

W. I. & A.  
GROUP COMMITTEE  
1924-1925

HF 3361 B81

REPORT  
OF THE  
WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC  
GROUP COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION  
1924.



LONDON:  
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS,  
1925.

**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC**  
**GROUP COMMITTEE**  
FOR THE  
**BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION**  
**1924.**

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The West Indian and Atlantic Group Committee was formed by the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, in September, 1922, to make arrangements in connection with the representation of the British West Indies and the Colonies lying in the Atlantic, in the British Empire Exhibition of 1924. The original members were :—

- Mr. (now Sir) ROBERT RUTHERFORD (*Chairman*).  
Sir ARTHUR YOUNG, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., *representing the Colonial Office.*  
Sir WALTER EGERTON, K.C.M.G., *representing the Colonial Office.*  
Mr. P. H. EZECHIEL, C.M.G., *representing the Colonial Office.*  
Sir WILLIAM GREY-WILSON, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., *representing the Bahamas.*  
Mr. G. ELLIOT SEALY, *representing Barbados.*  
Mr. BOSWELL TUCKER, *representing Bermuda.*  
Sir EDWARD DAVSON, *representing British Guiana.*  
Lt.-Col. IVAN B. DAVSON, O.B.E., *representing British Guiana.*  
H. E. Sir EYRE HUTSON, K.C.M.G., *representing British Honduras.*  
Major DUNCAN FRASER, *representing British Honduras.*  
Mr. W. FAWCETT, B.Sc., *representing Jamaica.*  
Sir GEORGE LE HUNTE, G.C.M.G., *representing Trinidad and Tobago.*  
Mr. ROBERT BRYSON, *representing the Leeward Islands.*  
Mr. ALGERNON ASPINALL, C.M.G., *representing the Windward Islands.*  
Mr. CYRIL GURNEY, *representing Grenada.*  
Mr. E. D. LABORDE, C.B.E., I.S.O., *representing St. Lucia.*  
Mr. F. BARNARD, *representing St. Lucia.*  
Mr. ERNEST BROWN, *representing St. Vincent, and*  
Mr. VERE PACKE, *representing the Falkland Islands.*

2. The following additional appointments were made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the dates given :—

- Sir SYDNEY (now the Rt. Hon. the Lord) OLIVIER, K.C.M.G., C.B. (December 15th, 1922), *representing Jamaica.*  
 Brigadier-General C. E. RICE, C.B.E., D.S.O. (July 20th, 1923), *representing British Guiana.*  
 Mr. ARCHIBALD G. BELL, C.M.G. (September 3rd, 1923), *representing Trinidad and Tobago.*

3. With the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies the following members were co-opted at various dates :—

- Mr. LAUHLAN ROSE (June 20th, 1923), *representing Dominica.*  
 Mr. W. A. HARDING (July 10th, 1923), *representing the Falkland Islands.*  
 Mr. FRANK CUNDALL, F.S.A. (September 19th, 1923), *representing Jamaica.*  
 Mr. W. CRADWICK (July 1st, 1924), *representing Jamaica.*  
 Mr. W. A. THOMPSON (July 1st, 1924), *representing the Falkland Islands.*  
 Mr. W. L. MCKINSTRY (July 1st, 1924), *representing British Honduras.*  
 Mr. R. S. AUCHER WARNER, K.C. (July 1st, 1924), *representing Trinidad and Tobago.*

4. It was announced at the first meeting, which was held at 14, Trinity Square, on November 9th, 1922, that The West India Committee had offered to place their new premises at that address at the disposal of the Group. This offer was accepted, and the Group Committee desire to record their sense of appreciation of the action of The West India Committee in this connexion, which resulted in a saving of over two years' rent, besides establishment and clerical charges, liabilities which of necessity must otherwise have been incurred. They also desire to convey to the Staff of The West India Committee their thanks for clerical and other services ungrudgingly given.

5. At the second meeting, held on November 29th, 1922, Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., was appointed Hon. Commissioner for the West Indian and Atlantic Group. Visiting British Guiana and the West Indies in January and February, 1924, he took the opportunity of meeting the Exhibition Committees in Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica. During his absence Mr. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., kindly acted in his place.

The Committee desire to record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Algernon Aspinall as their Hon. Commissioner both during his visit to the West Indies and in this country. A measure of the undoubted success of the West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion must be attributed to his energy and abilities.

6. At the eighth meeting, held on July 10th, 1923, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. E. D. Laborde, C.B.E., I.S.O., and Mr. Gilfred Knight were formally appointed Deputy-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively.

7. On March 4th, 1924, the Group suffered a severe loss through the death of Major Duncan Fraser, who succumbed to a chill following a visit

to the site of the Exhibition at Wembley. Major Fraser was an assiduous worker, not only on behalf of British Honduras, whose interest he directly represented, but also on that of the Group as a whole. His colleagues deplore his untimely death before the consummation of the plans which he had so ably made in conjunction with the Exhibition Committee in British Honduras for the adequate representation of the Colony and its industries at the British Empire Exhibition.

The Committee also have to deplore the death of Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G., which took place on January 29th, 1925. Sir George was a most conscientious member and spared no effort to secure the successful representation of Trinidad and Tobago at the Exhibition.

8. For over two years the Committee were in constant correspondence with the various Exhibition Committees in the West Indies, and wish to express their appreciation of the enthusiasm and thoroughness with which the preparations for the adequate representation of the Colonies were made. They desire especially to record their sense of appreciation of the manner in which their efforts were supported by the Commissioners, Representatives and Members of the Exhibition Committees who came over, and particularly Mr. W. Cradwick, Managing Commissioner, Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., Joint Commissioner, Mr. W. G. Clark, Superintendent and Accountant, and the Hon. William Morrison, the Hon. Horace V. Myers, M.B.E., the Hon. D. S. Gideon, C.M.G. (who they regret to state died on July 27th) and the Hon. A. E. Harrison, Hon. Commissioners, and the Hon. and Rev. A. A. Barclay, Mr. C. A. Gay, Mr. J. G. Kieffer and Mr. A. H. Spooner from Jamaica; the Hon. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., Commissioner, Mr. P. Lechmere Guppy, Major Randolph Rust, and Dr. J. F. Gibbon from Trinidad; Mr. C. W. Haynes, Lady Gilbert Carter, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Captain A. R. Fellowes, the Hon. G. Laurie Pile and Mr. H. Jason Jones from Barbados; Mr. H. N. Chipman from the Bahamas; the Hon. R. C. J. Fitt from Grenada; the Hon. G. Laffitte, J.P., from St. Lucia; the Hon. R. S. D. Goodwin, the Rev. Canon Jullion and Mr. F. G. Harcourt from Antigua; Mr. F. A. Gordon and Mr. H. H. V. Whitechurch from Dominica; the Hon. S. W. Howes, the Hon. K. P. Penchoen from Montserrat; and H.E. Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., Mr. C. Hummel and Mr. A. D. P. Williamson from British Honduras.

