. S. Metzen, says that no one could have left without feeling that no personal sacrifice would be too great as a contribution to the successful prosecution of the war. Similar meetings will be held elsewhere in the Colony.

Red Cross Fund. At a Garden Fete at the Memorial Park, Fort George, on August 17th, organized by Captain and Mrs. Bernard H. Melhado, over £500 was realized on behalf of the British Honduras Red Cross Fund. Captain Metzen writes that the thanks of the community are due not only to the organizers but to all those who contributed in any way to make the event such an outstanding success. During the last week of August £1,000 was cabled to the Imperial Government as a further contribution to the British Red Cross Fund.

Win the War Fund. The British Honduras Win the War Fund has started well. On September 5th a cheque for £1,000 was handed to the Government as the committee's first instalment towards the cost of a Spitfire or Hurricane plane. Mrs. Henry Melhado is organizing a Garden Fete to be held in aid of the Fund at Newtown Barracks, early in December.

DOMINICA

A Series of Gifts. The Dominica Red Cross and War Charities Committee has sent £200 to the West India Committee for distribution as follows: Royal Air Force Comforts Fund, £50; British Red Cross Society, £50; Merchant Navy Comforts Service, £50; St. Dunstan's Fund for Blinded Soldiers, £25; and the Minesweepers and Trawlers Comforts Fund, £25.

JAMAICA

Another £10,000 for Aeroplanes. During the past few weeks, two further sums of £5,000 each have been received from Jamaica for the purchase of aeroplanes which will be known as "Jamaica No. 7" and "Jamaica No. 8." The Colony has now contributed £55,000 for 'planes.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

A Contribution of £104 to the Lord Mayor's London Air Raid Distress Fund has been received from Mr. E. J. Shelford.

Red Cross Ambulance Fund. In acknowledgment of the donation of £1,200 to the Red Cross Ambulance Fund from proceeds of the collection made in St. Kitts by Mr. C. H. L. Shepherd, Mr. E. S. Delisle and Mr. G. Sahely the following telegram was received by the Administrator from the Lord Mayor of London:

"Your generous gift most gratefully received. Please accept my high appreciation and sincere thanks."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Fighter Fund. The Committee has launched a new drive to bring the total to \$500,000, and the *Guardian* reports that Lord Beaverbrook has indicated that when this amount has been subscribed a fighter

squadron of the R.A.F. will bear the name "Trinidad," and that meanwhile for every \$5,000 sent a fighter will be purchased and bear the name "Trinidad" on its fuselage. On October 10th the Colonial Office announced that a further £10,000 had been forwarded to the Crown Agents making the total contributions to date £72,000.

The Win the War Association has sent two instalments, of £1,000 each, to the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund.

Honey for the Forces. At the August meeting of the Agricultural Society, the president, Mr. Harold Robinson, highly commended the beekeepers of the Colony for sending gifts of nearly 4,000 lb. of Trinidad honey for distribution to canteens of the Imperial Forces in England.

The War Services Fund

Since the publication of the last list of subscriptions to the War Services Fund of the West India Committee, the following sums have been received and are gratefully acknowledged:—

	£	s.	d.
Barbados Voluntary War Workers Association (second donation)	100	0	0
Sale of Pictures and Ash Tray presented by Mrs. John Bromley	1	11	6
Messrs. Wm. Smith & Co. (value of gift of sugar requisitioned by Government)... ..	1	7	10
Previously acknowledged	1,032	18	1
	<u>£1,135</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>5</u>

Financial War Gifts

Best Mode of Remittance

The Secretary of State has informed the Governors of Colonies that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has been deeply gratified by the many financial gifts for the prosecution of the war which are being made from all parts of the Colonial Empire. Such gifts present to the world a striking picture of generosity, loyalty and firmness of purpose.

The Secretary of State is, however, desirous of some uniformity in the method of remitting these gifts in order to lessen and simplify the work entailed and make it easier to keep a complete record. Gifts from Colonial Governments are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies. It is requested by the Secretary of State that the same convenient procedure be followed in the case of any gifts from private sources. It is therefore hoped that it will be found possible for donors to make use of the channel of the local Government for remittance of funds. Local Governments will notify the Secretary of State by telegram of every such donation with particulars of its source, amount and purpose and this will expedite the sending of telegrams acknowledging gifts.

The Colonies' Part in the War

Lord Lloyd's Broadcast

LORD LLOYD, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a broadcast talk on October 15th, spoke of the part which the Colonial Empire was playing in the war against the dictators.

The British Colonial Empire, he said, was one of the glittering prizes which tempted the gangsters of the Axis into the gamble of war.

Both Hitler and Mussolini had declared that war would be the test which would expose the rottenness of an Empire only just held together by a shrewd mixture of force and commercial interest, and that it was an Empire which would fall to pieces at the first impact of war. The two dictators had sought this judgment and must abide by it. Already the answer had come.

It was, Lord Lloyd said, at the dramatic crisis of the French collapse that renewed and almost passionate assurances of unflinching support and devotion poured in upon him every hour from the greatest Crown Colonies to the smallest coral reef and atoll in the Pacific Ocean. They offered their services, they offered their all.

The importance of Colonies during war-time could be considered in three aspects—the strategic, the provision of man-power, and the economic. The importance of the fortresses of Gibraltar, Malta, and Singapore required no emphasis: now that the war appeared to be spreading, their value would become greater and greater. Lord Lloyd described the agreement to lease certain bases in the West Indies to the United States as a signal honour which had fallen to those Colonies, in common with Newfoundland, thus to contribute to the defence of the British Empire and that other great democracy the United States. This important political and strategic development had, he said, been generally welcomed by the Colonies themselves which, in agreeing to these leases, were making a noble and generous contribution to the war effort of the Empire and to the future of Anglo-American relations. The Colonies thus return to their early role of strategic defenders of noble causes, but never was the cause a greater one nor its defence in surer or more powerful hands than to-day. In the provision of man-power there was a vast reservoir hitherto almost untapped.

It was, however, in the economic sphere that the contribution of the Colonies was at present most powerful. It consisted first of the denial to the enemy of those essential tropical products such as fats, oils, and oil seeds which were so important to a country at war. On the other side, the Colonial Empire was a great producer of raw materials and a great many of its products were needed to carry on the war. We had recently been particularly active in developing new sources of the supply of bauxite, the ore from which aluminium was produced.

The Colonies were now going to help in another way by providing mobile canteens to serve hot food and drink to the people of London and other towns who had been bombed out of their homes, or who had to spend long, anxious nights in air-raid shelters.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"WHEN two darg fight fe one bone, anoder darg run way wid it."

* * *

MR. WILLIAM HEMMING STUART, Chief Justice of Tonga, has been appointed Second Puisne Judge of British Guiana.

THE HON. C. F. P. RENWICK has been reappointed to be a Member of the Executive Council of Grenada for one year from August 17th.

* * *

By Proclamation of the Administrator, September 16th was observed as a Public Holiday in St. Lucia because a garden fete in aid of the Red Cross was to be held on that day.

* * *

AMONG recent first appointments to the Colonial Service is that of Mr. P. F. de Caires, M.B., Ch.B., who becomes Assistant Medical Officer at the Leprosy Hospital, British Guiana.

* * *

THE Imperial Institute is preparing for use in schools and for lecture purposes a number of charts showing the story of the utilization of Colonial raw materials. The first of these charts will deal with Sea Island cotton.

* * *

COLONEL ARTHUR EVANS, M.P., late commanding the Havre Defence Force, who was recently Mentioned in Dispatches for Distinguished Services in the Field, is a director of the West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd., and a member of the West India Committee.

* * *

MR. CHRISTOPHER J. CHANCELLOR, eldest son of Sir John Chancellor, a former Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, paid a brief visit to Port-of-Spain early in September. He arrived by air from Brazil on the completion of a tour of the South American Republics.

* * *

LIEUTENANT J. W. P. RHODES, 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders, who received the Military Cross for gallantry in the field with the 51st Highland Division, which was surrounded at St. Valery, France, is a prisoner of war in Germany. Lieutenant Rhodes is the son of Major W. W. Rhodes, a Jamaica estates proprietor.

* * *

MR. LEWIS A. GRANT, formerly general manager of the Caroni Sugar Estates, has been appointed to succeed Mr. C. E. Anderson as secretary-manager of the Trinidad Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association. Mr. Grant recently returned to Trinidad from Jamaica where he had been general manager of the Frome Estates of the West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd.

* * *

IN view of his departure for the West Indies Sir Frank Stockdale has resigned from the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association. It is anticipated that Dr. Tempany, who has succeeded Sir Frank as Agricultural Adviser to the

Colonial Office, will fill his place on the Committee and act as chairman for the duration of the war.

* * *

MR. H. A. THOMPSON has accepted the invitation of the executive committee to become general secretary of the League of Coloured Peoples. Mr. Thompson was educated at the Calabar High School, Kingston, Jamaica, where he passed the Intermediate Arts examination of London University. He took the final examination for his degree after coming to England in 1937.

* * *

THE introduction of the sugar cane into Antigua in 1676 by Christopher Codrington, the elder, Captain General of the Leeward Islands, was mentioned by Dr. S. B. Jones, an old Codringtonian, in a lecture delivered to the Teachers Conference in Antigua, on "Some Pioneers of West Indian Education," extracts from which have been reproduced in *Codrington College* for Trinity Term 1940.

* * *

IN the Colony of St. Vincent, when a hurricane is threatened, the church bells in towns and villages will ring for one period of three minutes. When a hurricane is approaching the island the bells will ring for two periods of three minutes with an interval of ten minutes. Cable and Wireless, Ltd., give priority to hurricane warnings and communicate them at once to Government House, the Government office and the Chief of Police.

* * *

THE Administrator of St. Kitts Nevis received a letter signed by 42 officers and ratings of the (late) ships King John and Davisian, expressing their thanks for the many and great kindnesses received by them during their stay in the Presidency. The letter, published in the *Official Gazette* for August 8th concludes: "Wherever we may be in days and years to come St. Kitts and Nevis will forever remain with us a very happy and grateful memory."

* * *

"ROOM for Settlers" is the title of a short article by Mr. B. Jeffers of Dominica in the October number of the *Empire Review*. Mr. Jeffers expresses the view that the present economic distress and consequent labour troubles of some of the West Indian islands can be traced partially to the lack of settlers with capital—not great wealth, but from £600 to £700 up. He suggests the encouragement of the Englishman with sufficient capital to settle and make of the islands "what he has made of his own country."

* * *

MR. E. M. SHILSTONE in an account of the Harrison family in Barbados (*Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, August, 1940) says the main interest lies in the life and career of the Hon. Thomas Harrison, who, in 1732, founded the Harrison Free School which, with unbroken continuity, still exists and flourishes as Harrison College. A marble monument to Mr. Harrison in the cathedral reminds us that he "from a small and tender beginning By arts of honest industry Grew rich, belov'd and honour'd."

Cocoa, Citrus Fruits, Spices

Marketing Arrangements, 1940-41

THE following important decisions regarding the marketing in the United Kingdom of British West Indies cocoa, grapefruit, oranges, limes and spices have been announced by the Ministry of Food.

COCOA

The Government has agreed to purchase the whole of the 1940-41 West African cocoa crops at a price to the growers of approximately 20 per cent. under last year's price.

The Ministry of Food have at the same time agreed to extend last year's arrangements for admission into the United Kingdom under quota of West Indies cocoa. Quotas in the first instance will be those originally fixed for the 1939-40 crop, viz., for Trinidad 1,650 tons, and for the Windward Islands 1,861 tons. In the event of these quotas being filled without Government purchase under the arrangement referred to below, the Ministry of Food will be prepared to consider an increase in quotas in the light of the circumstances obtaining at the time.

The Government will again be prepared to consider offers to purchase West Indies cocoa on the same terms as were agreed last season, except that, in view of the reduction in the price made to West African growers some reduction in the price at which the Government will accept offers of West Indies cocoa is contemplated. This price will naturally have to be fixed with reference to the market conditions ruling at the time when cocoa is tendered for purchase.

SPICES

The Ministry of Food is prepared to consider applications for licences to import limited quantities of spices and other food flavouring materials.

Applications should be accompanied by a statement of the importers' trade from each country during the twelve months ended August 31st, 1939. A separate statement of past trade is needed for each commodity which it is desired to import.

Applications should be sent to the Ministry of Food, Spices Licensing Branch.

ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT

Importers of sweet oranges, bitter oranges and grapefruit from the West Indies with established businesses in the ports of London, Liverpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Southampton, Newcastle, Hull, Glasgow and Belfast, who wish to be considered for inclusion in the panels of agents appointed to sell shipments of these fruits assigned to the Ministry of Food are invited to make application to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Branch, Ministry of Food, not later than October 21st, 1940.

Applicants should submit particulars of their previous imports of each fruit in cwts. (stating the figures used for conversion) during each of the three years ended August 31st, 1939, and Colonies of origin.

Before appointment applicants will be required to satisfy the Ministry that they have been importers in accordance with the following definition :

The importer is deemed to be the firm in whose name the entry for the clearance through the Customs has been made, unless the firm passing the entry does so in its capacity as forwarding or other agent of the actual purchaser or salesman in the first instance after landing. In such circumstances the purchaser may be deemed to be the importer.

FRESH LIMES

Licences to import fresh limes from Dominion and Colonial sources will be granted to previous importers on the basis of 100 per cent. of their imports during the year ended August 31st, 1939.

For the purposes of the issue of a licence the importer is deemed to be the firm in whose name the entry for the clearance through the Customs has been made, unless the firm passing the entry does so in its capacity as forwarding or other agents of the actual purchaser or salesman in the first instance after landing. In such circumstances the purchaser may be deemed to be the importer.

Applications supported by a statement of the imports during the basic year in cwts. and country of origin should be made to the Ministry of Food, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Licensing Department, to arrive not later than October 21st, 1940.

West Indian Rainfall in 1939

A general summary of the rainfall during 1939 for the entire Caribbean area is contained in *Climatological Data*, Vol. XIX, No. 13, published by the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture. The West Indies and Caribbean Service of the Bureau is maintained in co-operation with the Governments of the islands of the West Indies and of the adjacent coasts of Central and South America. Records are received from nearly 500 stations, comprising 21 divisions, which include all the islands from the Bahamas to Trinidad and coastal stations from Yucatan to Surinam.

During 1939 the average rainfall throughout this area was 62.63 inches or 4.92 inches below the normal. In the British territories, rainfall was above the normal in Jamaica and St. Vincent and below normal elsewhere. Deficiencies of 10 per cent. or more occurred in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, Barbados, British Guiana and British Honduras. In the more detailed summary by months special reference is made to the tropical disturbance which reached hurricane intensity in the vicinity of the Cayman Islands on October 31st. Between November 1st and 5th it moved slowly north-eastward causing excessive rains in Jamaica, Cuba and the Bahamas. Castle Comfort, Jamaica, reported the remarkable rainfall of 94.92 inches for the month of November. High winds and storm tides were attended by serious damage to property on the north-west coast of Jamaica and floods in the interior of the island caused much damage to crops and drove many families from their homes.

Agricultural Conditions

Marketing Problems in the Windwards

From the following notes, based on the Annual Reports for 1939 of the Agricultural Departments of St. Lucia and Dominica by Mr. E. T. Ward and the Hon. F. G. Harcourt respectively, it will be seen that some of the problems of these British islands are very similar to those of Puerto Rico dealt with on page 239 of the last issue of the CIRCULAR.

ST. LUCIA

The weather during 1939 was fortunately more normal than in the preceding year when the Colony was visited by the worst storms, floods and landslides within living memory and many lives were lost. Although the total sugar produced, 8,050 tons, did not reach the record established in 1938, namely 8,611 tons, the extraction ratio was the lowest ever attained, one ton of sugar being obtained from 8.64 tons of cane compared with one from 9.17 in 1938. Higher standards of field practice are still being aimed at and additional factory improvements made in preparation for the 1940 crop.

The coco-nut industry made a welcome recovery and for the first time, as the result of increased copra exports, took second place as an export crop. The St. Lucia Coco-nut Growers Association, Ltd., was formed in April. Its immediate object is to give effect to a scheme whereby local copra will be processed in Trinidad and returned as edible oil and/or lard substitute. Owing to various difficulties the scheme could not be put into operation during the year.* Some of the other industries have had difficulties to contend with. Owing to the unfavourable marketing conditions the total value of limes and lime products exported was the lowest on record. Expressed as barrels of limes the total exports were 34,820 valued at £10,288, compared with 32,048 barrels valued at £18,243 in 1937. The green lime campaign in the United Kingdom, carried out by the Marketing Officer of the Jamaica Government in co-operation with the Colonial Empire Marketing Board, unfortunately ceased on the outbreak of war. Mr. Ward states that a recent report indicated a strong demand for a large lime owing to the unattractive appearance of small limes when the least shrivelled.

The phenomenal weather of the latter part of 1938, together with a general tightening up in the export standard led to a disastrous fall, some 49 per cent., in banana exports. When it became evident early in 1939 that the industry was passing through a critical phase the Banana Association recommended the appointment of an instructor to advise and encourage the peasantry. The instructor commenced work in August and there is welcome indication that the confidence of the peasant has been largely restored.

Although cocoa was favoured by more or less ideal weather, the exports were small in quantity and the value dropped to the lowest level ever recorded. The fresh fruit trade, mainly mangoes and avocados to

Bermuda and mangoes to Barbados, appreciably increased, as also vegetables, especially pumpkins and plantains to Bermuda. The Department of Agriculture has continued its efforts to secure a better understanding and appreciation of soil conservation methods throughout the Colony. Much antipathy of the peasantry remains to be overcome and the opinion is expressed that greater progress will only be achieved on holdings where it is a condition of occupation that all cultivation must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Department. Encouraging results have been obtained on the Canaries Allotment Scheme which was the first to be controlled in this manner.

DOMINICA

The agricultural community of Dominica continues its uphill fight to retrieve the disasters which have befallen the lime industry. Forty years ago the exports of lime products were the equivalent of 422,000 barrels; in 1939 the comparative figure was 59,000. The causes of this decrease have been withertip disease, accentuated by hurricanes and root disease, and the almost complete loss of a market for concentrated juice due to the fact that citric acid can now be made by a fungus, or mould, from sugar. But even the low figure of 59,000 barrels is a great advance on 31,000 which was the average for 1934-36. This improvement has been effected by new plantings of budded trees. There is hope of further progress.

The Hon. F. G. Harcourt, the Agricultural Superintendent, says that whilst, at present, production is largely in the hands of estate owners and little extension in this direction is anticipated the peasantry are tending to give more serious attention to planting budded limes which they were apt to regard with suspicion.

The efforts for a more diversified agriculture are not meeting with great success largely due to causes beyond the control of the Colony. Banana exports fell from over 140,000 bunches, in both 1937-1938, to 49,000. Rejections were very heavy due to a tightening up of the standard of fruit acceptable to the Canadian Banana Co.; in addition steamers ceased calling at Portsmouth, at the northern end of the island, where most of the bananas are grown and the prospects for expansion are greatest. The future outlook is thus anything but bright.

The production of citrus fruit, mangoes and avocados, is increasing from new plantings but exports are controlled by market prices and these are unfavourable, large quantities of grapefruit in particular remaining unshipped. Cocoa, copra, and other products have also all suffered on account of depressed markets. Fortunately Dominica is exceptionally well situated for the production of local foodstuffs with even a surplus for export and since the outbreak of war there has been increased activity in this direction. The fact remains, however, that the major problem confronting agriculturists in Dominica is still the difficulty of finding remunerative outlets for their crops.

* As reported in the last CIRCULAR, Mr. E. T. Ward wrote on August 16th, 1940, that it was hoped that the Association would soon begin operations.—(Ed., W.I.C.C.).

The Home Guard*

THE Home Guard is a new creation but one with a background of history and tradition. Many of the one and a half million men who fill its ranks to-day are the descendants of those who sprang to arms when Napoleon threatened England with invasion. The story goes back even farther than that, to the train-bands of Elizabethan days, and indeed to earlier times, but the Armed Associations of 1796 and Volunteer Riflemen of 1860 are the organisations which provide the closest parallel to the present Home Guard.

Every threat of invasion has brought out the Volunteer. Conditions of war change; arms change. Pike gave place to musket; Schneider and Martini followed, to be superseded, in their turn, by Lee-Enfield, Ross or Springfield, but the purpose and fighting spirit of the citizen army remains unaltered.

After the defeat of Napoleon I. the Armed Associations were disbanded and, though a few units survived through which certain yeomanry regiments, the H.A.C., and other corps of the present Territorial Army take their ancestry, there was a long gap until 1859. In the previous year an Italian, Orsini, attempted to assassinate Napoleon III., and Britain, accused of harbouring terrorists, became the object of French rancour.

Invasion again became a threat and public meetings were held in Britain to demand an increase in our military strength. The aged Duke of Wellington gave all his influence to this movement and the famous poem: "Form, Form! Riflemen, Form!" inspired the country to action. Within a year, when Queen Victoria, accompanied by the Prince Consort, held a review in Hyde Park, the strength of the Volunteer Rifle Corps had already reached 120,000 men.

That crisis passed, but the Volunteer Act of 1863 ensured the permanence of many of the new battalions and they played their part in the South African War and became an additional nucleus of our present Territorial Army.

The Home Guard has been formed to meet a new crisis and to deal with the new conception of war demonstrated during recent months by Hitler and his General Staff. It forms an integral part of the Army and its orders, in brief, are "Keep Watch" and "Stand and Fight." To it is allotted the task of disputing every yard of Britain with the invader and of relieving the Regular Forces of many immobilising duties. Every town and hamlet has its unit, composed of men of every type and of every age, from 16 to 65, but who have, in common, keenness and a perfect knowledge of their own district. As the people lie at night in their houses or shelters the Home Guard, most of whom work at their customary tasks in the daytime, man their posts and keep vigil. It needs little imagination to see, beside each steel-helmeted Home Guard, shadowy figures, wearing shako, plumed hat or casque—his ancestors sharing his watch for the invader.

As we go to press, we learn with great regret, of the death, at Golden Cross, Sussex, of Mrs. Robert Innes, owner of the Hotel St. Antoine, St. Lucia. Mrs. Innes was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

* Suggested by a recent article in *Defence*.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

WING-COMMANDER O. B. SWAIN

Wing-Commander Oswald Bertie Swain, whose death on active service was announced last week, was born in British Guiana 41 years ago, educated at Horsham Grammar School and at Allan Glen's, Glasgow. He served in the Army during the War of 1914-18 in the Scottish Rifles, T.F., and the Machine Gun Corps. In 1922 he joined the R.A.F. with a short-service commission, for which a permanent commission was substituted in 1926. He was promoted to flying officer in 1924, flight lieutenant in 1929, and squadron leader in 1936.

In addition to being an armament specialist, he had qualified at the R.A.F. Staff College and as a flying instructor, and had served on armament, staff, and flying duties at various home stations and in India. In 1937 he was appointed to the Directorate of Training at the Air Ministry.

MR. G. W. SERVICE.

Mr. George William Service, who died at Glasgow, on October 2nd, in his 77th year, had for many years been closely connected with West Indian trade. He was a member of the firm of Prentice, Service & Henderson, the Glasgow shipowners, who until 1920 were managers of the "Direct" line of steamers to the West Indies, and deputy-chairman of the West India Association of Glasgow.

Mr. Service, in addition to being one of the leading business figures of Glasgow, took an active interest in several religious and philanthropic organizations in that city, and in the West of Scotland, especially those concerned with the welfare of seamen.

He was Dean of Guild of Glasgow from 1930 to 1932, and an ex-officio member during that period of the Corporation of Glasgow. He had been a member of the Clyde Navigation Trust since 1905, and was a governor of several infirmaries and other institutions, and a Justice of the Peace of Glasgow.

Mr. Service is survived by five sons and three daughters.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers and re-appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

Promotions and Transfers:—

- COOPER, P. M. (Deputy Director of Public Works), Director of Public Works, Jamaica.
 MILLER, R. W. R. (Director of Agriculture, Zanzibar), Director of Agriculture, Tanganyika Territory.
 TROTMAN, A. E. (Agricultural Officer, Nigeria), Marketing and Co-operative Officer, Trinidad.
 MULLIN, F. W. M. (Assistant Superintendent of Police), District Superintendent of Police, British Guiana.
 SCOLLARD, M. D. (Veterinary Officer, Jamaica), Veterinary Officer, Malaya.

Re-appointment

- SNOW, L. W. (formerly Assistant Postmaster-General, Tanganyika), Colonial Postmaster, Barbados.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Livestock in British Guiana — Jamaica Industries
Child Welfare in Trinidad



BARBADOS

Rain Needed. Dr. S. J. Saint, Director of Agriculture, states in his notes for July that the rainfall during the month was again below the average, and good soaking rains were needed throughout the Colony. Light showers had been general and the cane had kept green, but soil moisture conditions had been insufficient to promote any effective growth of sugar cane or ground provisions.

Root Borer and Hardback. Over one million each of root borer beetles and brown hardback beetles had been collected, including a few collected in June. These collections should, Dr. Saint says, be maintained by every planter despite any attendant difficulties and inconveniences because both pests appear to be reduced now to a much lower level than in former years, and they must be kept down. With this object in view, a subsidy is paid by the Government on all beetles certified by planters as collected and destroyed, and, though this subsidy does not defray all expenses incurred, it does lessen the burden on any planter who finds that beetles fly in, or are brought in, to his particular area.

BRITISH GUIANA

Moth Borer Control. During July nearly 29 million *Trichogramma* had been liberated making the total so far 146,497,860. Planters, he said, continued to respond well in fetching the parasites and, it was hoped, in distributing them in the fields. Random field examinations to date had not shown any very severe infestation by moth borer; this was satisfactory, but it was too early to predict the future development of infestation and damage. Liberation of the Amazon Fly had also been made at many points in the island, and at different periods of the day. The rainfall had been more favourable for this parasite than was the case last year, but still not adequate.

Conference of Village Chairmen. Recently, wrote our hon. correspondent on August 24th, the Hon. G. D. Owen, Colonial Secretary, in formally opening the Annual Conference of Village Chairmen, appealed to the delegates present to endeavour in the coming year to get their respective councils to pull together with real team spirit, so that all their energies might be directed to the advancement of the villages they serve, and the ultimate attainment of the goal at which they were aiming—self government.

The Colony's Livestock. Proposals for improving and developing the Colony's livestock industry have recently been under consideration by the Government, and the Legislative Council's sanction has been asked for the expenditure of \$30,000 from the Development Trust Fund, to establish a Livestock Experiment Station at Ebini Downs, Berbice River.

BRITISH HONDURAS*

Broadcast News. The reception of the English news from the B.B.C. has been consistently good. Every day at 8.30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, by electrical transmission and the loud speaker, the public of Belize are kept informed of the latest developments. It is a great pity, writes Captain M. S. Metzen, that similar facilities cannot be established not only at other points at Belize, but in every principal town in the Out-Districts. The tremendous importance of propaganda of the right kind in the only British Colonial possession in Central America cannot, he adds, be too strongly emphasized.

Treasury Superintendent. Major L. A. Jeffery, acting Treasury Superintendent, recently underwent an operation and Mr. D. P. Uttley, Colonial Auditor, is temporarily in charge of the Treasury.

Mahogany. During recent months large shipments of sawn mahogany have been made from the Belize saw mill to London. This mill is still playing an important part in the war by supplying lumber to His Majesty's Government in England and at the same time contributing a not significant part towards the relief of the local unemployment problem. The mill is owned and operated by the Belize Estates and Produce Co., of Pinner's Hall, London.

JAMAICA

A new Cassava Factory will, it is understood, shortly be in operation in Kingston. Cassava starch, tapioca, meal and other by-products will be manufactured from cassava grown in St. Andrew and St. Catherine. It is stated that the production of starch will, at the outset, be at the rate of 100 tons per month and that this figure will be doubled later.

The Cement Industry. It is stated that the factory, which it had been proposed should be erected, will not now be built until circumstances render it possible to obtain the necessary machinery from the United Kingdom.

Mr. Arthur Thetwell was seconded for service as secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for a further year at the monthly meeting of the Board of Management held on September 4th.

The Banana Insurance Committee appointed by the Governor held its first meeting at Headquarters House on September 6th. The members are: Hon. A. B. Lowe, chairman, Hon. G. Seymour Seymour, Hon. H. E. Vernon, Hon. R. Ehrenstein, Mr. Clifford De Lisser and Mr. H. E. Bravo, secretary.

* Compiled from three letters from Captain Metzen.

Undesirable Publications, which are prohibited from being imported into Jamaica under Section 3 of the Undesirable Publications (Prohibition of Importation) Law, 1940, are specified in two schedules published in the *Jamaica Gazette* on September 5th.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Child Welfare League. At the 22nd annual general meeting of the League the Hon. Dr. A. Rankine, Director of Medical Services, who was re-elected President, moved the adoption of the annual report. Lady Young, the Patroness of the League, said she was delighted to be able to endorse the justifiable pride of the committee in having had a thoroughly satisfactory year in spite of the grave disturbance of the equilibrium of life which the war had brought about. She stressed the need for support of the League because if one fact emerged clearly from the present chaos it was that any kind of child welfare work was more needed now than ever before.

Bank Interest. Notice was given by Barclays Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Canadian Bank of Commerce and Gordon Grant & Co., Ltd., that from October 1st the rate of interest payable on savings bank accounts and fixed deposits would be one per cent. per annum.

Six Months Trade Returns. For the six months ended June 30th the domestic exports amounted to \$24,815,307, an increase of 30.4 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1939. The imports increased by 35.9 per cent. to \$23,227,877.

A History and Art Exhibition, the first of its kind to be held in the Colony, was opened by the Governor at the Royal Victoria Institute on August 26th. A report in the *Trinidad Guardian* states that, apart from the rich and varied collection of relics giving the story of the Colony's past, there were numerous items portraying world history at different periods. These were mostly treasured heirlooms of old families brought to Trinidad when the first European settlers migrated to the West Indies.

Scarborough Harbour. In January, 1939, the Tobago Communications Committee recommended that various improvements be made to the harbour at Scarborough. The construction of a boat landing, protected by a breakwater, was urged as an absolute necessity. The Government accepted the advice of the Committee and the breakwater is rapidly approaching completion.

(Continued from next column)

business has been reported at: small bright No. 3, 50/- to 52/6; small to medium, No. 2, 55/- to 60/-; medium, No. 1, 65/- to 67/6; and bold bright plump No. 1 in barrels, 90/-. There has been rather more business passing in **Nutmegs** on the spot, but prices show little change at: wormy and broken 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 6d.; sound unassorted, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; sound 80's, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and sound 65's 9d., landed terms. **Mace** continues in demand, and West India parcels on the spot have been sold at: mixed reddish to pale, 2/1 to 2/2; choice pale, 2/4 to 2/5; pickings, dark to pale, 1/- to 1/3.

Round the Markets

October 15th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.

	Sept. 30th.	Oct. 14th.	\$ value
Canada	4.45	4.45	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	4/11.6
Buenos Aires (paper pesos)	17.01	17.02	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (yield £3 6s. 9d. per cent.)	75
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	War Loan	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	33/- 36/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/- 36/-
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	6d. 10d.
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/9
17/6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/6 20/-
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	1/8 2/6
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30 40
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	12/6 14/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3 7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/6 7/6

COCOA. Several hundred bags of fine Grenada have been sold on the spot during the fortnight at 55/-, which is to-day's value. A small business has been done in Trinidad on the spot at 65/- for good plantation, and at 70/- for fine estates. The controlled price of West African is unchanged at 35/-.

BALATA continues quiet and the nominal value of both sweet and bitter is unchanged at 2/7 to 2/8 per lb.

BANANAS. There is a good demand for Jamaicas at the unchanged price, to wholesalers, of £30 5s. per ton, delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. Some further business in Jamaica dark liquid to pale amber on the spot has been done at 85/- to 95/- per cwt. Pale to white is quoted at 95/- to 100/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is unchanged at 45/- per lb. and continues scarce. In Distilled there are sellers at 27/6 per lb; only a small interest is shown in forward shipment. **Lime Juice.** There is still no demand for Concentrated and Raw continues to be quoted at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is nominally unchanged at 6/- per lb. and Bitter is quoted at 10/- per lb. nominal.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** has been quiet, and the price shows little change at 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. ex store. Consumers in the United Kingdom have shown no interest in "to arrive"; the nominal value is 83/- c.i.f. for October-November shipment from Jamaica. **Ginger** is a firm market, and a further

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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October 30th, 1940.

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE	
LEADING ARTICLES—			
SPEAKING OF RUM	259	MAINTENANCE OF SOIL FERTILITY	264
WEST INDIAN VOLUNTEERS ...	259	MAXIMUM PRICES FOR HONEY ...	264
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	260	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	265
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	261	PUBLIC HEALTH IN ANTIGUA	266
VOLUNTARY WORK FOR THE		WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER ...	266
FORCES	262	JAMAICA'S CIGAR INDUSTRY	266
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ...	263	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	267
WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS,		NEW AIR ROUTE TO TRINIDAD ...	268
1940	263	GROWING FIREWOOD IN BARBADOS	268
THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE	263	COMPANY REPORTS AND	
JAMAICA'S 1939-40 SUGAR CROP	263	MEETINGS	269
		ROUND THE MARKETS ...	270

Speaking of Rum

SUCH has been the tempo of life recently, and so quick the passing of events, that it seems but a matter of weeks since we discussed the coming of summer—and the arrangements made to publicise Rum during the warmer period of the year. However, the calendar assures us that a full six months has passed, and there is the further evidence of the winter Rum advertisements themselves, which are now appearing throughout the London, Provincial and Trade press.

The Rum Propaganda Committee, who arrange and direct this publicity from funds provided for the most part by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd., and producers in British Guiana, with assistance from Trinidad, Barbados and distributor firms in the United Kingdom, may be relied upon to continue to present the case for Rum with all the vigour that their limited appropriation will allow.

On this occasion they have a number of difficulties with which to contend: The intensified black-out—which greatly reduces the value of poster and other outdoor advertising; the control of paper—which will restrict the distribution of pamphlets and leaflets; the severe rationing of petrol which has restricted the activities of the out-door representative; the general increase in taxation—which has been imposed with the object of reducing the consumption of commodities, particularly those which are regarded as being in the luxury class, although we heartily disagree that Rum should be placed in that category.

In spite of these difficulties the Committee are presented with a first-class opportunity this winter in that the abnormal conditions under which large sections of the community will carry on their work and other activities, will call for a beverage with the stimulating, invigorating and cheering qualities that only a spirit "grown" in the tropical sun can supply. We refer not only to the scores of thousands of Home Guards, firemen, policemen, roof-spotters, A.R.P. workers and men of the Forces who will be called upon to spend long hours of duty in exposed places, but to that still greater section of the population which will have to travel daily in anything but congenial conditions and spend long hours in chilly shelters.

Those in brief are the known unfavourable and favourable factors in the situation, but there is an important unknown element which as yet is the secret of the Clerk of the Weather!

Reference has been made on more than one occasion to the excellent work performed by the travelling

representative of the Committee, and further arrangements to keep in closer touch with wholesalers and retailers in the more thickly populated areas by means of the personal call will be made whenever possible.

West Indian Volunteers

WAR is a testing time, when the true qualities of an individual, a nation, or of an Empire become manifest. What can the enemy now think of the "decadence of the British Empire" with which he formerly consoled himself? How, for example, would this convenient theory square with the fact that volunteers from all parts of the Empire have been rallying, ever since the outbreak of war, to the defence of the fortress which Great Britain has become? The response of the Colonial Empire cannot be judged by the numbers of volunteers alone since, for every man who has succeeded in joining the services, there are hundreds, and even thousands, who have felt it their duty (although often the more difficult choice), to stay at their posts in accordance with the declared policy of the Government, so that vital production and essential services may be maintained and man power for local defence in the Colonies remain unimpaired.

It is the great privilege of the West India Committee to be closely associated with all aspects of the war effort of the West Indian Colonies. No part of the war services work has been a source of greater pleasure to its members and staff in London than the opportunity of helping, wherever possible, West Indian volunteers who have come over to this country since the outbreak of war. Men of all ages eligible for military service and representative of all sections of the British West Indian population have been arriving during the past year and many of these have visited 40, Norfolk Street. In most cases it has been possible for the Committee, by virtue of the friendly relations established with the authorities concerned, to facilitate their early enlistment into the Services of their choice. No greater reward for the small assistance, in this and other ways, which the Committee is being enabled to render is looked for than the knowledge that many British West Indian volunteers are already describing 40, Norfolk Street, as their home in England. It is the earnest wish of the Committee that not some but all of them will so regard it.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THERE was a phrase often heard among the troops in the stalemate days of trench-warfare in 1916 and 1917: "now that the war is settling down to peace conditions . . ." It has often recurred to my memory of late, while watching the matter-of-fact way in which the people of London go about their business under the constant threat of injury or death from the air. In common, I find, with a good many other old soldiers, I had looked forward to this inevitable phase of the war with considerable anxiety; for, although we learnt long ago to become accustomed to living always within range of the enemy's guns, we expected to find conditions much more nerve-racking when civilians of both sexes and not disciplined troops only were being bombarded.

We now know that there was no need to worry.

* * *

The psychological atmosphere of London, after nearly two months of persistent attack, has become surprisingly like that which prevailed at times in and about the trenches in some sectors of the line. I was lurching in a well-known hotel last week when the building was suddenly shaken by two bombs, which, I afterwards learnt, had struck a building about fifty yards away. I looked quickly round the crowded room—so far as I could see, no man or woman had turned a hair, or even paused for a moment in conversation. In general London has now come to regard Goering's bombs, as we regarded the Kaiser's shells, as a necessary, though dangerous, nuisance, incidental to daily life.