9. The Committee's first task was to invite the co-operation of the West Indian and Atlantic Colonies in the Exhibition. It became evident at the outset that, except in the case of Jamaica, which was the first Colony to respond to the invitation to take part, the scope and size of the undertaking was imperfectly appreciated. The Committee, therefore, requested the Management to send out a representative to the West Indies and British Guiana to explain the situation. They consented to do so and commissioned the Hon. F. M. B. Fisher to visit the Colonies concerned. Mr. Fisher left London on February 10th, 1923, and visited in succession Bermuda, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent,

Grenada, Trinidad and British Guiana. Owing to the incidence of quarantine regulations he was unable to visit Antigua and Dominica as he had intended to do. Eventually every Colony in the West Indian Group decided to take part in the Exhibition and the following appropriations for the purpose were made by the various Legislatures :—

The Bahamas	... £1,000	Jamaica	... ... £10,000
Barbados	... £3,000	Leeward Islands	... £1,000
British Guiana	\$110,000	St. Lucia	... £600
British Honduras	... \$7,000	St. Vincent	... £400
Grenada	... £600	Trinidad & Tobago	... £10,000

The Falkland Islands also voted £1,800 and agreed to take space in a West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion.

10. From the amounts voted in the Colonies the following contributions were made towards the cost of the erection of a suitable building, the preparation and maintenance of the tropical garden, roads and pathways, the provision of staging, etc., the carriage of exhibits in the United Kingdom, lighting and maintenance :—

	£		£
The Bahamas	... 600	The Leeward Islands	... 1,000
Barbados	... 1,500	St. Lucia	... 400
British Honduras	... 765	St. Vincent	... 300
Grenada	... 450	Trinidad & Tobago	... 4,800
Jamaica	... 5,000	The Falkland Islands	... 1,700

British Guiana's payment for the Colony's part of the building and for sundry services connected therewith amounted to £8,796.

11. The Group Committee also secured additional revenue of £680 by letting space to the following private exhibitors :—The Colonial Bank, The Direct West India Cable Company, Messrs. George Fletcher and Company Ltd., The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and The West Indian Produce Association Ltd.

12. They were now faced with the difficult problem of selecting a suitable site in the Exhibition grounds at Wembley and securing the erection of an appropriate building upon it in which to house exhibits. This involved further negotiations with the Colonies concerned; several having expressed a desire to have separate buildings. Bermuda decided to erect a replica of Tom Moore's house on a separate site, while British Guiana, on the other hand, which had intended to erect their own Pavilion, eventually decided to share a single building to be erected to accommodate all the remaining Colonies, on the understanding that their separate identity was strictly maintained.

13. A Buildings Committee was appointed on May 9th, 1923, and was by a Resolution transformed into a General Purposes Committee on September 19th, 1923. It comprised the Hon. Commissioner, who was elected

Chairman, Mr. E. D. Laborde, C.B.E., I.S.O., the Rt. Hon. The Lord Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., Mr. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., Mr. P. H. Ezechiel, C.M.G., and Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.

14. The site eventually selected and allotted to the Group Committee by the Exhibition Authorities was a very advantageous one. It covered an area of 111,000 feet in the Eastern Section of the grounds and immediately to the south of the British Government Building. Of this area, 79,500 square feet were devoted to the West Indian and Atlantic Section and the remainder to that of British Guiana. In consideration for the allotment to them of 22,060 square feet of the total area the Group Committee undertook to make at their own expense a road bounding the east side of the site. It is probable that but for the acquisition of so large an area, another building would have been erected between the British Government Building and the West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion which would have destroyed the amenities of the latter. Moreover, it was essential that space should be available for the Tropical Garden which was established with the assistance of the Jamaica and Trinidad Exhibition Committees which collected and sent over many tropical palms and plants for the purpose, all the Colonies in the Group contributing towards the expenses involved.

15. During the winter of 1923-24 the tropical palms and plants were kept in conservatories of the Royal Botanic Society, to which institution acknowledgments are due. The Committee desire also to express their gratitude to their colleague, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., who, with Mr. F. G. Cousins, converted what was until April, 1924, a morass of clay and mud, into a beautiful garden which proved a great attraction to visitors, though much of its tropical aspect was obliterated by the inclement weather.

16. The advice of Mr., now Sir, John Simpson had been sought and plans for a West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion were prepared by him, and a contract for the erection of the building was awarded to Messrs. Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, their tender to carry out the work for £15,300 having been accepted. It is noteworthy that this was the first occasion on which a special building had been erected for the West Indian and Atlantic Colonies at an Exhibition, and it is gratifying that the entire West Indies, together with British Honduras, British Guiana and the Falkland Islands, should have been brought together under a single roof.

17. The Pavilion was designed in the manner of Colonial Architecture of the Georgian period, and consists of a rectangular block with wings projecting on either hand of the main West front forming the two entrances, one giving access to the West Indian and Atlantic and the other to the British Guiana section. It is a low white building of one storey, with a deep cornice and low-pitched roof of red pantiles. The tall windows are protected by green wooden shutters. The main entrances are surmounted by pediments with deep-set tympana pierced by elliptical windows. In each of the pilasters flanking the entrances is a niche containing a statue. The statues flanking the West Indian and Atlantic entrance represent

Christopher Columbus and Lord Rodney, while those on either side of the British Guiana entrance are of Sir Walter Raleigh and a Carib. Surmounting the roof centrally between the two entrances is a cupola of traditional design, a copper dome carried on small columns of delicate detail standing on a square base with a clock inset. Over the dome is a weather vane representing one of the caravels of the Discoverer of the West Indies. On the north and south fronts are further entrances but without niches or statues. The total area of the Pavilion is 25,375 square feet, of which 14,223 square feet formed the West Indian and Atlantic section and 11,152 square feet the British Guiana section.

18. Jamaica having expressed a wish to secure further space, an annexe was constructed on the north side of the building and placed at their disposal in return for a further contribution of £1,000.

19. While dealing with the building, the Committee desire to express their thanks to Messrs. E. Dent and Co., Ltd., who very kindly lent to them a clock with a five-foot dial, which was installed in the Clock Tower and added greatly to the appearance of the Pavilion, besides proving a convenience to visitors to the Exhibition.

20. Work on the site was begun during August, 1923, and though somewhat delayed by strikes, the building was completed before the Opening Day, April 23rd, 1924.

21. The allotment of space within the Pavilion also proved to be a matter of no little difficulty. The desirability of having broad gangways had to be borne in mind and adequate wall space had to be secured for each participating Colony. It is believed that the plan eventually adopted was the best that could have been arranged in the circumstances. Particulars were sent in September, 1923, to the various Exhibition Committees, which were requested to notify the Group Committee of their desires in respect of the lay-out of their respective Sections not later than two months from that date, but by return mail, if practicable, so that orders could be placed without delay for the erection of suitable stands and fittings. Unfortunately, in one case, a reply was not received until as late as February, 1924, and as market prices were rapidly rising in view of the pressure of work and near approach of the opening date, the stands and fittings cost considerably more than would otherwise have been the case.

22. The colour scheme of the interior of the building was devised to give visitors the impression of sunshine and happiness. An orange-coloured velarium was suspended under the glazed roof. The walls, which were painted pale yellow, were surmounted,—except in the Barbados section, which was separately treated—by a frieze four feet in depth designed and painted by Miss V. M. Jones and Miss Violet Bradshaw, and representing tropical foliage with blue mountains beyond, and in the Falkland Islands section, the more austere scenery of that group. The gangways



were carpeted with orange-coloured coco-nut matting, and the various sections with green. The stands were cream coloured and covered where necessary with green material.

23. The opening of the Exhibition, which was performed by the King, who was accompanied by the Queen, on St. George's Day, was made the occasion for an impressive State Ceremonial. The Group Committee are pleased to record that on the Opening Day the West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion was quite ready for visitors. Some days elapsed, however, before electric current was supplied for the Coffee and Chocolate Lounges; but responsibility for this rested with the Exhibition Authorities.