* * *

At night, naturally, the danger has to be taken more seriously. From the fall of darkness the streets are deserted, except for the members of the A.R.P. services, the sentries of this civilian trench-warfare. The vast majority of the people sleep as a matter of course in their dug-outs—that is, in the public shelters, in Anderson shelters fitted up in their own gardens, or in their basements. The Government is constructing bunks in the public shelters, and has promised shortly to issue season tickets, so as to abolish the need to stand in queues for the best places. By this cut-and-dried system of defence the Londoner is offering a resistance that, unlike the Maginot Line, cannot be outflanked.

* * *

Meanwhile the balance in the air swings slowly but relentlessly against Hitler. The great massed battles of September are a thing of the past, and we no longer score the enormous casualties of a hundred or more German machines in the day. This does not at all mean that the hand of the R.A.F. has lost its cunning—only that the enemy no longer dare attack in force by day. Instead he sends tip-and-run raiders in twos and threes. By so doing he avoids losses; but he has renounced his bid for the mastery of the air over our country. At night, by methods that are the secret of the Air Ministry, we are slowly overcoming the formidable difficulties of defence.

Axis diplomacy, with the customary flourish of trumpets, has been ostentatiously busy this week; but at the time of writing the nature of the portentous consequences alleged to be coming from the meeting of Hitler and Petain is still undisclosed. We are still strategically on the defensive; on the other hand the enemy's offensive has been severely checked. Whenever the expansive force of Axis aggression slackens, as it has slackened through the failure to make any impression in the battle of Britain, the elastic band of the blockade tightens and reminds Hitler that he must break it or be strangled. In that situation, since he cannot break out of the ring by a successful invasion of England, he must at all costs try to break out somewhere else. Hence the urgency of launching the Italians against Egypt and the Suez Canal—an enterprise that has been remarkably slow to get under way; hence the attempt to find a weak spot in the Balkans, which looks like being thwarted by the resistance of the Turks; hence the meetings with the Spaniard Suer and the French Minister Laval. Hitler is looking for a way out to the Atlantic.

* * *

He may intend to extort from the abject Vichy Government concessions of African ports, notably Dakar. He may be arranging for a drive through Spain (which would be powerless to resist) to seize the port of Lisbon and perhaps attack Gibraltar. He may have demanded Syria, in the hope of closing in on the Suez Canal from both sides. It is even hinted that he may induce Vichy to dishonour itself still further by entering the war on the side of the arch-enemy of France. Whatever the project, it is not likely to alarm the British Empire, for it will be taken as fresh evidence that Hitler, like an unsuccessful gambler, is desperately doubling the stakes. Only so can he hope to keep us a little longer on the defensive; but the time before we can take the initiative is becoming short; and, with the resources of the United States now pledged unreservedly to our assistance, the recoil when it comes is going to be tremendous.

* * *

Meanwhile the foundations of Hitler's strategy are manifestly beginning to crack. Evidence is coming in that the hold of Vichy on the people of France is becoming more and more precarious; that a wave of pro-British feeling is sweeping the country, which may soon deprive Laval and his friends of the power to serve their German masters. And the nature of Suer's report after his visit to Berlin has become known. He happened to be there during a particularly effective raid by the R.A.F.; and he has told General Franco that the Nazi leaders are already beginning to dread the future, in fact that Spain has backed the wrong horse. When this report appeared in the American Press, I feared that the wish was father to the thought. But on inquiring in a very high diplomatic quarter, I was assured that it rested on excellent authority.

The West Indies and The War

ANTIGUA

THE Aeroplane Fund. Miss Helen Goodwin wrote on September 20th that a "Cent a Plane Fund" had been started. Each subscriber pays one cent for each Nazi plane brought down over England. In three weeks £49 4s. 3d. had been contributed. Others pay a monthly subscription. Miss Goodwin mentioned that included in the latter are many labourers on estates and domestic servants.

A Boy Scouts Camp Fire (of which half the proceeds go towards the Aeroplane Fund, and the other half to the Scouts Refugee Fund) and a most successful dance at the Beach Hotel organised by Mr. A. F. Q. Turner, which cleared £91, have helped to swell the total considerably. A statement published on September 14th showed the assets of the Fund to be £713 3s. 4d., including £500 recently telegraphed to England.

Recruits for Air Force. Six Antigua boys were leaving for Canada where they will enlist if possible in the Air Force. These boys have all been fitted out with clothing and woollen comforts by the Ladies' Sewing and Knitting Committees.

American Air-Base. Great satisfaction was expressed at a meeting of the Legislative Council that Antigua, though a little speck on the map, should be chosen as "one of the cog wheels in the machinery to bring about a great victory." This was in reference to the lease to the United States of land for an Air-base as part exchange for fifty destroyers. The chief feeling was one of pride "that Great Britain has been able to make use of this small part of the Empire to forward her war efforts in a greater measure than we had dreamt possible," and secondly that "this little island has been included in the scheme which has brought together the two great democracies of the world."

BAHAMAS

The Duke of Windsor, accompanied by the Duchess and by members of the War Materials Committee, made his first inspection of the war materials dump at Nassau, on October 15th.

The Duke asked a number of questions about the work and both he and the Duchess showed a keen interest.

Sir Harry and Lady Oakes have sent a second gift of £5,000 to the Minister of Aircraft Production for the purchase of a Spitfire.

BARBADOS

A Contribution of £100 to the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund has been received from Mr. J. R. Yearwood.

BERMUDA

"**Friends in Bermuda**" have sent £1,000 to the Air Raid Distress Fund.

Private Loan of £10,000. Lord Lloyd, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has intimated that the Government gratefully accepts the loan of £10,000 free of interest from Messrs. H. A. & E. Smith.

BRITISH GUIANA

Novel War Gifts. Two novel contributions have recently been received by the Secretary of the Bomber

Fund. These take the form of warrants for fees as witnesses in a judicial case in the near Interior of the Colony. The two men sending the warrants were Alexander Morris and Charles Belgrave.

JAMAICA

The Bombing Planes Committee decided recently to have a special drive for increasing the Jamaica Bombing Planes Fund during the week ended October 26th.

Mr. Horace Myers, of Fred L. Myers and Son, has contributed £5,000 for the purchase of an aeroplane which will take its place in the "Jamaica" Squadron.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Scrap Iron. The Administrator has appointed a Committee, under the chairmanship of the Hon. B. B. Davis, to organise the collection and shipment to the United Kingdom of scrap iron, for use in the war effort.

ST. VINCENT

A Gift of £100 has been received by the Lord Mayor's Red Cross Fund from the Government of St. Vincent.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Tobago Teachers' Contributions. At a meeting of their Association held on September 7th, the Tobago District Teachers decided to contribute two per cent. of their October salaries to the Fighter Fund. They had previously given the same proportion of their July salaries to the Red Cross.

Air Raid Victims Fund. An appeal made by the Win the War Association yielded \$1,270 on September 20th. By October 8th the total had reached over \$12,000. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer of the Association, Mr. C. C. George, at Barclays Bank or to the honorary manager, Mr. E. J. Marsden, at the Association's headquarters, 19, St. Vincent Street, Port-of-Spain. The Association is making the drive in aid of the Lord Mayor of London's Air Raid Distress Fund.

A Successful Fete. As the result of a War Charities Fete, held at the St. Clair Club, Port-of-Spain, Mrs. Marguerite Child forwarded a cheque for \$2,756.30 to the Hon. Treasurer of the Trinidad St. Dunstan's Association of the Blind for transmission to Sir Ian Fraser. The other half of the proceeds have been sent to the President of the Navy League.

FLYING OFFICER STUART A. F. ROBERTSON, a son of Mr. F. H. Robertson, of Jamaica, has been promoted to Flight Lieut. in the Royal Air Force.

OWING to a typographical error, two Jamaicans, whose names appeared in the sixth list of men serving with the Forces (CIRCULAR of October 3rd), were described incorrectly. Mr. Herbert Hendricks is an A.C./2 in the Royal Air Force, and Mr. James H. D. Thompson an Officer Cadet at the Royal Military College.

Voluntary Work for the Forces

A Guide to Current Requirements

IT was felt by the Ladies War Services Committee that it would be of interest to the enthusiastic army of voluntary workers throughout the Caribbean and Atlantic Colonies, to know something of the present state of demand and supply in the Services Welfare

Depots and in the Central Hospital Supply Service of the British Red Cross Society.

The result of careful and detailed inquiries has enabled the following priority lists of requirements to be drawn up:—

NAVY	ARMY	AIR FORCE
*Pullovers with sleeves and high polo collars	Pullovers, Sleeveless (v-neck). Cap Mufflers.	Pullovers with sleeves and polo collars; Flying Gloves with <i>slip-off</i> finger cover
†Seaboot Stockings (oiled wool): Minimum length of leg 22 in.; Maximum length of leg 34 in.; Overall length for spiral pattern 39 in. Gloves with fingers	Mittens, with long cuffs (12 in. finished); Gumboot Stockings (oiled wool): Length of leg 22 in.; Length of foot 10½ in. or 12 in.; Overall length for spiral pattern 24 in.	Gloves with fingers. Gumboot Stockings (oiled wool): 16 in. leg; 10½ in. foot; overall length for spiral pattern 24 in.
‡Balaclava Helmets; Scarves (extra long); Socks: 10½ in. to 12 in. foot...	Socks: 10½ in. to 12 in. foot	Scarves, medium length; Socks: 10½ in. 12in. foot; Mittens (long cuffs)
§Cromwells, Wristlets	Balaclava Helmets, Plain Scarves, Cromwells, Kneecaps, Wristlets	Cromwells, Cap Mufflers, Knee Caps

* Urgently required.

† Continuous demand.

‡ Supply adequate until further notice with average taken of knitting now in hand.

§ Supply sufficient or type obsolete.

It will be noted that pullovers with sleeves and high necks are urgently required by the Navy, while the stock of Navy helmets, cap mufflers, socks, mittens and scarves is more satisfactory, taking into consideration knitting in hand. For all three Services there is at present a sufficient stock of the Cromwell pattern neck piece and of knee caps. To economise in wool, and owing to the liability to catch on projections, all scarves should be made without fringes.

In addition, the following information has been obtained from the War Office for the guidance of knitters in khaki wool.

"It may interest readers to know why certain garments which have enjoyed a widespread popularity in the past are now discarded.

"*Balaclava Helmets* are not asked for because the soldier can only carry one such garment and the cap muffler, which is a "two-in-one" garment and can be used as a cap and scarf at the same time, is more convenient. In addition to this, Balaclava helmets are not popular with some Commanding Officers as they prevent men getting ear-phones adjusted when in a hurry.

"*Gloves* are not required because they are supplied by Ordnance who do not supply mittens. It is considered that the soldier has use for both gloves and mittens, and in many respects the mitten is more useful than the glove. Therefore, only mittens of a special type are asked for.

"*Scarves*. These are covered by the cap muffler.

"*Pullovers with Sleeves*. Ordnance issue a pullover with sleeves and therefore any additional pullover, to be worn over the Ordnance issue, should be sleeveless, because there is a limit to the amount that can be worn on the arms under battle dress."

RED CROSS SUPPLIES

Great appreciation has been expressed by the Central Hospital Supply Services Depot for the care and accuracy with which their official patterns, sent out by the West India Committee in November, 1939, have been executed by West Indian and Atlantic Working Parties.

These patterns are all still valid and apply, as may best fit in with local supplies of materials, as follows:—

Urgently Required

Day Shirts, Vests, Shorts, Sisters' Coats, Surgeons' Coats, Pneumonia Jackets, Comfort Pillows, Wooden Splints, Sisters' Caps and Surgeons' Caps.

Continuous Demand

Helpless Case Shirts, Handkerchiefs, Bedjackets, Linen Bags, Day Socks (grey), Operation Sheets, Surgical Dressings (all sizes), Triangular Bandages, T-Bandages, Knitted Patchwork Blankets and all Convalescent Comforts.

Supply Adequate until further Notice with Average taken of Work now in Hand

Pyjamas, Manytailed Bandages (limb, chest and abdominal).

Supply Sufficient

Surgeons' Masks, Operation Stockings, Dorothy Bags, Bed Socks and Knee Caps.

As the supply of operation stockings and bed socks is now sufficient, it is suggested that any white or light coloured wool now in local stocks, which may have been intended for such articles, might instead be used for children's vests and woollies. These are in very great demand for the many now homeless through indiscriminate bombing, and such contributions would be more than welcome in view of the approaching winter.

The West India Committee

MR H. J. J. FREEMAN presided over a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on October 17th. Proceedings of the meeting were restricted mainly to urgent business and to reports on matters engaging the special attention of the Committee.

A resolution of condolence with the family of the late Mr. Robert Bryson, O.B.E., a member of the Executive since 1925, was unanimously adopted.

The resignation from the Executive of Mr. R. Beaumont, who is leaving England, was received with regret.

The following four candidates were elected to membership of the West India Committee :—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. GUY PERRIN (Barbados)	{ Dr. the Hon. John Hutson, O.B.E., V.D., M.B., D.P.H. Mr. H. J. Wilkinson.
MR. MAURICE ARRAN, LL.B. (London)	{ Lieut. Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E. Lady Davson, O.B.E.
MR. ERIC JOHNSON (Trinidad)	{ Mr. James du Buisson. Mr. Mark Moody-Stuart, M.C.
MRS. FANNY BRYSON (Country)	{ Mr. Alexander Elder. Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

Among the several matters of importance discussed were the Anglo-American Agreement on naval and air bases in the West Indies and the negotiations, now concluded, leading up to the purchase by the Government of the West Indian crop of oranges and fresh grapefruit and the granting of licences for the importation of fresh limes.

Pleasure was expressed at the receipt of cablegrams from Jamaica and Trinidad thanking the Committee for its share in the successful efforts on behalf of the citrus industry.

Consideration was given to the Government's policy in regard to West Indian cocoa, spices and other products.

The sympathy of the Executive was extended to two members of the staff who had been rendered homeless by enemy action, and relief was expressed that the rooms of the West India Committee had not, so far, received any damage of a serious nature.

West Indian Sugar Exports, 1940/1

The following statement of the estimated exports of sugar, from January 1st to August 31st, 1941, summarises information received by the West India Committee to the beginning of October :—

Estimated Exports, January 1st to August 31st, 1941.

	tons.		tons.
Barbados...	83,000	British Guiana ...	108,525
Jamaica ...	129,320	British Honduras...	300
Trinidad ...	109,500		
Leeward Islands...	65,000	Total	59,45,298
Windward Islands	9,653		

An additional 27,000 tons will, it is estimated, be exported from Barbados during the same period in the form of fancy molasses.

Exports of sugar from British Guiana for the period September to December inclusive, 1940, are estimated at 83,675 tons.

The Imperial College

SIR ALGERNON ASPINALL, secretary since 1921 of what is now the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and before that honorary secretary of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, has resigned and has been offered the appointment of consultant to the Governing Body.

At the 179th meeting of the Governing Body held on October 9th the following resolution was moved by the chairman, Mr. Eric Macfadyen, seconded by Sir John Shuckburgh and passed unanimously :—

That the Governing Body received with deep regret the resignation of the Secretaryship by Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E. Since joining the Tropical Agricultural College Committee in 1919 Sir Algernon's exceptional knowledge of West Indian affairs had always been at the disposal of this Institution and since his appointment as Secretary to the West Indian Agricultural College at the first meeting of the Governing Body on September 21st, 1921, he had devoted to its work in full measure his great gifts of tact, initiative and business ability.

All readers of the CIRCULAR will join us in wishing Sir Algernon every happiness in his retirement which, we are sure, will not be an inactive one.

Jamaica's 1939-40 Sugar Crop

Mr. D. J. Verity, in a letter from Kingston, dated September 23rd, writes : The 1939-40 sugar crop total reported in my notes of August 3rd [see CIRCULAR of September 19th], has since been corrected, on revised figures received from the last factory to finish, and the aggregate for the crop is 99,320.9 tons, of which 37.5 tons represent muscovado sugar. The remainder, in tons, is composed of the following : refined granulated 2,740.9, other local grades 15,259.1, total local quota 18,000 ; exports 81,283.4, making a total of vacuum pan sugar 99,283.4 tons. Of the exports, 490 tons went to Bermuda and 10 tons to British Honduras, and the whole of the sugar to be shipped has already been despatched.

It seems that Jamaica's crop this year was the largest in the British West Indies, for the first time in recent years. I exclude British Guiana, of course. From recent reports too, the present estimates forecast a similar position for 1940-41. The Jamaica estimates at the end of August, however, show a drop from 151,800 tons to 147,081 tons in spite of fairly satisfactory August rains in most districts. After deducting 18,000 tons for the local quota, this still leaves us with higher estimated exports than any other British West Indian island.

The sugar estates are contributing to the Food Production Campaign in more ways than by planting corn and peas. Tractors have been lent to others desiring quick preparation of land for food crops, and rice growing experiments have been undertaken in favourable spots. It is difficult for us here to go on with the day's work with equanimity while things are as they are over, and in, Britain, and it hardly seems right that we should not share in them. But what is one to do except carry on one's job to the very best of one's capacity?

Maintenance of Soil Fertility

Sir A. Howard's "Agricultural Testament"

(Continued from page 223)

THE case of sugar cane in the West Indies, referred to previously, is presented briefly as follows.

Before the advent of artificial fertilisers the estates kept stock, mules and oxen, and used pen manure. Artificial then began to displace pen manure, because they were cheaper, valued on a chemical basis, and with the arrival of the tractor and motor lorry "the decision to give up animals and farm yard manure altogether naturally followed, because the clearest possible evidence—that of the profit and loss account—was available." The reaction of the sugar cane crop was that (1) insect and fungus diseases increased, (2) the varieties of cane showed a marked tendency to run out. This behaviour is contrasted with that of canes grown by cultivators in Northern India "where only cattle manure is used and where there is practically no disease and no running out of varieties. The indigenous canes of the United Provinces have been grown for twenty centuries without any help from mycologists, entomologists or plant breeders." Sir Albert says that on estates in India, where chemicals are used, the varieties are also short-lived. The breakdown of the Bourbon in the West Indies at the end of the last century thus becomes one example in support of the suggestion that "the change over from pen manure to artificials is at the root of the diseases of the cane and is the cause of the running out of the variety. We are dealing with the consequences of incipient malnutrition."

That, towards the end of the last century, the Bourbon cane in the West Indies fell before the onset of disease is a well-known fact. Is it equally certain that the disaster was caused by the substitution of artificials for pen manure? Elsewhere in his book when dealing generally with plant diseases, Sir Albert says insects and fungi are not their real cause; they only attack unsuitable varieties or crops imperfectly grown. He does not, I believe, anywhere discuss the possibility of the Bourbon being an "unsuitable variety" under the conditions prevailing at the time when it became seriously attacked by disease but attributes its troubles entirely to being "imperfectly grown."

There is, however, evidence which should be considered before arriving at a decision on this point. At the Agricultural Conference held in Trinidad in 1905 Mr. (later Sir Francis) Watts reported on experiments to ascertain the manurial requirements of sugar cane conducted in Antigua between 1891 and 1898, a period which he said "covered the anxious time when cane diseases were rampant and it seemed quite possible that the sugar industry would be seriously crippled or ruined." No useful results were obtained as to the value of the manures owing to the prevalence of diseases, but it was shown that some canes had high disease resistance. He cites the case of a plot of Bourbon side

by side with one of White Transparent. At the boundary where the two varieties intermingled "it was difficult on the Bourbon side to find a sound cane and on the White Transparent side equally difficult to find a diseased one." Evidence of greater weight, based on a careful review of the known facts is contained in W. Nowell's *Diseases of Crop-Plants in the Lesser Antilles*, published in 1924. The conclusion reached is that it was most probable in the light of the available evidence that the failure of the Bourbon cane in the West Indian area arose from the introduction of a fungus to which it had not previously been exposed. Plants growing under natural conditions are also liable to fall before the attack of a new foe and Nowell refers to "the chestnut bark disease, which, introduced into the United States on resistant species from China, made a clean sweep of the extensive forests of the American chestnut in the Eastern States."

The weight of Nowell's evidence is increased by the fact that he was an early advocate of the view that in plants good health imparted higher disease resistance and that good health was largely dependent on soil fertility. He points out that there had been a slow but continuous general decline in the West Indian sugar industry in soil fertility. This he attributes to less intensive cultivation owing to the diminished supply and increasing cost of hand labour but "perhaps above all to the treacherous facility with which the benefits of organic manures can apparently be obtained by the use of chemical substitutes." Although holding this view of the superiority of organic manures over artificials for the maintenance of soil fertility Nowell writing 17 years ago does not accept as proved the contention that the Bourbon had succumbed to disease because of the use of chemical manures. This he says is negated by the prevalence of disease in districts where chemical manures had not been used. He also points out that there had been "no progressive deterioration; the transition was a sudden one from a condition apparently as good as had prevailed in the previous hundred years to a sudden and complete failure."

W.G.F.

(To be concluded)

Maximum Prices for Honey

An Order of the Ministry of Food, which came into force on October 7th, fixes the following as the maximum prices per cwt. which may be paid for honey by United Kingdom importers except under special licence. For honey produced in Canada, the British West Indies (including British Guiana and British Honduras) and Australia 65s.; honey from New Zealand 70s. and from Tanganyika 45s.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"MARRY you daughter when you can, you son when you please."

* * *

MR. ALBERT H. CIPRIANI, formerly a prominent merchant in Trinidad, died recently at Caracas.

* * *

THE Governor of Jamaica has appointed Mr. W. S. Jones to be a member of the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands for a further period of three years.

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MR. BRYAN KING, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been appointed, temporarily, an Assistant Principal in the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

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DURING the last quarter of a century the mean annual rainfall in Belize, British Honduras has averaged 81.88 inches. The wettest year was 1911 with 130.94 inches and the driest 1923 when the rainfall was only 42.36 inches.

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DURING the fortnight ended October 5th, the Central Hospital Supply Service Department of the Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation received more than 10,000 gifts from overseas and nearly 33,000 gifts from home sources.

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Two additional Reserves have been proclaimed by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago under the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance. They are termed the Caroni Swamp Reserve and the Kronstadt Island Game Reserve.

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THE value of sugar and sugar products exported from Cuba in 1939 was \$117,125,169, approximately 80 per cent. of the year's total export trade. Tobacco and tobacco products were second in importance their value being \$14,090,586.

* * *

DR. WILLIAM W. BESSON, a Government Medical Officer in British Guiana, who is one of the survivors of the Simon Bolivar disaster, reached Port-of-Spain on August 20th after having spent nearly six months as a patient in an English hospital.

* * *

THE Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association has been officially informed that Dr. H. A. Tempany, Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, will represent the Secretary of State on the Committee in place of Sir Frank Stockdale.

* * *

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHANG HING WAN and Colonel Ling Foo Yan have been making a tour of parts of Canada, the United States, and the West Indies to express to the overseas Chinese, on behalf of Marshal

Chiang Kai-Shek, appreciation for their work and contributions to China's war effort.

* * *

MR. A. J. WAKEFIELD, Inspector General of Agriculture in the West Indies, arrived at Port-of-Spain, on September 24th. In an interview with the *Trinidad Guardian* he said that after spending a week at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture he looked forward to making a preliminary tour of the Colony as he had already done of Barbados.

* * *

THE good news reaches us from Trinidad that Sir George Huggins is on the high road to recovery after the operation he underwent recently at the Mayo Institute in St. Louis. He and Lady Huggins, who accompanied him to America, where one regrets to learn she too had occasion to consult a specialist, were expected to be back in Trinidad at the end of October.

* * *

JUNE and July were both dry months in Jamaica. The Government Meteorologist's *Weather Reports* for these two months, recently received, show that in June the mean rainfall was much below the average in all Divisions, except the West Central, and that of July below the average in all Divisions. In June the total rainfall in Kingston was only 0.09 of an inch which is about 2½ per cent. of the 60-years average.

* * *

THERE must be many readers in Trinidad privileged to enjoy the acquaintance of Admiral the Hon. Sir Matthew Best, who will lament his death which occurred at Crockway, Frampton, Dorset, on October 13th. Sir Matthew was Commander-in-Chief of the America and West Indies Station from 1934 to 1937 and in that capacity paid frequent visits to the West Indian islands and British Guiana where he was deservedly popular.

* * *

ONE hopes that before he breathed his last he may have been made aware of the brilliant scrap in the Mediterranean on the preceding day in which H.M.S. York, formerly flagship on the America and West Indies Station, took part in giving the *coup de grace* to the 1,620 ton Italian destroyer Artagliere. The humane action of the York's captain in reporting the position of the survivors to Italian broadcasting stations would have been after his own heart.

* * *

IN a note published on page 185 of the CIRCULAR of July 25th, it was stated that the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board placed the exportable surplus of rice at 30,000 tons, a quantity considerably less than previously expected, owing to the failure of the Spring crop. We are indebted to the Secretary of the Board for pointing out that the Board's Report, to which reference was made, had stated that in consequence of the failure of the Spring crop the rice available for export would be considerably less than the original estimate of 30,000 tons.

Public Health in Antigua

The Disastrous Drought of 1939

The outstanding feature of the year, writes the senior Medical and Health officer in his *Annual Report* for 1939, was the drought which lasted from January until nearly the end of September. During the first eight months 13.27 inches of rain were registered at the Botanic Station. Some places registered slightly more, and others considerably less. The total for the year was just over 33 inches. Many villages were without water for several weeks. Water from any available source including ponds, contaminated by animal and human excreta and quite unfit for human consumption, was used. Eventually most of the ponds gave out.

Dysentery, as was to be expected, broke out in August, and gastro-enteritis was rife. Owing to the shortage of ground provisions and other natural foodstuffs, nutritional diseases were very conspicuous, more especially at the extremes of life. Milk was very scarce; hundreds of animals died. Figures cannot convey the general state of malnutrition that existed. Resistance to infection was very low, many succumbed without any apparent reaction. Many admissions to the Fiennes Institute were in a dying condition, and the vitality and resistance of others were so low that the end was only delayed.

Quite apart from such visitations as drought, the diet of a large section of the labouring class is ill-balanced, lacking sufficient protein and vitamins, particularly A and B. This is partly due to poverty, but also to a lack of appreciation of the value of a broader range of foods. Ignorance is especially noticeable in the care and feeding of children. The creches help but their capacity is limited. Efforts are being made to spread a better knowledge of nutrition. The staple industry being sugar, employment is very seasonal and is reflected in the economic status of the people.

It is pointed out that the District Nursing Service needs re-organisation and bringing up to a much higher standard of efficiency. The district nurse is well trained, and in close touch with the people can do much in social welfare, and in spreading a knowledge of hygiene and preventive medicine. Owing, however, to the unattractive conditions of service, which are described, there is no inducement to take up this important work and applicants are not coming forward. It has not been possible to find money in the past to meet this problem proportionate to its needs. In addition there is a large field for well informed social service, bearing in mind the danger of pauperisation which is very real.

The subscription rates for candidates admitted to the West India Committee during the second half of the year to December 31st are 12/6 for individuals and 31/6 for firms. Members are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing candidates for election. Forms of application for membership can be obtained from the secretary, the West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.

West Indies at Westminster

Jamaica Censorship

MR. PARKER on October 10th asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware that the ban in Jamaica on the mention of the Emergency Powers Act in Great Britain dealing with conscription of wealth and manpower was still enforced by the Jamaica censorship, and whether he would take steps to have the Government's declared policy carried out in that Colony. MR. MUNRO (Lord of the Treasury) who replied, said that it had been ascertained from the Government of Jamaica that the position was as stated in the reply given to MR. PARKER on July 9th. [See CIRCULAR of August 8th, p. 199]. Owing to a misunderstanding one periodical did not appreciate the fact that the ban had been lifted. The position was elucidated to the editor by letter on August 27th, which letter the paper duly published. No other complaint on the subject had been received by the Government of Jamaica.

Importation of Publications

On October 16th MR. SORESENSEN inquired whether the Under-Secretary of State was aware that 6d. popular books on India and selected extracts from the [House of Commons] *Official Report* had been forbidden importation into the West Indies; and whether he would take steps to secure the removal of the ban on publications freely purchased in the United Kingdom. MR. GEORGE HALL replied that he had no information that the importation of any such books had been prohibited in West Indian Colonies. If MR. SORESENSEN would send him particulars of the instances he had in mind inquiries would be made of the Colonial Governments concerned.

Jamaica's Cigar Industry

Jamaica cigars have always been appreciated by those who have smoked them; unfortunately, however, the number of those who have learnt by personal experience of their merits has, in the past, been relatively small. The Havana cigar has earned for itself a reputation so high that it has overshadowed all others. Now, however, that war-time conditions have made it impossible for Havana cigars to be imported into this country, the Jamaica cigar will have an opportunity of coming into its own, and it is understood that large stocks will be in this country in the near future.

The Jamaica cigar industry has made great strides since its inception by political refugees from Cuba in 1875. Great advances have been made in the quality of the leaf and in the technique of production. To-day the standard of craftsmanship in the making of Jamaica cigars is particularly high and the industry as a whole (which has been greatly modernised) may bear comparison with that in any part of the world, not excluding Cuba itself. Jamaica has a reputation for producing a good mild cigar, and it is interesting to note that 80 per cent. of the demand in this country is said to be for mild cigars. Jamaica is confident, moreover, that she can produce a stronger cigar of good quality for the remaining 20 per cent. who prefer cigars of this character.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Jamaica £2,000,000 Loan — Broadcasting in Antigua
Prowess of the Baymen of Old



ANTIGUA

A Government Broadcasting Station, established under the auspices of the Publicity Committee, was opened on September 1st by the Governor. From this station programmes will be broadcast (42.47 metres—short wave) every Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. local time or 8 p.m. G.M.T.

Legislative Council Election. The members of the new Legislative Council elected on September 16th are: Mr. R. Stephens, Mr. S. T. Christian, Mr. L. Jeffery, Mr. H. Wilson and Mr. A. Moody Stuart.

BRITISH GUIANA

Development of Britain's Export Trade. Mr. J. Lyden Henton, representative of the General Export Development Committee of Edinburgh and export manager and director of Messrs. Waddie and Co., during a recent visit addressed the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce on the development of Britain's export trade. Our hon. correspondent writes that in the course of his remarks Mr. Henton said he was there to tell the leading business men of the Colony of the efforts they at home were making to maintain and extend export trade. He must apologize if he appeared to be stressing the obvious, but the present export drive was of such vital importance to a war economy that repetition was necessary. As was known the war was costing Great Britain 9½ million pounds a day. That terrific sum was in large part being raised by direct taxation and loans, but the business-like method was to pay for that outgoing from our income. Our income was our export trade. For the first five months of the war Great Britain's balance of imports against exports was 221 million pounds down on the wrong side. That figure must be altered. By achieving success in the export drive we should make a contribution to victory which was of critical importance.

New Motor Vehicles Bill. The Legislative Council has lately passed a new Motor Vehicles and Traffic Bill which was long overdue and badly wanted. Under the previous law the Police claimed they had no right of prosecution in some of the most glaring cases of misuse of the streets. In a rectangularly laid out City such as Georgetown, where the streets intersect each other every couple of hundred yards and there are many "blind" corners, buses might with impunity draw up in the centre of narrow roads to set down or take up passengers, or stop on corners for any length of time they pleased and create a real source of danger for other motorists and pedestrians. The new Ordinance includes provision for all motor vehicles to carry suppressors, but this will apply only to Georgetown and the County of Demerara. There is also provision for silent zones being declared in municipal areas. The wisdom of this latter enactment in a place like

Georgetown with its blind corners is, he says, extremely doubtful, and cannot be justified because of any irritation caused by the sounding of a horn.

BRITISH HONDURAS

The Colony's Natal Day. The 10th of September, the National Birthday of British Honduras, was celebrated throughout the Colony. Our Hon. Correspondent, Captain M. S. Metzgen, writes that in Belize the event served a dual purpose, namely, to demonstrate the people's affection for, and loyalty to, the Throne and to remind everyone of the glorious part played by the Baymen of old in defeating the Spaniards at the battle of St. George's Caye on September 10th, 1798. The public buildings and prominent places of business were suitably decorated and in the presence of a large concourse of people the Governor was informed of the readiness of British Honduras to assist the Mother Country in any way possible in the successful prosecution of the War. His Excellency undertook to convey to his Majesty the King the message of affection and loyalty expressed on behalf of the people.

DOMINICA

Fruit Exports. It has been announced that until further notice an open licence for export to Bermuda and to the West Indian Islands is granted in the case of limes and lime products, oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, avocados and cocoa.

JAMAICA

Local Government Loan. The Government of Jamaica announced, on September 20th, the placing on the local market of a loan of £200,000 at 3½ per cent., the price of the issue being £99 per cent. This loan (the fourth instalment of the £2,000,000 loan authorised under Laws 22 and 23 of 1935) is being raised for public works and water supplies. The period of the loan is 25 years, with the option resting with the Government to redeem the loan as from October 1st, 1960, on six months' notice being given to stockholders.

Tourist Trade. Mr. F. H. Robertson, Tourist Trade Commissioner, at a meeting of the Jamaica Imperial Association held on September 24th, said that it was obvious that the maintenance of or increase in the tourist trade of Jamaica depended almost entirely upon transportation. There were, however, indications that the situation with regard to travel from America might be better during the coming winter. Much had been done to make the passport regulations easier and a special form of identification in place of a passport for cruise passengers had recently been approved.

Mr. A. C. Hersey, the first Trade Representative of the Province of Quebec to be appointed in the West Indies, arrived at Jamaica on September 26th.

Rice Growing. At a meeting of the Rice Committee,

under the chairmanship of Captain F. Burnett, Commissioner of Lands, held at Caymanas estate on September 19th, Mr. Laddell, who has been conducting experiments in rice growing on that estate, stated that these experiments should lead to the discovery of a satisfactory variety of rice for Jamaica and of the correct planting distance for local conditions and should also show whether or not fertilizing is necessary and, if so, what kind of fertilizer and how much is required.

ST. LUCIA

Heavy Rains. Mr. E. T. Ward wrote, on September 13th, that the rainfall at Castries during August was 14.09 inches compared with the 50-year average of 10.88 inches. On August 4th exceptionally heavy rain fell throughout the Colony as much as 10.66 inches being recorded from one station on the windward coast. Landslides of varying size had been reported from almost every inland area, with inevitable losses of food crops. The weather had been hot and sultry.

Sugar. Progress had been seriously retarded as a result of unprecedented flooding during the early part of the month, and on the majority of the estates considerable damage was done to the growing cane.

Limes. The usual decline in price (then 12s. per barrel) had occurred following the seasonal increase in the volume of the crop although there was a fair demand for green and yellow fruit. The manufacture of hand-pressed and distilled lime oil continued on several estates.

Coco-nuts. Plantations were in healthy condition and good yields were being obtained although a large number of nuts were lost when flooding occurred in plantations along the coast.

Cocoa. There was promise of a fair cocoa crop especially from the wetter areas, but only a few of the larger growers were sustaining interest in the crop.

Bananas. Landslides, consequent upon the heavy rains mentioned above, caused some damage to cultivations in the forest areas and a landslide on one section of the main road prevented a large quantity of fruit from being despatched by the first boat. There had been two shipments during the month; sales to the Canadian Banana Co. amounted to 7,132 stems (71 per cent. counts).

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. The mango season was nearly over. Larger quantities of avocados were available, also a few oranges and grapefruit. Adequate supplies of ground provisions and fresh vegetables were evident throughout the month.

ST. VINCENT

Trade Unions. By Ordinance No. 11 of 1940, to which the Governor gave his assent on September 14th, the following definition of "statutory objects" is substituted for that given in the Trade Unions Ordinance 1933 —

"Statutory objects" means the regulation of the relations between workmen and masters, or between workmen and workmen, or between masters and masters whether such combination would or would not, if this Ordinance had not been enacted, have been deemed to have been an unlawful combination by reason of some one or more of its purposes being in restraint of trade."

Child Labour. Another new Ordinance, No. 8 of

1940, prohibits after October 18th, 1940, the employment of children in any occupation with certain exceptions. A child is defined as a person under fourteen years of age.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Fresh Fruit Exports. It has been officially announced that licences will not be required for the export of fresh fruits to other British West Indian Colonies including British Guiana, Jamaica and Bermuda.

Dry Weather in Tobago. In a letter from King's Bay, Tobago, dated October 6th, Mr. Kenneth Reid says: "We have had a long spell of dry weather and ground provisions have suffered somewhat. This trouble combined with the praedial larcenist and the 'yellow tail' bird has had a disheartening effect on the 'Grow more Food' effort.

"**The Governor and Lady Young** are in Tobago. His Excellency opened the Agricultural Show at the Government Farm on October 3rd and attended the races two days later. Lady Young has, as usual, devoted much of her time to the Red Cross and other social work."

New Air Route to Trinidad

According to the New York correspondent of *The Times*, Pan-American Airways are arranging, subject to the approval of the Civil Aeronautics Board, that their Clippers shall make the return flights from Europe this winter by way of the African coast to Bolana, in Portuguese Guinea, and thence 3,100 miles across the South Atlantic to Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. They will then proceed to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and to New York or, alternatively, according to the weather, to Baltimore or Charleston, South Carolina.

By employing this southern route for the flights back from Europe, the Clippers will have the benefit of strong trade winds and be able to avoid the disadvantages of the westerly flights on the northern route in winter.