24. The great staples of the colonies concerned, notably sugar, rum, molasses, cacao, coffee, Sea Island cotton, arrowroot, fruit, coco-nuts, spices, dyewoods, timber, petroleum, asphalt and, in the case of the Falkland Islands products of the whaling and sheep-farming industries, were shown in profusion and to great advantage. While such commodities are disposed of through the usual trade channels, many minor products such as guava jelly, jams, sauces, pickles, bay-rum, baskets, walking-sticks, and hats presented features of novelty and were sold in great quantities.

25. By arrangement made by the Committee on behalf of the Exhibition Committees of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada with Messrs. Carsons, Ltd., of Bristol, chocolate was made exclusively from Trinidad and Grenada cacao in the only working confectionery exhibit in the Palace of Industry. This chocolate was sold in the Trinidad chocolate lounge (where drinking chocolate was also served), and in the Grenada section, under the name "Trinidad." It enjoyed great popularity and it is worthy of note that several firms are now making a pure chocolate from West Indian cacao, for which the demand has undoubtedly been stimulated.

26. Jamaica also conducted a coffee lounge, where Blue Mountain coffee was served, and, by arrangement made by the Committee with the caterers, a bar was maintained where Jamaica Planters' Punch was on sale. It proved one of the most popular features of the Pavilion besides a satisfactory source of revenue. As a result of these activities, the West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion presented a particularly live appearance and was consequently crowded with visitors.

27. The total number of visitors to the Exhibition was 17,401,119. The great majority came from the provinces and Scotland. It should hardly be necessary to emphasise the immense benefits which must result from the products, industries, life and scenery of the Colonies in the Group having been brought, as they were, prominently before the attention of so great a quantity of people. Apart altogether from any immediate benefits to trade and industries the Exhibition undoubtedly served its purpose by stimulating the sense of Empire in the hearts of so large a proportion of the population of this country. Of the total number of visitors, fully five

millions were children, and it was particularly gratifying to notice the interest shown by the rising generation in the varied exhibits. The effect in years to come cannot fail to be far reaching.

28. The King and Queen accompanied by the King and Queen of Roumania and Prince Henry, were graciously pleased to visit the West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion on May 14th. Their Majesties were much interested in the Exhibits and commented favourably upon the general appearance of the Pavilion and its contents. The Prince of Wales attended a Garden Party given by the Hon. Horace V. Myers, M.B.E., an Hon. Commissioner for Jamaica, in the Tropical Garden on July 14th, and on this occasion His Royal Highness made a tour of the Pavilion. Other Royal visitors included the Duke of Connaught, who inspected the various Sections on July 30th, and the King and Queen of Denmark, who visited the Pavilion on June 23rd.

Among other notable visitors were the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Rt. Hon. the Lord Olivier of Ramsden, K.C.M.G., C.B., who in his capacity as Secretary of State for India, represented the Cabinet.

29. Through the courtesy of Lieut.-Colonel W. Miller, D.S.O., and the officers, and with the assistance of the Jamaica Government and the Jamaica Exhibition Committee, arrangements were made for the engagement of the Band of the West India Regiment to play at the Exhibition for six weeks from June 2nd to July 12th. The Band, under the command of Lieutenant H. Salter and with Mr. Turner as Bandmaster, reached England in the S.S. "Ortega" on May 24th, the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. having kindly consented to divert that vessel to Jamaica on this occasion and to offer reduced fares to the party. The Band, the members of which were attired in their picturesque Zouave costumes, was greatly appreciated and had the honour of being inspected by the Prince of Wales on the occasion of His Royal Highness's visit to the West Indian Pavilion on July 14th.

30. In March, 1923, the Hon. Commissioner submitted to the West Indian Colonies and British Honduras a scheme for the preparation and projection at Wembley of cinematograph films of life and scenery. The Exhibition Committees of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia having approved the proposals, Mr. Rosenthal (late East Surrey Regt.) was commissioned to visit the Colonies to take films. Crossing the Atlantic in the "Bayano," of Messrs. Elders and Fyffes Line, on February 2nd, Mr. Rosenthal exposed 18,000 feet of negative. The film was edited and titled by the Hon. Commissioner and the length of the positive was approximately 5,440 feet for Trinidad, 3,000 for Barbados, 1,600 for Grenada, and 1,280 for St. Lucia. The Harrison Line very kindly gave Mr. Rosenthal a free passage home in their steamer "Intaba," while the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. gave him a free pass for their inter-colonial service during his visit to the West Indies. The film was shown for the first time on the

occasion of a Garden Party given by Mr. Charles Wood, on June 11th, and subsequently every Saturday and Wednesday throughout the run of the Exhibition from 5.30 to 7 p.m. The pictures, which were fully descriptive of the industries, life and scenery of the Islands concerned, were characterised as the best films of colonial scenes which had ever been exhibited in this country. The Tourist Trade Department Board also sent over a fine series of films of Jamaica, taken by the Canadian Government Motion Picture Company, which were similarly shown in the Walled City Cinema at Wembley, by courtesy of the West African Group Committee. It will be noted that the Cinema account shows a small debit balance, but it is hoped that this will be recouped by fees, arrangements having been made for sections of the films to be included in a series to be shown by the British Instructional Films, Ltd., on a profit sharing basis.

31. It will be seen from the audited statement of Income and Expenditure which accompanies this Report, that the total receipts by the Group Committee were £34,682 17s. 9d. and the Expenditure £34,417 12s. 5d. It was only by the constant exercise of the most rigid economy that it was possible to keep the expenditure within the revenue. The Committee were, indeed, hampered in their activities through having no appropriation for expenditure on advertising and hospitality, which are so very desirable where Exhibitions are concerned.

32. The actual staff employed by the Committee at Wembley numbered fourteen. In addition most of the Colonies also employed Managers and assistants bringing the total to a maximum of sixty. The Group Committee wish to record their appreciation of the loyal services of the staff, and in particular of Mr. G. P. Osmond, Accountant, whose efforts were indefatigable, and deserving of all praise.

33. In conclusion the Committee desire to record their indebtedness to Mr. Gilfred Knight for his valuable services as their Hon. Secretary.

R. RUTHERFORD, <i>Chairman.</i>	W. CRADWICK.	W. L. MCKINSTRY.
ALGERNON ASPINALL, <i>Hon. Commissioner.</i>	EDWARD DAVSON.	OLIVIER.
FRANK BARNARD.	WALTER EGERTON.	VERE PACKE.
ARCHIBALD G. BELL.	P. H. EZECHIEL.	LAUCHLAN ROSE.
ERNEST H. BROWN.	W. FAWCETT.	BOSWELL TUCKER.
R. BRYSON.	W. GREY-WILSON.	A. WARNER.
	W. A. HARDING.	ARTHUR YOUNG.
	E. D. LABORDE.	GILFRED N. KNIGHT, <i>Hon. Secretary.</i>

Mr. Frank Cundall, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Sir Eyre Hutson, Lt.-Colonel Ivan Davson, Brig.-General C. E. Rice, Mr. G. Elliot Sealy and Mr. W. A. Thompson were out of England when the Report was signed.

14, TRINITY SQUARE,  
LONDON, E.C.3.

G.N.K.

April, 1925.