Growing Firewood in Barbados

Early this year the Barbados Department of Agriculture reported that progress was being made with the planting of Casuarina trees, commonly known as Whistling Pines, as a source of firewood. As mentioned in the CIRCULAR of April 4th, page 83, Barbados imported in 1938 over 12,000 tons of firewood, mostly wallaba from British Guiana, valued at £15,532. Dr. McIntosh, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, recommended, states the *Barbados Commercial Journal* for August, that the profitless "rab" lands, of which there are some 5,000 acres in Barbados, should be converted into productive areas by growing Casuarina trees. One thousand acres are considered sufficient to produce the necessary supplies of firewood and the five parishes of Christ Church, St. Philip, St. Lucy, St. Joseph and St. Andrew, have been chosen in which to carry out the scheme. About 400 acres are, it is stated, now under cultivation.

Company Reports and Meetings

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

MR. R. BEAUMONT has retired from the board and Mr. E. D. A. Herbert, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.E.E., has been appointed to succeed him as managing director. The board has accepted Mr. Beaumont's resignation with regret, due to the necessity for his taking a protracted period of rest. He is shortly leaving for South Africa.

Mr. Herbert has been acting as an executive director since September, 1939, and in that capacity he has been in constant touch with the details of the more important matters in which the company is concerned.

The West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd.

The report of the directors for the nine months ended June 30th (the financial year has been changed for convenience of management) shows that the profit, after providing for directors' fees and charging depreciation, etc., amounted to £33,582. After adding the amount brought forward of £8,163 and deducting £9,000 for the half-year's dividend on the preference shares there remains a balance of £32,745. The directors recommend payment of a dividend of 2 per cent. (actual) on the ordinary shares which will absorb £14,000, and leave £18,745 to be carried forward.

The production of sugar during the year amounted to 32,347 tons, against 36,707 tons in 1939. Adverse weather seriously affected sugar production in all West Indian Colonies, but, fortunately, the effect in Jamaica was less severe than elsewhere.

"The period in review," state the directors, "marks the end of the major development work undertaken at our Westmoreland and Hanover properties. Certain reconstruction work remains to be done at Monymusk Estate, principally in connexion with the factory. Some progress has been made here with essential replacements, but the major reconstruction of the Monymusk factory must be postponed in existing circumstances. Increased areas of estates' and farmers' canes are now in cultivation, and output next year is expected to show a satisfactory increase.

"The recommendations of the West India Royal Commission were published during the year, and it is satisfactory to record that the claims of the Jamaican sugar industry were recommended for special consideration. The Commissioners appear to have recognised that the economic position of Jamaica necessitated an increase in sugar production in priority to other West Indian Colonies."

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd.

In their report for the year ended July 31st, the directors state that the profit for the year, arrived at on the same basis as last year, amounted to £360,677. Adding the balance brought forward from last year of £63,628, and deducting the interim dividend paid on June 29th, 1940 of £50,000 and the amount transferred to Reserve for taxation of £200,000, there remains an available balance of £174,305. The directors recommend that a final dividend of 10 per cent. (less income

tax at 8s. 6d. in the £), making 15 per cent. for the year, be paid to shareholders on the Register of Members on October 9th, 1940, which will absorb £100,000, leaving £74,305 to be carried forward.

In the national interest the company has for some time past followed the procedure adopted by other oil companies and ceased publishing figures of production. In accordance with this policy no figures are given in the report.

After rising in the early months of the war, Gulf Coast export prices, upon which the sales contract of the company is based, have since receded to about pre-war levels. Drilling was carried on during the year in accordance with programme.

Operations on the proved producing area continued normally during the year. The reorganisation of the field is now complete. Extensions to the light products recovery plants have been completed and are in commission.

The directors propose to seek authority for an increase of £200,000 in the authorised share capital of the company in the form of 200,000 6 per cent. cumulative redeemable preference shares of £1 each. Shareholders will be offered the new shares for subscription at par in proportion to their existing shareholdings.

Caroni, Ltd.

The report of the directors, which covers the nine months ended June 30th, shows that the profit, after providing for directors' fees and taxation, amounted to £31,253. After adding the balance of £20,897 brought forward and deducting £34,800 for the dividend on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, there remains a balance of £17,350 which is carried forward.

Speaking at the annual meeting, held in London on October 23rd, Mr. J. GORDON MILLER, the chairman, said that the shipment and erection of the new central factory were safely completed in good time for the 1940 crop.

With the completion of this modern and valuable addition to the assets, the directors decided upon a revaluation of the whole of the lands, buildings, factories, railways, livestock, etc., now owned by the company in order to establish actual values based on prices prevailing immediately before the War. Accordingly, independent and responsible experts were employed towards the end of the current accounting period, and their certified valuations, just received, recorded total figures of £1,542,700.

In December last he spoke of diminishing optimism with regard to the approaching crop. Impending misfortune was not then apparent. Revelation came only at reaping time from poor field returns and "dried up" canes. The havoc wrought during two previous seasons by flood, pests and drought was complete.

These recurrent cycles constituted the main anxiety of management in tropical agricultural industry. Their incidence might be lessened by effective irrigation and deep drainage schemes, but action in that respect was still delayed. Consideration of such developments would

come within the purview of the recently appointed Comptroller of the West Indian Welfare Fund, Sir Frank Stockdale, than whom none was better fitted, from practical knowledge and experience, to deal with the agricultural, economic and social problems of those Colonies.

After dealing briefly with the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission, Mr. Miller said that the company, since its formation two-and-a-half years ago, had of its own volition expended on medical and public health services, housing and social welfare, a total of £66,000, of which £31,400 represented expenditure during the past nine months.

Their 1940 crop finished early, with only 25,967 tons sugar, compared with 46,293 tons secured in the peak production year of 1937. In each of those years the crops were reaped from practically the same acreage of Estates' land, but farmers' deliveries of canes in 1940 were disappointingly low.

The island industry, as a whole, which produced 154,285 tons sugar in 1937, completed the 1940 campaign with a mere 92,021 tons.

"The modern factory at Brechin Castle Estate" continued Mr. Miller "worked well from the start. Planned by Mr. Blanchard, and erected under the supervision of the managing director, this factory represents the latest scientific achievement for efficient and low cost cane sugar production. The first season's operations did give convincing evidence of improvement in extraction and all-round efficiency, but the short crop and optimum grinding period would scarcely mean accurate comparative figures with old factory records. Next year, under equality of working conditions, will be the fairer test.

"Prospects for the coming crop are, so far, satisfactory. Weather and pests permitting, a substantial recovery in output to about 42,000 tons is expected.

"Labour is loyal. Indeed, the spirit of the people, of every class and creed, has risen high above petty grievances; their appreciation of the issues involved in the present conflict has been clear, and the spontaneous and remarkable evidence of their desire to serve and sacrifice for the Mother Country an acknowledgment of the freedom they value under the flag.

"Disposal of the 1941 crop to the Ministry of Food has now been arranged. The price agreed for raw refining sugar is 8/10½ per cwt., plus the Preference, which will serve to meet increased costs already incurred on normal output expectations. Agricultural risks are excluded, but given a fair average crop a moderate return may be anticipated. There is advantage in stable price and assured market.

"The season just past has probably shown the worst that can befall by prolonged adverse weather conditions and resultant crop failure. With steady expansion of cultivated areas on Estates' and farmers' lands, the desired increase in output will, ere long, be achieved, and reasonable results accrue to the industry and its labour."

(Continued from next column)

unassorted, 6¾d. to 7¼d.; sound 80's, 7½d.; and sound 65's, 9d., landed terms. West Indian Mace on the spot has also been a quiet market and prices show no change at: mixed reddish to pale, 2/1 to 2/2; choice pale, 2/4 to 2/5; pickings, dark to pale, 1/- to 1/3.

Round the Markets

October 29th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.			
	Oct. 14th.	Oct. 28th.	
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$ value 4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$ " 4/11.6
Buenos Aires (paper pesos)	17.02	17.01	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Cousols (yield £3 6s. 9d. per cent.)	74½ 75½
3½	War Loan	100½ 101
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1 ½ 1 ½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	34/- 37/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/6 36/6
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1 ½ 1 ½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	6d. 10d.
—	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/9
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/8 20/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	1/6 2/6
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	4½d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30 40xd
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar...	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	12/6 14/6
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	5/6 6/6
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½ 2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	6/9 7/9

COCOA. Further sales of fine Grenada, amounting to about 1,200 bags, have been sold during the fortnight at 55/- spot. Business has continued to be done in Trinidad on the spot, small sales being effected at 65/- for good plantation and up to 70/- for fine estates. The controlled price of West African is unchanged at 35/- for good fermented.

BALATA is a quiet market and the nominal values are unchanged at 2/7 per lb. for block and 2/8 for sheet.

BANANAS. Jamaicas continue in good demand at the unchanged price, to wholesalers, of £30 5s. per ton delivered London and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. Stocks in London of West India descriptions have been practically disposed of on the basis of 85/- to 95/- for dark liquid to pale amber and 95/- to 100/- for pale to white. The new crop price, as announced on another page in this issue, has been fixed at 65/- per cwt. c.i.f. United Kingdom port.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed, which continues scarce, is unchanged at 45/- per lb. Distilled is valued at 27/6 per lb. and there is only a small interest shown in forward shipments. Lime Juice. There is still no demand for Concentrated and the quotation for Raw is unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. The nominal values are unchanged at 6/- per lb. for Sweet and 10/- per lb. for Bitter.

SPICES. The market for Pimento is quiet but firm and spot sales have been made at about 11¼d. per lb. ex wharf. New crop is in demand at 85/- per cwt. c.i.f. but shippers are not offering at present. Ginger has been quiet and the last prices are unchanged at: small bright No. 3, 50/- to 52/6; small to medium No. 2, 55/- to 60/-; medium No. 1, 65/- to 67/6; and bold bright plump No. 1 in barrels, 90/-. Nutmegs have been quiet during the fortnight and spot prices are unchanged at: wormy and broken 5¾d. to 6d.; sound

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV. NOVEMBER 14th, 1940. No. 1099.

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LONDON, W.C.2.
November 13th, 1940.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain

EVEN in the height of war, the death of MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN (to whom more detailed reference is made elsewhere in this issue) has come as a shock to the whole world. This is not the place to discuss the value of MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S political achievements. It is indeed impossible to do so adequately until they can be seen in the perspective of history. It is sufficient for us to remember that MR. CHAMBERLAIN was an Englishman who was ready at all times to make every personal sacrifice in what he sincerely believed to be the interests of the British Empire. MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S interest in the Empire was not merely an academic one, for six years spent in the management of his father's sisal estate in the Bahamas had given him first-hand knowledge and experience of life in a British Colony.

In Praise of Rum

RUM is of such economic importance to the West Indies and British Guiana that we need make no apology for discussing its problems and opportunities in two consecutive issues of the CIRCULAR.

Moreover an excellent reason for returning to this subject has been provided for us fortuitously by one of the best known national newspapers.

We refer to the *Daily Mail* which, in a prominent position on the front page of its issue of October 31st, drew the attention of its readers to the merits of Rum. Under the heading of "Rum Ration For A.R.P. Men" the News Editor wrote as follows:—

"Rum or brandy is to be issued to A.R.P. workers in Stoke Newington at the discretion of the A.R.P. officer. The borough's Civil Defence Committee are buying a stock of the two spirits. The ration, it is hoped, will help the men while they are on unpleasant and exhausting work in wrecked buildings.

"An A.R.P. officer in one of the worst-bombed areas in London told a *Daily Mail* reporter yesterday: 'Recently our rescue and stretcher squads were so exhausted that I asked the Regional Officer to authorise a rum issue. He did so at once. We gave an eggcupful of rum to 300 or 400 workers—half while they were on the job and the other half at the end. It helped them a lot.'"

It was a pleasant coincidence that this testimonial to Rum should have appeared on the same day as our

CONTENTS

	PAGE	PAGE	
LEADING ARTICLES—			
MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN ...	271	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST ...	277
IN PRAISE OF RUM ...	271	FOOD EXPORTS TO THE COLONIES ...	278
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK ...	272	OBITUARY ...	278
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR ...	273	LARGE COFFEE STOCKS ...	278
A.R.P. ...	274	BRITISH GUIANA SUGAR ...	279
AID FOR AIR RAID VICTIMS ...	274	JAMAICA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY ...	279
WEST INDIAN DEFENCE BASES ...	275	RUBBER FROM POTATOES ...	279
BAUXITE TO AEROPLANE ...	275	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL ...	280
CITRUS PRODUCTS OF JAMAICA ...	275	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS ...	281
"KAJETUK" NOT "KAJETEUR" ...	276	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER ...	282
		ROUND THE MARKETS ...	282

own article, in which we discussed the arrangements being made by the Rum Propaganda Committee for their Winter Campaign.

To refer once again to the programme of the Committee, mention should be made of one of the leaflets which they are distributing throughout the country. It consists of a quotation from a recent issue of the *Medical World* which we reproduce here:

"The Rum Ration was often of the greatest assistance at first-aid posts, under fire, from 1914-1919. It may well prove of equal utility in the present war, in Borough Councils and Regimental Aid Posts alike. It is not an official issue to such posts. The real object of the rum ration, as seen by Army officers and brass hats, is to put courage into front line troops. They do not need to know how it acts, and are content with the results—which are good. It is very useful if a man, about to risk his life, shall say to himself—'Ah, that's a bit of good stuff,' or 'Warms one, that does,' as he drinks his rum ration. But it has not yet penetrated to the consciousness of the official medical officers (lay or army) that it is sometimes equally good for the raid-shocked civilian to do the same. No form of alcohol is contained in the official list of equipment for first-aid posts, nor, for the matter of that, is there any provision of blankets or warm covering of any kind. The medical officer will be wise who sees to it that any unit for which he is responsible is not without a rum ration for use at need."

Space will not allow of further reference to the examples of editorial notices which have recently appeared in the press, but these have been so frequent that it is obvious that rum is very much in the forefront of the public mind.

The task of maintaining the standard of the CIRCULAR, as we have previously pointed out, is not easy under war conditions. A year ago its revenue from advertising, in common with that of other journals, dropped seriously, while the cost of paper soared. These difficulties have been overcome to some extent by a reduction in the number of text and illustration pages in the CIRCULAR—a step dictated by the Government's policy as well as for reasons of economy—and by a recovery of advertising revenue as a result of new contracts received from manufacturers anxious to extend their export business with the West Indian Colonies. Now, we are faced with an increase of 20 per cent. in the cost of printing. This will mean an addition of some £200 to the annual cost of producing the CIRCULAR.

None the less we shall continue to do our best to meet every setback and to keep up our standard.

From a Londoner's Notebook

IT has been the fortune of some statesmen to outlive the passions of their active careers, and to die equally venerated by all parties. Mr. Neville Chamberlain, however, has died while still the centre of the most virulent political controversy since the great dispute over Home Rule in 1913 and 1914. For a long time—but not, I think, permanently—we shall think of him almost entirely as the author of the Munich policy. For a few days, at the beginning of October, 1938, he stood out as the most admired figure in the world, which the vast majority in every nation in Europe considered he had saved from the fearful catastrophe of war. Then came the reaction, and some denounced him as the man who had betrayed the Czechs and prostituted the honour of his country.

* * *

I for one remain convinced that at Munich Mr. Chamberlain chose the only possible course. No doubt we should all have been happier if he had been in a position to defy Hitler then and there. But in our then state of unpreparedness, and in the rotten condition of France, which Mr. Chamberlain probably already suspected, it is all but certain that the Nazis would have been masters of the world by this time. The responsibility for our unfitness to face a European war in 1938 has to be shared by the political leaders of all parties for many years back.

* * *

There are, however, two sides to the Munich question, and many men, whose judgment commands respect, hold that Mr. Chamberlain was wrong. What is unpardonable is the venomous propaganda against his personal motives, for the real passion of his life was the improvement of the condition of the poor. He had inherited it from his father, and it had inspired many years of devoted municipal work in Birmingham before he entered national politics as Minister of National Service in 1917. It drove him back to the Ministry of Health when higher office was at his disposal, in order to push on with his many schemes of social reform, of which his great Housing Act is the chief memorial. Like Joseph Chamberlain he brought the welfare of the British people and the progress of the Empire into a single focus, for the heart of his political philosophy was the doctrine that prosperity depends on peaceful trade, and that on two closely related elements, unity between classes at home, and unity between the Mother Country and the Dominions and Colonies overseas. In that belief he devoted his life to the furtherance of peace in the widest sense; and his tragedy is that he was at last driven into war by evil forces beyond his control.

* * *

The Prime Minister has made two notable speeches, one in Parliament, the other at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, which the nuisance of the air attacks has converted this year into a luncheon. Both were sombre in content; both were irradiated by a profound and unshakable confidence. Mr. Churchill reminded us that we have as yet nothing to show for all the dangers we

have survived except the fact of survival; on the other hand the outside world, which in June was despairing of our fortunes, has now come round to the belief that we shall stay the course. He dropped a grim hint for the masters of the *Blitzkrieg*, that we are laying our plans for the campaigns of 1943 and 1944, for only then, having started our rearmament so late, shall we be reaching our maximum strength, while the peak of German production is already passed.

* * *

We know enough by this time about the dangers of air bombardment to be sure that it can do us no real military harm. In two months 14,000 civilians have been killed, but only 300 soldiers. The people of our great towns are resolved to stand up to this. The danger from submarines to our shipping is much more serious; with all the French Atlantic ports at his disposal the enemy has of late done heavy damage, and the attack is likely to be intensified next year. There is no reason to doubt the Navy's capacity to meet it.

* * *

Our new Allies, the Greeks, have made a splendid entry into the war, and there are distinct signs that their gallant resistance was unexpected by Mussolini, and has thrown the Axis plans out of gear. The ultimate aim of Axis strategy is no doubt the oilfields of Iraq; they presumably hope to use the Greek peninsula as a jumping-off point for the domination of the Eastern Mediterranean, and an eventual drive across Syria. But it looks as if they hoped to gain the first stage by bluff, and, now that the bluff has been called, are not prepared for a winter campaign in the mountains.

* * *

If the enemy is really hesitating, this is, in many people's opinion, our opportunity to seize the initiative; in fact, when he made his statement to the House of Commons, Mr. Churchill found a more critical audience than he has hitherto met, who were not entirely satisfied with his mere assurance that we were doing our best for Greece. Members evidently felt that, Italy being admittedly the weak spot in the Axis, we should strike hard at her at the moment when she appears to be in a difficulty. To some extent Mr. Churchill answered this line of argument at the Mansion House when he told his hearers that our failure to take the offensive hitherto has been due to the still incomplete state of our munitions supply. However, the adhesion of Greece undoubtedly gives us great new possibilities of offence. We have landed men in the Greek islands, especially Crete; and from these bases our capacity for air attack on the enemy has been vastly increased. Already the cities of South Italy have felt the power of the R.A.F., and the Rumanian oilfield is now well within range.

* * *

Meanwhile one exhibition of the offensive spirit at the expense of the arch-enemy has delighted everyone—the heavy bombardment of military objectives in Munich during the annual celebrations of the Nazi party, with the Führer billed to speak.

The West Indies and The War

THE following list of men connected with the West Indies who are serving with the Forces—the seventh to be published in the CIRCULAR—has been compiled by the West India Committee

from the latest available information. Members submitting names for publication should supply, if possible, particulars regarding unit, rank and number.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
ALCAZAR, BASIL HALSBURY	Trinidad	East Lancashire Regiment	2nd Lieutenant
ALCAZAR, JOHN P.	Trinidad	Fleet Air Arm	Naval Airman/2
ARCHER, HAROLD WILMOT	Jamaica	Royal Engineers	Cadet
ARMSTRONG, E. B.	British Guiana	Royal Air Force	A.C./2
BENDER, KENNETH BASIL	British Guiana	Royal Air Force	A.C./2
BEVAN, A. ...	Tobago	Royal Air Force	
BROWN, H. A.	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery	Bombardier
BROWN, L. G.	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery	Gunner
BRUCE, A. ...	Tobago	Royal Air Force	
CARMAN, N.	Jamaica	Officer Cadet Training Unit	Cadet
CARMAN, O. D.	Jamaica	Royal Army Service Corps.	Lance/Corporal
CARMAN, R.	Jamaica		Rifleman
CHURCH, TERENCE	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	Gunner
COKE-KERR, WALTER HAROLD...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	A.C./2
COKE-KERR, W. REGINALD	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	2nd Lieutenant
DE LISSER, L. S. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	AC/2
DONNER, E. J. S.	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	Major
EDGHILL, STANLEY P.	Barbados	Royal Air Force	A.C./2
EDWARDS, G. M. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	AC/2
FOSTER, N. L.	Barbados	Royal Air Force	AC/2
FRASER, H.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force	AC/2
GENTLES, J. H.	Jamaica	Royal Army Medical Corps.	Lance/Corporal
GIUSEPPI, E. E. L.		Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Pilot Officer
GORDON, E. A.	Jamaica	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	AC/2
HALL, W. D. ...	Jamaica	Royal Engineers	Sapper
HARRIS, L. J. ...	Jamaica	Royal Engineers	Major
HENRIQUES, RONALD BARRINGTON	Jamaica	Somerset Light Infantry	Private
JENNINGS, ALLAN ...	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery	Gunner
JOHNSTON, BRUNTON	Barbados	Royal Artillery	Gunner
MACPHAIL, D. E. ...	Jamaica	Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders	Lance/Corporal
MANNING, J. C.	Barbados	Fleet Air Arm	Naval Airman 2
MANNING, J. S.	Barbados	Royal Navy	Lieutenant
OSORIO, KENNETH LLOYD	Jamaica	Queen's Royal Regiment	Private
PETRIE-HAY, A. J.	Antigua	Royal Navy	Paymaster Lieutenant
REIRIE, R. J.	Jamaica	Royal Military College	Officer Cadet
SMITH, A. B.	Tobago	Royal Air Force	
SMITH, F. D.	Jamaica	Royal Artillery	Gunner
WARD, R. C.	Barbados	Royal Artillery	Gunner
WATKIS, OSWALD KEITH	Jamaica	Royal Navy	Motor Mechanic
WHITTAKER, S.	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery	Bombardier
WIGGIN, S. ...	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery	Gunner

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Central War Charities Fund. The executive committee of the Win-the-War Association has organised a central fund into which all contributions to the general win-the-war effort can be paid. Gifts can be earmarked for specific charities if desired, otherwise they will go to the general fund and be distributed amongst the various authorised charities as decided by the central executive committee. No part of the contributions will be deducted for expenses.

JAMAICA

A further gift of £500 (making £1,500) has been received by the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund from the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association.

The Jamaica Bombing Planes Fund continues to make rapid progress. Among the recent contributions was one of £500 from two brothers—Mr. James and Mr. Alexander Henderson.

Provisional Recruitment for the Royal Air Force by the Government of Jamaica was begun on

October 15th. All persons with the requisite qualifications are invited to make application to the secretary of The Aviation Candidates Selection Board, Kingston, and the names of candidates selected will be submitted to the Air Ministry and, as and when vacancies in training schools become available, arrangements will be made for their journey to the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

Sergeant Francis Bevin Smith, of Kingston, serving with the Royal Air Force, Middle East Command, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal on October 18th.

Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production, sent the following cable to the *Daily Gleaner*, on October 1st.

"The sustained and inspiring generosity of the people of Jamaica sounds the trumpet note of loyalty. The day when the Jamaica Squadron is completed will be the crowning moment in a wonderful effort of devotion. I look forward to it with pride and absolute confidence. In the meantime I send my gratitude for your eight aircraft. In doing so I am the spokesman of all our people."

A.R.P.

WITH the Nazis' prolonged raid tactics the Air Raid Precaution worker has become the infantryman of the Home Front. Wardens, ambulance drivers, demolition and repair parties, bomb disposal units and all the many branches of the A.R.P. organisation—men and women—are in action night and day, frequently working under highly dangerous conditions and displaying a steadfastness and cold courage which has earned universal admiration.

Few receive payment for their services or are whole-time workers, the vast majority carry on their usual business activities during the day and devote their spare time to A.R.P.

When the organisation was set up before the outbreak of war it was scarcely realised by the general public what a great part it would one day play in national defence. The first to enrol, like most pioneers and enthusiasts, were regarded somewhat in the light of cranks or curiosities. An "Arp" was then a description not devoid of a tinge of ridicule, and during the quiet months on the Home Front which lasted until well into 1940 there was little change in this attitude. In spite of it the early volunteers quietly pursued their training, made themselves efficient, and infected the recruits with their own keenness. Now they have come into their own, and the words of one old lady, rescued from the debris of her home, sums up the feeling of those in the areas under bombardment: "I knew everything would be all right, the 'Arps' were there before the bomb had settled."

Most of the other organisations in the front line of Britain's defence have inherited tradition from the permanent services with which they are affiliated. The Auxiliary Fire Service, the Special Police, and the Home Guard are cases in point. The A.R.P. Organisation has a history of months, not of decades or centuries. It inherited no long record of courage and service but it has already built up its own tradition and added a new page to chivalry.

Aid for Air Raid Victims

THE keynote of the work of the Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation and the Joint County Committees in connexion with the relief of air raid hardship is "immediate." Recent issues of the *Summary of Work* issued by the Organisation give several examples of the type of assistance which is being so promptly rendered.

Thus, in response to a request made during an air raid, to supply an emergency party of nurses for a hospital in London upon which nearly thirty bombs had been dropped that morning, nine nurses from adjacent detachments reported for duty before the raid then occurring had ceased.

In another London district sixteen men of a British Red Cross Service detachment were tending the injured and those trapped in the wreckage two miles from their depot within eight minutes of the call for help.

Then comes the story of a bombing of a Sussex village—more correctly no more than a hamlet, comprising the church, the vicarage, the village hall, the schools, the general shop, and a dozen or so cottages.

Though lacking entirely in military objectives, members of the local detachment had prepared for emergencies by arranging a small First Aid Post in the village hall. One member was on duty there when the night attack on the village began. First come the incendiaries, then the explosives, one of which fell upon the cottage of the district nurse. Three members of the detachment, without thought for their own safety, went to rescue her. She was lying, severely wounded, in the crater where had been her cottage.

Heavy demands have also been made upon the Stores Department to provide immediate necessities for those bombed out of their homes. A long list of articles which have been supplied without delay ends with the note that "one realises how little may be left in the way of personal possessions when one finds the recurring indents for face flannels, tooth brushes, nail brushes and hair combs."

As many readers of the CIRCULAR are doubtless aware the Red Cross and St. John Fund has recently been separated from the Mansion House following the Lord Mayor's decision to extend his London Air Raid Distress Fund to assist air raid victims throughout the country.

Commenting on this change *The Times* said so long as the two funds administered from the Mansion House were of different scope, the one national for the Red Cross, the other local for the relief of London distress, there was little risk of confusion. But now that both are national, and both evidently of first rate importance, their continued association under the same roof may lead to inconvenience.

In their work, of course, the two organisations can be expected to remain as closely and harmoniously related as hitherto and the Red Cross Society, who have benefited incalculably by having the Lord Mayor as their principal almoner, are repaying the service by supplementing at many points the work of the local authorities in air raid relief.

West Indian Defence Bases

Visit of United States Mission

THE United States Government has lost no time in getting to grips with the practical problems arising out of the arrangements whereby naval and air bases in certain British West Indian Colonies are to be leased for a term of ninety-nine years.

General Marshall, United States Chief of Staff, announced on September 30th, that the War and Navy Departments had begun work on plans for United States bases in Newfoundland and Bermuda. A Board of Naval and Military experts, under the presidency of Rear-Admiral J. W. Greenslade, U.S. Navy, and including Major-General J. L. Devers, U.S. Army, left Washington on October 1st and flew to Miami, Florida. From Miami they proceeded by air to the Bahamas where they were welcomed by the Duke of Windsor. A flight of five hundred miles was subsequently made over the islands of the Bahama group. The mission travelled from Nassau to the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they boarded the U.S.S. St. Louis, reaching Jamaica on October 4th. Shortly after arrival the mission called on the Governor and later attended a conference. Extensive surveys of the southern coast of Jamaica were subsequently carried out by air and sea. In an interview published in the *Daily Gleaner*, Rear-Admiral Greenslade said that the work in Jamaica had been concluded satisfactorily. They had had a wonderful time and had had every assistance possible from the local authorities. He had been surprised at the extent to which they had agreed upon almost every question that had arisen. The mission sailed on October 8th to other British islands. At Trinidad the mission was met on arrival at Port-of-Spain by Government and military officials.

On October 19th Rear-Admiral Greenslade and certain members of the American Defence Base Mission arrived at Antigua in U.S.S. St. Louis, others having arrived in a U.S. army plane the previous day. Mrs. H. MacDonald, one of the West India Committee's honorary correspondents, informs us that "after inspecting and discussing various sites, agreement was reached and a site previously recommended by the Governor was selected in the vicinity of Parham Harbour. Rear-Admiral Greenslade expressed great appreciation of the preliminary work and collection of data which had been carried out by H.E. the Governor and Capt. Stebbings. This did much to expedite the work of the Mission and contributed to the cordial spirit of co-operation with which the matter was carried through. The St. Louis was able to leave in the evening about 7 p.m."

News of investigations carried out at the other proposed sites for leased bases has not yet reached us, but it is clear that substantial progress has already been made in the survey which the Mission is carrying out. The significant fact which emerges even at this early stage, however, is that of the spirit of friendly co-operation in which all the problems involved are being approached by the British and American Govern-

ments made possible, as it is, by the helpful attitude of the Colonies concerned.

Bauxite to Aeroplane

An exhibit illustrating the story of aluminium manufacture, recently added to the Canadian Court at the Imperial Institute, is a natural corollary to the bauxite exhibit in the British Guiana Court. The head label reads "Canadian Aluminium flows from the union of British Guiana's 'White Earth' and Canada's 'White Water.'"

The Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, July-September, 1940, describes how, starting with a sample of bauxite (the "White Earth") from British Guiana, the Empire's principal source of this ore of aluminium, the story first traces its purification to pure alumina. It then proceeds to show how part of Canada's abundant hydro-electric resources ("White Water") is employed to unlock from the alumina the metallic aluminium which is in such demand at the present time. The essential part which an abundant supply of cheap electricity plays in aluminium manufacture is brought home to the visitor by the statement that to make one pound of the metal requires an amount of current that would keep a 40-watt lamp burning continuously for 12½ days. This section of the story is completed by a full-sized ingot of aluminium, the form in which the bulk of Canadian aluminium is exported for further manufacture.

A continuation of the story appeared in *The Times* of October 14th, which dealt with the most important part aluminium plays in the construction of all types of aircraft. Much of the bauxite used in its production comes from British Guiana. It is then shipped across from Canada in the form of ingots. The metal is first melted down and alloyed, after which it is formed into billets or slabs. These are either rolled into sheets or else extruded into bars, sections, or tubes. The alloy is annealed, or heated, after almost every operation. After inspection it is sent to the aircraft factories, ready to be shaped into R.A.F. fighter, bomber, training, and reconnaissance machines.

Citrus Products of Jamaica

The economic consequences of the present war, like those of all other wars, include the dislocation of certain channels of trade and the opening or widening of others. The cutting off of supplies of citrus juices, oils and pulps from Mediterranean sources should give a new importance to the trade in these commodities with the British West Indian Colonies. Jamaica is one of the most important of these sources of supply and this fact gives particular interest to a leaflet issued by Mr. A. V. Brown, Managing Partner of the Citrus Products Co., of Pedro, Jamaica, in which he records the achievements of this firm during the past season and outlines future policy. He states that there was a dramatic rise in sales in Canada over that of the previous year and that the United Kingdom took three times as much as she did the year before. The Citrus Products Company is determined to maintain a high standard by continuing to insist on the use of nothing but the very best raw materials.

“Kaietuk” not “Kaieteur”

BY J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK

In the CIRCULAR of August 8th (page 198) Mr. H. N. G. Cobbe drew attention to the occurrence in Northern Canada and Greenland of place names ending in “tuk,” signifying stormy or rough waters. He pointed out that in British Guiana “tuk” was used to indicate a waterfall, or steep rapid, and set the problem whether early voyagers from Japan had taken their language with them to Alaska, down the American coast and to British Guiana. Mr. J. Graham Cruickshank of British Guiana, who has previously contributed many interesting articles to the CIRCULAR, has written to the Editor as follows:—

I WAS interested to read, in the CIRCULAR of August 8th, a paragraph regarding Mr. Cobbe's find of the root-word “tuk,” meaning cataract or fall, in such widely separated places as the Arctic Circle and British Guiana.

I can pretend to no solution of his problem; but would draw attention once again to the extraordinary non-use of the word “tuk” in the second syllable of the mongrel name that has attached itself to that magnificent waterfall in the Potaro river in British Guiana, miscalled “Kaieteur.”

It was in April, 1870, that Mr. Barrington Brown, Geological Surveyor, discovered this fall. In his book *Canoe and Camp Life in British Guiana* (London, 1876), and in other publications, he faithfully relates the tradition from which the fall derives its name—how that long ago an aged Indian (Kai), becoming a nuisance to his tribe, was, with a pegall containing his few belongings, put into a woodskin above the fall and allowed to drift over the ledge to his doom below—but, mishearing the Patamona word, he reported the name to be “Kaieteur,” and not, as it is, the Old Man's Fall—“Kaietuk.” The blunder then made has been perpetuated.

Perhaps the first publicly to repudiate the spurious final syllable was the Rev. Charles Dance who, in his *Chapters from a Guianese Log-book* (Demerara, 1881), uses always the terminal “tuk,” which he spells “touek.” In the same year Mr. G. S. Jenman, Government Botanist, made a journey up the Potaro; his *Diary* was published in pamphlet form in 1907. Therein, writing of the name of the fall, he notes, “The Patamona Indians call it Kaietuk.”

Dr. Carl Bovallius, a savant of Upsala University and a linguist of international repute, lived for three years on the Potaro river about thirty miles above the fall, where he made ethnological and other notes which were to be the foundation for a book on his travels in Nicaragua, Venezuela and Guiana. Unfortunately he died in Georgetown in November, 1907. In his letters to the newspapers, and to Government, Dr. Bovallius was careful always to give the fall its real name, which, in phonetic fidelity to the Patamona pronunciation, he spelled “Kaijituik.” It was derived, beyond any shadow of doubt, he found, from two Patamona words—*Kai* (or more exactly, *Kaiji*)—an old man, and *tuk* (or more exactly, *tuik*)—a rock or fall.

In a paper “A Journey to Mount Roraima across the Savannah Highlands of British Guiana,” published in *Timehri* in 1917, Sir Cecil (then Mr.) Clementi adopts

the real name—which with as little departure as possible from the existing misnomer he spells “Kaietuk” throughout.

In that curiously interesting volume, *The Visitors' Book*, once found in the now-abandoned Rockstone hotel on the Essequibo river, was an entry by another traveller who knew his Potaro Indian well—Father Cary-Elwes, S.J. He was on his way back from the fall—then, in the wet season, “one huge sheet of water from one end of the ledge to the other”—and he asks indignantly, “Why on earth do people spell that word—Kaieteur? An outlandish word, neither English nor Indian. The word is *Kai-tuek*; it is a Patamona word.” And then—probably furnishing the clue to Barrington Brown's mistake—he adds that the Patamona Indian barely sounds the terminal *k*.

The late Dr. Walter E. Roth, a leading authority on the Guiana Indian, was also satisfied that the present name is wrong.

Perhaps it is not until one has himself travelled up the Potaro river, and has heard the Patamona root word “tuk” repeating itself again and again, like a dominant note, in the names of the lower cataracts and rapids—Pakatuk (the fall of the paku fish), Waratuk (the fall of the warrak, or yarrau), Amatuk (the fall of ashen-gray waters) and Kobanatuk—that approaching by far the grandest spectacle of them all, one is most repelled by the horrid dissonance of “Kaieteur,” which grates on the ear. And the impression is aggravated when—as in the writer's experience—a number of Patamona Indians, taking shelter from heavy rain in the Rest House, within sound of the fall, were asked its name, and replied—hardly sounding the final *k*, as noted by Father Cary-Elwes—“Kaietuk.”

There are persons who are prepared to contemplate Guianese—throughout all the ages—when asked by the tourist, “What is the meaning of Kaieteur?” replying: “Actually, it is not ‘Kaieteur’: it is ‘Kaietuk,’ meaning the Old Man's Fall.” To which the tourist (sagaciously enough), throughout the ages, will remark: “Why not call it so and have done?”

It has been objected that it is too late now to change the name. In the Creole phrase: “I met it so.” The objection will not hold water. The second syllable alone needs rectification. Old—much older—place names in Europe and America have been abandoned in favour of names more suited to the tradition and genius of locality, e.g., the abandonment of Christiania in Norway for Oslo. Is there no *genius loci* also in Guiana?

An Ordinance, No. 4 of 1940, was passed in British Honduras on October 1st to levy, for the assessment year starting January 1st, 1940, a war surtax on incomes in addition to the one imposed in 1939. The rates of the new surtax upon the amount of income tax payable under the principal Ordinance are as follow for every person:—

Chargeable Income	Surtax
Up to \$3,000	25 per cent.
From \$3,001 to \$4,000	33½ per cent.
From \$4,001 to \$5,000	50 per cent.
From \$5,001 to \$6,000	66½ per cent.
Over \$6,000	75 per cent.

For companies the rate of surtax is 75 per cent. of the amount of income tax.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"DON'T kyar keep big house."

SIR FRANK and Lady Stockdale arrived at Antigua on October 18th, as also Sir Rupert Briercliffe and Mr. S. A. Hammond.

* * *

It was with great regret that we learned of the death, on October 20th, of Mr. Horace Peel, senior partner of Henckell, Du Buisson & Co.

* * *

MR. H. B. SPRINGER has returned to Jamaica as chief chemist at Monymusk after an absence of about a year. He was formerly at Caymanas.

* * *

THE Ladies War Services Committee would appreciate donations of light literature of the "Penguin" type for inclusion in the parcels being sent to those serving in H.M. Forces from the West Indies.

* * *

MRS. MAUDE DEANE, widow of Dr. Fred Deane, of Barbados, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Batson, also of that Colony, was among those who perished when the City of Benares was lost by enemy action.

* * *

MISS IRIS MARY EVANS, who was married on November 9th to Mr. Archibald Geoffery Andrews, is the eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs. Edward Evans, of St. Lawrence, Barbados. The ceremony took place at Hardwicke Parish Church, Bucks.

* * *

THE Postmaster-General announces that letters and parcels for the United Kingdom posted in Jamaica approximately between August 8th and 14th last, and probably others posted between September 10th and 18th, have been lost by enemy action.

* * *

WE have to correct two typographical errors in the estimates of West Indian Sugar Exports given on page 263 of the CIRCULAR of October 31st. The total should be 505,298 tons, and the estimates are, as is apparent in the body of the statement, those for 1941.

* * *

THE two receptions of the League at Overseas House have been very successful, and it is now proposed to hold one on the second Thursday of each month. Lord Lloyd, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was unavoidably prevented from attending the reception on October 10th, but expressed his hopes of being able to attend the next one.

* * *

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR have visited in the hospital at Nassau the two British seamen, Robert Tapscott, of Cardiff and Roy Widdicombe, of Newport. As has been reported in the Press they are believed to be the sole survivors, out of 42, of the crew of a ship which was sunk in the Atlantic. They reached Nassau in a very emaciated condition after drifting for 70 days in an open lifeboat and suffering almost incredible hardships from lack of food and water.

IN the November *News Letter* of the League of Coloured Peoples, Dr. H. A. Moody states that Professor Basil Matthews, of Boston University, will collaborate in the production of this monthly publication of the League. It is hoped to extend its circulation and, by drawing material from representative Colonial papers, to present "as faithfully and accurately as possible the present current of thought in our West Indian and African Colonies and Dependencies."

* * *

THE nomination referred to on page 280 of this issue, of Mrs. H. E. M. McDonald and Mrs. F. M. Howes as members of the Legislative Councils of Antigua and Montserrat respectively, establishes, we believe, a precedent in the British West Indies where (subject to correction) membership of the Legislative Councils has hitherto been restricted to men. We offer our congratulations to both ladies on the honour paid to them, and have no doubt that their advice and assistance will prove of very great value to Councils engaged, as they will be, in dealing with such problems as social welfare, health services, housing and education.

* * *

MR. E. E. KEEL, of British Guiana, contributes a brief but interesting account of estate life in the Colony during war time to the November issue of the *Empire Review*. He takes as his theme "Patriotism on a Sugar Estate," and concludes: "In the eyes of the world at large, perhaps all this seems very unimportant. So little is known about British Guiana and the change in the feelings of its inhabitants since the outbreak of war. But their feelings are the same as those of any other Colony in the British Empire. They, too, love the Home Country and pray and work for victory, and will work with pride and determination until the goal is reached."

* * *

WE are indebted to Miss Helen Goodwin for the receipt of a copy of *Dunquerque Calling!*: a *Tribute from Antigua to the Heroes of Dunquerque*. It contains a stirring ballad, "The Little Man's Armada," written by Mrs. Hilda McDonald. We quote the last verse:

"And for ever and for ever our annals shall recall
How the Little Man's Armada took the seas at Danger's call,
How they heard the hail from Dunquerque, and threw their
work aside,
And took their boats, and took their lives, and ran to catch
the tide,
The Soldier and the Sailor, the Yachtsman and the Clerk,
The Airman and the Fisherman—the Heroes of Dunquerque."

The publication, which contains two illustrations, one of a British warplane and the other of the Armada returning from Dunquerque, is on sale, price 6d., in aid of the Antigua Aeroplane Fund.

"It's a way they have . . ."

The British Navy drinks rum. The American Navy absorbs whisky. The Italian Navy sticks to port.—With acknowledgments to "Peterborough," *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, November 14th, 1940.

Food Exports to the Colonies

Important Board of Trade Order

THE Board of Trade have made an Order (Export of Goods (Control) (No. 39) Order, 1940) by which the export of articles of food (except potatoes and grain) to British Colonial dependencies will, as from the 15th November, 1940, be permitted without licence. This order has been made for the convenience of exporters so as to avoid duplication of export control in the United Kingdom and import control in the Colonial dependencies. It should not be taken to imply any change in the policy of the Ministry of Food in respect of supplies of foodstuffs to these dependencies.

The system of import control in the Colonial dependencies still subsists and will be extended, where necessary, to cover all articles of food imported from the United Kingdom. Colonial Governments will be informed by the Ministry of Food from time to time of the maximum quantities of particular foodstuffs which can be supplied from this country and import licences will be issued in the light of this information. Except in special cases import licences will not be granted for more than 100 per cent. of pre-war normal imports from the United Kingdom. Imports of a number of commodities, supplies of which are limited, will be restricted below this level. A detailed list, showing the degree of restriction to be imposed, is being communicated to the Food Manufacturers Federation. This list is of course subject to alteration from time to time without notice. Further, Colonial Governments will have discretion to limit imports of any commodity from the United Kingdom below the maximum quantity available if special local reasons for doing so should exist.

From the above, exporters will appreciate that, before shipping articles of food to any Colonial dependency they must, in their own interests, ascertain that the appropriate import licence has been obtained from the Colonial Government. In the case of certain commodities, the stocks of which are controlled by the Ministry of Food, evidence of the possession of an import licence will be required before any release for export is made. Arrangements are being made with Colonial Governments for a serial number to be given to each import licence which may then be cabled by the local agent to the United Kingdom exporter in support of the latter's request for a release from controlled stocks.

It is desired to emphasize that articles of food which are subject to import licensing will not be admitted for importation into the Colonial dependencies if the necessary licences have not been obtained. The fact that such articles have already arrived will not be taken to constitute a claim for the grant of import licences and unlicensed articles will be liable to confiscation. Arrangements will be made to provide for the fulfilment of any endorsed orders issued in the Colonial Dependencies before the 15th November.

It would greatly facilitate the work of the hon. treasurers if those members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year would kindly do so without delay.

Obituary

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

SERGEANT-PILOT E. A. DANCER, who was killed recently while on active service, was born in Trinidad 25 years ago. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dancer, who for some time have lived in Southampton. Sergeant-Pilot Dancer, who had served in the R.A.F. since 1933, was buried at Ayr (where he was married only a few months ago) on October 30th, with military honours.

DR. ALBERT HAMILTON BURT, who died recently at his home at Hassocks, Sussex, in his 87th year, spent a good deal of his early life in Trinidad where he was engaged as a cocoa and coffee planter. Dr. Burt was trained at King's College, London, and qualified in 1897, gaining the Robert Todd prize and medal in medicine and the prize in clinical surgery. He had practised in the Brighton and Hove district for nearly 40 years.

By his death the West India Committee has lost one of its oldest members.

MRS. ELSIE REID, who died at Hermitage, Tobago, on August 27th, was the wife of Mr. Robert S. Reid, the well-known planter. Her son, Mr. Kenneth Reid, is an hon. correspondent of the West India Committee.

MRS. ELIZABETH MILLER PHILLIPS, O.B.E., who died at The Palms, Port-of-Spain, on October 8th, was the wife of Mr. John Phillips, and daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Bunche. Mrs. Phillips was awarded the O.B.E. in the Birthday Honours of 1919 for her services as hon. secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago branch of the Red Cross Fund.

Large Coffee Stocks

Imports Restricted to Empire Countries

THE Ministry of Food, in a circular letter to coffee importers stated that owing to the large stocks in the United Kingdom—over two-and-a-half years' supply—imports during the 1940-41 season would be restricted to Empire countries. It was not at present proposed that licences should be granted in excess of the following amounts: British East Africa, 150,000 cwt.; India, 40,000 cwt.; British West Indies, 10,000 cwt.

The Ministry continue: "The decision as to whether licences can be issued up to the limit of these quantities must naturally depend upon the circumstances prevailing when applications for licences are made. Further, no guarantees can be given as regards the availability of shipping space.

"The Colonial Governments in British East Africa have taken control of the local output of coffee, and by means of export licences will share amongst the established shippers the aggregate exports permitted to the United Kingdom. . . .

"For other Empire countries import licences will be issued on the basis of the past trade of the importers, taking the 12 months ended August 31st, 1939, as the datum period."

British Guiana Sugar

Varieties Recommended for Trial

THE results of thirty-nine sugar cane variety trials in British Guiana, harvested during the year ended June 30th, 1940, are given in *Sugar Bulletin* No. 9 of the Department of Agriculture. The authors of this very full report are Mr. C. H. B. Williams, Sugar Agronomist and Plant Breeder, and Mr. C. Cameron, Field Manager. Estates are advised to make commercial tests with Co. 213 and D. 49/30; to extend their nurseries of D. 166/34 as rapidly as possible and to establish nurseries of D. 419/33.

The performance records of the Coimbatore bred cane, Co. 213, and of the British Guiana seedling, D. 49/30 on which the advice to estates to make commercial tests of these varieties is based are thus summarised by the investigators:—

Co. 203 has been fully tested and no further trials with this cane will be started, although those in progress will be carried through their complete cycle. In a three-crop cycle this variety has out-yielded P.O.J. 2878 by 4 per cent., and this margin is likely to be widened when all the trials have been harvested as second ratoons. The figures indicate that Co. 213 is a better ratooner than P.O.J. 2878 and it may be deduced that in a four or five-crop cycle the Indian cane would have a marked advantage. This is partly confirmed by the harvest of two third ratoon tests of this cane: at Providence, Berbice, it out-yielded P.O.J. 2878 by 15 per cent. and at Lusignan it out-yielded Diamond 10 by 27 per cent. Despite its thin stalks, Co. 213 merits extensive commercial tests on all estates.

D. 49/30 (D. 625) has been amply tested and, taking experiments all over the Colony, has given the same average yield over three crops as Diamond 10. In certain areas, however, it surpasses the Diamond seedling and some encouraging reports on small commercial tests have been received from various estates. An increase in the number of such small plantings would be of great assistance in determining the conditions under which D. 49/30 thrives and in finally fixing its status. It yields a cane of high quality.

The following information regarding the other two varieties will doubtless be of interest. D. 166/34, a cross between P.O.J. 2878 and a Sorghum, yields heavy tonnages of good quality canes, with thicker stalks than P.O.J. 2878, is drought resistant and "covers in" remarkably early. D. 419/33, a cross between Co. 281 and Diamond 10, has so far a highly satisfactory record both as regards tonnage and juice quality.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH at Parham, Antigua, of which the centenary was recently celebrated, was built in 1840 when the Rev. F. B. Grant was rector. The original church, one of the first in the island, dating back to the XVIIth century had been destroyed by fire. Parham was formerly a town of considerable importance. It was named after the home town in Suffolk of Lord Willoughby, who sent out a large number of colonists after Charles II had made him a formal grant of Antigua in 1663.

Jamaica's Sugar Industry

MR. D. J. VERITY, writing from Kingston, on October 19th, informs us that the revised sugar crop estimates as at the end of September showed an increase of 300 tons over the end of August revision, with a total of 147,380 tons. October, up to the time of writing, had been very satisfactory as regards rainfall all over the island. There had been practically no torrential rains anywhere, but a number of showers day after day of sufficient magnitude to do the crops a great deal of good; and those places which had been the most affected by the drought had begun to show marked signs of recovery.

"We have just had a visit," he continues, "from Dr. A. E. McIntosh, the Geneticist of the British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station in Barbados. He visited a number of the sugar estates, and met the directors of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association when several interesting points were discussed.

"The executive committee of the Jamaican Association of Sugar Technologists is making arrangements for their Fourth Annual Conference, which is to be held on December 7th at the Jamaica School of Agriculture (formerly called the Hope Farm School) by kind permission of the Director of Agriculture. This is another reminder of how time flies, for it seems only the other day that the Technologists' Association was formed, and yet it is four years. During that time Mr. A. C. Barnes has been its president and Mr. L. B. Whitaker the indefatigable editor of the Association's Quarterly. Mr. Croucher who has been honorary secretary for the four years has unfortunately found that pressure of official duties will not allow him to carry on for a fifth.

"The Association, in a quiet and unobtrusive way, has been most useful to the industry, and its Annual Conferences had not only been successful from a technical point of view, but also as providing one time in the year at least when men from all over the island get together."

Rubber from Potatoes

In a very interesting article on synthetic rubber and its competition with the natural product (*International Review of Agriculture*, xxxi, No. 2). Mr. Conrad A. Gehlsen raises, rather unexpectedly, the question of whether the manufacture of synthetic rubber will have any influence on the cultivation of potatoes. He says that theoretically, according to a Russian report, as much rubber can be prepared from a hectare (2.47 acres) of good potato land as from the same area of a Hevea plantation, that is 500 kilos. (1102.3 lb.).

He points out that the treatment of the potatoes, and the process described, namely distillation of alcohol and its conversion with rubber, will make the manufacture very dear indeed. Nevertheless it is worthy of note that the Italian synthetic rubber plant is situated in Ferrara, an important potato growing and alcohol producing district. Synthetic rubber may yet have some influence on the agriculture of the temperate zone.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Women Legislators — Commendation of Tobago Peasantry
Bahamas Swimmers successful Tour



BAHAMAS

A Bahamas Swimming Team, which had defeated all visiting British and American navy teams, went last year to Canada in quest of Canadian and international championships. A photograph of the team, which was selected from the Shoreham Aquatic Club of Nassau, was reproduced in the CIRCULAR of August 10th, 1939. Mr. E. Dupuch has described how this year another team from the same Club made a very successful tour of the United States and Canada during which they won 37 medals, four silver cups and two gold cups, and established many new records. During the entire six weeks of competition only two meets were lost.

Since returning to Nassau the team gave a special performance at the Shoreham Hotel Pool for His Royal Highness the Governor of the Bahamas and the Duchess of Windsor, who accepted, as a personal gift, one of the international trophies won by the team.

BARBADOS

The Montefiore Fountain. For seventy-six years there stood in Beckwith Place (or Lower Green), Bridgetown, a monument bearing the inscription "For the benefit of the wayfarers. This Drinking Fountain was presented to the City of Bridgetown A.D. MDCCCLXIV." A note in the *Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, August, 1940, says the donor was Mr. John Montefiore, a wealthy Jewish merchant and owner of the Niels plantation, and that the Montefiore Fountain, as it is generally called, was given to commemorate not only the long connexion of his family with the Colony but also the inauguration of the Bridgetown water supply. "Although equipped with the necessary fittings for use as a drinking fountain almost a lifetime has elapsed since the Water-works Authorities cut off the supply and locked the iron gates." The monument has now been removed and re-erected facing the Carnegie Library and the hope is expressed that it may once more fulfil its intended purpose to afford drinking water to wayfarers and thirsty animals.

JAMAICA

The United States Naval Mission, as we mention elsewhere in this issue, arrived in Jamaica on October 4th, to confer with the local Government in connexion with the leasing of naval and air bases in the British West Indies (including Jamaica) by the United States Government.

Bishop Sara, formerly Assistant Bishop of Jamaica, has been appointed Assistant Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gamble, widow of Mr. R. S. Gamble, a former President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and member of the West India Committee, died at her residence, Hollywood, in St. Andrew, on October 4th. Mrs. Gamble had been active in social work in Jamaica

for many years and was known throughout the island and to many friends at home as "Mother Gamble."

Deputy Mayor E. A. Rae resigned from the Council of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation on September 30th.

"**The Young Jamaican**," the first children's newspaper to be published in Jamaica, made its first appearance on September 30th. It is published by the *Gleaner*.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Women Members of Legislative Councils. It was announced in the Antigua Broadcast programme of October 20th that the following persons had been nominated as un-official members of the three Legislative Councils of Presidencies of the Colony:—

Antigua: Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin, Mr. R. H. Lockhart, Mrs. H. E. M. McDonald.

St. Kitts-Nevis: Mr. G. P. Boon, Mr. A. L. Evelyn, Mr. W. Walwyn.

Montserrat: Mr. A. W. Griffin, Mrs. F. M. Howes.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trial of Young Teak for Paper. In order to ascertain whether the young thinnings of the Trinidad teak plantations could be used as a source of paper pulp, the Conservator of Forests sent billets, of three and four year old trees, to the Imperial Institute. The results of the investigation, reported in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, July-September, 1940, show that whilst young teak wood contains a high percentage of cellulose it is a short fibred material from the paper-making point of view. Such materials give weak types of paper and are only capable of being used for filter purposes in the manufacture of printing and writing papers. In addition difficulty was experienced in producing an easy-bleaching pulp.

"**You Must Farm.**" Mr. A. J. Wakefield, Inspector General of Agriculture for the West Indies, in the course of an address to the District Agricultural Society at Bajos, Trinidad, said: "He did not want to hear of planting this or that crop. He wanted to hear about farming. Have your cocoa and your cane, but you must have catch crops as well. You must farm." He subsequently attended the Annual Exhibition of the Tobago District Agricultural Society when it was opened by the Governor. On his return he informed a representative of the *Trinidad Guardian* that Tobago was a good stock country and that from the care the peasant exhibitors took of their animals it was obvious that they had in them the making of good farmers. Agricultural Shows and the Young Farmers' Clubs, which are being so keenly supported in Tobago, could do so much, he said, towards the development of a sound system of mixed farming.

Company Reports and Meetings

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd.

MR. KENNETH A. E. MOORE, chairman, moving the adoption of the report and accounts at the annual meeting, held at Sunningdale, Berks, on October 30th, said that the profit before provision for taxation amounted to £350,677 or roughly double that for the preceding year.

This somewhat startling increase was not, as might perhaps be thought, due to a violent increase in prices but rather to a number of factors, of which the price was only one, and to the fact that they were reaping the benefit of the increased labours of the last few years, made possible by the additional share capital raised early in 1937.

"This brings me," he continued, "to the subject of taxation—and particularly our liability for Excess Profits Tax. You will have observed that we have transferred to taxation reserve out of the year's profits no less a sum than £200,000. Excess Profits Tax was at the rate of 60 per cent. for the first eight months of the past financial year and 100 per cent. for the last four months, the effective rate thus being 73½ per cent. for the year. For the current year it will, of course, be 100 per cent.

"So long as Excess Profits Tax remains at 100 per cent. its incidence is of such paramount importance to shareholders that I feel they are entitled to the fullest explanation of the company's position that I can give them at the present time."

After dealing at length with the subject of taxation in relation to the company, Mr. Moore said: "During the past and recent years large sums have been spent on capital account in connexion with the development of the company's properties, and, if I may say so, spent to very good purpose. But with taxation at its present level it is no longer possible to finance such expenditure out of profits, and it is largely for this reason that your directors have come to the conclusion that the capital resources of the company must now be increased.

"As you will have seen from the report, we propose to seek the authority of the shareholders for an increase of £200,000 in the authorized share capital of the company in the form of 200,000 six per cent. redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each. The consent of the Treasury has been obtained to this proposed issue and an extraordinary general meeting is to be held at an early date to deal with the matter, and it is our intention to offer the new shares to our shareholders at par in proportion to their existing share holdings.

"Management, staff and shareholders," said the chairman in conclusion, "may justifiably derive solid satisfaction from the fact that the company is making an important contribution to the oil supplies of the Empire so vitally necessary for the prosecution of the war. In addition, shareholders, though they may feel that the company is unfortunately placed with regard to taxation, can at least derive some consolation from the fact that money as well as oil is necessary to win the war, and they are supplying both in no small measure."

The West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd.

In the absence of Sir Leonard Lyle, the chairman, Mr. A. Palache presided at the annual meeting, held in London on October 31st. Sir Leonard, in an address which was circulated to shareholders, stated that the period under review (the nine months ended June 30th) had marked the completion of most of the projects initiated since the start of the company's operations. In undertaking that difficult work of reconstruction the board adopted two main lines of policy: To produce sugar with the highest possible efficiency; to improve the conditions of their employees.

In regard to the first, they might consider themselves fortunate in having secured the necessaries to greater efficiency before the outbreak of war, and this, in particular, applied to the erection of their modern central factory at Frome. In regard to the second, they had devoted considerable sums to welfare work, and, despite meagre returns, the company had done its utmost in the interests of its labourers in Jamaica. They would continue to do all within their power to further that work, and he need hardly stress the importance which they attached to such improved conditions.

The output of sugar in the British West Indian Colonies had been seriously affected by abnormal weather conditions. In some the effects were little short of disastrous. Fortunately, their output was not so seriously reduced, being 4,360 tons below last year.

All of their sugar available for export had been sold to the British Government, and had been shipped, either to this country, or to Canada.

"One of the most outstanding events of the year," continued Sir Leonard, "was the publication of the Recommendations of the West India Royal Commission. It is satisfactory to note from these recommendations that the claims of Jamaica received special consideration. The necessity for increased production of sugar was acknowledged. The advisability of revising the basis of allocating Special Preference Certificates also, I am glad to say, received the Commissioners' attention. They advocated that Special Preference Certificates should attach to one-half of the sugar exported from each Colony and fluctuate in value for movements upwards or downwards from a pivotal price. I have long held the view that allocation of a fixed number of certificates annually to each Colony irrespective of output was unfair and unreasonable. For the duration of war, it is obvious that the pivotal price recommended by the Commissioners could not apply, but I cannot see that this affects the principle of fairer distribution so as to give colonial sugar producers an equal interest in this Special Preference per ton sugar exported. Jamaica is heavily penalised by the present fixed arrangement."

After referring to the appointment of Sir Frank Stockdale and his team of experts, to whom he wished every success and promised the fullest co-operation of the company, Sir Leonard concluded: "Increased acreage of estates' and farmers' canes should ensure a higher

output for 1941 crop and onwards. It must be remembered that the development of cane lands is a long and laborious process with results not accruing until sometimes several years after initiation of development. With modern field equipment we have made more rapid progress than is normally experienced. Increased output of 'sterling sugar' is one of many valuable contributions by the Colonies to the war effort. I feel confident of the future of colonial sugar because I cannot think that agriculture in the Colonies will ever again be permitted to sink into the abyss of economic distress."

West Indies at Westminster

Importation of Fertilisers

On October 24th Sir Leonard Lyle asked whether the present prohibition on the importation of Canadian and American fertilisers into Jamaica could be removed, in view of the fact that they were essential to the production of sugar and that it was not possible to obtain supplies in the United Kingdom. Mr. George Hall, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied that this question had been considered in consultation with the Governors of the Colonies concerned, and, having regard to the actual supply position in the Colonies and the paramount necessity for conserving dollar resources, it had not been found possible to authorise the immediate expenditure of dollars on such fertilisers. The position would, however, be reviewed at a later date.

Mr. Bustamante's Detention

MR. DAVID ADAMS asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on November 6th, the grounds upon which the native leader in Jamaica, Bustamante, had been interned by the Governor; the place and proposed duration of internment; and when it was intended to bring the prisoner to trial.

In reply, MR. GEORGE HALL said that the detention of Bustamante was ordered on September 8th because of his inflammatory utterances culminating, in spite of a personal warning from the Governor, in a speech inciting to bloodshed, racial war and revolution. He was detained in the same compound of the internment camp in Jamaica as other non-enemy internees who had been detained for security reasons, and received the same treatment; and he would be detained for as long as was necessary in the interests of public security. Detention had been ordered by the Governor under the Defence Regulations, and he would not therefore be brought to trial. He had not made objection under the Regulations to his detention.

(Continued from next column)

bright No. 3; 57/6 to 62/6 for small mixed to medium bright No. 2; 65/- to 70/- for medium No. 1; and 90/- for bright bold plump No. 1 in barrels. Buyers of **Nutmegs** have been showing more interest and business has been done in West Indian descriptions at 6d. per lb. c.i.f. London for prompt shipment. Sound 80's have been sold at 10d. c.i.f. while there are buyers of sound unassorted at 7d. on the usual contract terms. There are practically no stocks of West Indian **Mace** on the spot and as buyers are showing more interest for shipment, prices tend to become dearer. Some sales have been made at about 2/- c.i.f. for prompt shipment for the usual well known types.

Round the Markets

November 12th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.

	Oct. 28th.	Nov. 11th.	\$ value
Canada	4.45	4.45	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	4/11.6
Buenos Aires (paper pesos)	17.02	17.01	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Consols (yield £3 6s. 0d. per cent.)	75½
3½	War Loan	101½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1 ½
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	34/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	32/6
10	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	2½
6	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	1 ½
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	6d.
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	17/6
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	1/6
8	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	2/3
15	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	43d.
5	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1/-
7	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	30
15	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	1½
15	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	12/6
7½	Trinidad Leaseholds	5/6
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	3d.
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	3½
	United British Oilfields 8/8	2½
		4/6
		6/9
		7/9

COCOA. Some small sales of fine Grenada have been reported during the fortnight at 55/- to 56/- spot. No further business has been done in Trinidad on the spot and prices are unchanged at 65/- for good plantation and 70/- for fine estates; "to arrive" is quoted at 51/- to 52/- c. & f. The controlled price of West African is unchanged at 35/- for good fermented.

BALATA is nominally unchanged at 2/7 per lb. for block and 2/8 for sheet with no business reported.

BANANAS. There is a steady all-round demand for Jamaicas which are unchanged, to wholesalers, at £30 5s. per ton delivered London and £30, nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. First-hand stocks in the United Kingdom have been reduced to a minimum and with demand exceeding supply prices of old crop Jamaica have continued firm at 90/- to 95/- per cwt. for dark liquid to pale amber, and 100/- to 105/- for pale to white. The Ministry of Food Order fixing maximum prices was published in last CIRCULAR.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. The price of Hand-pressed is unchanged at 45/- per lb. and supplies are scarce. Distilled continues to be quoted at 27/6 per lb. and only a small interest is shown in forward shipment. **Lime Juice.** There is no inquiry for Concentrated and Raw is unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet continues to be quoted nominally at 6/- per lb. and Bitter at 10/- per lb. nominal.

SPICES. There has been a sharp improvement in prices of **Pimento** as a result of consuming demand and practically no stocks are available. Business in "to arrive" has been done at 110/- c.i.f. London for prompt shipment while some secondhand parcels on the spot have been sold at 1/- and up to 1/1½d. ex wharf. **Jamaica Ginger** is now quoted at 52/6 to 55/- for small mixed to

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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CONTENTS

LEADING ARTICLES—	PAGE	PAGE	PAGE
THE HERITAGE OF FREE MEN	283	BRITISH HONDURAS IN 1939	288
TRINIDAD COCOA INDUSTRY	283	NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	289
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	284	COCOA INDUSTRY OF TRINIDAD	290
AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES	285	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	291
THE BANANA SITUATION	285	MORAVIAN COLLEGE, ANTIQUA	291
PALESTINE CITRUS INDUSTRY	286	PUBLIC HEALTH IN MONTSERRAT	291
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE	286	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	292
WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS, 1941	286	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETING	293
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	287	THE NEW COCOA BOARD	294
RECRUITS FOR THE R.A.F.	297	LECTURES IN BRISTOL	294
		ROUND THE MARKETS	294

The Heritage of Free Men

IN his speech on the occasion of the prorogation of Parliament on November 20th, HIS MAJESTY referred to the gratification with which he had learnt of the decision of the Government of the United States to transfer fifty destroyers to the Royal Navy and concluded with the words: "I trust that the grant to that Government of defence facilities in certain territories on the Atlantic Seaboard may equally serve to defend the heritage of free men."

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies had, on the same date, also paid a tribute to the way in which the Colonies had heartily welcomed the proposals and were doing everything in their power to facilitate the making of the necessary arrangements and to enable real progress to be made. These tributes testify in a striking manner to the extent to which this latest form of co-operation by the Colonies with the Mother Country in the war effort is understood and appreciated by her. It is recognised that only by constructive help on the spot, has it been possible for the United States Board of Inspection to arrive at decisions as to suitable sites for the naval and air bases in the Colonies (detailed elsewhere in this issue) with such ease and despatch.

Many British West Indians have expressed the wish that the Colonies might be enabled to contribute more in man-power and in other ways, in the fight now being waged against the powers of barbarism and tyranny. Their contribution in man-power is by no means an insignificant one, and their economic contribution is very considerable. Any such misgivings that may still persist should now be set at rest forever in the consciousness that, by contributing so vitally both to the cementing of Anglo-American friendship and to the defence of the British Empire, the British West Indies are indeed playing a noble part in the defence of "the heritage of free men."

Trinidad Cocoa Industry

ELSEWHERE in this issue of the CIRCULAR we present a brief summary of the report of the Committee appointed to consider what was necessary to secure the future welfare of the cocoa industry of Trinidad and Tobago. During recent years the industry, for long the most important in the Colony, has been in a depressed condition and serious misgivings have been aroused as to whether recovery was possible. The key-note of the Committee's full and valuable report is that what is required is the

adoption of a long range policy with a view to the replacement of the present low yielding trees by high yielding trees of good quality and the substitution of other crops on lands unsuitable for cocoa.

Those who have followed the efforts made in the Colony to increase the yield of cocoa may remember that just thirty years ago the Department of Agriculture instituted a series of manurial experiments at its River Estate. The results obtained did not throw much light on the problem of whether better crops could be obtained by manuring. They led to something of much greater importance. They revealed that cocoa trees were apparently naturally high, medium or low bearers. Although this is now known to be true of other crop trees it was not so then and some years had to be devoted to testing the accuracy of this deduction. During this period records were kept of the number of pods borne annually by some 14,000 trees at River Estate, which confirmed the conclusion previously reached and also showed that cultural and manurial treatment effected no fundamental change in these characteristics. Other investigations proved that the proportion of very poor bearers on Trinidad estates usually ranged between twenty and fifty per cent.

Tests were next initiated to ascertain whether heavy bearing was an hereditary character. With the cocoa tree quick results cannot be obtained as with annuals such as cotton. In 1929, however, the Director of Agriculture summarised, in a paper published in *Tropical Agriculture*, the outcome of approximately twenty years work on cocoa at River Estate having as its main objective increased production per acre; it had been proved that there was naturally good and bad bearers; that there were large numbers of bad bearers on all estates; that heavy bearers could be selected which transmitted this characteristic to their progeny and could be used for new plantings, or the replacement of poor bearers, with profitable results.

In the following year the Cocoa Research Scheme was inaugurated at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. The more comprehensive research work since carried out, together with the economic surveys of the industry, have added much valuable information and afforded means of effecting, with greater certainty, the replacement of the poor bearers which have for so long barred the way to the economic prosperity of the cocoa industry of the Colony. We trust that the Committee's recommendations can be carried out so that, as SIR FRANK STOCKDALE says in the memorandum accompanying their report, the Colony may have a sound industry yielding satisfactory returns.

From a Londoner's Notebook

SOME organs of the American Press, which perhaps sees the cataclysm of Europe more clearly than we who are in the midst of it, have suggested that the events of November, 1940, may prove to have been the turning point of the war. There is something to be said for that view—it is even possible that Hitler shares it.

Certainly, on the eve of the Presidential election at the beginning of the month, he seemed to be immersed in a great diplomatic campaign, with a view to influencing the result. On the one hand, the tripartite agreement of Germany, Italy, and Japan—briefly described by one ironist as the *Plunderbund*—offered the United States what might be left over after the three dominant races had taken what they wanted of the earth. On the other, Hitler hoped to mobilize all the quislings of Europe behind the so-called "New Order," with a view to showing the United States that the issue was settled, and it was too late to intervene in a continent about to settle down contentedly to the new era.

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Unfortunately for Hitler, Americans refused to be intimidated by the *Plunderbund*, and the all-quisling front did not turn out very solid. The smashing defeats of the *Luftwaffe* over Great Britain in August and September, and the failure either to invade our islands or, in the night raids, to bomb us into submission, had their effect on the morale of the Continent. Senor Suner travelled to Berlin, but General Franco showed no eagerness to invite German troops into Spain. Marshal Pétain, helpless to resist his conqueror, nevertheless omitted to stand forth as an active champion of the New Order. More French garrisons in Africa went over to General de Gaulle; in Morocco, General Weygand seemed lukewarm in the cause of Vichy. In an apparent excess of fury with France, Hitler ordered the expulsion of 150,000 Frenchmen from Lorraine; but that disturbed the Nazi loyalty even of the docile Laval, and a compromise had to be arranged. Things were going so badly on the west that Hitler was constrained to turn in the other direction. M. Molotoff was invited to Berlin.

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It was at that point that the misfortune of the junior partner in the Axis must have been a thorn in Hitler's flesh. The American election had gone the wrong way; it was vitally important to impress the Soviet with the invincibility of the two dictators. But M. Molotoff's visit coincided—not entirely by coincidence—with the R.A.F.'S most violent assault upon Berlin; and close on its heels came the news of the smashing of Mussolini's battle fleet by the Fleet Air Arm in Taranto harbour.

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That brilliant exploit is of supreme importance from at least three points of view. First, of course, it transforms the strategic situation at sea. By the victory of Taranto we recover numerical superiority in the Mediterranean for many months to come, and our fleets all round the globe will benefit from the relaxation of tension at one point of their endless chain.

Secondly, the battle of Taranto has satisfied the large body of feeling in Great Britain that was becoming impatient for some sign of the offensive spirit in our strategy. Italy, the obvious weak point in the Axis, has been struck hard, and will certainly be struck again.

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The third valuable result is the blow to Axis prestige, which reacts upon the diplomacy of many countries. M. Molotoff went home in silence; but it seems unlikely that he committed himself very deeply to the side of his German hosts. Since his return to Moscow, Mussolini's stock has sunk a great deal lower, owing to the wretched showing of his troops in the invasion of Greece. That small nation has won the applause of all that is left of freedom in the world by the valour of its defence and counter-attack, in which the R.A.F. has given outstanding help. As I write, the Italians are in something approaching headlong flight from Koritza; and it seems that Mussolini is faced with the choice of two alternatives, both disastrous to his prestige. One is to acknowledge defeat and withdraw from the greater part of Albania.

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The other is to appeal to Hitler for rescue. This would be a startling confession of failure; but it looks likely that the appeal will be made, and that the danger to Axis strategy of a major Italian defeat will compel Hitler to come to his partner's help. If that happens, we shall be confronted with a new and exacting situation in the Balkans, which cannot be taken by any means lightly. The whole Balkan situation is most complicated; but the balance, since the poor fighting quality of Fascism has been revealed, has been swinging in the right direction.

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At home the bombing of London by night continues, but the main fury of the attack has been shifted, perhaps only temporarily, to the Midlands. The terrible experience of Coventry has been described all over the world; what is important to emphasize is that the outrage was sheer terrorism. The central part of the town has been shockingly devastated, with great loss of civilian life; but though Coventry is one of the principal centres of war industry, the damage to factories was quite slight, in comparison with the weight of the attack.

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This kind of thing, tragic as are its results to individuals, is not a major threat to our war prospects; we are already hitting the enemy's production harder than he is hitting ours, and our air strength is increasing much faster than his. A much graver danger is the renewed attack on our shipping, which is heavily reinforced by a sort of air blockade off the coasts of Ireland. Mr. de Valera has refused to allow us the use of the ports of Eire, under any of the fictions and compromises that have been suggested to save his face. For the moment, complete deadlock has been reached, although it is obvious that the economic existence of Ireland depends on the success of the Royal Navy in defeating the German submarine campaign.

America and the West Indies

Selected Sites for Naval and Air Bases

IN our last issue we mentioned that whilst full particulars were not yet available it was clear that substantial progress had already been made in the task of selecting sites for the bases in the West Indies which are to be leased to the United States. On November 18th it was officially announced that agreement had been reached on certain sites in Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia and British Guiana. This rapid progress has been made possible by the visit to each Colony in turn of a United States Board of Inspection under Rear-Admiral J. W. Green-slade of the United States Navy. The Board has held discussions with the Governors of the various Colonies, who throughout the proceedings have had available the advice of the British Commander-in-Chief of the America and West Indies station or of members of his staff. The Board also visited Trinidad where, however, the position is still under examination. The following are brief particulars of the various sites agreed upon:—

BAHAMAS.

The use of the waters of Abraham Bay and a small area of land adjacent thereto on Mayaguana Island.

BERMUDA.

(a) For a land-plane base—Long Bird Island enlarged by dredged fill to accommodate main runway along its major axis and two cross runways nearly on the end; plus certain of the land north and east of Rofe's Bay and south of the main road leading to Stokes Point.

(b) For a seaplane base, Naval base and Garrison area—that part of St. David's Island from Stoke's Point to Riggs Bay plus the portion lying south and west of the road leading to Ruth's Bay and including Ruth's Point and Promontory and in addition certain small islands lying close off the southern shore of St. David's Island.

(c) The small islands between St. David's and Hamilton Island along the Eastern entrance of Castle Harbour.

(d) The right to substitute a draw-bridge (for relocated highway and railway) between St. George's Island and Coney Island to render this entrance of Castle Harbour usable for vessels and seaplanes and including such alterations to south-west causeway to Long Bird Island as may be necessary. Also the right to do other dredging and filling in Castle Harbour as may be required.

In addition to the above, the United States have asked for the use of one or more Islands in the Great Sound. This proposal is now under discussion.

JAMAICA.

(a) A fleet anchorage at Portland Bight.

(b) A land area which will include Goat Island and adjacent bays approximately 33 square miles in area in and east of Galleon Harbour.