# THE WEST INDIAN AND (British Empire)

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Building ... ..	16,566	7	4				
Surveyors' and Architects' Fees ... ..	1,258	6	8				
Electric Wiring and Fittings ... ..	421	2	7				
Staging and Offices ... ..	1,784	4	11				
Decorations and Flags ... ..	544	19	11				
Garden, Roads and Pathways ... ..	1,913	16	7				
Transport of Exhibits and Travelling Expenses ... ..	303	15	8				
					22,792	13	8
Electric Lighting ... ..	272	2	3				
Water ... ..	19	0	1				
Insurance ... ..	149	15	0				
Fire Precautions ... ..	42	17	7				
					483	14	11
Manager and Clerical Assistance ... ..	615	11	8				
Wages ... ..	1,301	13	2				
					1,917	4	10
General Expenses:—							
Repairs and Decorations ... ..	45	11	6				
Office Requisites ... ..	53	4	2				
Photographs, Prints, etc. ... ..	59	6	5				
Uniforms ... ..	35	12	3				
Dust Sheets, Wire Mats, Glass Cases, etc. ... ..	76	12	1				
Customs Duty on Missing Produce ... ..	46	2	7				
Petty Cash and Sundries ... ..	158	7	7				
					474	16	7
Printing and Stationery ... ..	193	2	2				
Postage, Cablegrams and Telephone ... ..	166	7	11				
					834	6	8
Expended in accordance with specific instructions of Colonial representatives and exhibitors ... ..					8,345	15	0
Cinema Account ... ..					43	17	4
Balance being excess of Receipts over Expenditure ... ..					265	5	4
					£34,682	17	9

We beg to report that we have examined the above Statement with the Books, Purposes Committee and we certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have accepted Sales and Disposals and of payments made for National Insurance. We understand to outstanding liabilities in respect of the Report and Souvenir Booklet, Audit and As regards Account Current transactions with contributing Colonies, we have verified confirmed by certificates except in the cases of Grenada and St. Lucia from which

LONDON,

1st April, 1925.

# ATLANTIC GROUP COMMITTEE.

Exhibition, 1924).

## TWENTY-NINE MONTHS TO 31st MARCH, 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Contributions from Colonies :—						
The Bahamas ... ..	600	0	0			
Barbados ... ..	1,500	0	0			
British Honduras ... ..	765	0	0			
Falkland Islands ... ..	1,700	0	0			
Grenada ... ..	450	0	0			
Jamaica... ..	6,000	0	0			
The Leeward Islands ... ..	1,000	0	0			
St. Lucia ... ..	400	0	0			
St. Vincent ... ..	300	0	0			
Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	4,800	0	0			
	17,515	0	0			
British Guiana :—						
		£	s.	d.		
Building, etc. ... ..	7,365	12	1			
Architects and Surveyors ... ..	560	18	2			
	7,926	10	3			
				25,441	10	3
Amounts received from Private Exhibitors :—						
The Colonial Bank ... ..	200	0	0			
The Direct West India Cable Company Limited ... ..	100	0	0			
George Fletcher & Company Limited ... ..	30	0	0			
The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ... ..	200	0	0			
The West Indian Produce Association Limited ... ..	150	0	0			
				680	0	0
Interest on Deposit Account ... ..				81	14	5
Amount received for Expenditure on behalf of colonial representatives and exhibitors ... ..				8,345	15	0
Medallions, Brooches, Books and Postcards Account ... ..	97	12	1			
Amount realised from Sale of Sundry Fittings, etc. ... ..	36	6	0			
				133	18	1
ALGERNON ASPINALL, <i>Hon. Commissioner.</i>						
GEO. P. OSMOND, <i>Accountant.</i>						
				£34,682	17	9

Records and Vouchers of your Committee and/or with the Minutes of your General the figures submitted by the West India Committee in respect of Receipts from Cinema, that there are no further amounts receivable but the balance of £265 5s. 4d. is subject Accountancy fee and any further incidental expenses connected with the 1924 Exhibition. the position by seeing that such Account Current balances have been settled in cash or Colonies confirmation is not yet to hand.

SMITH & EARLE,

*Chartered Accountants.*



REPORT  
OF THE  
WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC  
GROUP COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION  
1925.



LONDON :  
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS,  
1926.

REPORT  
OF THE  
WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC  
GROUP COMMITTEE  
FOR THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION, 1925,  
TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE L. C. M. S. AMERY, M.P.,  
*Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

14, TRINITY SQUARE,

LONDON, E.C. 3,

SIR,

January 28th, 1926.

We have the honour to submit to you our final Report in connexion with the representation of the British West Indies at the British Empire Exhibition, together with the audited statement of the Income and Expenditure Account, the Cinematograph Account, and the Balance Sheet. Our earlier Report and Accounts, which we forwarded to you on May 12th, 1925, covered the twenty-nine months from the date of our appointment to March 31st in that year. We now supplement them by particulars of our activities to this date.

2. At our 16th Meeting, held on August 6th, 1924, the following Resolution was passed unanimously :—

That in view of the success achieved by the British Empire Exhibition, from which the entire Empire will benefit, the West Indian and Atlantic Group Committee will be prepared to advise the Colonies which they represent to take part in it for another year in the event of the Imperial Government and the Dominions deciding similarly to continue their representation, and if the Board of Management will inform the Group Committee what the probable cost to the Colonies will be at the earliest possible moment; this being essential in view of the necessity of submitting the matter to the Colonial Legislatures at an early date.

It is noteworthy that this was the first expression of opinion as to the desirability of continuing the British Empire Exhibition to be sent to the Board of Management. The definite decision to reopen the Exhibition in 1925 was not, however, reached until November, 1924.



3. You informed us in December, 1924, that you had decided to re-appoint us, and that you had notified the Governments concerned of this decision. The members of the Group Committee all readily consented to serve for a further period, with the exception of Brigadier-General C. E. Rice, C.B.E., D.S.O., who had left England. With your approval the following were co-opted to membership of the Committee:—The Hon. G. Laurie Pile (April 2nd) representing Barbados, Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E. (April 29th) representing British Guiana; and Mr. W. G. Clark (April 29th) representing Jamaica. The Committee was then constituted as follows:—

Sir ROBERT RUTHERFORD (*Chairman*).

Mr. CYRIL GURNEY (*Deputy Chairman*).

Mr. ALGERNON ASPINALL, C.M.G. (*Hon. Commissioner*).

Mr. E. D. LABORDE, C.B.E., I.S.O. (*Hon. Treasurer*).

Captain Sir ARTHUR YOUNG, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., *representing the Colonial Office*.

Sir WALTER EGERTON, K.C.M.G., *representing the Colonial Office*.

Mr. P. H. EZECHIEL, C.M.G., *representing the Colonial Office*.

Sir WILLIAM GREY-WILSON, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., *representing the Bahamas*.

Mr. G. ELLIOT SEALY, *representing Barbados*.

The Hon. G. LAURIE PILE, *representing Barbados*.

Sir EDWARD DAVSON, *representing British Guiana*.

Lt.-Col. IVAN B. DAVSON, O.B.E., *representing British Guiana*.

Mr. J. B. CASSELS, M.B.E., *representing British Guiana*.

Mr. W. L. MCKINSTRY, *representing British Honduras*.

Mr. W. A. HARDING, *representing the Falkland Islands*.

Mr. VERE PACKE, *representing the Falkland Islands*.

Mr. W. A. THOMPSON, *representing the Falkland Islands*.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord OLIVIER, K.C.M.G., C.B., *representing Jamaica*.