(c) An area on Portland Bight and Portland Island for the location of defence batteries.

(d) A site of approximately 100 acres near Williams-field Station for recreation, hospital and mess,

(e) An area of about 1 square mile about 5 miles south of May Penn along Bakers Canal for use as an emergency and auxiliary landing ground.

(f) The right to develop the resources and facilities of Port Royal Dockyard under British control for joint use by British and United States forces.

(g) The right, under British control, of common use by United States military aircraft of the airfield at Palisadoes, within the limits of accommodation.

ANTIGUA.

(a) An area on Parham Sound, opposite Long Island, beginning about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles north of Parham Harbour and measuring about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles by 1 mile.

(b) The narrow peninsula known as Crabbs, on the east side of Parham Harbour, measuring about 1 mile long and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide.

ST. LUCIA.

A sea-plane base at Gros Islet Bay of approximately 120 acres. The question of further facilities in St. Lucia is under consideration.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(a) An aerodrome on bank of Demerara River 25 miles up, with emergency patrol plane facilities.

(b) A sea-plane base near Suddie on the west bank of the Essequibo River mouth.

Questions of administration and jurisdiction in the leased areas, including reciprocity of use of British and American facilities, will naturally present many problems which will be considered later by British and American experts in discussions which His Majesty's Government has proposed to the United States should take place in London. The Government of Bermuda has been invited to send representatives to take part in these discussions as they affect Bermuda. The question whether representatives of the other territories should be invited is receiving consideration. The fact that there are many outstanding problems for discussion does not, however, mean that work on the agreed sites will be held up pending the outcome of the discussions. On the contrary, it is likely that in most, if not all, of the Colonies (other than Trinidad where, as has been explained above, the position is still under examination) preliminary work will be started in the near future.

The Banana Situation

As we go to press it is learnt from official sources that no further import licences for bananas are to be granted by the Ministry of Food for a period of two months and that the Government will not itself import them. Stocks and incoming supplies are expected to last until December 24th.

It is understood that this decision has been reached in view of the present shipping situation. A guarantee had previously been given by H.M. Government to ensure that Jamaica producers would receive a minimum of three shillings per count bunch irrespective of shipment.

Palestine Citrus Industry

Difficulties of the 1939-40 Season

THE citrus industry of Palestine is passing through difficult times. A report on the 1939-40 season, prepared by the Horticultural Service of the Department of Agriculture and published in the *Palestine Agricultural Bulletin* for July, which has recently been received, says that as a result of depressed economic conditions, with decreasing exports and relatively poor returns, and of disturbed conditions in the country, practically no further plantings were undertaken during the year. In addition, the cultivation of a fairly large area was partially or wholly neglected. Many growers of grapefruit continued to top-work their trees to other varieties, principally to Valencia oranges.

An early estimate of the crop was 16 million cases. This was subsequently reduced, first to 14 million and later to 12 million. The causes, all of which probably contributed to this reduction were: after effects of the very heavy crop of 1938-39; severe weather conditions in the early summer; insufficient cultivation and irrigation for financial and security reasons; infestation of many groves with scale (*Pseudo-coccus sp.*).

Following the outbreak of war, many markets were either closed or restricted, and shipping facilities were limited. The actual exports are given below, with those of the previous season and of 1935-36 for comparison.

	1935-36	1938-39	1939-40
	Cases	Cases	Cases
Oranges ...	4,997,302	13,055,400	6,448,608
Grapefruit ...	850,120	2,066,833	987,528
Lemons ...	46,915	142,243	154,329
Other Citrus ...	2,973	45,960	5,181
Totals	5,897,310	15,310,436	7,595,646

Incidentally it is estimated that some 7,400 tons of oranges, 1,300 tons of grapefruit, 180 tons of bitter oranges, and 150 tons of lemons were utilised by the various by-products factories. Freight rates to the United Kingdom, which took 68 per cent. of the exports, rose immediately on the outbreak of war. In 1938-39 they had been, per case, around 1s. 3d. for ordinary stowage and 2s. 6d. to 3s. for refrigerated stowage. By early in 1940 they had increased to 4s. 6d. for ordinary and 6s. 9d. for refrigerated stowage. To maintain the export programme in the middle of the season a fairly large proportion of slow and otherwise unsuitable tonnage had to be used which resulted in some instances in heavy losses on account of wastage.

Grapefruit prices in the United Kingdom commenced about 15s. to 17s. per case in October, and after being around 10s. to 12s. for most of the season advanced for later shipments to around 16s. to 20s. Orange prices ranged around 12s. to 14s. early in the season, then fell a little, but after February increased steadily to 16s. to 20s., and even to 25s. Prices for lemons were in general unprofitable. The conclusion reached is that with the market prices ranging as above, the variable condition on arrival and often high repacking charges, it seems probable, considering also the reduced exports per acre, that the average returns barely covered the seasonal expenses incurred by growers for production of the crop.

The West India Committee

THE chairman of the West India Committee, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, presided over a meeting of the Executive held on November 21st. There were also present: Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Sir Alfred Sherlock, Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. Mark Moody-Stuart, Admiral Sir Alan Hotham, Mr. H. A. Walker, Mr. E. J. King, secretary, Mr. T. Souness, assistant secretary, and Mr. Hugh Paget, secretariat.

The following candidate was elected to membership of the Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. ARTHUR EDWIN MURRAY (Jamaica)	The Hon. Harold V. Alexander. (Mr. Herbert G. de Lisser, C.M.G.)

Consideration was given to points arising from the war services side of the Committee's work and to various questions affecting sugar and other products.

Measures necessary to ensure the continuance, with unimpaired efficiency, of the trade and other activities of the Committee under war conditions were discussed.

Sir Alfred Sherlock, chairman of the Rum Propaganda Committee, informed the meeting of the progress of the present publicity campaign which was the largest and most intense yet undertaken by that Committee. There was an unparalleled opportunity this year for publicity, though shortage of supplies due to shipping and other difficulties might tend to postpone until next year the full reward to producers.

Thanks were expressed to the Committee's auditors, Messrs. Price Waterhouse & Co., for having audited, without fee, the books of their War Services Fund and to the Directorate of the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery for the gift to the Committee's Library of a copy of the Guide to the "Georgian House" in Bristol, formerly the home of the West Indian family of Pinney.

West Indian Sugar Exports, 1941

The following statement of the estimated exports of sugar, from January 1st to August 31st, 1941, summarises information received by the West India Committee to the beginning of November:—

Estimated Exports, January 1st to August 31st, 1941			
	tons		tons
Barbados ...	83,000	British Guiana ...	106,254
Jamaica ...	128,360	British Honduras ...	300
Trinidad ...	105,500		
Leeward Islands ...	61,000	Total ...	493,817
Windward Islands ...	9,403		

An additional 27,000 tons will, it is estimated, be exported from Barbados during the same period in the form of fancy molasses.

Exports of sugar from British Guiana for the period September to December inclusive, 1940, are estimated at 85,946 tons.

LADY DAVSON, chairman of the Ladies War Services Committee of the West India Committee, has been invited by the B.B.C. to broadcast in the Empire Programme, on the magnificent work done by every community in the West Indies.

The West Indies and The War

ANTIGUA

£2,000 for Scrap Iron. Antigua's sales of scrap iron to Canada, stated the Governor of the Leeward Islands recently, are calculated to bring in £2,000 as an immediate contribution to the Imperial Government's war expenses.

BAHAMAS

The War Committee has sent a further gift of £1,000 to the Home Government (making a total of £21,000) for the purchase of fighter planes.

BARBADOS

A further £3,000 has been received by the Government from the Committee of the "Win the War" Fund, bringing their contributions to date to £30,000. Both branches of the Legislature have unanimously decided to lend the Government free of interest £10,000 from the reserve in the Barbados Government Savings Bank, according to the Bridgetown correspondent of *The Times*.

BERMUDA

Help for Coventry. The Governor of Bermuda has just received from a resident, Mrs. E. Arkwright, a cheque for £100 to be devoted to the relief of Coventry.

JAMAICA

The Jamaica Squadron of 12 planes has now been completely subscribed for by the Jamaica Bombing Planes Fund.

Lord Beaverbrook sent the following cable to *The Daily Gleaner* on receipt of the final sum of £10,000, completing the requisite total:—

How great must be your pride in achieving the splendid goal which Jamaica set herself. How satisfying that as result of a sustained and inspiring enterprise of generosity your island will now have her own squadron of aircraft, her own sector of the battle line held by the machines you have given us. Manned by daring pilots the exploits of that squadron will renew your pride. The name of Jamaica will be carried into the thickest of the fight and on the day of victory its share in the glory is sure. Will you please thank all those who have made possible this wonderful series of gifts. Theirs is a sacrifice and devotion which will never be forgotten in the Empire story.

MONTSERRAT

A gift of £60 from the people of Montserrat has been received by the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund. The total of the fund now exceeds £1,530,000.

ST. LUCIA

Scrap Iron, collected from all accessible parts of the Colony by the Scrap Metal Committee (see the CIRCULAR of October 3rd), was recently shipped from Castries to the United Kingdom. A photograph of a steamer loading this gift was published in *The Times* of November 19th.

The Governor of the Windward Islands has been asked by Lord Lloyd to convey to the people of St. Lucia, the thanks of the Lords Commissioners of the

Admiralty and himself for the generous gifts to His Majesty's ships and minesweepers.

A Gift of £400 has been sent by the people of the Colony to the Red Cross Fund.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Work of The Fighter Fund Committee. In a letter, dated October 15th, Mr. G. W. Rochford, Acting President of the Fighter Fund Committee, said that the response to the Committee's appeal had been extremely gratifying. Donations had come from all classes; from the merchant houses down to the lowest paid agricultural labourer, and the response could only be interpreted as representing the anxiety of the entire community to help the United Kingdom in its heroic stand against Nazi aggression.

Mr. Rochford added that he would like to emphasise the fact that the *Trinidad Guardian* had given the Committee the closest possible co-operation, not only as regards publicity, but in many other ways, and that the Committee was greatly obliged for their help. The *Port-of-Spain Gazette* had also co-operated very willingly. Neither paper had made any charge for the large amount of space occupied daily. The aim of the Committee was to provide the British Government with a full squadron of fighter planes.

The Governor and the Win-the-War Association. Addressing a meeting held at Roxborough, Tobago, on October 7th, Sir Hubert Young said he welcomed the opportunity of supporting the Association of which his wife and himself were patrons. The best thing they all could do was to set aside monthly what they could afford and hand it to the Association. At the moment all contributions to the Central Fund, not earmarked for any other purpose, would be paid to the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Relief Fund.

Lord Lloyd has sent a message to the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago congratulating the people of the Colony on the splendid success of their effort on behalf of the Red Cross and St. John War Fund. The Colony's total contribution to this fund now exceeds £34,000.

Recruits for the R.A.F.

Arrangements have been made for the establishment in the various West Indian Colonies, as well as in Bermuda, British Guiana and British Honduras, of local selection and medical boards to select candidates for recruitment for service in the R.A.F. as pilots, observers, wireless operators and air gunners. The names of candidates selected by these boards are communicated to the Air Ministry and, subject to their agreement, the candidates are provided with passages either to the United Kingdom or to some other suitable centre overseas for training.

The number of candidates so far selected is encouraging and indicates a keenness on the part of the young men in the West Indies to join the R.A.F.

British Honduras in 1939

Review of Economic Conditions

IN sharp contrast to all the other British Colonies in the Caribbean area, British Honduras still depends, as it has done for centuries, on the export of forest produce for its livelihood. As the Hon. R. E. Turnbull, the Colonial Secretary, writes in the *Empire Review* for November, all but a handful of the population are working peasants or woodmen whose exiguous earnings at the best of times leave little if any margin for saving or extravagances. The *Annual Report* for 1939 of Mr. Neil S. Stevenson, the Conservator of Forests, shows that 8,150 square miles, 91.8 per cent of the total area of the Colony, still remain under forest and that forest produce amounted to 78.58 per cent. by value of all exports.

FORESTRY

The aims of current forest policy as set out by Mr. Stevenson are briefly (a) the development of the forest estate by the maintenance of the chief exports, mahogany and chicle, and the encouragement of less wasteful exploitation methods; the improvement and concentration of mahogany stocks in accessible areas and the utilisation of timber and minor products not used at present (b) safeguarding the land from erosion and the climate from deterioration and (c) in co-operation with the Agricultural Department, the fullest utilization of the land.

Since 1931 the Department has been interested in the prevention of shifting cultivation and in October, 1939, as a war measure, the Assistant Conservator and the Senior Ranger were seconded for agricultural work, primarily in the encouragement of permanent as opposed to shifting cultivation, for the production of food.

The European crisis of September, 1938, seriously affected the mahogany log market and United States contracts for 1939 were much reduced. Curtailment of shipments after the outbreak of war also reduced the exports of mahogany and cedar lumber. Of the minor forest products, chicle, one of the principal ingredients of chewing gum, is the most important. Unfortunately destructive tapping practices are common with the result that large numbers of dead and dying or badly injured trees are to be found in the forests. Efforts are being made in the Fresh Water Creek Reserve to produce, by tuition and strict control, a nucleus of "chicleros" who will not rely for their livelihood on these destructive practices. The exports of cohune nuts increased during the year, as also did those of alligator skins, an unusual "forest product." Mr. Stevenson mentions that opportunities for local enterprise exist in the replacement of imported lumber, wooden furniture, citrus crates and matches by locally produced articles.

AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture is principally concerned with the development of a few export crops and of local food supplies. The report of Mr. F. J. Ward,

the Agricultural Officer, on the work of the department in 1939 indicates that the task is not an easy one. The shipments of bananas, which in 1937 had reached nearly one million bunches, fell to a little over 500,000. The increasing damage caused, particularly on unsuitable soils, by *Cercospora* leaf disease and two successive dry seasons reduced yields and also led to a large proportion of fruit offered for shipment being rejected. The continued drop in the price of coco-nuts and copra depressed the export trade but the prospects of growers have been improved by the establishment of several soap factories at Belize.

Early in the year, when a record crop was expected, the British Honduras Citrus Association chartered ships to establish direct transport to the United Kingdom. The outbreak of war however completely dislocated these arrangements, and in place of 80,000 cases only 41,662 were actually shipped. The Empire Starch Products Factory started work late in the year but owing to delays only 75 tons of cassava starch were manufactured. Mr. Ward is of the opinion that cassava in British Honduras is most suitable for a peasant crop and that success will depend on a sufficient number of peasant farmers having a surplus over their food requirements. The Corozal sugar factory made 1,360 tons with an average return of one ton of sugar from only 8.63 of cane due to factory improvements and earlier ripening of the canes.

As regards food crops the most encouraging feature is the greatly increased output of padi. This is attributed to three causes; growers are realising that the Government is fulfilling its offer to pay a guaranteed minimum price; decline of the banana industry is leading to a search for other crops; and the very favourable season. The crops of maize, ground provisions, pulses and other vegetables were disappointing in many areas due to irregular and deficient rains.

Red Cross and St. John Fund

The King has been graciously pleased to permit the War Organisation of the British Red Cross and St. John to use St. James's Palace from which to conduct the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Appeal.

On November 5th, the Lord Mayor presided at the Mansion House at the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Red Cross and St. John Fund to be held there. Explaining the reasons for the appeal being made in future under the leadership of the Duke of Gloucester, the Lord Mayor said that when the distress from air raids became acute, it was necessary to issue an appeal for funds. It was clear that two national funds could not very well be conducted from the Mansion House.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"IF you eat egg you mus' bruk de shell."

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MR. JOSEPH B. O'NEALE has been re-appointed to be an unofficial member of the Executive Council of the Virgin Islands.

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DR. F. G. WALTON SMITH has resigned his appointment as Biological Assistant to the Bahamas Sponge Fishery Investigations.

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AMONG recent first appointments to the Colonial Service is that of Mr. A. P. MacWilliam who becomes Agricultural Officer, Trinidad.

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CAPTAIN THE HON. W. J. R. Stebbings, late the Royal Scots, has been appointed Aide de Camp to the Governor of the Leeward Islands.

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AS we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death of Captain F. F. C. Messum, honorary secretary of the West Indian Club for the past twenty years.

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MR. M. BYRON COX, while acting as Registrar, Grenada, has been appointed Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands.

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MR. R. NORRIS, an Assistant Principal Clerk of the Colonial Office, has been seconded as Secretary to the Comptroller of Development and Welfare in the West Indies.

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DR. N. J. L. MARGETSON has been re-appointed by the Governor of the Leeward Islands to be an official member of the Executive Council of the Presidency of Montserrat.

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SIR FRANK STOCKDALE who, as mentioned in our last issue, arrived in Antigua on October 18th, was expected to spend the whole of November making inquiries into Leeward Islands affairs.

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RESIDENTS in the island of Aruba have sent a further £246 to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross Fund, bringing their contributions to £1,542. The total of the Fund now exceeds £3,500,000.

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MR. C. A. HARNEY, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Montserrat, was among those called to the bar by the Middle Temple on the night of November 18th, which was Call Night at the four Inns of Court.

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CAPTAIN M. S. METZGEN has been appointed to be Information Officer for British Honduras in succession to Mr. F. C. P. Bowen. Captain Metzgen is the honorary correspondent of the West India Committee in the Colony.

MR. MACKENZIE KING informed the Canadian House of Commons on November 19th that Mr. Mackinnon, the Minister of Trade, would lead the Canadian Trade Mission of four members which was leaving for the West Indies at the end of that month.

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BY an Order of the Governor, issued on October 3rd, no newspaper may be published in the Leeward Islands until a copy has been submitted to and approved by the Crown Attorney, in Antigua and St. Kitts Nevis, or the Registrar in the other Presidencies.

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A UNITED STATES mission, led by Mr. Charles W. Taussing, is reported to have arrived at Barbados to investigate economic conditions in the British West Indies. Its members are interested in the experiment of settling Barbadian families at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia.

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IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. H. L. M. Tritton, a director of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas). Mr. Tritton, who paid several visits to the West Indies, was vice-chairman of the Bank from 1932-34 and chairman from 1934-37.

* * *

DR. D. G. GRANTHAM, formerly Director of the Geological Survey of British Guiana, has presented 85 lantern slides of the Colony to the Empire Lantern Slide Library recently established at the Imperial Institute for the use of school teachers and other lecturers.

* * *

THE year 1939 was a particularly healthy one in the Virgin Islands. Dr. D. P. Wailling, the Medical Officer, states in his *Annual Report* that there was no epidemic of any kind. The birth rate was 19.23 per 1,000, the death rate 13.55. At the end of the year the estimated population was 6,500.

* * *

INFORMATION about the Free French Movement was given in Dominica by the publication on October 1st in the *Official Gazette* of the following documents in French. Biographical notes of General de Gaulle and of General Catroux; manifesto of General de Gaulle and a statement to the Press in London by General Catroux; the text of a letter from the Prime Minister to General de Gaulle.

* * *

THE Administrator of Dominica published in the *Official Gazette* of October 21st a letter from the Commissioner of Montserrat asking him to discourage persons of the labouring and domestic servant class from going to Montserrat in search of employment. The Commissioner points out that in Montserrat there is a good deal of unemployment and very few opportunities of providing work for persons coming from outside the Presidency.

Cocoa Industry of Trinidad

Proposals to Secure Economic Efficiency

OWING to the depressed conditions of the cocoa industry of the Colony, the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago appointed, in 1938, a committee to inquire, first into its immediate needs and later into the bigger questions of the extent and conditions of further assistance. The committee, consisting of the Hon. E. L. dos Santos, Colonial Treasurer (chairman), the Hon. E. V. Wharton and the Hon. E. J. Wortley, Director of Agriculture, made two interim reports, dealing with assistance during the years 1938 and 1939, and submitted their final report in June, 1939. It was subsequently revised and re-submitted in December last, and has now been published as *Council Paper No. 61 of 1940*.

Cocoa whilst still the second agricultural industry of the Colony has declined greatly during comparatively recent years as shown by the annual average exports, in millions of pounds weight, during the following four year periods: 1928-31, 57.7; 1932-35, 41.1; 1936-39 (November and December estimated), 28.5. The fundamental cause of the lowered yields and reduced exports is stated to be the long period of low prices since 1930, resulting in the gross annual income of the industry during 1936-39 averaging \$2,225,409 as compared with \$6,071,630 for the years 1929-31. Inadequate cultivation has followed in the train of the lower revenue available to the growers, this in its turn has resulted in lower yields, so establishing a vicious circle.

In view of the doubtful prospects for substitute crops and the reduced export quotas for sugar the Committee regard it as urgent that the deterioration of the cocoa industry be checked and that the industry be rehabilitated on lines that will result in a production equal at least to that obtained on a larger acreage during 1927-29, prior to the world depression.

In the opinion of the Committee there is no possibility, except at prohibitive expense, of building up an efficient and economic industry on much of the land on which cocoa is now growing, approximately 185,000 acres. The results of recent soil surveys and of manurial and cultural experiments have led them to the conclusion that not more than 100,000 acres can be considered immediately suitable for intensive cultivation and possibly an additional 20,000 if soil improvement is seriously undertaken.

After dealing with what has been accomplished during 1936-38 under the Cocoa Subsidy Scheme, the Committee state that it is apparent that the present Scheme is inadequate to place the industry on a proper basis and that what is required is the adoption of a long range policy, with a view to the replacement of the present low-yielding trees by high yielders of good quality and the substitution of other crops on lands unsuitable for cocoa. As an instance of the prevalence of poor-yielding trees and of how they can be replaced, the Committee quote results obtained by the Department of Agriculture at River Estate. Records from 1913 to 1919 showed that 48 per cent. of the trees in one "field" yielded only

4 per cent. the crop. Replacements were made and fifteen years later the new trees contributed 44 per cent. to the total crop of the field. On the neighbouring field, used as a control, the yield decreased while on the rehabilitated field it increased by 33 per cent. "The new trees were responsible for an actual increase of 76 per cent.," that is, over the expected crop allowing for the declining trend in the field previous to rehabilitation.

The Committee estimate that their recommendations, which are very fully detailed, will involve, over a period of ten years, the following expenditure:—

(a) The cost of Special Regeneration of cocoa on suitable land	\$750,000
(b) The cost of Partial Replanting of cocoa on suitable land	750,000
(c) The substitution of cocoa by suitable crops and assistance for the rearing of livestock	1,000,000
(d) Control of witch-broom	1,000,000
(e) Administration, clerical and field staff and incidental expenses	500,000
	\$4,000,000

or an average annual expenditure of \$400,000.

The taxation at present in force for Cocoa Subsidy approximates \$400,000 annually, and the Committee recommend that—

- (a) the special taxation be continued for a further period of ten years;
- (b) the annual sum received thereunder be credited to a fund;
- (c) the grants to owners and administration, and other expenses be met from the Fund.

The report is accompanied by a memorandum by Sir Frank Stockdale, written when Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State, containing suggestions with regard to the Committee's proposals. From this long and very interesting survey we may quote here the portion which deals generally with the outlook for the cocoa industry:—

"It has to be considered whether the cacao industry of the Colony must be saved. The answer can only be in the affirmative. This was the conclusion reached by the Royal Commission. It must be accepted that certain areas of Trinidad are well suited to cacao cultivation, that estates and small-holders in their prosperity made no provision for meeting evil days nor took steps to amortize the capital invested or to provide against the day of replacement of the trees in their cultivations. Yields have declined, rapidly in recent years, but this decline can be checked and increased yields secured by measures along the lines outlined in the proposals now under consideration.

"In normal times of peace the world's cacao statistical position is not unsound. West Africa has tended to an

output which has increased more rapidly than was required. It is a cheap producer of a quality which is lower than that produced in Trinidad, but it is a quality which manufacturers can, with improved methods of manufacture, use to satisfy the demands by the bulk of the consumers for a mass produced article. Older areas of cacao in West Africa are deteriorating rapidly, total crops being maintained and indeed increased at present from newly planted areas. There are still new areas to develop in the Western Province in the Gold Coast and in parts of Nigeria. There are also still new areas available in the French West African territories, but the reports of the decline in the older areas of the Gold Coast are very disconcerting and it may well be that within the next ten years the actual export of cacao from West Africa will be less than the present-day average. Brazil is the only other serious competitor and new development there depends upon railway extensions. The yields of its older areas will decline as they become older and witch-broom disease is a menace always to cacao cultivations in the South American continent.

"The signs are, therefore, definitely much more favourable than is assumed by some to those areas where intensive systems of agriculture can be practised. For this reason there need be no hesitation in encouraging Trinidad to put its cacao industry in order, even though its wage basis for labour may be relatively high. If it reduces its area to the 100,000 acres on soils suited to the crop and can produce an average of 4.5 cwt. per acre, instead of its present miserable average of 1½ cwt. per acre, it would have a sound industry yielding satisfactory returns. Such a change I am convinced can be achieved over the next 20 years."

West Indies at Westminster

British Guiana Rice Crop

MR. GEORGE HALL, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated, on November 13th, in reply to a question by Mr. Riley, that he had no information that there was at present any dissatisfaction in British Guiana because of shortage of rice, although he understood that the exportable surplus had turned out less than originally expected owing to failure of the Spring crop due to drought. The Governor had been asked for a report on the situation.

Sugar for Munition Workers

MR. DENVILLE asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether, in view of the scientific findings as to the energy-producing properties of sugar, and the demands for confectionery among munition workers of both sexes, he would increase and maintain the supply of confectionery to canteens, and, in particular, to retailers in munition areas.

MAJOR LLOYD GEORGE in a written reply, of November 13th, stated that arrangements were in operation for ensuring that priority was given to the reasonable requirements of canteens serving workers engaged on essential production. Distribution of confectionery to retail outlets was regulated by the industry, but consideration was given to movements of population and to the needs of different districts.

Moravian College, Antigua

A Century of Good Work

AN event of considerable interest in educational circles in the West Indies was, writes Miss Helen Goodwin, the recent celebration of the Centenary of the Female Teachers' Training College at Spring Gardens, Antigua. This work of training female teachers was commenced by George Wall Westerby in 1840. Westerby, of Yorkshire parentage, was born in Edinburgh in 1812, his father Captain Westerby of the York Militia being then stationed at Edinburgh Castle. For a time he was employed as a teacher in the Moravian school at Baildon, Yorkshire, later becoming a Moravian missionary, and a Bishop of the Moravian Church.

An account of the commencement of this teacher training is as follows: "some years ago a missionary and his wife in Antigua, feeling the great importance of having well taught and well trained female teachers for the infant schools of the Mission . . . took into their house five black and coloured girls, out of the day school, recommended by their good conduct and ability. These girls were instructed in various branches of useful knowledge, were taught habits of industry and application, and otherwise trained to usefulness."

This work beginning at Lebanon, was afterwards transferred to Spring Gardens and put on a permanent foundation and has been successful in training a long line of teachers for the Leeward Islands, Barbados and the Virgin Islands under the Danish régime, and also in providing a cultural background which has been of vital importance in the educational development of these islands.

Public Health in Montserrat

There was no appreciable improvement in the general health of the population as compared with the previous year writes the Medical Officer in his *Annual Report for 1939*. On the contrary, he says, evidence of lowered resistance to disease and of malnutrition was found at all ages, particularly in children up to the age of five years who readily succumbed to attacks of gastro-enteritis. Pellagra, a disease rarely seen in the island, was often encountered in adults, but responded readily to treatment. Malaria presented the biggest problem although it is agreed that, from a topographical point of view, the disease should not be a recurrent problem in Montserrat.

The news respecting hygiene and sanitation is more encouraging. The second half of the year saw a great advance in the organisation and work of the Sanitary Department. A full time Inspector was appointed in addition to the existing part-time officer. The general appearance of the town of Plymouth was much improved by the new arrangements made for the removal of refuse and the collasing of the main streets. The estimated population of the island on December 31st, 1939, was 13,541; the birth rate during the year was 34.41 per thousand and the death rate 16.10 per thousand.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Welcome Rains in Barbados — Storm Damage in Jamaica
Proposed Shipping Depot at Trinidad



ANTIGUA

LEGISLATIVE Council. Mr. R. St. Clair Stevens, Mr. S. T. Christian, the Hon. J. L. E. Jeffery, Mr. H. T. Wilson and the Hon. A. Moody Stuart, have been elected to serve as members of the Legislative Council of the Presidency.

Miss Helen Goodwin wrote on October 27th: "I very much realise the great difficulties under which you people in England are working. We out here do appreciate the regular issues of the CIRCULAR and the fullness of the news. The splendid fighting spirit of England and the way in which everyone is 'carrying on' makes life out here feel too comfortably safe. Yet we are anxious to help. Two of our boys (H. Foote and R. Henry) are awaiting orders to sail for England to train for the R.A.F. They and two others from Montserrat have received warm clothing and knitted comforts from the Ladies Knitting and Sewing Committees. Charles Piggott—also from Antigua—is in training 'somewhere in England' for the R.A.F."

The engagement has been announced between John H. Spencer, Assistant Superintendent of Police of St. Christopher-Nevis, and Melba, younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. M. McDonald of St. Johns, Antigua. Mrs. McDonald has been for many years an honorary correspondent of the West India Committee.

BARBADOS

Weather and the Cane Crop. The Director of Agriculture, in the monthly notes on the work of his Department, records that after a prolonged drought heavy rains fell over the island on August 26th, followed by showers and, in some of the leeward areas, heavy downpours. In most places the canes made a quick response. During the following month the rainfall was about average resulting in a definite improvement in the canes in most districts. In some parts of St. Philip and Christchurch, however, the canes were still backward at the end of September.

Danger to Cane from Corn. It has been found that the sugar cane mothborer seriously attacks corn (maize) stalks. The large plantings of corn made under the Vegetable Production (Defence) Control Order (1,137 acres to the end of August)—will Dr. McIntosh says definitely increase the attack of borer in cane unless the corn is broken out when ripe, and the stalks reaped at once and used as cattle bedding or fodder, and not left, as is usual practice, to dry in the field, thus allowing the borers to escape into the cane fields.

Intercepting a Pest. Wooden cases containing merchandise from India were found to be infested with a wood boring beetle hitherto unknown in Barbados but recognised in India as a pest of cut wood and forest trees. Immediate steps were accordingly taken to have the emptied cases (56 in all) destroyed by fire.

Sea Island Cotton. Sufficient seed has been distributed to plant 527 acres, of which four-fifths will be on small holdings. In some of the dry sea-board areas, where the young canes had been badly damaged by the long drought, the growers have eradicated the stools and were planting cotton. A market was assured as the British Government has notified its intention of purchasing all the British West Indies cotton crop for the season.

BRITISH GUIANA

New Air Bases. Two officials of Pan-American Airways, Ltd., are at present in the Colony, wrote our hon. correspondent on October 11th, for the purpose of selecting a suitable site near Georgetown for an aerodrome. If a fitting place can be found, it is understood that the present base on the Demerara river will be abandoned. Fortunately there is an appropriate area at Pln. Bel Air, *cum annexis*, which is just outside the City and no doubt will be considered.

The United States and the War. The Hon. E. M. Walcott, a nominated member of the Legislative Council, who has recently returned from a visit to the United States, made the following observations regarding the United States assistance in the war:

"I highly appreciate the attitude of the American people to the British Empire. They are helping us all they can, materially and morally, and no Nation can display a more helpful and kindly feeling than the United States has done, and is doing, at the present time."

JAMAICA

The Hon. G. W. Webster was sworn in as Custos of Hanover parish, at Lucea, on October 20th. The Governor, Sir Arthur Richards, was present at the ceremony.

Robertson of Struan, formerly Mayor of Kingston, has announced his intention of resigning from the Corporation Council.

Alderman Audley Evans was elected Deputy Mayor of Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation in succession to Mr. Ernest Rae on October 22nd.

A Cloudburst over parts of Jamaica on November 18th has, it is feared, done considerable damage to life and property in the parishes of Portland and St. Mary. In some parts of the island, twelve inches of rain are reported to have fallen and over thirty persons are said to have been drowned.

Food Production in Jamaica was the subject of a broadcast given by Mr. R. F. Williams, executive officer of the Food Production Board, on October 18th. The production of crops such as yams, sweet and Irish potatoes had been the first to receive attention. The importance of producing larger quantities of corn, peas,

cassava, and peanuts had been emphasized latterly, and it was anticipated that over 200,000 bushels of corn would be obtained.

MONTserrat

Legislative Council. The unofficial members recently elected to the Legislative Council of the Presidency are Mr. J. C. Llewellyn Wall, Mr. C. G. Mercer, Mr. A. H. Allen and Mr. R. E. D. Osborne. As mentioned in our last issue Mr. A. W. Griffin and Mrs. F. M. Howes are the two nominated unofficial members.

ST. LUCIA

Sugar. Our honorary correspondent, Mr. E. T. Ward, wrote on October 16th, that the fields were making good recovery from the August floods and the damage did not appear to be as severe as was originally believed. The 1940-41 crop was then estimated at 10,050 tons. While the wetter areas were having ideal conditions, more rain was needed elsewhere.

Limes. The lime crop was in full swing. Small shipments of green limes continued, but the bulk of the fruit was being used for the preparation of distilled and hand pressed lime oils.

Bananas. Unfortunately there was only one shipment, of 4,910 stems, during the month. The curtailment of the usual facilities at this period of peak production represented a heavy loss to the industry.

Other Crops. Limited coco-nut contracts continued to be met but there was little opportunity for the sale of copra. Coco-nut oil was still being manufactured on a small scale for local consumption. The picking of the new cocoa crop had commenced and it was evident that it was unlikely to be a large one. There had been every indication of an increased area in cotton this year, up to 50 acres, but continuous dry weather had resulted in a smaller area being planted.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Export Prohibitions. Official notice has been given that the export of coco-nut meal and of the seeds of the Para rubber tree is prohibited, also, except under licence, of rice.

Cost of Living. A memorandum published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* of October 15th shows that the general average increase in a working class family's budget expenditure at October 1st of the present year was approximately 31 per cent. over the level of 1935, as compared with 31 per cent. at September 1st and 30 per cent. at August 1st, 1940.

Shipping Depot for Bauxite. It is announced in *The Trinidad Guardian* that the Aluminium Company of Canada is considering establishing a shore station in Trinidad. The plan calls for the erection of wharves, equipped with loading facilities to accommodate large steamers, and the provision of small fast ships to maintain a shuttle service between British Guiana and Trinidad. The necessity for the Company establishing a shipping depot in Trinidad has arisen because of the difficulty of large steamers navigating the Demerara River with a full load of bauxite.

It would greatly facilitate the work of the hon. treasurers if those members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year would kindly do so without delay.

Company Reports & Meetings

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

IN their report for the year ended June 30th, the directors state that the production of sugar was 34,044 tons (1939: 43,889 tons), the lowest figure for 10 years. This disappointing out-turn was due in the main to adverse weather, and to a lesser extent to frog-hopper attack, both, unfortunately, common to the whole of Trinidad. Very wet weather was experienced during the ploughing season in 1938, which limited tractor ploughing to half the usual programme and resulted in only two-thirds of a normal crop from the plant cane acreage. Farmers' canes also suffered and showed a further heavy drop in tonnage from last year.

All export sugar was sold to the Government at £11 5s. 0d. per ton c.i.f. The expenditure during the year on additions and renewals to plant and machinery was £5,199, leaving a balance in reserve of £23,121.

The profit and loss account shows a profit for the year of £14,576, which added to the balance brought forward from last year of £42,341 makes a total of £56,917. After deducting £21,000 for reserve for taxation, there remains a balance of £35,917, which the directors recommend should be carried forward.

The chairman's speech, to be delivered at the annual meeting to-day, reads as follows:

We have made a very short crop, chiefly due to weather conditions. This is most unfortunate in view of the fact that the United Kingdom wished to get as much sugar as possible from the Dominions and Colonies. Our cane supply shows a drop of 26 per cent. from the previous year and this drop is about evenly divided between estates and farmers. In consequence our production cost has been increased considerably by the poor cane return and also by higher cost of materials and wages.

The result is a profit of £14,576. This amount is more than swallowed up by taxation reserve, which we hope will be sufficient to cover our liability.

The Report of the Royal Commission's visit to the West Indies has not been published, but we have read their recommendations with much interest, and we shall do our best to work with the authorities concerned in carrying them out. A great many of the recommendations deal with welfare and social services. From this it may be inferred by those unacquainted with the West Indies that little or nothing has been done hitherto. This is not so, as THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR so ably pointed out in its leading article of March 7th. The recommendations, in fact, represent the views of the Commission on the best method of improving existing services. One cannot deny, however, that there is still a lot of work to be done when funds are available.

There is little doubt that sugar producers in Trinidad are barely making both ends meet and it is obvious, therefore, that the industry has nothing in hand for the improvement of these services unless it gets a higher price for its sugar. The alternative is further contributions from the Home Government.

In February last the Secretary of State for the Colonies made a statement in Parliament on Colonial Development and Welfare and indicated that the

Government proposed to go ahead immediately with certain of the recommendations. Among these were the establishment of a Colonial Research Advisory Committee with official backing and a broadening of the basis of the Colonial Development Fund. With Sir Frank Stockdale in command we have every hope that good progress will be made when the War is over.

During the year we have not been able to make any progress in housing, nor has Labour yet made much progress towards an understanding of the functions of Trade Unions. Our factory labour, which now works during crop on a three-shift system of 8 hours each, has been entirely satisfactory. On several estates labour has been rather unsettled with a consequent prolongation of crop. The question of speedier delivery of the cane to the factory has still to be solved. Several mechanical methods have been tried but so far all have proved a failure owing to the difficulty of crossing the large drains in the fields.

As for the future, our exportable crop has again been sold to the Government at £1 7s. 6d. per ton more than last crop. We reckon that this increase will be absorbed by higher costs (of production). Crop prospects are at present none too bright as the island has had quite a severe attack of froghopper recently and the weather on the whole has been too dry. However, we still hope that the weather may be sufficiently favourable from now until crop time to enable us to make about 40,000 tons of sugar.

Lectures in Bristol

Mr. Hugh Paget, a member of the staff of the West India Committee, gave a lecture to the Bristol Branch of the Royal Empire Society on the lease to the United States of naval and air bases in the British West Indies, on November 12th, at the invitation of the chairman of the Branch, Colonel E. W. Lennard.

Mr. Paget gave two other talks on this subject while in Bristol, on behalf of the Ministry of Information. We hope to publish a more detailed account of these lectures in an early issue of the CIRCULAR.

The New Cocoa Board

It has been announced by the Colonial Office that a Cocoa Board has been appointed to supervise, in consultation with the Colonial Governments concerned, the purchase and marketing of the 1940-41 cocoa crops in the Gold Coast, Nigeria and the French Cameroons.

The chairman of the Board is Mr. G. H. Hall, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; the vice-chairman, Mr. O. G. R. Williams, and the other members, Mr. John Cadbury, Mr. S. Caine, Mr. E. Melville and Mr. E. C. Tansley.

(Continued from next column)

shipment. Sound 80's are quoted at 10d. c.i.f. and sound unassorted at 7d. on the usual contract terms. West Indian Mace is a firm market with prompt shipment quoted at 2/- c.i.f. for the usual well-known types. Good dark to pale pickings are quoted at 1/- to 1/5 ex wharf.

Round the Markets

November 26th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.

	Nov. 11th.	Nov. 25th.	\$ value
Canada	4.45	4.45	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	4/11.6
Buenos Aires (paper pesos)	17.02	17.01	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Cousols (yield £3 6s. 0d. per cent.)	75½
3½	War Loan	101½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	1½ 1½
8½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	35/6 38/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref.	34/6 38/6
10	Booker Bros. McConnell	2½ 2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/-	6d. 10d.
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/6
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	17/6 20/-
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	1/9 2/9
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	2/6 3/6
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	4½d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	30 40
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	10/- 12/8
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	6/3 7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	3½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½ 2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/- 8/-

COCOA. A small business has been reported in fine Grenada on the spot at 55/-, but no sales have been made of Trinidad which continues to be quoted at 65/- for good plantation and 70/- for fine estates. The first three marks of Trinidad "to arrive" are quoted at 51/- c & f. The controlled price of West African is unchanged at 35/- for good fermented.

BALATA. No business has been reported recently and the nominal values are unchanged at 2/7 per lb. for block and 2/8 for sheet.

BANANAS. Jamaicas have continued in steady demand at the unchanged price, to wholesalers, of £30 5s. per ton delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces.

HONEY. Prices of old crop Jamaica are unchanged at 90/- to 95/- per cwt. for pale to white. The Ministry of Food Order fixing maximum prices for all Empire honey was published in the CIRCULAR of October 31st.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. The nominal price of Handpressed is unchanged at 45/- per lb. and supplies are scarce. There are sellers of small quantities of Distilled on the spot at 27/6; offers of forward shipment meet little interest. **Lime Juice.** There is no demand for Concentrated and Raw is quiet and unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. The spot values are about 6/6 per lb. for Sweet and 10/- per lb. for Bitter.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** remains firm, and practically no stocks are available in the United Kingdom. The last sales reported were made at 110/- c.i.f. London for prompt shipment and (for second-hand parcels) at 1/- and up to 1/1½ ex wharf. **Jamaica Ginger** is unchanged at 52/6 to 55/- for small mixed to bright No. 3; 57/6 to 62/6 for small mixed to medium bright No. 2; 65/- to 70/- for medium No. 1 and 90/- for bright bold plump No. 1 in barrels. **Nutmegs** remain firm with some business reported in West Indian defectives at 6d. per lb. c.i.f. London for prompt

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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December 11th, 1940.

Bananas and Citrus Fruit

IT is a grave matter that the Ministry of Food have been compelled, with great reluctance, to suspend temporarily the importation of bananas and citrus fruits into the United Kingdom. In July last they were unable to promise facilities for the transport of grapefruit during the coming twelve months. This news caused consternation in the producing Colonies, and as fully reported in the CIRCULAR of October 17th, long negotiations with the Government followed in which the West India Committee took part at the request of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and other interested bodies. Subsequently the Ministry of Food announced their intention to purchase the whole of this season's grapefruit crops of Jamaica, Trinidad and British Honduras *if port and shipping facilities permitted*.

As is unfortunately only too well known subsequent events have resulted in a serious shortage of shipping to meet the increased demands made upon it by the war. In consequence the Government have had no alternative but to restrict the use of the available shipping to the transport of the most essential commodities. The Ministry of Food are thus unable at present to fulfil their arrangement to purchase West Indian grapefruit.

The embargo on bananas chiefly affects Jamaica where they form approximately 60 per cent. in value of the total exports. So important is this industry that in the United Kingdom, where well over 300,000 tons of bananas are consumed in a year, 70 per cent. of them come from Jamaica. Great distress would inevitably be caused in Jamaica by even the temporary stoppage of the Colony's chief export if not compensated for in any way. As soon as danger threatened, owing to the curtailed shipping facilities, MR. BRADSHAW, of the United Fruit Company, came to England under the auspices of the Governor of Jamaica to present the case of the banana industry to the Home Government. During his visit he discussed the situation at 40, Norfolk Street, with the Chairman of the West India Committee. As reported on page 299 of this issue, the Government, previous to the decision to suspend imports from Jamaica, had arranged to guarantee a minimum price to the grower of 3s. a count bunch up to a total of 12,000,000 bunches in the year. On December 4th, subsequent to the embargo, the Under-Secretary of State announced in the House of Commons that "this guarantee will, of course, be implemented and will enable the growers to carry on while normal shipments to this country are suspended." MR. HALL

CONTENTS

LEADING ARTICLE—	PAGE		PAGE
BANANAS AND CITRUS FRUIT...	295	SUGAR-CANE FERTILISERS	302
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	296	THE NEW DEFENCE BASES	303
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	297	PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT CALLS AT	
WEST INDIANS ON SERVICE	298	JAMAICA	303
THE COLONIAL WAR EFFORT	299	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	304
BANANAS AND CITRUS FRUIT	299	CASHEW NUT BY-PRODUCTS	305
OBITUARY	300	TERMITE CONTROL IN BARBADOS	305
THE COLONIAL EMPIRE	300	LIMES ASSOCIATIONS	305
"GOD SAVE THEE ENGLAND"	300	JAMAICA-TYPE RUM IN PUERTO	
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	301	RICO	305
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE	301	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS	306
NEW MEDICAL ADVISER	301	ROUND THE MARKETS	306

also stated that the Governor had been immediately consulted as to any possible indirect effects of the suspension and his advice as to any further measures of assistance was awaited.

We feel, therefore, and the absence of any representations to the contrary from producers in the Colony appears to confirm this view, that the guarantee given by the Home Government has to some extent allayed anxiety.

There remains for consideration the outlook for the future in the event of it not proving possible to resume anything approaching normal exports after the expiration of the two months. A Reuter's cable which has appeared in the London Press says that Jamaica is not dismayed by the cessation of the banana exports to the United Kingdom, and that the 12,000,000 bunches redistributed locally will form the staple food supply, and will reduce the prices of other foods.

But need Jamaica merely look forward to consuming the surplus bananas locally? In the CIRCULAR of February 8th last, when discussing food production in war and peace, we pointed out that the British West Indies imported annually some 1,000,000 bags of wheat flour, and that it would be of permanent advantage if these imports could be reduced. We suggested that one way of effecting this would be to make bread of wheat flour mixed with rice flour, as had then recently been shown to be practicable in British Guiana, or with banana meal as was practised in Trinidad during the last war. As we said then there seems opportunity here for the production, possibly in Jamaica, of a good marketable article, and we developed the view that an interchange amongst the West Indies of food-stuffs which one area can produce in abundance and another needs would help particularly to meet war demands.

The possibility might also be considered of developing a trade in dried bananas or "banana figs," as they are commonly termed. Jamaica formerly devoted considerable attention to this product. Since those days the preparation of banana figs has progressed in the Cameroons, resulting in a product of more attractive appearance. Banana figs are a concentrated food, very digestible and capable of forming an important part of a well-balanced diet, especially at a time when other dried fruits, more generally used in Great Britain, are less readily obtainable.

We feel that these suggestions are worthy of consideration even in normal times. Meanwhile it is earnestly to be hoped that it may not be very long before shipping is available to enable the West Indian Colonies to resume exports of the fresh fruit.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THERE was a big muster in the House of Commons to hear the debate on the amendment moved by the I.L.P. to the Address in reply to the King's Speech; and indeed the occasion was very worthy of note. The purport of the motion was that we should endeavour to open negotiations for a peace of compromise. Mr. James Maxton could only find five other members to support him, which is a very good indication of the country's unanimity in carrying on the war to a finish for Hitlerism. That, however, was no surprise. The really remarkable feature of the debate was the fact that it could be held at all. Under Hitler's so-called "New Order" for Europe it is inconceivable that Mr. Maxton and his friends could have enjoyed the full hearing that the House of Commons accorded to their unpopular opinions; and the debate therefore provided an admirable object-lesson in the nature of the liberties for which we fight.

* * *

Mr. Maxton's arguments were decisively answered by Mr. Clement Attlee, who, though he attracts less public attention than his Labour colleagues, Mr. Morrison and Mr. Bevin, is perhaps the most vigorous personality in the council chamber of the War Cabinet. But he disappointed those who had hoped that the I.L.P. motion would draw from him a more detailed statement of our war aims than has yet been given. It is widely felt that our cause suffers in the eyes of potential allies on the continent because of the lack of a clear definition of the lines on which we hope to reconstruct a devastated Europe after the war. However, it is understood that a statement on war aims will be made by high authority before long, and that it is being delayed only for the excellent reason that all the self-governing Dominions, and all the representatives of our allies who still continue the fight, are to be consulted in framing it.

* * *

The magnificent exploits of the Greeks shed a ray of glory on the last weeks of a year in which our country has passed deeper into the shadow of impending disaster than ever since the Middle Ages. Although British ground troops were neither necessary in the Albanian mountains nor available we have played a great part in this campaign and shall be called upon by its success to do much more. The Royal Air Force has brilliantly co-operated with the Greek army; and the Navy, made secure of its command of the Mediterranean by the victory at Taranto, has exercised a deadly constraint upon the Italian communications and avenues of reinforcement. New opportunities should soon be opening out. The most striking arises from the probability that the Greek advance will penetrate as far as Valona. With this important harbour in allied hands, it should be possible to force the Straits of Otranto and open up the whole of the Adriatic to our sea power, cutting Italy off from the Balkans, and exposing the whole length of the peninsula to aerial attack.

* * *

With these widening prospects, our strategy in the

coming months may well be concentrated on a great effort to knock Italy quickly out of the war. Optimism must be kept under control; the Italians in Albania are retreating all along the line, but they are not yet routed. Mussolini, however, is already showing distress signals by a wholesale dismissal of his generals and admirals. The war is certainly unpopular with the Italian people, and it is unlikely that the Fascist régime can stand up to a protracted period of defeat.

* * *

It now seems unlikely that Hitler will, at any rate for the present, risk bringing Turkey and Yugoslavia in against him by an expedition into the Balkans to rescue Mussolini. But he cannot afford to have his ally roughly handled without doing anything to help, and he seems to be attempting to relieve the pressure on Italy by a new plan of campaign in the west. Part of this consists in a much intensified attack upon our seaborne commerce in the Atlantic—carried out by a fleet of submarines based on the French ports, by aircraft off our western coasts (in dealing with which we are heavily handicapped by the closing of the ports of Eire to the Navy), and by at least one powerful surface ship. Our shipping losses of late have been rather heavy, and their reduction may be the principal problem confronting the Navy both during the winter months, and in the spring, when more U-boats will come into commission.

* * *

The new methods of air warfare, though more immediately visible to the landsman, are not considered by the high command to be so dangerous as the menace to shipping. Of late the main onslaught by the night-bombers has been on the great provincial towns, taken one by one and mercilessly bombarded. Coventry, Southampton, Birmingham and Bristol have so far been the principal sufferers. There seems little attempt to hit the natural military objectives in the shape of the great war factories in and about all these towns; but, although the brutal destruction of the lives and homes of civilians has been utterly wanton, there may be some method in it. By blocking the centres of the towns attacked with the ruins of their chief buildings, the *Luftwaffe* may be trying to cut our traffic routes at their principal intersections, and so, by slowing down transport, indirectly to hinder production. The other suggested object, to check production by breaking the spirit of the producers in their homes, is being thwarted by the resolute demeanour of all the workers concerned.

* * *

Our problems in the eastern and western theatres are closely intertwined. We have to baffle the attack on production at home in order to make possible the adequate munitioning of the Greeks and our own armies and air force in the Eastern Mediterranean. On the other hand, when we have broken the resistance of the Fascist Empire in those regions, we shall set free a large naval force to co-operate in the campaign against the U-boats.

The West Indies and The War

ANTIGUA

WAR FUNDS. Writing on October 14th Miss Helen Goodwin kindly supplied the following particulars to that date of the various war funds:

	£
Donations to Charities—Waterside Hospital at Bourne End, Red Cross, St. Dunstan's, St. John's, Overseas Cigarette Fund, etc...	650
Aeroplane Fund, £500 sent to England (as reported in CIRCULAR of October 31st) ...	986
Collected for Scrap Metal Fund, used for expenses up to shipment	635

The scrap metal will be sold to Canada and the proceeds will go to the Aeroplane Fund.

Aeroplane Fund. A "Win the War" supper held at Kensington Hotel proved a great success, and £27 7s. was realised for the Aeroplane Fund. Part of the proceeds of another successful entertainment, an operetta staged by Miss Robinson, the head mistress of the T.O.R. Memorial High School, was also given to the same fund.

BARBADOS

A further **£1,000** has been sent by the people of Barbados to the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund.

BRITISH HONDURAS

A War Surtax. The Package Tax (War Surtax) Ordinance, 1940, dated October 1st, imposes a war surtax of 5 cents., in addition to the existing package tax of 10 cents., on every package imported into the Colony. The surtax will be payable until December 31st of the year next following the year of the termination of the present war.

GRENADA

Customs and Excise War Tax. Ordinance, No. 15, of 1940, imposed from September 27th a war tax on goods subject to Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Trade Duty. On all items in the first schedule of the Customs Duties Ordinance the war tax is 10 per cent. of the present duty, excepting milk which is exempted from war tax and beer, spirits, wines, tobacco and snuff on which the war tax is 20 per cent. of the present duty. The new Ordinance also adds 20 per cent. to the excise duty payable and a similar amount to the trade duty. The Ordinance will remain in force until January 1st, 1943.

JAMAICA

The **Air Ministry** has announced that it would welcome applications for Royal Air Force duties from men in Jamaica up to 50 years of age who are physically fit and who are: (a) Radio mechanics either amateur or professional with a thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of modern superhet receivers (knowledge of morse not being necessary in these cases), or

(b) Skilled wireless operators who can send and receive morse at 20 words a minute (knowledge of servicing not being required in these cases).

A **Jamaica Bombing Plane Fund Ball**, under the patronage of Lady Richards, was held at the Myrtle Bank Hotel on October 26th.

Jamaica's part in the war is dealt with by "A Correspondent" in the December number of the *Empire Review*. He points out that Jamaica has not yet been called upon to supply a contingent for service overseas, as she did in the last war, and the Colony's efforts are necessarily confined to the economic field. An account is given of the food production campaign and other measures taken to relieve demand on shipping and to limit imports from non sterling countries, and also of the generous public contributions to the various war funds.

One direct result of the war has been the provision of a daily broadcasting service rendered possible by the presentation by Mr. Grinan, a radio amateur, of his transmitter to the Government in November, 1939.

The author records the intense desire of young Jamaicans to join the fighting forces, and that many have travelled to the United Kingdom, or Canada, at their own expense to enlist.

ST. KITTS NEVIS

Nevis "Win the War" Fund. The Administrator announced on September 23rd that a committee, with the Hon. H. B. Henville as chairman, had been formed in Nevis to organize a fund to be devoted to war purposes.

ST. VINCENT

£25,000 Loan. In our issue of October 3rd, we recorded the loan to the Imperial Government of £25,000, free of interest, for war purposes. The *Government Gazette* of September 17th, just received, shows that this sum was lent from "the Colony's special reserve fund for elemental disaster," and that the members of the Legislative Council pledged themselves "to support measures of extra taxation to replace the interest at present derived from investment of the said sum."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Excess Profits Tax. In a recent Message to the Legislative Council, the Governor states that an excess profits tax is to be imposed on Trinidad companies. The tax is to be used, according to a Reuter telegram, to increase the contributions to the British Government's special naval and military services from £209,000 to £260,000 a year, and to make a further special gift to Britain of £52,000.

Red Cross Centre. When Lady Young opened the office of the Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society she described it as a monument to Trinidad's generosity and humanity during the war, and expressed her confidence that it would be a base for important peace time activities when the war was over.

West Indians on Service

THE following list of men connected with the West Indies who are serving with the Forces—the eighth to be published in the CIRCULAR—has been compiled by the West India Committee

from the latest available information. Members submitting names for publication should supply, if possible, particulars regarding unit, rank and number.

Name	Colony	Unit	Rank
ANDREWS, E. T. ...	Jamaica	Royal Army Ordnance Corps ...	Sub-Conductor (W.O.1)
AUSTIN, E. M. G. ...	British Guiana	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve ...	Paymaster Lieutenant
BOURKE, W. CYRIL ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	Leading Aircraftsman
BOWRING, TREVOR ...	Barbados	Devonshire Regiment ...	Private
BRANDON, JOHN NICHOLAS CHRISTIAN ...	Jamaica	Royal Artillery ...	Gunner
BROWN, DAVID LESTER ...	Bahamas	Royal Air Force ...	A.C.H./Pilot A.C./2
BROWN, WALTER ...	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery ...	Gunner
BURROWES, BERTRAM ERROLL ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
CARRINGTON, NORMAN W. R. ...	Barbados	Royal Navy ...	Stoker
CONNELL, NEVILLE ...	Barbados	Royal Artillery ...	Cadet
CRICHLAW, P. M. ...	Barbados	Canadian Victoria Rifles ...	Rifleman
DUNCAN, T. F. A. ...	Dominica	Royal Navy ...	
FONSECA, EDGAR G. ...	Jamaica	Royal Canadian Artillery ...	Gunner
GEORGE, C. C. O. ...	Trinidad	Royal Air Force ...	Leading Aircraftsman
GOBIN, LUCIEN ALBERT VINCENT ...	Trinidad	Royal Air Force ...	A.C.H./Pilot A.C./2
HAWTHORN, REV. N. ...	Barbados	Army Chaplain ...	
HUTCHINSON, JOHN ...	Trinidad	Officer Cadet Training Unit ...	Cadet
HYNAM, WINSTON KITCHENER ...	Barbados	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
KIRKHAM, BERTRAM ARNOLD ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	Leading Aircraftsman
LYNCH, C. J. ...	Barbados	Officer Cadet Training Unit ...	Cadet
LYNCH, R. C. ...	Barbados	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
MCBRIDE, J. M. ...	Trinidad	Royal Air Force ...	U./T. Pilot
MACKINNON, DERICK DOUGLAS ...	Jamaica	Canadian Infantry ...	Private
MAILLIS, JOHN C. P. ...	Bahamas	Royal Air Force ...	A.C.H./Pilot A.C./2
MAIS, R. C. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve ...	Pilot Officer
MAURA, JOHN ...	Bahamas	Royal Air Force ...	A.C.H./Pilot A.C./2
MURRAY, PETER KENNETH ...	Barbados	Royal Navy ...	Engine Room Artificer
NIBLOCK, HENRY B. ...	Barbados	Canadian Black Watch ...	Private
PATTERSON, LESLIE V. ...	Jamaica	Devonshire Regiment ...	Private
PITCHER, GORDON ...	Barbados	Canadian Black Watch ...	Private
REID, ERNEST E. ...	Jamaica	Devonshire Regiment ...	Private
REID, FRANK ALBERT ...	Jamaica	Devonshire Regiment ...	Private
REYNOLDS, CYRIL KENNETH ...	British Guiana	Royal Irish Fusiliers ...	Fusilier
ROBERTS, RONALD NATHAN ...	British Guiana	Queen's Royal Regiment ...	Private
SIMMOND-ANDERSON, H. KIRTON ...	Barbados	Royal Tank Regiment ...	Corporal
SKEETE, FERDINAND ...	Barbados	Royal Canadian Artillery ...	Gunner
SKINNER, JOHN WALROND SEYMOUR ...	Barbados	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
SOLOMON, C. F., JNR. ...	Bahamas	Royal Air Force ...	A.C.H./Pilot A.C./2
SPOERRI, WALTER ALAN ...	Jamaica	Royal Fusiliers ...	Fusilier
THACKER, MICHAEL R. M. ...	Jamaica	Royal Artillery ...	L/Bombardier
THOMAS, NIGEL ...	Barbados	Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ...	2nd Lieutenant
THOMPSON, ALVIN IVOR ...	Bahamas	Royal Air Force ...	A.C.H./Pilot A.C./2
TODD, ARTHUR S. C. ...	Jamaica	Royal Air Force ...	A.C./2
WOOD, ALLAN DENNIS ...	Jamaica	South Staffordshire Regiment ...	Corporal
YEARWOOD, H. G. ...	Barbados	Royal Air Force ...	Air Cadet
YEARWOOD, T. G. ...	Barbados	Royal Artillery ...	Gunner

Chess Sets Wanted. Many appeals are being received by the Comforts Collections Department of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation for chess sets. They come, in particular, from the Middle East and from R.A.F. hospitals. Chess sets are, the Organisation states in its *Summary of Work*, November 16th, becoming more difficult to obtain as they were mostly made in France. An appeal is, therefore, made

to chess players to give as many sets as they can spare for the use of the sick and wounded of the Forces. They should be sent to the Comforts-Collections Department of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, 54, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

The Red Cross and St. John Fund now amounts to £3,701,000.

The Colonial War Effort

Economics, Gifts and Man Power

IN the debate on the adjournment of the House of Commons on November 20th Mr. G. D. Hall, the Under-Secretary of State, reviewed the contribution the Colonies were making to the war effort.

He said the outbreak of war was the signal for a unanimous and spontaneous outburst of loyalty and support from all parts of the Colonial Empire. The assurances which were given then had been more than fulfilled, and all calls for service had been enthusiastically answered. Indeed, during the past 14 months the loyalty of the Colonies had been demonstrated in an almost bewildering variety of ways. Contributions, both private and official, had poured in from all quarters of the Colonial Empire for every conceivable purpose. Up to date the amount subscribed had reached the wonderful total of no less than £17,000,000.

Mr. Hall described how the war had rendered it necessary to prevent goods from reaching the enemy by all and every means; to provide essential supplies of Colonial products for the United Kingdom and its Allies; to maintain our foreign exchange resources, by securing foreign exchange in return for exports, by the limitation of imports which would have to be paid for in foreign exchange, and by the prevention of the transfer of capital into foreign currency.

To bring this system into operation and to keep it effective had, he said, rendered it necessary to set up elaborate machinery of control and regulation. The restrictions had inevitably caused inconvenience and had in general been borne with exemplary patience. Indeed, in this as in other activities, much had been achieved which would never have been possible without the goodwill and co-operation of the Colonies concerned. The hardships had been to some extent mitigated by the Government's policy of buying colonial products, in some cases more than they actually required, so that the economic life of the population of those territories might be maintained.

Mr. Hall dealt at length with the calls made on man power in some of the Colonies, and said that in the West Indies there had been disappointment because combatant units had not been raised; but it seemed unlikely that the West Indies would be an active theatre of war.

Mr. Hall said that he could not close without paying a sincere tribute of gratitude and thanks to the whole Colonial Empire for the way in which they had rallied to the cause and had disproved the dictators' frequently repeated assertions, such as Goebbels' picture of the inhabitants of the Colonies as conscripted subject races, ruthlessly harnessed to the British war machine. The Colonies had been the first to start Warplane funds, which had become such a great success in raising money, not only in the Colonies, but in this country. Now they were contributing large sums of money for the purchase of mobile canteens for those who had suffered from air raids over here, and it was pleasing to note that among the canteens that were sent to Coventry were some which were subscribed for by the Colonies.

Bananas and Citrus Fruit

Importation Suspended

IN the last issue of the CIRCULAR we reported that in view of the shipping situation no further licences for the import of bananas into the United Kingdom would be granted for a period of two months. Also that a guarantee had been given to the banana producers in Jamaica, the principal source of supply, to ensure that they would receive a minimum of three shillings per count bunch irrespective of shipment.

Fuller particulars were made public as the result of a question addressed by Sir Leonard Lyle to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons on December 4th.

Sir Leonard asked, in view of the stoppage of the banana trade to the United Kingdom, what steps were being taken to enable growers in the West Indies generally and in Jamaica, in particular, to dispose of their crops; and what action in addition was contemplated to enable the community to meet any prejudicial effect on its financial position.

Mr. George Hall replied that before the recent decision of His Majesty's Government to suspend imports of bananas for a period of two months, arrangements had already been made for all Jamaica bananas to be disposed of through a pool operated by the marketing companies, and His Majesty's Government had given a guarantee through the Government of Jamaica that the proceeds of this marketing pool would, if necessary, be made up to a minimum price to the grower of 3s. a count bunch up to a total output of 12,000,000 stems in the year. This guarantee would, of course, be implemented, and would enable the grower to carry on while normal shipments to this country were suspended. The Governor had been immediately consulted as to possible indirect effects of the suspension of shipments, and his advice as to any further measures of assistance that might be necessary was awaited.

The citrus fruit situation is very similar to that of bananas. For the next two months none, except a limited amount of oranges, will be imported into the United Kingdom. This will make it impossible for the Ministry of Food to fulfil their previous engagement to purchase all the British Honduras grapefruit crop and possibly all that of Trinidad also, although the season there is later. In addition, at any rate for the next two months, the shipment of the Jamaica crop as deck cargo will have to cease.

There is moreover no hope at present that the effect of the ban on the fresh fruit can be relieved by the export of canned grapefruit. It is understood that the Ministry of Food are not able to allow the admission into the United Kingdom of any quantities of the new season's pack of canned fruit from any Colony at this time when provision of shipping facilities must be confined to the most essential commodities. The fate of fruit juices and fruit pulp is not yet definitely known but some cut in the original programme of the Ministry of Food will, there is reason to expect, be almost certainly necessary.

Obituary

Captain F. F. C. Messum

CAPTAIN FREDERICK FOSTER CLEEVE MESSUM, whose death was briefly reported in last CIRCULAR, had a wide circle of friends in, and connected with, the West Indies, having been hon. secretary of the West Indian Club since July, 1920.

In 1876, Captain Messum, who was then in his 17th year, entered the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and remained with that Line until his retirement in 1923. After serving in the company's office, he became, in 1880 an assistant purser, and later purser, working in that capacity until 1908 when he was appointed as representative in Buenos Aires. He returned to London in 1909 as West End representative and occupied that post until August, 1917, when he was appointed to the War Office with the rank of Captain.

His wife, whom he married in 1926, predeceased him by four days and they were buried together at Camberwell New Cemetery.

"A. A." writes as follows:—

Captain Messum will be missed by none more than by the members of the West Indian Club whose honorary secretary he was for no fewer than twenty years. He was what is known colloquially as a "good mixer" and an ideal man for the position which otherwise also he was so well qualified to fill. The tact and courtesy which he showed to all comers whilst he was successively purser and representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in Buenos Aires and London—positions of great responsibility—had already won him a multitude of friends before he entered the West Indian circle where he made many more. Among rotarians especially Messum was well known as a lecturer on the West Indies and South America and the fund of humour he possessed served him in good stead in this connexion. For this he used to find an outlet at the Club's Christmas dinner held annually on his suggestion at which he was wont to occupy the chair. His health had recently been failing—as was plain to all—but in spite of that he insisted in "carrying on" and it was hoped that he would survive the war; but that was not to be, and so passes a good fellow and a valued friend.

The Colonial Empire

Our valued contemporary *The Crown Colonist* has shown its confidence in the inviolability of the Colonial Empire by publishing in this critical year a map (37 in. by 48 in., 6s. sheet; 15s. mounted) showing the situation and sizes of the units comprising it in relation to one another and to the British Isles. Map-drawing must be a difficult task in these days when countries change hands overnight, and the cartographer has done well to show British Somaliland and the Channel Islands in strong red, for their occupation by the enemy must only be temporary.

Shipping routes (in normal times) cables, fuel stations, and air routes are shown and on more detailed maps inset information as to population, trade, areas, is given. Here the relative areas of the Leeward Islands

and the Windward Islands are stated to be 725 and 521 square miles. In actual fact since the transfer of Dominica (305 square miles) on January 1st, 1940, the Windward Islands are now the larger group; but this will no doubt be adjusted when this useful map is reprinted to meet the demand which will no doubt arise for it.

"God Save Thee England"

The West India Committee recently received from Mrs. G. G. Connell, of Barbados, copies of a patriotic hymn "God Save Thee England." In an accompanying letter Mrs. Connell stated that the hymn, which she composed in June of this year, had been set to music by Mr. Lionel O. Gittens, also of Barbados, and was being sung in some of the churches and schools of the Colony. The hymn, together with the musical score, has been printed by the Advocate Co., Ltd., as a four page leaflet bearing the Union Jack in colour on the outside. We reproduce the words:

GOD SAVE THEE ENGLAND

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

God speed thee, England!
O'er land, on sea, in air;
Shew forth thy might, defend the right,
Till Victory appear.

God shield thee, England!
Midst seas of treacherous mines;
Direct thy chart, sustain thy heart,
And foil the foe's designs.

God stay thee England!
In days of trials sore;
Whate'er betide, step not aside,
But keep thine Honour pure.

God save thee, England!
Home of the brave and free;
No foe shall dare thy land ensnare,
Nor break thy sovereignty.

GLADYS G. CONNELL.

Barbados, B.W.I.

Mrs. Connell asked that six copies might be sent to Their Majesties the King and Queen with her "best wishes for ultimate victory." Her request was immediately complied with and the following letter has been received from Windsor Castle:—

"The Private Secretary to The King begs to acknowledge Mr. E. J. King's letter to the Controller of the Household of the 18th November, and is desired by Their Majesties to ask Mr. King to be so good as to convey an expression of thanks to Gladys G. Connell for the copies of her hymn which she has sent for the acceptance of The King and Queen."

A copy of the hymn was also sent to the Ministry of Information with the suggestion that it would be of interest to the Ministry or to the B.B.C. Professor Harlow has written expressing on behalf of the Minister of Information keen appreciation of the hymn "as a striking exhibition of the spirit of loyalty in Barbados for which the Colony is famous, and for the spirit of confidence in the ultimate victory of the British Empire." He added that it was the intention of the Ministry to make use of the hymn—with the authors' permission—on such occasions as might be appropriate.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"TIRED foot always say pass long."

* * *
A PROCLAMATION was issued in British Guiana that the Fire Arms Ordinance would come into operation on December 1st.

* * *
THE HON. A. M. PUNNETT and the Hon. P. W. Verrall have been re-appointed members of the Executive Council of St. Vincent.

* * *
MR. F. CHILD has been appointed a member of the Labour Advisory Committee of St. Vincent in place of Mr. D. Hadley who had resigned.

* * *
LORD LLOYD, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was the chief guest of the League of Coloured Peoples at a reception held at Overseas House on December 12th.

* * *
AMONG recent contributions to the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund was £105 from the staff in the West Indies, of Cable & Wireless, Ltd. The Fund now exceeds £1,650,000.

* * *
SIR HUBERT YOUNG, Governor of Trinidad, left Port-of-Spain by air on December 4th for Washington, according to a press telegram, where he will have discussions with Lord Lothian, the British Ambassador.

* * *
THE Stockard Steamship Corporation, of New York, is to run a regular service, it is reported, between Baltimore and New York and the West Indies. The ports of call, it is stated, will include Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia and Trinidad.

* * *
LADY (SARA MARTHA) LUMB, who died at Hindhead, Surrey, on December 7th, was the widow of Sir Charles Lumb, puisne judge in Trinidad and later in Jamaica. In both Colonies she was deeply interested in the prevention of cruelty to animals, and after her husband's death at Folkestone, where they lived after his retirement, she presented to the town seven water troughs for horses and dogs, inscribed to his memory.

* * *
SADNESS and joy are blended in two announcements which appeared in *The Times* of November 30th. One records the death on November 27th of Miss Cecily Joyce Clementi, second daughter of Sir Cecil and Lady Clementi of Holmer Court, Holmer Green, Bucks, and the other the marriage of their only son Flying Officer Cresswell Montagu Clementi to Miss Susan Pelham, youngest daughter of Sir Henry and Lady Pelham of Westerham, Kent, which was solemnised at St. Peter's, Limpsfield, on the following day.

* * *
SIR CECIL CLEMENTI will be remembered in the West Indies as Colonial Secretary of British Guiana

from 1913 to 1921 during which period he administered the government of the Colony on various occasions. Lady Clementi was the first woman to ascend Mount Roraima, she reached the summit on January 15th, 1916. To Sir Cecil and Lady Clementi we extend our sympathy on the loss of their daughter and congratulations on the marriage of their son.

* * *
THE Governor of Barbados in a message to the Legislative Council of the Colony stated that the Secretary of State had reached the conclusion that the sale by Colonial Governments of United Kingdom National Saving Certificates and Defence Bonds was impracticable, and had suggested that the matter would be best dealt with by arrangements under which a Colonial Government would issue a suitable security or securities of its own and re-lend the whole proceeds to the United Kingdom Government for a corresponding period.

* * *
We have received the postal wrapper of a journal which safely reached its destination in spite of bearing the following very inadequate address to which had been added in red pencil "Try B'dos." :-

Captain E. C. Yard,
Cottage,
Estate,
St. George,
British West Indies.

Captain E. C. Yard, writing from Stepney, Barbados, says: "I cannot think how it ever got here with just the name of a small parish in Barbados! I think it very good work on the part of the postal people, and I should like to congratulate them."

The West India Committee

The Lord President of the Council, under the powers conferred on him by the Chartered and Other Bodies (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1939, has relaxed certain of the requirements of the West India Committee's Royal Charter of Incorporation and Rules relating to Meetings of the Executive. This concession, which is granted as a war measure and subject to the usual safeguards, will facilitate the transaction of urgent business under present abnormal conditions.

New Medical Adviser

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Dr. A. G. H. Smart, M.B.E., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., to be his Medical Adviser in succession to Sir Wilson Jameson, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., who relinquished the post upon his appointment as Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health on November 12th.

Dr. Smart served in the Malayan Medical Service from 1912 to 1935, and as Senior Medical Officer in St. Vincent from 1935 to 1938, since when he has been Assistant Medical Adviser in the Colonial Office.

Sugar-cane Fertilisers

Ammonium Sulphate and Sodium Nitrate

SUGAR planters in the West Indies are unable at present to obtain their usual supplies of fertilisers, notably ammonium sulphate. As reported in the CIRCULAR of November 14th, they are unobtainable in the United Kingdom and, owing to the paramount necessity of conserving dollar resources, the importation of Canadian and American fertilisers is prohibited. The question has been raised whether it would be advisable to use sodium nitrate or Chile saltpetre as a nitrogenous fertiliser as a substitute for ammonium sulphate. The use of sodium nitrate as a fertiliser is discussed in general terms by Dr. H. A. Tempany and Mr. G. E. Mann, in their *Principles of Tropical Agriculture* published in 1930, as follows:—

"Two principal types of artificial nitrogenous manures are commonly employed, namely nitrates and ammonium salts. . . . Sodium nitrate was until the Great War by far the most widely employed, but has now been replaced to a considerable extent by other nitrogenous fertilisers. . . . Sodium nitrate is readily leached out of the soil by drainage water, and should therefore not be applied until it is actually required by the plant. A certain amount of prejudice against its use is found among farmers on account of the fact that, on heavy soils, it is liable to deflocculate the clay, thus rendering the soil even more heavy. This can, however, be prevented by the simultaneous application of lime or ammonium sulphate. Again, the application of sodium nitrate to the soil liberates potassium compounds from the soil in an available form, and may in time cause the soil to become exhausted in respect of this constituent of plant food. Consequently, soils to which sodium nitrate is added should be maintained in good condition by the liberal use of farmyard manure, or other artificials should be applied to supplement the effect of the nitrate."

With the assistance of the Imperial Bureau of Soil Science a search was made in the library of the Rothamsted Agricultural Experiment Station for any comparatively recent records of the respective values of sodium nitrate and ammonium sulphate as fertilisers for sugar cane. They are not apparently very numerous, but the following brief notes may be of use in the present situation.

Dr. H. C. P. Geerligs contributed a paper on "Scientific Progress in Sugar Cultivation in Java during the Last Three Years" to the *International Sugar Journal* of February, 1918. Those three years of the last war, 1915-17, had set the Java planters the same problem as that which, for precisely the same reason, has now arisen in the West Indies, namely the shortage of ammonium sulphate. The German product could not be imported and British and Japanese supplies were not allowed to be sent to Java. A search had accordingly to be made for substitutes. Previous work had, Dr. Geerligs says, shown that of the usual nitrogenous fertilisers ammonium sulphate was by far the cheapest, the most handy and the best to store and distribute, but that Chile saltpetre and organic fertilisers, such as

castor and ground nut cakes and bat guano, were also good but either had disagreeable properties or attracted air moisture, and were not so economical. In those days there was, however, no choice and hence as Dr. Geerligs sums up, the substitutes, which in ordinary years were neglected, are now generally used.