Mr. W. FAWCETT, B.Sc., *representing Jamaica*.

Mr. W. CRADWICK, *representing Jamaica*.

Mr. W. G. CLARK, *representing Jamaica*.

Mr. ROBERT BRYSON, *representing the Leeward Islands*.

Mr. LAUHLAN ROSE, *representing Dominica*.

Mr. ERNEST BROWN, *representing St. Vincent*.

Mr. A. G. BELL, C.M.G., *representing Trinidad and Tobago*.

Mr. R. S. AUCHER WARNER, K.C., *representing Trinidad and Tobago*.

Mr. BOSWELL TUCKER; and

Mr. GILFRED N. KNIGHT (*Hon. Secretary*).

4. Mr. E. D. Laborde being unable to continue his duties owing to ill health and absence abroad, the Hon. Commissioner performed the functions of Hon. Treasurer in his place.

5. Reference was made in Paragraph 4 of the Group Committee's Report for the Exhibition of 1924 to the very valuable assistance given by the West India Committee for over two years to the end of 1924. That assistance was generously continued during 1925, in the form both of office accommodation, and of clerical and other services freely rendered. We

have pleasure in again acknowledging our obligation to the West India Committee and to the members of its staff.

6. We took early steps to prepare estimates and negotiations had been provisionally opened with Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons for a lease of the West Indian and Atlantic Pavilion, which had been sold to them for £700 for delivery at the close of the 1924 season in order to obviate the expense of its removal and of making good the site. It was estimated that the cost to the Colonies of taking part in the Exhibition of 1925 should not exceed one half of their contribution in respect of 1924, and the Governments were notified accordingly. Eventually the following Colonies intimated their intention of taking part in the Exhibition of 1925 :—The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, the Virgin Islands, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago. The space occupied in 1924 by British Honduras was acquired by Jamaica, whilst that appropriated by Grenada and St. Lucia in that year was taken as to 412 square feet by Trinidad and Tobago and as to 58 square feet by St. Vincent. It was decided to devote the space occupied by the Falkland Islands in 1924 to a Cinema, to which reference is made in paragraph 11 of this Report.

7. The contributions made by each Colony towards the general expenses in the United Kingdom were as follows :—

<i>Colony.</i>				<i>Contribution.</i>		
				£	s.	d.
The Bahamas	...	...	...	300	0	0
Barbados	...	...	...	750	0	0
Jamaica	...	...	...	3,382	10	0*
The Leeward Islands	...	...	...	500	0	0
St. Vincent	...	...	...	211	0	0*
Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	2,764	0	0*
				<hr/>		
				£7,907	10	0
				<hr/>		

Space was also let to the following Private Exhibitors :—The Colonial Bank, the Direct West India Cable Company, the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company, Messrs. C. C. Henriques Company, The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the West Indian Produce Association, Ltd. By arrangement with the Jamaica Commissioner the Cable Companies were accommodated in the Jamaica Section. The other private exhibitors occupied space in the West porch. The revenue from this source was £410 6s. 0d.

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\* These figures include the full cost of the British Honduras, Grenada and St. Lucia space acquired, part payment for which was made out of the subvention attaching to it.

8. Having been entrusted with the distribution of a subvention of £2,500, provided by the Exhibition Management, we were agreed that it should be apportioned on the basis of the space occupied. The amounts were accordingly allotted as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Bahamas ... ..	85	12	10
Barbados ... ..	214	2	0
Jamaica ... ..	965	12	0*
Leeward Islands ... ..	142	14	8
St. Vincent ... ..	60	19	0*
Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	788	6	6*
Cinema (late Falkland Islands space)	242	13	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2,500	0	0

9. We entered into an Agreement with the Contractors in February, 1925, to lease the Pavilion to us for the season at a rental of £442, being 5 per cent. of the original cost. As considerable repairs had to be effected the services of Messrs. Simpson & Ayrton and Messrs. Baker & Mallett, as Architects and Quantity Surveyors respectively, were again invoked.

A floor of "Teakoid" composition of a bright orange colour was laid down. This proved a great advantage, since it not only prevented the need for the wooden platforms and coco-nut matting used in 1924, but also greatly enhanced the appearance of the interior of the Building.

Tenders for stands and decorations were invited, and the contract was given to Messrs. Piggott Bros. & Co., Ltd., whose work gave complete satisfaction.

10. Under the direction of Mr. William Fawcett, and with the assistance of Mr. F. G. Cousins of the Royal Botanic Society, the West Indian Garden was again planted out, and though the tropical plants were fewer in number than in 1924, the general effect was far more satisfactory than it was in the preceding year. Tenders were invited for the supply of flowering plants and the care of the garden, and the contract was awarded to Messrs. L. R. Russell, Ltd., of Richmond. Mr. Fawcett, to whom we are much indebted, very kindly checked the work carried out from time to time. After the close of the Exhibition a collection of tropical plants from the Pavilion and Garden were presented to the Royal Gardens at Kew, the Cypress trees, which were against the walls of the building, Kentia palms, and numerous agaves to the Royal Zoological Society, and Kentia palms to the Alexandra Palace. In each case labels will be affixed to the plants stating that they are from the West Indian Garden at Wembley.

\* Jamaica, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago's proportion of subvention in respect of space formerly occupied by British Honduras, Grenada and St. Lucia was applied in reduction of the cost to them of that space.

11. A contract for the erection of a Cinema Theatre was awarded to Messrs. Piggott Bros. & Co., Ltd., and the necessary equipment was furnished on hire by the Kinematograph Equipment Company. The floor area was 675 square feet, besides 135 square feet which was taken up by the Projecting Chamber and Winding Room. The Cinema, which accommodated 77 persons at a sitting, proved one of the most attractive features of the West Indian Pavilion. Films of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago were shown daily from May 25th, a film of Barbados (through the enterprise of certain Barbados visitors to London who provided the necessary funds) from the third week in July, a film of British Guiana, by arrangement with the Commissioner for that Colony from June 4th, and a film descriptive of Banana cultivation from May 25th, in each case until the closing day. Admission to the Cinema was free and the attendance, as far as could be checked, amounted to 41,775, but on many days when standing room was occupied it was not possible to check accurately the number of those present, and we believe that the total must have exceeded that figure.

12. We submitted to the Exhibition Committees of Jamaica and Trinidad offers which we had received from the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., one of the principal firms of Refreshment Contractors to the Exhibition, for conducting the Jamaica Planters' Punch Bar, the Jamaica Coffee Room and the Trinidad Chocolate Lounge. The Jamaica Exhibition Committee made arrangements with Mr. S. M. Jacobsen to run their Coffee Lounge, but the offer of the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., to conduct the Planters' Punch Bar was accepted by the Jamaica Commissioners, who had been empowered to act. The Trinidad Committee accepted the offer of the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., to conduct the Trinidad Chocolate Lounge. The basis of the agreement in respect of the Bar and Chocolate Lounge was the payment to the Exhibition Committees concerned of 10 per cent. of the gross takings, the Company undertaking to provide certain equipment and to pay the licensing fee in respect of the Bar. It was understood that a royalty on sales would be payable to the Exhibition Management, with whom it was agreed that the Bar, Coffee Room and Chocolate Lounge should be dealt with as three separate entities and that in each case the first £500 taken would be free, the royalty on the next £500 one per cent., and thereafter two per cent. Owing to the smaller attendances, and to the increased facilities for sale of refreshments throughout the Exhibition, the takings were, as was to be expected, less than in 1924, the actual gross takings being—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Planters' Punch Bar	2,694	0	0
Jamaica Coffee Room	1,675	6	4
Trinidad Chocolate Lounge	800	8	6
	£5,169	14	10

The conduct of these refreshment buffets left nothing to be desired, and we specially desire to acknowledge the work done in this connexion by Mr. Jacobsen.

13. Reference to the Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended December 31st last, shows a credit balance of £934 17s. 0d. After adding the net surplus in respect of the 1924 account there remains at this date a net surplus of £1,043 9s. 1d., and we trust that you will regard this result as satisfactory.

14. The British Empire Exhibition of 1925 was opened by His Majesty the King in State on May 9th in the presence of the Queen, the Duke of York and other Members of the Royal Family. The Closing Ceremony was performed on October 31st by the Duke of York, President of the Exhibition.

15. The Queen was graciously pleased to visit the West Indian Pavilion on July 3rd, when the Commissioners had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty, who inspected each Section in turn, making sundry purchases and accepting various gifts. Other Royal visitors included their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York, who inspected the Pavilion on June 9th, and H.R.H. Princess Mary, who similarly honoured it on October 30th. We may here recall with satisfaction that, accompanied by Mrs. Amery, you paid an official visit to the West Indian Pavilion on July 28th, and expressed your appreciation of the efforts which were being made to bring before the attention of the public in this country the produce of the British West Indies and the amenities of those Colonies.

16. The total number of visitors to the Exhibition during the year was 9,699,231, making the grand total for the two seasons 27,102,498. Though the attendance was, in accordance with expectations, less than in the preceding year, it was generally admitted that the visitors in 1925 were more discriminating and took a closer interest in the various exhibits than did those of 1924.

17. The Commissioners for the West Indies had the honour of being entertained in company with the Commissioners for the Dominions, Colonies Protectorates and Mandated Territories by His Majesty's Government at dinner at Sutherland House on June 23rd, when you, Sir, presided, and by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London on the occasion of the visit of 10,000 school children to the Exhibition. They also attended a Luncheon given by the Board of Management on the Closing Day when His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, K.G., presided, and were represented at a Farewell Luncheon given by the Proprietors of *The Times* to the Overseas Commissioners at Printing House Square.

On September 1st and 2nd, several of the Commissioners paid a visit to Kingston-upon-Hull at the invitation of the Lord Mayor and Corporation, where they had the opportunity of seeing something of the industries of that important city and of discussing the possibilities of the development of trade between it and the British West Indies.

18. At the invitation of the City Remembrancer of London the West Indian and Atlantic Group Committee provided a decorated car, calling attention to the staple products of the British West Indies and the amenities of those Colonies as tourist resorts, for the Lord Mayor's Show, which was witnessed by many thousands of spectators on November 9th, 1925.

19. We continued to correspond with the various Exhibition Committees in the West Indies, which in spite of their distance from Wembley, did their utmost to secure the adequate representation of their Colonies. While expressing appreciation of their services we desire in particular to acknowledge the work of the Commissioners who came over specially for the purpose of the Exhibition, namely the Hon. G. Laurie Pile, of Barbados, Mr. F. S. Armbrister of the Bahamas, Mr. W. Cradwick and Mr. W. G. Clark, of Jamaica, Major Randolph Rust, V.D., and Mr. P. Lechmere Guppy, of Trinidad and Tobago, besides Mr. Ernest Brown, St. Vincent, Mr. Robert Bryson, the Leeward Islands, Mr. Lauchlan Rose, Dominica and Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., Trinidad, who personally superintended the staging of the exhibits in their respective sections.

20. It proving impossible to secure its loan for a further season the clock in the Clock Tower was purchased from Messrs. E. Dent & Co. for the sum of £75. It was decided at the close of the Exhibition to present it to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture by whose Governing Body it has been accepted. A tablet near its new site will record the fact that the clock occupied the Tower of the West Indian Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition of 1924 and 1925.

The statues of Christopher Columbus and Lord Rodney which stood on either side of the porch of the Pavilion were presented to the West Indian Club and will be similarly identified.

### The Hon. Commissioner's Report.

21. The Hon. Commissioner has furnished the following report on the exhibits and their arrangement :—

“The exhibits were again thoroughly representative of the British West Indies and proved of great educational value. In the entrance porch was a large wall map 14 feet 3 inches by 11 feet 3 inches to show the position of the Colonies and their size as compared with England, and printed posters gave information regarding the trade and industries of the Group.

To the models and dioramas, shown in the preceding year, was added a picturesque representation of a coral cay in the Bahamas and enlarged coloured photographs illuminated from the back proved an unending source of attraction to visitors. The stands were tastefully arranged and the Commissioners and representatives readily consented to fall in with the colour scheme of the Pavilion with the result that the exhibits as a whole had an improved appearance.

“The lay-out of the Pavilion followed closely the lines of that adopted in the preceding year; but the general appearance of the interior was greatly enhanced by the absence of the wooden platforms of 1924 and by the rigid enforcement of the regulation that no stands or structures should exceed five feet in height, except in the case of offices forming an architectural feature of the interior, and by carrying the veritium right up to the apexes of the roof. These adjustments gave the building a much loftier appearance, and, further, showed off to better advantage the decorative frieze, which, this year, was carried right round the interior of the Pavilion. The Barbados Committee sanctioned the re-arrangement of their space to conform with the general scheme of the building. The colour scheme remained as before, green and orange, though the walls were given a warmer tint, and it was a frequent comment of visitors that the Pavilion was the brightest and most attractive in the Exhibition.

“Many staples such as refining sugars, molasses and coconuts are dealt with through the ordinary trade channels and cannot be identified by the ultimate consumer; but the interest taken in such commodities as West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugars, the Blue Mountain coffee of Jamaica, cocoa and chocolate made from Trinidad cacao, Sea-island cotton goods, honey, Guava jelly, and St. Vincent arrowroot indicates clearly the possibilities for the development of the trade in West Indian produce as package articles by continuous propaganda. Packets of West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugar met with a ready sale in the Trinidad and Barbados Courts, and so did honey in the Jamaica Court and on the stands of private exhibitors, and ‘Trinidad’ chocolate made from Trinidad and Grenada cacao in the Trinidad Section, while a private exhibitor sold chocolate made from purely Trinidad cacao, an industry entirely attributable to the Exhibition, and capable of great development. Again, guava jelly in the Jamaica, Trinidad and Leeward Islands Courts, as well as on a stand of a private exhibitor, and arrowroot, which was distributed in the St. Vincent Court, were evidently much appreciated. Many hundreds of baskets and of ‘Jippi Jappa’ hats, the production of which is now an industry of some importance in Jamaica, were sold, besides West Indian curios, which will serve to keep fresh in the minds of the purchasers and their families interest in the West Indian Colonies. Besides Jamaica cigars, which were displayed and sold in the Jamaica Court and by three private

exhibitors, tobacco was represented by cigars in the Montserrat Section and in the Virgin Islands Section, where Tortola cigars met with a very favourable reception on their first appearance in this country.

“ Except in the Jamaica Court, where Jamaica bananas, supplied by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, and mangoes and citrus fruit, kindly carried by that line, were shown, and in the Dominica Court, where small quantities of limes were offered for sale, no fruit was exhibited owing to the absence of means of bringing it over from the West Indies. This was a subject for great regret, more especially as citrus fruits in splendid condition were sold in great quantities in the South African and Palestine Pavilions and elsewhere in the Exhibition.