Some experiments in British Guiana reported on by Mr. C. H. B. Williams, the Sugar Agronomist, in the *Agricultural Journal of British Guiana*, March, 1939, indicated that on pegassy clays nitrate of soda gave very similar results to nitrogen equivalent doses of ammonium sulphate or nitro-chalk. He expressed the opinion that nitrate of soda seemed to be a less likely substitute for ammonium sulphate than did nitro-chalk.

Dr. Wynne Sayer and Mr. S. Sen, of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, reported (*Agriculture and Live Stock in India*, 1939, pp. 165-6) the results of experiments with sugar cane grown on a "not good class loam, deficient in available phosphoric acid and nitrogen, but rich in lime and potash." Their conclusion was that, from an economic point of view, there was no difference between ammonium sulphate and sodium nitrate when applied on the basis of the same bulk weight, but that, used on an equivalent nitrogen basis, ammonium sulphate was the more profitable.

Results obtained in two other countries may also be mentioned. At the annual meeting in December, 1938, of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association it was reported that ammonium sulphate, sodium nitrate, calcium nitrate and urea were all equally effective as sources of nitrogen for the growth of sugar cane. In 1929 Mr. C. B. Gonaux, sugar cane specialist, stated in *Bulletin 203* of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station that ammonium sulphate and sodium nitrate both gave good results with sugar cane.

It is understood that some sugar planters in the West Indies have used sodium nitrate in the past with unsatisfactory results. The quotation given above from the text book of Dr. Tempany and Mr. Mann indicates ill-effects which may ensue. The experience of Java, gained in the last war, shows that sodium nitrate may be used at any rate to help make good the deficiency of ammonium sulphate. To what extent sodium nitrate can be employed will depend on the characters, chemical and physical, of the soils to which it is to be applied. Much more knowledge is now available on these matters than in the days when some of the earlier trials were made in the West Indies, and the Departments of Agriculture and the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture are doubtless in a position to give advice, based on knowledge of local conditions, as to where and to what extent sodium nitrate may be used temporarily with advantage in place of ammonium sulphate.

W.G.F.

Recent promotions and transfers and re-appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

Promotions and Transfers:—

STANSFELD, E. D. (Deputy Director of Surveys), Director of Surveys, Jamaica.

STUART, W. H. (Chief Justice, Tonga), Puisne Judge, British Guiana.

Re-appointment:—

DAVIES, E. (formerly Inspector of Produce, Nigeria), Senior Agricultural Superintendent, Jamaica.

The New Defence Bases

A West Indian Talk at Bristol

MR. HUGH PAGET, a member of the secretariat of the West India Committee, gave a lecture on the lease to the United States of naval and air bases in the British West Indian Colonies to the Bristol Branch of the Royal Empire Society on November 12th. This talk which was undertaken at the invitation of Colonel E. W. Lennard, chairman of the Branch, formed one of a series dealing with various phases of the war, arranged by the Bristol Branch of the Royal Empire Society.

Mr. Paget, who was introduced by Colonel Lennard, began his talk by referring to the many strong links between Bristol and the West Indies. Bristol, he said, had been well described by an eminent student of her history as "a Gateway of Empire." In his book with this title, Mr. C. M. MacInnes, their vice-chairman, had shown that it was fully deserved. Bristol might more especially be regarded as "the threshold of the West Indies." Sir William Penn who, with Venables, captured Jamaica for the British in 1655 had come of a Bristol family and Sir Henry Morgan had also served as an apprentice in that city. Bristol had done more, however, than to place one or two outstanding figures upon the West Indian stage. Her connexion with the West Indies had, for centuries, been the strong bond of trade, changing in volume and in character but never being altogether severed. He went on to give a resume of the agreement reached by the Government of the United Kingdom and the United States for the lease to the latter country of naval and air bases in British Trans-Atlantic territories. By reference to the Committee's map of the West Indies he pointed out the strategical significance of the geography of the Caribbean area. He then gave a more detailed description of each of the Colonies in which the new bases were to be situated illustrating his talk by lantern slide views of the islands and British Guiana.

Mr. Paget went on to discuss the policy of the United States in the Caribbean and emphasized the vital necessity to her of being able to keep open the Panama Canal as a channel of trade and as a means of maintaining the mobility of her fleet. He reminded his listeners that the great American naval strategist, Admiral Mahan, had described the Caribbean as "the strategic key to the two great oceans, the Atlantic and Pacific." The United States already had bases at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, in Puerto Rico, at Key West in Florida, and in the island of St. Thomas, but they did not in any way provide a complete defensive system in relation to the many approaches to the Panama Canal. For this purpose, Jamaica was of outstanding importance, and the other new bases would play a vital part in the newly strengthened line of defence.

The United States Government was fully alive to the threat to her safety at the present time. Germany had devoted some of her most energetic and subtle propaganda to South and Central American states. The

Republic of Colombia was a case in point, and the importance of this country became self-evident when it was remembered that it adjoined Panama, had valuable oil supplies and possessed a fine port at Cartagena.

The situation in the French colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe, arising out of the collapse of France, was also rich in potentialities of danger, and all these problems had impressed the Government of the United States with the urgency of "looking to her moat."

Mr. Paget said that there had been some criticism of the agreement on the grounds that Great Britain had come out worst in the bargain. He agreed that, looked at purely as a deal, the United States would appear to have gained at our expense. He maintained, however, that the agreement could not fairly be judged in that light. Mr. Roosevelt had called it "an epochal and far-reaching act of preparation for the defence of our continent in face of grave danger," and "the most important action in reinforcement of our national defence that has taken place since the Louisiana Purchase," while Lord Samuel had described it as "the most momentous happening recently in the political world." It was clear that it was, as Mr. Churchill had said in the House of Commons on August 20th, a step towards a far closer association between the English speaking democracies—an association which was of vital importance in ensuring the future stability and progress of the world. Mr. Paget emphasised the fact that the British West Indies had already made a far from negligible contribution in man power to the Empire's war effort, and had contributed much in the economic sphere, but they counted it a particular privilege to be playing a vital part in an event which might well prove to be a turning point in the fortunes of the war and, indeed, of world history.

Mr. Paget gave two other talks in Bristol on the same subject on behalf of the Ministry of Information on November 12th. One was at the Co-operative Educational Centre, and the other at a luncheon of the Round Table, held at the Royal Hotel.

President Roosevelt Calls at Jamaica

President Roosevelt arrived at Jamaica on December 5th. He did not land at Kingston but remained in the harbour, in the cruiser Tuscaloosa, where he entertained Sir Arthur and Lady Richards to luncheon. He subsequently inspected the site of the new naval base in Portland Bight. President Roosevelt who, it is understood, is making a holiday cruise in the Caribbean an occasion for visiting the sites of the new bases, went, four days later, to St. Lucia where he inspected United States aviation outposts on that island, in company with British officials. On the same day he conferred, off Martinique, with the United States Consul there and Captain Blakenship, of the United States Navy.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



*Labour Legislation in the Windward Islands — Jamaica Sugar Crop
Death of a Trinidad Public Benefactor*



DOMINICA

Labour Legislation. Two new Ordinances affecting labour and trade conditions in the Colony were gazetted on September 23rd. The objects of the first, No. 3 of 1940, are to provide for the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal and a Board of Inquiry in connexion with Trade Disputes, and to make provision for the settlement of such disputes, and for the purpose of inquiring into economic and industrial conditions in the Colony. The second, No. 20 of 1940, is an Ordinance to regulate Trade Unions.

GRENADA

Department of Labour. On October 8th the Governor gave his assent to an Ordinance, No. 16, of 1940, which provides for the appointment of a Department of Labour under the charge of a Labour officer and the creation of a Labour Advisory Board. The Labour (minimum wage) Ordinance has been repealed, and power given to the Governor in Council to make orders, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council, regarding wages, the conditions of employment and related matters.

JAMAICA

Dr. G. E. Valentine was elected to a seat on the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation on November 13th.

Mr. A. S. Gray has been appointed Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of Trelawny with effect from November 10th, 1940. Mr. Gray has been a Justice of the Peace for over thirty years.

A Fisheries Department has been opened at the corner of Gold and Harbour Streets, Kingston, which is designed to make fresh fish available at standard regulated prices. This Department is a subsidiary of the Jamaica Government Marketing Department.

Trade with Canada is stated, by Mr. F. W. Fraser, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Jamaica, to show a very satisfactory increase in recent months.

Mr. Martin Cooper, Deputy Director of Public Works, has been appointed Director of Public Works, Jamaica, in succession to the Hon. Major H. Simms.

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce has set up a special committee to work in conjunction with the Labour Department to deal with all increases of wages, wage disputes, etc., among clerks in the distributive trades.

Mr. D. J. Verity wrote from Kingston on November 8th: "The revised sugar crop estimates at the end of October show an increase of 1,040 tons over the September figures with a total of 148,420 tons against 147,380 tons. We are within measurable distance of the start of crop once more, and with one of that size to be reaped, most factories will be making an early start.

"Mr. J. B. Cuthill, director and general manager of Jamaica Sugar Estates, has just left for a short trip to El Salto sugar factory in Guatemala.

"Mr. O. M. Henzell, manager of Caymanas Estate, who held an Engineer Officer's commission in the Navy years ago, has been called up for service. His father, who is so well known in Antigua and the British West Indies generally, is now on his way here to take over during his son's absence."

ST. VINCENT

Customs Duties. By Ordinance No. 15, of 1940, section 7 of the Customs Duties Ordinance has been repealed and replaced as follows:—

"In converting the selling price of goods from a currency other than sterling to sterling, the rate of exchange shall be the selling price for sight drafts on the day of the arrival of the importing ship."

Labour Legislation. The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance No. 140, of 1940, recently passed provides for the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal and a Board of Inquiry in connexion with trade disputes, and makes provision for the settlement of such disputes, and for the purpose of inquiring into economic and industrial conditions in the Colony.

The appointment of a Factories Board is provided for under the Factories Ordinance, No. 17, of 1940. The Board, consisting of the Senior Medical Officer, the Labour Commissioner and not less than three members, will exercise supervision over all premises wherein steam, water, wind or other mechanical power is used in aid of manufacturing processes.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Cost of Living. On October 1st the cost of living index was 23 per cent. higher than at the commencement of the war. Since the beginning of the present year it has risen by 8 per cent.

A Great Public Benefactor.—At a meeting of the Board of Industrial Training held on October 14th, it was agreed to record in the minutes with deep regret the death of Mr. John Walker Stephens who "by his generosity did so much to advance technical and commercial education in the Colony, and who by many substantial gifts and personal interest showed a genuine regard for the welfare of the blind."

Mr. T. H. Scott, the Chairman of the Board, in moving the resolution said "this is not the place to talk of the Stephens Trust created in his lifetime and which has made Mr. Stephens the greatest public benefactor this Colony has ever seen.

"John Stephens was a man who shunned publicity, especially in regard to his generosity, but generations yet unborn in Trinidad will have cause to be grateful to this large-hearted Scotsman."

Cashew Nut By-Products

The acrid and poisonous oily liquid contained in the shell of the cashew nut has long been regarded as a very undesirable substance to be got rid of by roasting before the nuts can be cracked to obtain the kernels. Uses have, however, been found for this liquid and it now forms an important by-product of the cashew nut industry of Southern India which has attained such large dimensions during recent years.

Mr. M. T. Harvey and Mr. S. Caplan, in an article on Cashew Nut Shell Liquid, published in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (October, 1940, pp. 1306-10), state that products of this liquid, either alone or in combination with other materials, are used in the manufacture of such diverse articles as insulating varnishes, type-writer rolls, oil and acid-proof cold setting cements, industrial floor tiles, and motor car brake linings.

The uses of the shell liquid have kept pace with the growth of the Indian trade in cashew nut kernels which, to the United States alone, has risen from 100,000 lb. in 1923 to 27,000,000 lb. in 1937. At present much of the shell oil is wasted but new methods of extraction with hot oil are being employed which should secure 50 per cent. The article describes, with illustrations of the plant used, some of the processes for preparing various products.

Termite Control in Barbados

Termites, or "wood ants," are a pest in most tropical countries, and often cause an immense amount of destruction. In a recently published article on The Termites of Barbados (*Agricultural Journal*, Department of Science and Agriculture, Barbados, Vol. VIII, No. 4), Mr. R. W. E. Tucker, the Entomologist, says that whilst termites do not constitute a major problem economically in the Colony they do damage to buildings and in cane fields, of which but little notice is taken. Investigations, however, have shown for example that out of 76 cane fields taken at random and thoroughly sampled, 92 per cent. were infested with termites, and that in 17 per cent. of the total fields there would be a loss of from three to five per cent. of their crop. To this must be added loss of humus because termites destroy an appreciable quantity of cane trash, stumps, etc. They also partially destroy "seed cane" and so cause loss by entailing re-planting.

Mr. Tucker gives an account of the seven species of termites found in Barbados and of the means of combating them. The principal measure is, he says, the wholtime employment of a temporary officer, the Wood Ant Inspector, to inspect buildings, cane fields and inter-island schooners. The inspector reports the extent of damage and carries out, or advises on, control measures.

Mr. Tucker points out that the services of the Inspector are available to owners of private houses and offices, etc., on the payment of £2 2s. and that by this means the application of termite control and preventive measures is being demonstrated in a practical manner to all who need assistance and the extent of accumulated and potential damage from these hidden pests is being brought home to the community.

Limes Associations

Legislation in St. Lucia and Dominica

THE St. Lucia Limes Association has been declared a corporate body by Ordinance No. 6 of 1940. Another Ordinance affecting the industry, also passed during the year, is No. 7, the Lime Products Cess (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940. This alters the rate of cess imposed on lime products to conform with similar cess which, when the draft Bill was published, it was stated that neighbouring Colonies proposed to levy. The ultimate aim of these Colonies was to contribute the proceeds of this cess to a common fund for the promotion of the welfare of the industry.

The cess payable under the Ordinance is as follows:—

Green or fresh limes	6d. per barrel
Pickled limes	6d. per barrel
Ecuelled or hand pressed oil	6d. per pound
Distilled oil	3d. per pound
Top pulp juice (a)	½d. per gallon
Racked or clear juice (b)	½d. per gallon
Concentrated juice (c)	2s. 6d. per pipe
Citrate of lime (d)	2s. 6d. per pipe

(a) "Top pulp juice" shall be taken to mean the entire juice of the fruit, still containing oil;

(b) "Racked or clear juice" shall be the juice free from oil;

(c) "A pipe" of concentrated juice shall be 108 Imperial gallons at 64 oz. acidity;

(d) "A pipe" of citrate of lime shall be 6 cwt. at 64 oz. acidity.

In Dominica, Ordinance No. 17 of 1940 gives the Governor power, by Order in Council, to impose a levy on limes and lime products exported from the Colony, and to make payments from the proceeds towards the formation and other expenses of the West Indian Limes Association. An Ordinance, No. 18, has also been passed, to incorporate the Dominica Limes Association.

Jamaica-Type Rum in Puerto Rico

The Report for 1928 of the University of Puerto Rico Agricultural Experimental Station contains an account by R. Arroyo and M. Manzano of the Production of Jamaica-type Rum. As the original paper has not been seen the following summary is quoted from the December issue of the *International Sugar Journal*:—

"A method, which must be carried out under strict chemical control, has been developed on a small scale for the fermentation and production of a Jamaica-type rum. It uses a specially selected type of yeast and a bacterium; the former producing the alcohol, and the latter contributing to the taste, body and aroma. This symbiotic effect of the two organisms accelerates the fermenting period, compared with Jamaican practice, and also reduces the time of maturing normally required. Analyses show that while the alcohol content is about the same as in the Jamaican process, the ester content is more than doubled, and the acidity is lower. Distillation should be carried out in batch stills to obtain a quality product."

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Company Reports & Meetings

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

In their report for the year ended June 30th, the directors state that the year's trading resulted in a profit of £1,219,774, which, added to the balance brought forward and after writing back the reserve for Cocoa Levy not now required, provides a total to the credit of the appropriation account of £1,358,010. In anticipation of the year's results, an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, was paid in May, 1940. After making provision for taxation and against shares in and loans to other companies, the directors recommend a final dividend of 7½ per cent. (less Trinidad income tax at the rate of 2s. 11d. in the £ and United Kingdom income tax of 5s. 7d. in the £), which, after allowing for additional remuneration to the directors in accordance with the Articles of Association, leaves a balance of £120,049 unappropriated and this it is proposed to carry forward.

Oil profits and other revenue, state the directors, are higher by 68 per cent., as compared with the preceding year, largely due to a considerably increased turnover resulting in part from the disposal of certain stocks held in the United Kingdom at the outbreak of War.

The accounts show that the sum of £1,000,000 has been provided to cover the company's estimated liability to income tax and excess profits tax in respect of the year's trading. In the previous year, tax provision, including National Defence Contribution and income tax on dividends, amounted to £420,967.

The board is happy to report that, in association with other oil companies in Trinidad, the Company's relations with the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union show signs of improvement.

In connexion with their interests in associated companies, the directors state:—

North Venezuelan Petroleum Co. Ltd., and Siparia Trinidad Oilfields Ltd.—The normal progress of these companies continues.

Trinidad Northern Areas Ltd.—Exploratory work continued during the year under review, but oil in commercial quantities has not yet been proved.

Tocuyo Oilfields of Venezuela Ltd.—Due in part to difficulties arising from the war, the board of that company decided in August last that the interests of its shareholders would be best served by placing the company in liquidation. This is now proceeding, and full provision for your company's share of the losses sustained has been made.

(Continued from next column)

Medium No. 2 is in demand at 62/6 c.i.f. with sellers asking 65/-. Some parcels of ratoon have been sold at 50/- c.i.f. for December/February shipment closing buyers thereat. **Nutmegs** are in good demand and prices are dearer. Sound unassorted have been sold at 7½d. lb. c.i.f. United Kingdom port for prompt shipment from Grenada and defectives are quoted at 7½d. ex wharf. **Mace** is also dearer and business has been done up to 2/2 per lb. c.i.f. for the mixed pale to red. This quality on the spot is quoted at 2/6 to 2/8 ex wharf and there is a good demand.

Round the Markets

December 10th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchangerates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

	BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.		\$ value
	Nov. 25th.	Dec. 9th.	
Canada	4.45	4.45	4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	4/11.6
Buenos Aires (paper pesos)	17.01	17.01	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation	
2½	Consols (yield £3 6s. 0d. per cent.)	75½	75½
3½	War Loan ...	102½	102½
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6	nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/-	nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory ...	11/3	13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	25/-	26/3
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	35/-	38/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ...	34/6	38/6
10	Booker Bros. McConnell ...	2½	2½
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½	1½
	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ...	1/-	1/6
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	17/6	20/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	1/9	2/9
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	2/6	3/6
8	Kern Oil Co. 3/4 ...	4½d.	1/-
8	Prenter (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/- ...	37	41
15	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	14	2
5	St. Kitts (London) Sugar ...	10/-	12/6
7	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	6/3	7/3
	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/- ...	3d.	1/-
15	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3½	4½
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	2½	3½
7½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	4/6	6/-
	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	7/-	8/-
	United British Oilfields 6/8		

COCOA. About 1,100 bags of fine Grenada have been sold during the fortnight at 58/-. No business has been reported in Trinidad on the spot, but prices show an increase of about 5/- with sellers asking 70/- for good plantation, and 75/- for fine estates. The first three marks of Trinidad "to arrive" are unchanged at 51/- c. & f. The controlled price of West African is unchanged at 35/- for good fermented.

BALATA. The nominal values are unchanged at 2/7 per lb. for block, and 2/8 for sheet, but no business has been reported.

BANANAS. There has been a steady all round demand for Jamaicas which are unchanged to wholesalers, at £30 5s. per ton delivered London, and £30 nearest station Provinces. The banana situation is discussed elsewhere in this issue.

HONEY. The maximum control price of new crop Empire honey is 65/- c.i.f. United Kingdom port. Landed term prices are 76/- per cwt. for minimum quantities of 10 tons, and 82/6 for quantities below 10 tons.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Supplies of Hand-pressed are scarce, and the nominal price is unchanged at 45/- per lb. Sellers of Distilled on the spot continue to ask 27/6 for small quantities; offers of forward shipment meet little interest. **Lime Juice.** There is still no demand for concentrated and raw remains quiet and unchanged at 2/9 to 3/3 per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. The spot value of Sweet is higher at 8/6 per lb., but Bitter is unchanged at 10/- per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** is quiet but firm with some business done up to 122/6 per cwt. c.i.f. United Kingdom port for parcels near afloat. Spot is quoted at 1/4 per lb. ex store. **Jamaica Ginger** is dearer and new crop No. 3 "to arrive" has sold at 58/- per cwt., c.i.f. United Kingdom, January/March shipment.

(Continued at foot of preceding column)

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LV, DECEMBER 26th, 1940. No. 1102.

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December 24th, 1940.

Colonial Co-operation

FOR centuries, people driven from their own homes by war or persecution have sought and found a refuge in Jamaica and in other parts of the West Indies. In that island testimony of this fact is afforded by such place names as Surinam Quarters, in St. Elizabeth parish, which commemorates the settlement there of planters from Surinam when that Colony was exchanged with the Dutch for New York in 1675. To-day, once again, Jamaica is affording a refuge to people from another Colony. During October and November some 1,500 evacuees from Gibraltar landed in Jamaica which will now be their home for the duration of the war. "Camp Gibraltar" at Mona, in the parish of St. Andrew, has been carefully prepared for their reception. Every effort is being made for their welfare and comfort by a large staff (many of whom are giving their services voluntarily) under the direction of the Camp Commandant and Camp Manager, MR. E. A. RAE. A scheme of evacuation on this scale has involved long and careful preparation in Jamaica, in Gibraltar and in this country, in the course of which the West India Committee was consulted. There is every indication that the arrangement is working well. Jamaicans have extended to their fellow Colonials from Gibraltar a welcome worthy of the best traditions of West Indian hospitality and the Gibraltarians themselves are showing their readiness to do all in their power to make the scheme a success. The whole arrangement provides a remarkable instance of co-operation between two widely separated Colonies and gives one more proof of the loyalty of the people of the Empire not only to the Mother Country but also to one another.

Help for the Mother Country

THOSE who were privileged to be present at Buckingham Palace on December 12th, on the occasion at which HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN received from LORD LLOYD on behalf of the nation mobile canteens given by the Colonies for the relief of air raid victims in this country, will not readily forget that simple but impressive ceremony. There, one felt, were the visible outstretched hands of the people of the Colonial Empire willing and able to give practical and immediate help to their fellow citizens in Great Britain who are bearing the brunt of the indiscriminate vengeance of a ruthless and frustrated enemy. "What can I do to help?" is a question which men, women and children in every part of the Colonial Empire have been asking ever since the outbreak of war. Many men of

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES—			
COLONIAL CO-OPERATION	307	RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN FLAG	
HELP FOR THE MOTHER		DAY	313
COUNTRY	307	THE GLASGOW ASSOCIATION	314
FROM A LONDONER'S NOTEBOOK	308	COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS	314
THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR	309	WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER	315
THE LONDON A.F.S.	310	WAXING VEGETABLES FOR	
THE NEW DEFENCE BASES	310	EXPORT	315
COLONIAL ECONOMIC POLICY	311	FORTNIGHT'S HOMEWARD MAIL	316
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE	312	IMPORT LICENCES	316
NOTES OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST	313	COMPANY REPORTS AND MEETINGS	317
		ROUND THE MARKETS	318

military age have been able to come to this country and are now serving in the Navy, the Army and the Air Force. For most, however, this has been impossible because the duty for the majority must, for the time being at any rate, be that of maintaining production and essential services and of defending the Colonies in which they live. This has given rise to a strong urge to contribute in some additional way to the Empire's war effort which has found expression in such ways as that already referred to on this page by which one Colony gives a home to refugees from another, and in gifts for bombers and fighters and for other war purposes which already amount to a sum of approximately £17,000,000. Of this, £70,000 is devoted to the provision of mobile canteens some thirty-five of which were put into service at the ceremony of December 12th. By far the greater part of the money for these canteens has been subscribed by voluntary organizations through whom have come contributions from people in every Colony, rich and poor alike. The canteens work under the direction of the Ministry of Food, and are manned by the Church Army. They are admirably equipped, and will serve hot drinks to people in London and other cities who have been bombed out of their homes or who have to spend long winter nights in the shelters. Included in this first fleet were canteens given by the people of Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago. HER MAJESTY showed the greatest interest in the canteens which she described as a "most valuable and welcome gift." Although it is impossible for most of the people in the Colonies to share the burdens and dangers of the war to which people in Great Britain are exposed they can at least have the satisfaction of knowing that they are contributing in a very real way to the relief of their distress. As LORD LLOYD pointed out, the people of this country will not only receive bodily comfort from these canteens, but will be heartened and fortified by the knowledge that their fellow citizens in the Colonial Empire wish them well, and are paying this tribute to their cheerful endurance and their unconquerable will to victory.

This issue completes Volume LV of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. Copies of the Title Page and Index will be obtainable early next year, post free from the Secretary, West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. Cases for binding Volume LV can be supplied post free for 4/- each. Subscribers can have their own CIRCULARS bound for the inclusive charge of 7/6 on sending them, carriage paid, to the Secretary at the above address.

From a Londoner's Notebook

GENERAL WAVELL'S magnificent victory in the desert comes to brighten the Christmas of 1940 just as the battle of the River Plate brightened that of 1939. It ends a period of great anxiety, for since the collapse of France we have been faced by great superiority of numbers, by sea and land and in the air, in the Eastern Mediterranean; and the persistent threat of an invasion of Egypt kept the main communications of the Empire in constant jeopardy. No harm can be done now by disclosing that at one time our position was so weak that some generals of high rank were in favour of abandoning Egypt to the enemy and retiring to a defensive line based on the Suez Canal itself.

* * *

The menace to Egypt is now decisively removed. The battle that removed it has shown many things, all of them of high encouragement to us. For the first time in this war we have won a victory on land, and for the first time a leader emerges into the popular view who can be ranked with the great commanders of the last war—perhaps especially with Allenby, whose chief exploits were achieved not so very far away. The feat required not only fine generalship but also staff work of the highest order, in manœuvring troops at the great speed of mechanized war over a roadless and waterless land (perhaps I should say a land with one road—I remember in the last war getting fourteen punctures in thirty miles of it). Our staff have shown that in the technique of the *Blitzkrieg* they have nothing to learn from the Germans.

* * *

The strategic surprise achieved by General Wavell would probably have beaten Marshal Graziani whatever the character of the troops he commanded. But the victory could not have been so rapid or so complete but for the immense and obvious superiority of quality of the British soldier as compared with his Italian adversary. The Italians very evidently have not their hearts in the war. There is no justification, as Mr. Churchill insisted in the House of Commons, for calling them cowards. They have shown in the past that they are a brave people, and many units even in this battle have fought well. The explanation of the general lack of spirit is, we need hardly doubt, to be found in the effect of eighteen years of Fascist rule. Man for man, the slave is no match for the freeman—and that may some day be found true of other armies than the Italian.

* * *

The wider consequences of the victory open up an interesting field of speculation. Together with the crippling of the Italian fleet at Taranto, it cuts off Italy from her oversea Empire. At the same time our Mediterranean fleet, scouring the Adriatic and meeting with no resistance, is in a position to sever communications between Mussolini and the army that is being steadily pressed backward by the Greeks. It is not too much to look forward to the possibility of driving Italy out of the war.

In thinking of such things, of course, we have to reckon with Germany. The indications are that Hitler intends to leave his tottering ally to his fate, so far as any direct intervention is concerned, and to seek a counterpoise to Mussolini's defeat by a diversion elsewhere. He has perhaps come to the conclusion that he can profitably abandon the beaten Italians and try to mobilize France against us. Some such scheme seems to underlie the complicated intrigues centred upon the dismissal of the French Foreign Minister, Pierre Laval.

* * *

Laval, it is believed, was detected in a plot to kidnap Marshal Pétain, presumably with the ultimate aim of bringing France into the war on Germany's side, he himself playing the congenial part of Quisling. The main plot was clearly thwarted; but the Marshal has had a firm reminder of who is master in France, being commanded by Hitler's envoy to release Laval and even to restore him to some position in the government. Moreover, we must be on our guard against building too much on the disgrace of this shoddy intriguer, for his successor, Flandin, is a scarcely less slippery politician, and certainly no friend to England.

* * *

Looking back over the year 1940, we can see that we have made great progress since June, when we were struggling desperately for mere survival. We are now able to take the initiative against one of our enemies on a great scale. Nevertheless, on the wide field of the war as a whole, we are still on the defensive. Mr. Churchill reminded Parliament on the eve of the recess that we are still a half-armed nation, while Germany is armed to the point of saturation. That deficiency we hope to correct during 1941, with the aid of our American friends. But this is well known to Hitler, and will dictate his policy. He must make a supreme effort to win the war while his material advantage lasts, and before American help can become effective. We have to be prepared for a great intensification of the already severe attacks upon our shipping; and, as several Ministers have recently warned us, it is by no means improbable that the project of invasion may be revived.

* * *

Our greatest reliance is now on the active friendship of the United States; and no man did more to win us that support than Lord Lothian. His death while still under sixty is a disaster. For many years his had been one of the two or three ablest minds concerning themselves with the meaning and mission of the British Empire. His work in America was perhaps done, and could not have been done better. But when it comes to the planning of a new world at the peace conference no man will be so sadly missed; for while he is said to have drafted more clauses of the Treaty of Versailles than any other man, his experience was combined with an almost unique openness of mind and ability to learn from the mistakes of the past.

The West Indies and The War

BAHAMAS

Generous Aid for War Purposes. H.R.H. the Duke of Windsor has reason, writes Lieut. Colonel N. G. Thwaites, to be proud of his Bahamian domain. Not only have the inhabitants of this old self-governing Colony contributed to the Imperial Treasury over £300,000 and subscribed money for some half-dozen Spitfires, besides unnumbered "Bundles for Britain" to clothe the victims of air raids, but they have now revived an ingenious method of raising further funds.

On a day chosen by the Governor, a group of about 800 persons, having accounts at the Royal Bank of Canada in Nassau, agree to contribute whatever shillings and pence appear in their bank balances. In October £360 1s. 9d. was raised by this method. With the beginning of what is expected to be a record winter season this amount will be greatly increased.

BERMUDA

The Governor of Bermuda has received from the Bermuda War Fund Appeal a cheque for £5,000 which represents the third contribution from the people of Bermuda towards the prosecution of the war. The sponsors of the Fund have requested that the money be used for the purchase of a third Spitfire.

BRITISH HONDURAS

War Efforts Committee. Our hon. correspondent, Captain M. S. Metzgen, wrote on October 11th that the British Honduras War Efforts Committee had been hard at work in various ways calculated to contribute to the successful prosecution of the war. The doctrine of self-sufficiency as a war-time measure had not been neglected. Public meetings had been held to inculcate thrift, greater production and consumption of local foodstuffs, the necessity for restriction of imports from foreign countries and the urgent need for the Colony to carry its own burdens without calling for help from the Mother Country.

Mobile Canteen. The Win the War Fund Committee in October cabled to London, through the local Government, £400 towards the cost of a mobile canteen to be used in connexion with the relief of air raid sufferers in London.

The British Newsreels displayed at the local cinemetograph theatre at Belize had, Captain Metzgen said, been of tremendous educational value and it was to be hoped that in the interest of our Cause more, and still more, British newsreels would become available.

JAMAICA

Jamaica Volunteers. Over 100 men attended the first parade of the St. Andrew Division of the Jamaica Volunteer Training Corps held at Knutsford Park on November 21st.

Mobile Canteens are the subject of a leading article in this issue of the CIRCULAR. The Jamaica Central War Assistance Committee is now appealing for funds with the object of providing a total of 25.

Importation Order. It was announced, on November 16th, that the system of certification by the Food Controller of orders for foodstuffs to be imported from the United Kingdom is about to be abandoned except in the case of a short list of articles, but the usual import licences will still be needed.

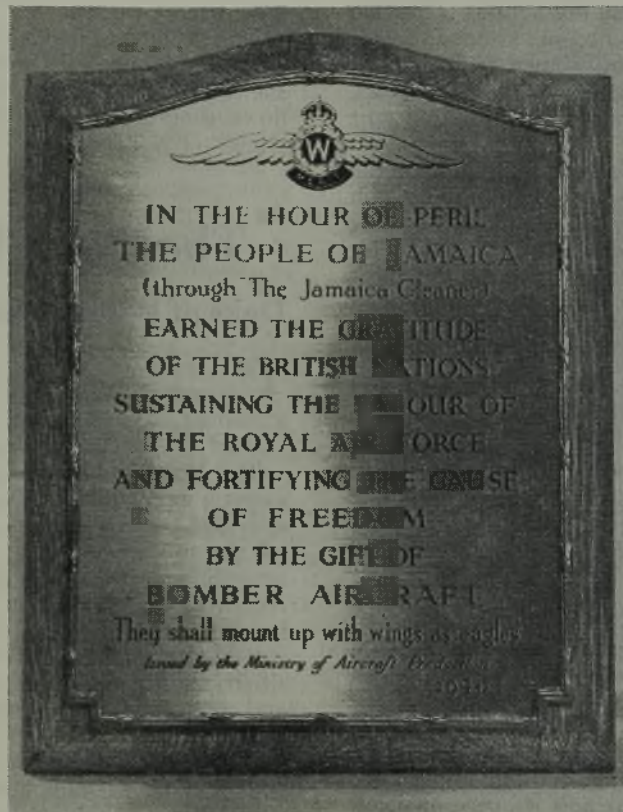
In future the control of exports of foodstuffs by export licences granted in the United Kingdom will be replaced by the control being exercised through import licences issued by the Food Controller in the various Colonies. In very many instances the Food Controller in Jamaica will be permitted to grant import licences for quantities equal to the average quantities imported

before the war. Importers are specially advised that licences for articles available from the United Kingdom will not be granted for similar articles from non-sterling sources unless this is absolutely necessary.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

£500 for Air Raid Victims. Among the gifts received last week by the Lord Mayor's National Air Raid Distress Fund was one of £500 from the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The First Trained Air Pilots. We are indebted to Mr. George W. Rochford for the information that the first six pilots to complete their course are on their way to England. They are D. Paton, V. Pereira, D. G. Rochford, C. Smith, G. Smith and H. Venebles.



This plaque has been issued by the Ministry of Aircraft Production to commemorate Jamaica's gift of bomber planes to the R.A.F. It is on a base of limed oak and bears the Ministry's badge of merit. The "W" stands for "Workmanship."

The London A.F.S.

THE idea of forming an Auxiliary Fire Service first took shape in 1938, when it was realised that bombs of an incendiary nature would probably be used should hostilities break out. The following year the scheme was advertised, and volunteers, willing to give whole or part time service in the event of mobilization, were asked for. Although the response was small a good nucleus was secured, and they were trained by members of the regular Fire Brigade who devoted an immense amount of time and patience to this service.

The personnel, which was of both sexes, was divided into the following categories: full fire fighters: firemen for ground work only: watchroom attendants for communication work, assisted by women telephonists: messengers over 14 years of age: taxi cab drivers, supplemented by women drivers of staff cars and light vans, and dispatch riders.

Mobilization in London, as elsewhere throughout the country, took place on September 1st, 1939, after which the work, so diligently started, was intensified. During the long and monotonous period before the *Blitzkrieg* began in earnest—the winter months were the most severe, as regards weather, England had experienced for many years—the London Fire Brigade and A.F.S. had a most trying time in making their quarters weather and bomb proof. Exercises, both practical and theoretical, were arranged when imaginary air raids took place and messages were passed for calls to fires, flooded basements, barrage balloons down in flames, etc.

Something should be said about the organisation of the Fire Service. Roughly it is planned on a co-operative basis; when the London County Council requirements run short assistance is called for from "out of area" Brigades—a building up process, or drawing in from outside London of fire fighting appliances. The combined strength of the Brigades in and around London form what is virtually a Fire Fighting Army—an extremely mobile force and one that never sleeps. In answer to a call of any description, whether to a fire or a horse down in an area, the average time taken to turn out is under one minute, day or night. The importance of the A.F.S. is fully recognised and its personnel are exempt from military service.

When the *Blitzkrieg* really started the value of the previous months of training was amply proved. By this time the A.F.S. were showing remarkable proficiency and their work was soon put to the test—as was also their grit. In all weathers, regardless of bombs or shrapnel, they went out to attend the calls—and when figures are published the casualty list will show whether duty has been shirked or not.

Less is known of the inside staff who do the ordering of appliances and who, likewise, stick to their posts no matter what is happening. Examples of what one London station has had to contend with can be given: One night 25 calls, and on another 30 calls, were received in a quarter of an hour; then 60 calls in an hour and, finally, on one "big night," when "baskets" of incendiaries were dropped in wide profusion, over 400 calls came in by fire alarm, telephone, air raid wardens, police and the public. These "shouts," as they are known, when sorted out proved to be from over 250

fires. Naturally these could not all be attended to with the limited number of appliances available so outside help was called for and some 150 extra pumps were drafted in. That night was a very severe test but the Service proved equal to it. All but three extra large fires were extinguished within two hours and all were out before dawn. The personnel of the L.F.B. and A.F.S. have throughout shown courage and efficiency beyond praise.