“ Not only the quality of the West Indian produce generally but also the packing showed that the Colonies had profited by the experience of former Exhibitions, and that they now realise that it is essential that scrupulous care should be devoted to these two points if success in the markets of this country is to be achieved. Moreover, it was evident that most of the Exhibition Committees appreciated that it is useless to exhibit any commodities which are incapable of being developed on a commercial scale unless they be exhibits of historic or peculiar interest calculated to attract attention to the exhibit as a whole. The exhibits were all clearly labelled, and Commissioners or representatives were in constant attendance to answer enquiries regarding the produce and commodities displayed.”

22. In connexion with the Exhibition the Hon. Commissioner entertained prominent visitors from the West Indies at a series of luncheons at the Garden Club on July 21st, August 21st, September 4th and September 17th.

### Recommendations for the Future.

23. Now that the British Empire Exhibition has closed we think it incumbent on us, as the result of the experience which we have derived therefrom, to suggest means whereby the work and propaganda begun at the Exhibition may be continued, having regard especially to the paramount importance of sustained and continuous effort where publicity is concerned.

24. The Exhibition has served to impress upon the public the great possibilities of the development of trade with the Dominions and Colonies, and incidentally, to disseminate a knowledge of the attractions of the British West Indies and the merits of their produce.

25. Each of the Dominions has had a Trade Commissioner or Trade Commissioners in London for many years, and definite arrangements for publicity and the maintenance of Enquiry Bureaux have been made by



Malaya, British Guiana and East Africa. The Malay States Information Agency has offices with a display window in Cannon Street, British Guiana has a Trade Commissioner with offices in Tothill Street, Westminster, and an East African Trade and Information Office is about to be opened in America House at the corner of Spring Gardens and Cockspur Street to represent as a group the East African Colonies and Protectorates, namely Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Tanganyika Territory. Ceylon and the Sudan are similarly represented in London, and it is understood also that the Gold Coast will shortly have its own Director of Commercial Intelligence with offices in the West End.

26. Other Colonies are in their several ways endeavouring to profit by the lesson of Wembley, and we cannot believe that the British West Indies will allow the efforts they have already made to lapse through want of some definite scheme for their continuance.

27. While we fully recognise that the conditions of the British West Indies may differ from those of the Colonies mentioned above, there seems to be a consensus of opinion that something in the nature of a Trade Commissioner Service is an essential and fundamental requirement in any publicity scheme. We recommend, therefore, that such an Agency should be established in London, the functions of which would be :—

(a) To watch and further the interest of the export trade of the Colonies represented.

(b) To advise the Colonies represented regarding Exhibitions, and to arrange for participation in suitable Exhibitions.

(c) To secure publicity by issuing regular communiqués to the Press, based largely on special cabled news, and by arranging for magazine articles, lectures, meetings and cinematograph displays.

(d) To advertise the opportunities afforded by the Colonies represented for :—

(1) Capitalists.

(2) Settlers with adequate capital, and

(3) Tourists,

and to endeavour by every means possible to secure the development of the West Indian tourist business.

(e) To provide an Information Bureau for replying to trade and other enquiries.

(f) To keep the Colonies represented fully acquainted with tariff, freight and other changes, and Legislative enactments affecting their products in the home country, and

(g) To watch market opportunities, and to scrutinise and report on the quality of shipments.

28. The establishment of such a service for the British West Indies is not now proposed for the first time. In 1922 a select Committee of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce proposed the establishment of an Agency in London at a cost of £5,000 to £6,000 a year, and suggested that if the cost should be considered excessive the West India Committee should be invited to formulate an alternative proposal. That Committee subsequently expressed its willingness to perform the required services, as detailed above,

for the sum of £2,000 per annum, and on the 21st February, 1923, the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce unanimously adopted the following Resolution :—

That this Chamber recommends to the Government to adopt the proposal of The West India Committee, that, in return for an annual subsidy of £2,000 from the various Colonies interested for a period of, say, ten years, they would be willing to carry out the functions of a Trade Commissioner for the West Indies as set out in paragraph 8 of their Sub-Committee's Report, dated 18th January, 1923. Further, that a copy of The West India Committee's Sub-Committee's Report, be forwarded to the other Chambers of Commerce in the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras.

The functions referred to in the paragraph are those set out above.

29. Owing presumably to a lack of unanimity on the part of the Colonies concerned, and to the desire of British Guiana to have a separate Commissioner Service, no further action was then taken. But, whatever may have been the reason for not proceeding with the proposal at the time, we are convinced that activities of the kind set out are necessary if the resources of the British West Indies are to be developed to the best advantage. To do nothing further at this juncture would be to miss the best opportunity for advertisement that the West Indies have ever had, having regard to the interest and enthusiasm for the Empire which has been awakened by the British Empire Exhibition.

30. The West India Committee, with its Reference Library and Service Bureau and with its established connexion, is in a unique position to provide the required services and could do so at a very much less cost than would be entailed by a separate establishment. We are therefore, led to the conclusion that the British West Indies would be well advised to adopt the views which have already commended themselves to the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and to entrust the West India Committee with the duties.

31. If this suggestion is adopted, we would recommend that the West India Committee should act under the directions of the Governments of the Colonies concerned in reference to the Trade Commissioner Service, and that it should have the assistance of an Advisory Committee representing the several Colonies on the lines of the West Indian and Atlantic Group Committee for the British Empire Exhibition.

32. A further suggestion has been made for setting up an establishment in the West End of London which would combine the business of popularising various kinds of West Indian produce—such as Jamaica coffee, Trinidad chocolate and the many other products for which a taste has already been created at Wembley—with that of bringing to public notice,

by such means as the display of pictures of tropical scenery of the kind shown in the West Indian Pavilion, the attractions of the British West Indies as tourist resorts, and would act as a West End branch of the proposed Trade Commissioner Service. As an alternative an already established business in the West End might be willing to include such an undertaking as described, as a branch of its own activities, and a proposal to that effect has been made by an old established house of repute. We recommend that should a Trade Commissioner Service be established it should be one of its first duties to investigate the possibility of such a scheme.

33. We would suggest that the adoption of our proposals regarding a Trade Commissioner Service should not be made dependent on the adhesion of all the British West Indian Colonies; but that if it is approved by a sufficient number of Colonies a start should be made without delay, leaving it open to other Colonies to join in the movement when they may wish to do so.

34. Proposals on the lines set out in paragraph 28 were definitely accepted by the Government and Legislature of British Honduras in July, 1923, and we feel, therefore, that that Colony should be included in the invitation to take part in the movement now suggested.

35. It will be noted from paragraph 28 above that in 1922 The West India Committee were prepared to carry on the Trade Commissioner Service for a payment of £2,000 per annum. So far as we are aware this offer still holds good; but it is obvious that it was not intended, and it would not be sufficient, to cover the cost of the additional West End establishment suggested in paragraph 32 nor the cost of any special activities which may be desired by any individual Colony. This sum of £2,000 would not involve any great strain on the finances of any one Colony and it is suggested that it might be divided in such manner as may be considered most appropriate.

36. At a Meeting of the Group Committee held this afternoon the following Resolution was adopted:—

That the West India Committee be requested to take over as from this date the duties of winding up any outstanding business of the West Indian and Atlantic Group Committee, and to hold such balance of funds as may remain over after meeting any expenses involved in connexion therewith pending the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies as to its disposal.