Amongst other facts worthy of special mention is that the London Fire Float "Massey Shaw" made several trips to Dunkirk and was able to evacuate some 600 of our troops; for this as also for many acts of bravery elsewhere, decorations including George Medals have been awarded.

One amusing incident may be quoted—during a particularly heavy bombing attack some men took shelter under a railway truck. When things quietened down they crawled out and saw in large letters on the truck "T.N.T."

H.L.Q.H.

The New Defence Bases

Duke of Windsor Meets President Roosevelt

THE Duke of Windsor, Governor of the Bahamas, discussed West Indian affairs for two hours with President Roosevelt, on December 13th, on board the United States cruiser Tuscaloosa.

The Duke left Miami (where he had been staying for about a week with the Duchess, who recently underwent a dental operation) in a United States naval bomber, on the morning of the 13th, and met the President, according to Press reports, off Eleuthera Island. On his return to Miami later in the day, His Royal Highness is reported to have said:

"The President and I discussed the international situation in general and the future of the West Indies and the American naval bases in the Caribbean in particular.

"We talked about the economic future of the West Indian Islands and how America might co-operate with Britain in their development.

"I had planned as Governor of the Bahamas to see the President anyway, and when the Navy bomber was offered for the trip I gladly accepted."

THE BAHAMAS BASE

President Roosevelt, in a statement to the Press on December 16th, said that plans for the establishment of a Bahamas base were being held in abeyance owing to the unfavourable anchorage and other conditions at Mayaguana Island.

He had inspected the island on the preceding day and had also seen three other islands of the Bahamas group—Eleuthera, Long Island and Little San Salvador. None, he said, was entirely satisfactory for a base.

Summing-up his 11-day inspection tour in the Caribbean, the President said there could be no "Gibraltar" there. He likened the sites to stepping stones, good for three things—seaplanes, landplanes and ships. Jamaica and St. Lucia were quite suitable, while Antigua was good for planes, but not for ships.

Colonial Economic Policy

Lord Lloyd on Present and Future Needs

*The debate * on Colonial Economic Policy which took place in the House of Lords on December 17th was of unusual importance. The questions dealt with included methods of helping the Colonies—both British and of our Allies—in their immediate difficulties caused by war conditions and also laying the foundations for securing economic co-operation in the future.*

LORD FARINGDON, who opened the debate, said he wished to draw the attention of the Government to the situation in the British and Allied Colonial possessions and to the need for co-ordination of economic policy between them. His object was to obtain from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a statement of policy. At the conclusion of an interesting survey he summarized the points on which he was asking for information as follows: "I would like to ask the noble Lord what steps are being taken to maintain the economic life of the Colonial Territories and the standard of living of their peoples, to encourage new industries, food production and self-sufficiency, to find markets for exportable surpluses, if he will state what progress has been made in intercolonial economic arrangements within the Empire in establishing consultation and collaboration between contiguous British and Allied territories, and, finally, if he can inform us of the possibilities of collaboration between the Governments of the respective Empires on economic, social and political policies." The first-rate importance of the subject was emphasized by Lord Addison.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Lord Lloyd dealt first with the question of the co-operation which the Colonial Office was giving to the Colonies of our Allies, co-operation which had been begun, was being deepened and would, he hoped, be continued after the war. The French and Belgian Colonies had, he said, always been much more dependent on the Mother Country than those of the Netherlands. Without going into detail on the economic arrangements proposed with the Free French and Belgian Colonies they were, he said, intended broadly to give general effect to the Government's pledge to maintain their economic structure by purchasing as much as we could of their produce and by providing in return such imports as were necessary for their economic life.

The Dutch East Indies on the other hand formed a very large and powerful unit which operated in great measure on its own account. It had therefore been able during the war, both for that reason and by virtue of its geographical position, to maintain its economic life pretty well unimpaired. The marketing of important products of the Dutch East Indies, such as tin, sugar, rubber and tea, had called for close international co-operation before the war. New problems had since arisen and His Majesty's Government and the Nether-

lands Government had recently set up a Joint Anglo-Netherlands Committee on Economic Matters which would meet frequently for a free exchange of information and ideas.

Lord Lloyd then pointed out that many of the problems that affect the Colonies, British and Allied, concern a large number of other countries which are not Colonies at all. It was, for instance, useless to try to plan a cocoa future for the Colonies unless we took into consideration the interests of Brazil, and many other interests similarly concerned with coffee, cocoa and so on. That was equally true of sugar. Sugar affected almost every country in the world, including now, of course, the United Kingdom, and therefore it was very far from being a Colonial problem alone. He thought it would be misleading if he left the impression that the Colonies could solve their economic problems simply by co-operating with one another. They could not do so; the economic problems with which they had to deal were part and parcel of world economic problems, and could not possibly be dealt with in isolation. Nevertheless, he thought the machinery of war-time co-operation which was being developed was going to be of very great help and must be maintained so that we could build up from it after the war something in the nature of a more comprehensive organization of co-operative activity in the Colonial and international spheres.

IMMEDIATE WAR PROBLEMS

Lord Lloyd then turned to one of the most important economic problems to which attention had been drawn by Lord Faringdon. It was a problem which confronted all the Allied Colonial Empires and for that matter all the countries of the world—namely the maintenance in war conditions of the essential supplies of the Colonies and their standard of living. He briefly indicated how various Colonies had been affected. With reference to the West Indies he said: "The sugar Colonies of the West Indies are quite comfortable. Trinidad is doing well with its oil and British Guiana with its bauxite. The tourist business in the Bahamas, Bermuda and Jamaica has been interrupted a little, but I am surprised to learn from the Department that it has not been hit too badly; I suppose that there is still a good deal of American trade. Jamaica has lost, unfortunately, most of its banana exports, at any rate for the time being; but, as I think the noble Lord knows, we are paying for agreed quantities of bananas which cannot be shipped, and so this difficulty will be avoided up to a certain point."

At the conclusion of this survey Lord Lloyd summed up by saying that the really black spots were West African cocoa and palm products, Pacific copra, Jamaica bananas and the Palestine and Cyprus citrus produce, and perhaps, to a certain extent, East African coffee. In all these cases the Government had already found, or

* PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, HOUSE OF LORDS, OFFICIAL REPORT. Vol. 118. No. 6. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6d.

were finding, financial means of saving the Colonies from grave suffering. On the import side it was quite true, as he had previously said, that prices had gone up. The figure of 30 per cent. and upwards, which he had given for West Africa, was probably not far out as a general average, but in some cases the increase would be greater. The vast majority of inhabitants of the Colonial Empire, he said, grew their own food or got it from their neighbours, it was thus rather in luxuries or semi-luxuries that the pinch would be felt. By semi-luxuries he meant things which were not absolutely necessary but which people had got so accustomed to that they were reluctant to do without them. In some ways of course the war provided opportunities, which we should not otherwise have had, for compelling certain Colonial producers to produce food which was better for them than the food they were now eating. Ever since the events which led up to the Nutrition Committee of 1937 great efforts had been made to get the Colonies to grow more of their own food and better kinds of food; for instance, more fruit and higher qualities of pulses. Now that the export market was in peril the producers in some cases were taking this advice to heart and would probably be better fed after the war than they were before it.

It would, Lord Lloyd continued, be foolish to pretend that the effect of the war had not been to make it both more expensive and more difficult to obtain most of the goods which the Colonies required to import, and it would be foolish to pretend that all those requirements can be filled to the same extent as before the war. We were all having to make sacrifices in war, and one of the sacrifices which the Colonies were making, and he thought were pretty gladly making, was a certain diminution in their supplies of goods for consumption from overseas. It had not been the policy of His Majesty's Government to attempt to maintain supplies at anything like 100 per cent. pre-war level. What they had done, and he considered successfully, was to endeavour to prevent serious distress arising out of war time conditions. He expressed his belief that if his audience made a tour of the Colonies to-day they would also feel satisfied that, given the weight of war impact, the Colonies were really suffering extraordinarily little. Where crops upon which particular Colonies had relied had become unsaleable owing to war time conditions, the Government had stepped in with special schemes of assistance in practically every case, either by the purchase of the whole crop, as with West African cocoa, or by the guarantee of a minimum return, as with Jamaican bananas. Of course the guarantee of a minimum return or financial payment could never be a proper substitute for a more healthy and natural trade, but at least it did prevent starvation or any grave result. Secondly, the Government had endeavoured to see that the cash so provided to Colonial communities could be turned into essential supplies from outside, either from the United Kingdom, if supplies could be got, or from sterling sources, if necessary. Thus, he said, we have actually been making available some of our hardily-needed dollars for the necessities of our Colonies.

Lord Lloyd dealt generally with disadvantages resulting from an unbalanced agriculture and undue dependence on export crops and then discussed the

problem of secondary industries. It was our duty, he said, to try to make the Crown Colonies as healthy normal entities as we could. "They should not merely depend upon one industry or upon the export trade of primary products, but, within the range of which is economically sane and sound, you should try to develop a reasonable number of secondary industries in the Crown Colonies."

After Viscount Samuel and Lord Davies had spoken Lord Faringdon expressed the thanks of the House to the Secretary of State for his statement. Amongst other matters briefly dealt with he said how extremely glad he had been to hear of the plans for the greater self-sufficiency of the Colonies and for local industries.

COLONIES (ECONOMIC CONDITIONS)

Mr. Creech Jones asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would make a statement informing Parliament what steps were being taken in the Colonial Empire to meet the new economic difficulties in the respective Colonies due to loss of markets, lack of shipping and inadequate storage; what encouragement was being given to increase local industries to grow subsistence crops, to store or process exportable crops, to obtain the requisite machinery and maintain the standard of living. Mr. George Hall in a written reply of December 18th stated that the preparation of a statement of all such steps would involve an amount of work which would not be justified at present. Announcements had already been made about the purchase of cocoa and the guarantee of a minimum return to banana producers and he should be happy to furnish information on any other specific matters.

The West India Committee

AT the outbreak of war a number of the more valuable volumes from the West India Committee's Library, old Minute and Record Books of great historical interest were sent out of London to safer quarters. Some of these are stored in Bank vaults; others are in the care of Mr. Noel Decr, a member of the Library Committee, who kindly offered storage accommodation.

Additions were from time to time made in the number of records so "dispersed." Recent events, however, indicated clearly that much more should be done if the Committee were to be reasonably secure from the irreparable loss to its efficient working which would result from the destruction by enemy action overnight of its books of reference and many of its files. To avoid such a contingency the Committee has availed itself of a characteristically generous offer from its senior deputy chairman, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, to provide accommodation, free of cost, outside the London area, for the items—and the quantity of them is considerable—which are irreplaceable but not immediately required.

As a result of this timely gesture by Mr. Gordon Miller, combined with the duplication and disposal elsewhere of current accounts and important current correspondence, it is felt that all that can be done, consistent with the finances of the Committee, will have been arranged for, to ensure the maintenance of its efficient working.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"EBRY cock crow from his own dungle."

* * *

THE people of Aruba, one of the Dutch West Indian islands, have sent a further £142 to the Red Cross and St. John Fund, bringing their contributions to £1,685.

* * *

MR. H. W. BRIGHTON, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Panama City, plans to visit, early next year, the Netherlands West Indies, Venezuela and Colombia in the interests of Canadian trade.

* * *

MR. ALEXANDER ELDER, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and chairman of the Jamaica Standing Committee, has been elected a director of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.

* * *

A DAUGHTER has been born to Mrs. Harford, wife of Mr. J. D. Harford, Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis. This happy event took place on December 10th at Basseterre, the capital of the Presidency.

* * *

WE extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. F. C. Bevis, a member of the Board of the Cocoa Association of London on the death, through enemy action, of his Mother and the serious injury to his Father. We are glad to learn, however, that his Father is making a good recovery.

* * *

MINCING LANE will lose one of its best known and most popular figures at the end of this month by the retirement of Mr. Harold L. Carey, senior partner of Woodhouse, Carey & Browne, the produce brokers. Mr. Carey has been in business in the "Lane" for 55 years.

* * *

MR. J. D. RACE, secretary of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), since 1925, has been the recipient of many good wishes for his future happiness on his retirement from the City. Before the formation of the Bank, in that year, Mr. Race served for 10 years with the Colonial Bank.

* * *

HE has been succeeded by Mr. H. T. Egerton, who for 16 years was in the service of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank before it became part of the organization now known as Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

* * *

THE West India Committee has taken up with the General Post Office the question of serious delays in the arrival of air mail letters consigned to the West Indies and Demerara. In many cases duplicates sent by ordinary mails have been arriving several days ahead of the originals sent at heavy cost by the North Atlantic air-mail route.

* * *

MR. C. W. W. GREENIDGE, Solicitor-General of Nigeria, who is at present in England on leave was

among last week's visitors to the West India Committee Rooms. Before being appointed, in 1936, to his present post, Mr. Greenidge was for four years Chief Justice of British Honduras. Previously he had served in Trinidad, St. Kitts and Barbados.

* * *

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies was the principal guest at a reception held by the League of Coloured Peoples at the Overseas League on December 12th. After expressing his pleasure at being present Lord Lloyd said he was impressed by the fact that people coming from such different parts of the world could mix so freely and in such comradeship. Goebbels and Goering would be amazed if they could see it.

* * *

WHILST people at home were astonished at the colonial war effort, the colonials themselves regarded their contributions as natural. He regretted that he had never visited either the West Indies or West Africa, but when happier times came he intended to do so.

* * *

MR. G. MILNE, Soil Chemist of the East African Agricultural Research Station at Amani, is the author of a *Report on a Journey to Parts of the West Indies and the United States for the Study of Soils*. (Government Press, Dar-es-Salaam, 1940. Shs. 2/50). A notice in the *Empire Cotton Growing Review* for December states that the value of this opportunity of studying the results obtained from the pursuit of soil science in the U.S.A. and the American tropics, and of applying the lessons so learned to African problems, is fully evident. The discussion of the many soil questions raised by the author's observations is carried out with a breadth of view and liveliness of expression not always characteristic of the subject. Not only soil specialists but agriculturists (and foresters) in general will be interested and entertained by perusal of the report.

Red Cross and St. John Flag Day

Only one national Red Cross and St. John Flag Day will be held in 1941. The Organisation announces in its *Summary of Work* of December 14th, that in the London Metropolitan Police Area the date provisionally fixed is Thursday, June 5th. That or a near date, will it is hoped, be agreed upon in other areas. Every effort will be made to ensure that the one day next year produces a bigger sum than was raised by the two flag days of 1940 which have so far brought in £344,000. As the first national Flag Day, which was held in 1939 in the early days of the appeal, resulted in a collection of £106,000, the national Flag Days have in all brought in some £450,000—a result for which thanks are expressed to Lord Luke and his Committee.

The Organisation hopes that the Dominions and the Colonies will join in the national Flag Day of 1941.

The Glasgow Association

Chairman on West Indian Conditions

SIR NORMAN LAMONT, who was recently elected chairman, presided for the first time at the annual meeting of the West India Association of Glasgow, held in that city on November 28th.

At the outset of his speech, Sir Norman expressed his regret, and that of his fellow directors, at the decision of Mr. Humphry Crum Ewing to retire. As he was living in Jamaica, at any rate for the duration of the war, Mr. Crum Ewing felt that he could no longer perform the duties of chairman, but members would be glad to know that he continued to have a seat on the board. Sir Norman was sure that they would all desire that a message should be sent thanking Mr. Crum Ewing (who had succeeded his father as chairman in 1912) for his long service.

The Association had suffered a still more grievous loss in the death of the vice-chairman, Mr. G. Service. His loss to the Association, to a host of friends, and to very many good causes was quite irreparable.

A third loss was the resignation of Mr. Stevenson, who had retired from the post of secretary which he had filled for the last eight years. He had been succeeded by Mr. R. S. Allan.

Referring to the annual report which was before the meeting, the chairman said that it dealt with conditions for their financial year ended June 30th last, since when there had been little change except in the cases of coffee (which was not mentioned in their report) and bananas. Imports of coffee into the United Kingdom had been restricted to Empire countries, and the West Indian quota had been fixed at 10,000 cwt. for the 1940-41 crop. That was on account of the very large stocks already in this country, so it was unlikely that the consumption of coffee would be rationed for some time to come. As to bananas, it had been announced only that week that their importation was to be prohibited in order to economise tonnage for more vital imports. That decision would, he feared, hit Jamaica very hard.

Every West Indian Colony was doing its utmost to support the Mother Country in the War. Not only had splendid contributions been made to Imperial Defence, but generous donations had been given to the Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., the British Legion and other benevolent institutions. Furthermore, comforts for the Forces, as well as gifts of produce, had come over in a steady stream. As an instance of what was being done, Sir Norman mentioned that a Barn Dance held on his own estate of Cedar Grove, in Trinidad, realised a sum of £400 for the Red Cross. By an Ordinance passed on July 12th, Trinidad had been empowered not only to raise and maintain a force of Royal Naval Volunteers, but to maintain vessels of war and to provide service and training for them outside its own territorial waters.

By far the most important event affecting the West Indies had been the Agreement for providing the United States with naval and air bases in the Caribbean, in

exchange for fifty much needed destroyers. All West Indians would welcome the men of the American Navy and Air Force, whose presence would give an added security to those ancient Colonies, and at the same time help to draw closer the bonds uniting the two great English-speaking democracies.

Since their last annual meeting, the Recommendations of the long-awaited Report of the West India Royal Commission had been issued and accepted by the Government. Whether, after the War was over and in process of being paid for, either the Mother Country or the Colonies would be in a position to afford social services or medical services on the scale anticipated, was a question which only the future could solve. They could hope anyhow that they might lead to better health and more widespread contentment.

In his view any considerable improvement in the standard of life could only be achieved by a considerable increase in the cost of living; and higher wages might render the West Indies even less able to compete with tropical countries where the standard of living was already much lower. If that were true, the West Indies would be obliged to turn gradually from the production of export crops to mixed farming and the production of commodities for local consumption. That again would involve a gradual transfer from estate agriculture to peasant husbandry with its ever-growing menace of soil-erosion. Erosion had already turned the once fertile country of Hayti from a garden into a wilderness; its encroachments might already be seen in Jamaica and Trinidad, and one of the chief concerns of their Governments should be to check its further advance by afforestation, by forbidding deforestation, and by the control of cropping, especially on steep hillsides.

Concluding, the chairman said that they should all be thankful that it had been possible, notwithstanding U-boats and enemy aircraft, to carry on with so little interruption the mail and cable services, and he was sure that they should express their compliments to the owners and their gratitude to the officers and men of the Merchant Marine plying through dangerous waters to and from the Caribbean Colonies.

The resolution that the annual report be adopted was seconded by Mr. D. M. Semple and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, the Duke of Atholl, and Mr. Wm. R. Scott were re-elected, and Mr. James B. Blair was appointed a director to fill a vacancy on the board.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service include the following:—

- BRANCH, J. R. A. (Superintendent of Police), Commissioner of Police, Leeward Islands.
- CROPPER, J. P. E. (Assistant Superintendent of Works), Superintendent of Electricity and Telephone Department, St. Vincent.
- DAWES, G. P. (Superintendent of Police, Seychelles), 3rd Class Inspector of Constabulary, Jamaica.
- LINDOP, J. G. (Sergeant, Palestine Police Force), Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, Jamaica.
- NOOTT, D. V. (Corporal, Palestine Police Force), Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, Jamaica.

West Indies at Westminster

Bananas

In reply to MR. R. GIBSON who asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether, in view of the widespread preference for bananas rather than oranges and the much higher food-value of bananas over that of oranges, he would consider raising the ban on the importation of bananas and, if necessary, replacing it by a ban on the importation of oranges, MAJOR LLOYD GEORGE replied: No, Sir. From the nutritional point of view oranges are in the present circumstances more important than bananas.

MR. GIBSON said that the matter was one of great concern on the Clyde, where there was serious lack of canteen facilities, and asked whether the matter could be considered from that point of view. MAJOR LLOYD GEORGE said that as far as bananas were concerned, the ban could not be reconsidered because other uses must be found for the ships that carried them.

Chocolate Supplies

In reply to MR. G. STRAUSS, who asked on December 17th whether steps could be taken to regulate the limited supplies of chocolate in order that more standard slab chocolate could be offered to the public in place of expensive creams, MAJOR LLOYD GEORGE said that of the reduced supplies of ingredients available a considerably greater proportion than pre-war was already being used in the production of slab or block chocolate, and proposals were at present under discussion with the industry for increasing this proportion.

The Price of West African Cocoa

MR. CREECH JONES, on December 18th, asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies why the Imperial Government had bought the cocoa crop in West African territories at a lower price to the growers than that of last year; whether he was aware of the dissatisfaction felt because of the increased price of imports and that the lower price would still further seriously affect the growers; and why in these circumstances had import duties on foodstuffs and other everyday commodities been increased.

MR. GEORGE HALL replied that the principal reason for the reduction in the price to be paid was that events in Europe had further reduced possible markets for cocoa, and thus made it inevitable that a large part of the forthcoming crop would not find a market overseas. It had, therefore, been found necessary, particularly in view of the increasing demands for assistance from Colonial producers of crops other than cocoa, to limit the liability undertaken in the Cocoa Purchase Scheme by reducing the price to growers. This was done, however, only after careful consideration of the views of the Colonial Governments as to the minimum necessary to maintain reasonable standards of living, and his information was that, far from there being any widespread dissatisfaction in the West African Colonies concerned because of the lower price which was being paid for the crop, there was general appreciation of the generosity of His Majesty's Government in again buying it at a loss. Although it had been necessary to increase certain import duties for revenue

purposes, care had been taken to avoid placing any undue burden on necessary commodities.

Refugees in British Honduras

MR. CREECH JONES, on December 18th, asked what progress had been made with the Refugee Industrial Settlement of New York for settling refugees in British Honduras; what industries would be encouraged; and what number of persons would be accommodated in the first settlement. The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies replied that this was a scheme which originated before the war for the settlement of not more than 80 European refugee families in British Honduras for the purpose of setting up a hand embroidery industry and engaging in agriculture. Certain conditions had been laid down by the Government for ensuring the finance and the proper organisation of the scheme, and these would have to be complied with before the families were permitted to enter the Colony. In view of the reference made to the first settlement, he should explain that even if this scheme were successful it did not follow that a further settlement would be permitted. As indicated in reply to a Question in the House on April 18th, 1939,* the possibility of settling in British Honduras surplus population from certain West Indian Colonies would have to be considered before any proposal for large scale European settlement.

Waxing Vegetables for Export

One of the means by which plants protect themselves from the excessive loss of water and consequent wilting is by forming a thin coating of wax on their leaves, etc. Commercial citrus producers have followed suit and grapefruits and oranges are commonly waxed before being marketed.

In *Bulletin 723* of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Mr. Hans Platenius points out that investigations conducted during the last five years have shown that certain vegetables can also be waxed to advantage under commercial conditions. The benefit is, he says, particularly pronounced in those vegetables which are grown for distant markets and in those which may be held for several days in shops before being sold. Waxing is also of advantage with pumpkins held in storage. The times are not favourable to the export of fresh vegetables from the West Indies but as the list of those which carry better when waxed includes egg plants, carrots, peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes, this *Bulletin* may well repay perusal by West Indian vegetable exporters. Mr. Platenius gives practical advice on the methods. Experiments could thus be made in order to ascertain whether waxing of West Indian vegetables for export is likely to prove of commercial benefit when normal trade is resumed.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to introduce candidates for election to that body.

The qualification for membership is interest in West Indian affairs and the payment of a subscription of £1 5s. (or \$6.00) a year. There is at present no entrance fee. THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is sent post free to Members fortnightly throughout the year.

* See CIRCULAR of May 4, 1939, p. 187.

The Fortnight's Homeward Mail



Trinidad's New Constitution — Storm Damage in Jamaica
Safeguarding Local Sugar Supplies



BRITISH HONDURAS

St. Mary's School has, says the *Honduras News* for November, for long played an important part in the educational life of the Colony and the Diocese. This has been due in large measure to the splendid work of two former rectors of St. Mary's, namely, to Archdeacon Murray and to Canon Knox. The present building was erected in 1934, and was opened in November of that year by the late Sir Harold Kittermaster, at that time Governor of the Colony. It replaces the old school building which, together with the Church, was wrecked by the hurricane of 1931.

JAMAICA

Dr. E. E. Penso was, on November 22nd, unanimously voted to the mayoral chair for a second term by the Council of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. Alderman Audley Evans was elected Deputy Mayor.

A cloudburst and windstorm on November 18th caused considerable loss of life and did great damage to property in the parishes of St. Mary and Portland and in the western portion of the parish of St. Thomas. Rivers overflowed their banks and railway and road communications in some areas were temporarily suspended.

Recent deaths in Jamaica include those of Mr. Alfred Mendes Bonitto, secretary of The People's Discount and Deposit Co., Ltd., on November 19th; of Mr. G. V. Brandon, of Kingston, on November 18th; and of Mr. A. E. Wigan for many years a Nominated Member of the Legislative Council and a member of the Privy Council of Jamaica, on November 20th.

Captain William F. Watson, chairman of the Trinidad Sugar Manufacturers' Association and managing director of Caroni Limited, arrived in Jamaica on November 19th to discuss with the sugar manufacturers of Jamaica matters of mutual interest relating to the sugar industry in Jamaica and Trinidad.

British Honduras has sent a trial shipment of corn to the Jamaica Government Cornmeal factory. The corn was purchased by the British Honduras Government from individual planters in the Colony.

ST. LUCIA

Trades Disputes. A Bill has been published, prior to consideration in the Legislature, to provide simple machinery for the settlement of trade disputes by means of an Arbitration Tribunal, and for the appointment of a Board to inquire into trade disputes and any other matters connected with economic and industrial conditions in the Colony. The Bill is based on Trinidad Ordinance No. 7 of 1938.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

New Constitution. On December 20th the Governor outlined in the Legislative Council the more democratic Constitution which will be introduced immediately. The number of Official members of the Council is to be largely reduced and the new legislature will comprise 18 members, 9 elected, in place of 25 of whom 7 are elected.

The French Consulate in Trinidad has been closed down. The official notification states that the American Consul was asked to take charge of French interests in the Colony, and, with the consent of the Government of the United States, he has acceded to this request to the extent permitted by his regulations and general diplomatic usage.

Local Sugar Quota. The quantity of sugar allocated for local consumption in the month of November was 800 tons. The *Trinidad Guardian* stated on November 1st that this was in addition to 169 tons of granulated sugar not yet released but under no restrictions, and 119 tons also of granulated in the hands of wholesale merchants.

The Hon. A. C. Rienzi, the Mayor of San Fernando, headed the poll at the Borough Council elections held on November 1st. Mr. Rienzi thanked the Trinidad Leaseholds for permitting burgesses in their employ to come and vote all through the day without any loss of their wages. "We shall not forget this gesture of goodwill," he said.

Import Licences

Notice to Importers, No. 106, issued by the Import Licensing Department of the Board of Trade, enumerates goods for the import of which separate licences are now required. In certain cases applications for import licences are to be sent to some address other than the Import Licensing Department, as under:—

Cocoa, dried fruits, honey, edible nuts, confectionery:

Ministry of Food, Gilbertville Hotel, Colwyn Bay.

Coffee:

Ministry of Food, Mount Royal Hotel, Colwyn Bay.

Fresh and canned fruit and vegetables, jam, marmalade, etc., fresh and canned fish, spices:

Ministry of Food, St. John's College, Oxford.

Sugar:

Ministry of Food, Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay.

Oilseeds and nuts for oil:

Ministry of Food, Pwllcrochan Hotel, Colwyn Bay.

Molasses and industrial alcohol:

Molasses and Industrial Alcohol Control, Great Burgh, Epsom, Surrey.

Timber:

Timber Control, Clifton Down Hotel, Bristol, 8.

Petroleum and petroleum products:

Petroleum Department, Westminster House, Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, S.W.1.

Company Reports and Meetings

Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd.

THE directors, in their report for the year ended August 31st, state that the net profit, after providing for all charges including depreciation, amounts to £17,678. This, added to the amount brought forward of £33,441 makes a total of £51,119, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent. less tax, which will absorb £4,454, leaving to be carried forward, subject to directors' fees, the sum of £46,665.

Under arrangements entered into with H.M. Government, state the directors, the whole of the company's sugar crop less the amount reserved for local consumption in Jamaica was taken over by the Ministry of Food.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas)

After payment of all charges and after making provision for taxation and for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, the net profit for the year ended September 30th, amounted to £423,692, which added to £154,442 brought forward, makes a total of £578,134. The following appropriations have been made or are recommended: contingency account, £200,000; interim dividends paid June 13th, of 4 per cent. (actual) on the cumulative preference shares, and of 3 per cent. (actual) on the "A" and "B" Shares, less income tax, £104,496; final dividend of 4 per cent. (actual) on the cumulative preference shares of £1 each, fully paid, less income tax, £37,653; a final dividend of 3½ per cent. (actual) on the "A" shares of £1 each, fully paid, and the "B" shares of £5 each, £1 paid, less income tax, £64,047, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £171,936 9s. 4d.

Mr. Harry Robert Bradfield and Sir William Henry Clark have been elected directors.

The Barbados Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.

The report for the year ended June 30th shows that after charging administration and general expenses (£2,530), depreciation and renewals (£6,000), and providing for income tax (£7,000), there was a profit of £11,811, which added to £2,963 brought forward makes a total of £14,774. The directors have transferred £2,000 to general reserve, and recommend the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. free of income tax, on the issued capital of £160,000, which will absorb £9,600, leaving £3,174 to be carried forward.

Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £12,749, consisting chiefly of the cost of extensions of mains and services. The extension programme has necessarily been somewhat slowed down, state the directors, but work is proceeding steadily, and, as a result of the issue of shares made in February, 1940, the company has ample funds to ensure the completion of the programme in due course. The growth of the company's service during the past five years is shown by the steady increase of "units sold" from 2,625,485 in 1936 to 3,491,601 in 1940.

There has been a considerable increase in the price of fuel and in operating costs generally, state the directors, which is reflected in the returns received since the close of the financial year. Mr. Vernon Smith, formerly assistant manager, has been appointed general manager.

Trinidad Freeholds, Ltd.

In their report for the year ended December 31st, 1939, the directors state that two new wells, No. 165 and No. 175, brought into production during the year, are located within 150 feet of a Crown Trace, and a proportion of the production is claimed by the Crown, the company's royalties being based on 65.2 per cent. and 93.3 per cent. of the production from the respective wells.

The production of crude oil for the year amounted to 42,734 barrels as compared with 31,293 barrels for the preceding year. The company earned in royalties during the year under review \$3,461, but under the terms of the lease, the lessee company is entitled to recoup itself as to £2,000 of the consideration paid for the lease by offsetting royalties earned by the lessors against the same. The position under this arrangement at December 31st, 1939, was as follows:—

Proportion of consideration paid for lease, subject to redemption by royalties earned	\$9,600.00
Royalties earned between May 31st, 1934, and December 31st, 1938	\$3,961.96
Royalties earned for year ended December 31st, 1939	3,461.69
	7,423.65
Balance at December 31st, 1939	\$2,176.35

During the year under review, the promissory note in favour of the Royal Bank of Canada was reduced by \$2,000.

British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd.

The directors, in their report for the twelve months ended July 31st, state that the profit for the year amounted to £31,321, and the balance brought forward £527, producing a total of £31,848. After providing for depreciation and amortization (£23,373), income tax and excess profits tax (£5,193) and writing off £2,515 from underwriting commission and brokerage account, there remains a balance of £767 which is carried forward.

The total volume dredged during the year was 854,685 cubic yards, producing 7,624 ounces of fine gold, equivalent to 4.28 grains or 17.41 pence per cubic yard. The average net price realised per fine ounce was 162s. 7d., after charging British Guiana Government duties and cost of freight, etc., equivalent to 8s. 8d. per fine ounce. The total operating costs in the Colony amounted to 7.21 pence per cubic yard dredged. The improved results for the year are considered by the board as satisfactory, particularly as the dredge was out of commission for six weeks during the year, two of these weeks being in connexion with a complete

overhaul of the dredge and power plant, and the remainder of the time on account of the sinking of the dredge as already reported to the shareholders. The rapid and efficient way in which the dredge was again brought into commission after the sinking, reflects, state the directors, the technical skill and energy of the management in the field. The claim in respect of loss through damage to the dredge as a result of this accident is at present under discussion with the underwriters.

During the year the prospecting on the upper section of the company's holdings in the Konawaruk River area was completed, and approximately 24,000,000 cubic yards have been proved, showing 2.90 grains per cubic yard. The prospecting programme has also covered an investigation of the company's Kaburi property, but this area has proved disappointing and attention is now being devoted to the Potaro area and to the Upper Mahdia, and the general indications in these areas are promising.

During the year a satisfactory agreement was reached with the British Guiana Government with regard to the terms under which the company should continue to hold certain of its properties. In addition negotiations have been carried on by the chairman in the United States with a view to providing finance and equipment for the erection of a dredge in the Konawaruk area, but so far no agreement has been reached.

Playing Cards Wanted. Hundreds of packs of playing cards are wanted by the convalescent hospitals and homes of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation for the use of civilian patients who have suffered from German air attacks. Social clubs and, in particular, bridge clubs are invited to meet this urgent request by sending packs to the Comforts Collections Department, Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, 54, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(Continued from next column)

about 1/3½ to 1/4 per lb., ex wharf. Practically no supplies of sound Jamaica **Ginger** are on offer on the spot, and the market has advanced sharply for any old crop parcels undamaged. Mixed to bright No. 3 is quoted at 60/- to 65/-; small mixed to medium bright No. 2, 67/6 to 72/6; and bright bold plump No. 1 in barrels (which is in good demand) at 90/- to 95/-. A fair volume of business has been transacted in new crop at 50/- for ratoon, 55/- to 58/- for F.A.Q. No. 3, and 62/6 for F.A.Q. medium No. 2, closing buyers, with sellers asking 55/-, 60/- and 65/- respectively. **Nutmegs** continue to attract the interest of consumers and business has been done in wormy and broken at 6d. per lb. c.i.f. for early shipment from Grenada. Sound 80's have been in demand at 10d. and sound unassorted are quoted at 7½d. for prompt shipment. There is an active demand for **Mace**. Sales on the spot have been reported at 2/4 to 2/6 per lb. ex wharf for the mixed red to pale, while pale to choice has been in demand up to 2/10. Important dealings have taken place for shipment from Grenada, and sales have been made at 1/11 up to 2/2 c.i.f. London, net delivered weights for the usual well-known types. Dark to pale pickings are quoted at 1/3 to 1/6 c.i.f. for December-January shipment.

Round the Markets

December 24th, 1940

MONEY AND EXCHANGE. Last night's exchange rates and those of a fortnight ago are shown below:—

BANK OF ENGLAND OFFICIAL RATES.			
	Dec. 9th.	Dec. 23rd.	
Canada	4.45	4.45	\$ value 4/5.9
U.S.A.	4.03	4.03	\$ " 4/11.6
Buenos Aites (paper pesos)	17.01	17.01	

Gold is unchanged at 168/- per fine oz.

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices are:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation
2½	Consols (yield £3 6s. 0d. per cent.)	76½ 76½
3½	War Loan ...	102½ 103
10	Angostura Bitters	24/6 nominal.
10	Angostura Bitters Par Pref.	25/- nominal.
5	Antigua Sugar Factory ...	11/3 13/9
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	23/9 26/3
6½	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	35/- 38/-xd
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) 8% Pref. ...	34/6 38/6xd
10	Booker Bros. McConnell ...	2½ 2½xd
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	1½ 1½xd
—	British Guiana Cons. Gold 5/- ...	1/- 1/3
3	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	1/- 1/6
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	18/9 21/3
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	1/9 2/9
8	Kero Oil Co. 3/4 ...	3/1½ 3/7½
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/- ...	44d. 1/-
8	Royal Bank of Canada \$100 (London Reg.)	38 42
15	St. Kitts (London) Sugar...	1½ 2
5	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	11/3 13/9
7	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/- ...	6/3 7/3
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 10/-	3d. 1/-
15	Trinidad Leaseholds	2½ 3½
15	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co.	2½ 2½
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/6 6/-
—	United British Oilfields 6/8	7/- 8/-

RUM. There has been a strong demand, and high prices have been paid for rum of two years of age and over.

COCOA. The price of fine Grenada on the spot is firmer and some sales have been made at 60/- to 61/-. Trinidad descriptions have been quiet and sellers continue to ask 70/- for good plantation, and 75/- for fine estates. The first three marks of Trinidad "to arrive" are now quoted at 52/- c. & f. The controlled price of West African is unchanged at 35/- for good fermented.

BALATA. No sales have been reported during the fortnight, and the nominal values are unchanged at 2/7 per lb. for block and 2/8 for sheet.

BANANAS. As reported in last issue no further licences for the import of bananas into the United Kingdom will be granted for a period of two months.

HONEY. Under the terms of the order recently issued by the Ministry of Food the maximum price that shippers are to realise for all new crop Empire honey is 65/- c.i.f. United Kingdom port.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. The nominal price of Handpressed is unchanged at 45/- per lb. and supplies are scarce. Small quantities of Distilled are offered on the spot at 27/6; there is no interest yet in forward shipment. **Lime Juice.** There is still no demand for Concentrated and Raw remains quiet and unchanged at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d. per gallon for best green juice with top pulp.

ORANGE OIL. Spot values are higher with Sweet now quoted at 9s. 6d. to 10/- per lb. and Bitter at 10/6 per lb.

SPICES. The market for **Pimento** has continued firm and business has been done in "to arrive" up to 122/6 per cwt. c.i.f. United Kingdom port for prompt shipment; small sales on the spot have been made at

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