If the adoption of this course meets with your approval, we shall be obliged if you will authorise the dissolution of the Group Committee and will instruct the West India Committee, if they are willing to act, as to the disposal of

the balance of its funds. This balance, we venture to suggest, might, after meeting any outstanding charges or claims that may arise, be devoted towards the establishment of such a Trade Commissioner Service as we have recommended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

(Sgd.) ROBERT RUTHERFORD,  
*Chairman.*

(Sgd.) ALGERNON ASPINALL,  
*Hon. Commissioner.*

As we are both officers of The West India Committee we feel that we should make it clear that we have signed the above letter, which contains reference to that Body in Paragraphs 5 and 28-36, on behalf of the members of the West Indian and Atlantic Group Committee, by whom its terms were settled.

R.R.

A.A.

The Right Honourable

L. C. M. S. AMERY, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

# THE WEST INDIAN AND British Empire

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Building, Maintenance and Structural Additions	911	14	0			
Architect's Quantity and Surveyor's Fees	40	4	2			
Electric Wiring and Fittings	143	19	0			
Teakoid Flooring	357	12	6			
Stands and Fittings	1,212	5	5			
New Velarium and Decorations	498	4	6			
Garden and Maintenance of Roads and Paths	696	3	9			
Transport of Exhibits and Travelling	371	13	7			
Clock	75	0	0			
				4,306	16	11
Electric Light and Power	207	16	4			
Water	40	7	0			
Insurance	99	18	0			
Fire Precautions	1	19	8			
				350	1	0
Clerical Assistance	184	2	0			
Wages, Attendants and Cleaners	1,178	2	10			
				1,362	4	10
General Expenses :—						
Office Requisites	18	6	6			
Photographs, Prints, etc.	16	9	6			
Uniforms...	29	10	9			
Dust Sheets	11	4	0			
Telephone	37	15	1			
Banking Facilities and Use of Safe	54	4	0			
Publicity	87	15	7			
Staff Dinner	63	18	5			
Petty Cash and Sundries	103	9	6			
	422	13	4			
Printing and Stationery (including estimated cost of souvenir)	143	12	9			
Postages and Cables...	49	2	9			
				615	8	10
Medallions, Books and Cards				6	16	6
Entertaining				201	15	0
Model of Building				133	2	6
Products Cards for Schools and Institutions				109	17	6
Estimated Cost of Packing, etc., of Clock to Imperial College				20	0	0
Cost of Reconditioning Statues				10	0	0
Estimated Cost of Shipping Frieze to various Colonies				20	0	0
Debit Balance on Cinema Account				123	1	5
Audit and Accountancy Charges				52	10	0
Provision for Gratuities to Staff				165	0	0
Expended in accordance with specific instructions of Colonial Representatives and Exhibitors				2,447	12	7
Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure				934	17	0
				10,859	4	1

# ATLANTIC GROUP COMMITTEE.

## Exhibition, 1925.

### ACCOUNT, SEASON 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Contributions from Colonies :—						
The Bahamas ...	300	0	0			
Barbados ...	750	0	0			
Jamaica ...	3,382	10	0			
Leeward Islands	500	0	0			
St. Vincent ...	211	0	0			
Trinidad and Tobago ...	2,764	0	0			
				7,907	10	0
Amounts received from Private Exhibitors :—						
Colonial Bank	100	0	0			
Direct West India Cable Company Ltd. (net)	62	16	0			
C. C. Henriques Co.	67	10	0			
Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	105	0	0			
West Indian Produce Association Ltd.	75	0	0			
					410	6 0
Interest on Deposit Account ...					24	6 6
Disposals :—						
Receipts to 31st December, 1925	15	15	0			
Estimated further Receipts	53	14	0			
					69	9 0
Amounts receivable for Expenditure on behalf of Colonial Representatives and Exhibitors					2,447	12 7

£10,859 4 1

# CINEMA ACCOUNT,

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 1924 Account				43	17	4
Erection of Theatre, Fireproof Chamber, Steps and Fittings ... ..				416	11	0
Electric Fittings ... ..				63	19	6
Hire of Seats and Equipment ... ..				237	11	0
Cost of Printing Films ... ..				42	11	10
Architects' Fees ... ..				15	15	0
Wages of Operator and Winder ... ..				123	5	0
Electric Current ... ..				15	5	2
Publicity ... ..				22	0	6
Insurance ... ..				15	2	0
Miscellaneous Expenses :—						
Carriage of Films ... ..				7	8	1
Licences ... ..				3	0	0
Sundries ... ..				3	8	0
				13	16	1
				£1,009	14	5

## BALANCE SHEET,

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
AMOUNTS DUE TO COLONIES :—						
The Bahamas ... ..				46	10	10
Dominica ... ..				87	7	10
Jamaica ... ..				1	12	2
				135	10	10
ESTIMATED OUTSTANDING EXPENSES				483	11	2
REVENUE ACCOUNT :—						
Balance on "1924" Income and Expenditure Account for period to 31st March, 1925				265	5	4
Less—						
Further Expenditure re "1924" in respect of Printing and Stationery, Insurance, Audit, Printing Report and Transport				200	10	7
				64	14	9
Add—						
Debit Balance on Cinema Account "1924" transferred to Cinema Account "1925" ...				43	17	4
				108	12	1
Add—						
Excess of Income over Expenditure on "1925" Income and Expenditure Account ... ..				934	17	0
				1,043	9	1
				£1,662	11	1

We beg to report that we have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books, Records Committee, and we certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have accepted the figures submitted and of payments made for National Insurance. The balance of £1,043 9s. 1d. on Revenue Account in transactions with Contributing Colonies we have verified the position by seeing that such Account and Tobago, from which Colony confirmation is not yet to hand.

7, Laurence Pountney Hill,  
London, E.C. 4.

January, 1926.

# SEASON 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rents Received :—						
Jamaica ...	200	0	0			
Trinidad ...	200	0	0			
Messrs. Elders & Fyffes	100	0	0			
British Guiana ...	94	10	0			
Barbados ...	48	0	0			
Cyprus ...	1	10	0			
	<hr/>					
				644	0	0
Proportion of Subvention ...				242	13	0
Balance carried to Income and Expenditure Account ...				123	1	5

£1,009 14 5

## 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
AMOUNTS DUE BY COLONIES —						
Trinidad ...	46	7	8			
St. Vincent ...	1	10	10			
St. Lucia (1924 Account) ...	4	5	8			
	<hr/>					
				52	4	2
ESTIMATED FURTHER RECEIPTS ON ACCOUNT OF DISPOSALS						53 14 0
CASH :—						
On Deposit ...	1,500	0	0			
In Hand ...	56	12	11			
	<hr/>					
				1,556	12	11

(Sgd.) R. RUTHERFORD, *Chairman.*  
 ALGERNON ASPINALL, *Hon. Commissioner.*  
 GEO. P. OSMOND, *Accountant.*

£1,662 11 1

and Vouchers of the Committee and/or with the Minutes of the Committee and of the General Purposes by The West India Committee in respect of Rents received on Cinema Account sales and disposals subject to any further disbursements connected with the Exhibition. As regards Account Current Current balances have been settled in cash or confirmed by certificates except in the case of Trinidad

(Sgd.) SMITH & EARLE, AUDITORS.  
*Chartered Accountants.*

