

== The ==

West India

Committee.

Circular. \* \*

[CIRCULAR.]

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

May, 1886.

MR. FORSTER.—A resolution was forwarded to Mrs. Forster "expressing deep regret at the death of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., who had proved himself to be a true friend of the British West India Colonies. The benefit of his wide experience, derived from a careful and long-continued study of colonial affairs, was always available for the promotion of the prosperity of all classes of people in the colonies; and the independent judgment and warm sympathy with which that experience was brought to bear, especially when matters of great importance were under consideration, rendered his co-operation of the highest value, and deserving of grateful remembrance by all who take an interest in the welfare of a group of colonies, comprising some of the earliest possessions of the British Crown." The following acknowledgment was received:—"Wharfedale, Burley in Wharfedale, Leeds, April 16th, 1886. To the Secretary. Sir,—Will you convey to the Committee of West India Planters and Merchants my sincere thanks for the resolution which you have forwarded to me, expressive of their deep regret for the loss of my dear husband, and their high estimate of his constant and sympathetic efforts to promote the prosperity of all the British Colonies.—I remain, Sir, yours faithfully, JANE FORSTER."

UNITED STATES CONVENTION.—The following letter has been addressed to the Colonial Office:—"April 19th, 1886. The Earl Granville, K.G., &c., &c. My Lord,—I am desired by the West India Committee to call your attention to the telegram in the *Times* of this day, stating that the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States has reported in favour of a Bill authorizing the President to invite Mexico and the Central and South American nations to join the United States in an International Conference at Washington to discuss and recommend plans for improving the commercial relations between the various countries. Your Lordship is aware that a draft Convention for improved commercial relations between the United States and the British West India Colonies is now awaiting further progress, and I am most earnestly to request that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to communicate by telegraph with Sir L. Sackville West with a view of obtaining the consent of the United States Government to include representatives from the British West India Colonies in the proposed Conference on commercial relations.—I am, etc., (Signed,) J. L. OULSON, Secretary."

A reply was received on April 24th stating that Lord Granville was communicating with the Foreign Office on the subject.

COUNTERVAILING DUTIES.—The memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in favour of a countervailing duty of 2s. per cwt. on foreign refined sugar above No. 20, Dutch standard; and foreign beet-root sugar, below



No. 20, was forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer before the Budget, with all the signatures which had then been obtained. The following acknowledgment was received: "Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W., April 19th, 1886. Sir,—I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. enclosing the memorial connected with the sugar cane industries, and to say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer regards the system of foreign bounties as one which is thoroughly unsound, but that he has not been able to deal with the question in the Budget. I am, &c., (Signed) STANFORD."

The petition still lies for signature at the West India Committee Rooms, 51, Lime Street, London.

GERMAN BEET.—The production for the seven months, from 1st September to end of March, 1885-6 was 757,253 tons, against 1,076,660 tons in same period, 1884-5. The stocks, however, in Germany, were in March, 1886, 291,500 tons against 238,050 last year. The deliveries show a decrease, being in seven months to end of March 1886, 578,391 tons against 859,411 tons in 1884-5. The consumption in Germany is not increasing, averaging since 1881 about 360,000 tons a year. The German crop for 1885-6 is estimated at above 800,000 tons, ~~showing possibly~~ <sup>and the sowings for 1886-7 are estimated at</sup> 10 or 20 per cent. increase over last year's sowings.

BEET.—Estimates vary so much as to be practically worthless, but an increase of 250,000 tons is suggested by Licht's Circular, which does not take any responsibility for the figures. In France and Belgium, sowings are in full progress. They are just being commenced in Germany.

USINES IN FRENCH COLONIES.—Reports for 1886 of Martinique Usines are lying at the West India Committee Rooms.

GERMAN BOUNTIES.—HEIT Gehlert made a speech in the Reichstag recently on the Sugar Duties Bill. He did not object to a subvention, but thought its amount should be definitely stated. He objected to "issuing blank drafts on the Imperial Exchequer, the ultimate amount of which could not be estimated by ten millions of marks." The speaker objected to a fixed yield because of the inequalities of working in the numerous factories. He complained of the want of information regarding production and consumption, and the quantity of molasses sugar which escapes taxation. He pointed out that the tax on raw material wrapped up a system of bounties from the Exchequer which no one would openly defend, and that a fixed yield only benefits estates that are favourably situated. He then gave the following sketch of the growth of the sugar industry which was just forty years old: "Through its own natural vigour it developed slowly, but steadily, until the second half of 1870, and until then it was one of the most valuable branches of our natural production. Since that time it has been subventioned by the State, at a cost to the country of over 150 million marks, and its present great extension is entirely due to this subvention. Certainly if magnitude and soundness are things that mutually create one another, then, undoubtedly, the sugar industry within the last ten years has become sound to an extraordinary degree. In factories it is said that 400 to 500 million marks are invested, and 50,000 work-people employed in them. But, in the year when the crisis came, the state subvention was fully forty million marks. Now, calculate in any way you like, take the invested capital of 400 to 500 millions, this subvention of about 40 millions gives the sugar factories an *a priori* dividend of eight per cent. to ten per cent. If you like to look at it in another way, take the work-people into account, then,

this means that the State has paid the total wages of the workmen for that industry, for the 50,000 workmen will hardly have received in wages more than about 40 million marks." How is it, after all, the speaker asks, that there are numerous bankruptcies, reduced value of factories, thousands of workmen thrown idle, accumulated stocks, and "infamously low prices?" The speaker strongly advocated the abolition of the tax on the raw material, and an International Convention to abolish bounties.

The estimates (Licht) of the continental beet sugar production in 1885-86 will compare with the two previous campaigns as follows:—

|                                       | 1885-86.         | 1884-85.         | 1883-84.         |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| German Empire.....Tons of 1000 kilos. | 800,000          | 1,155,000        | 986,000          |
| Austria Hungary .....                 | 342,500          | 558,000          | 446,000          |
| France .....                          | 290,000          | 308,000          | 474,000          |
| Russia and Poland .....               | 525,000          | 387,000          | 308,000          |
| Belgium.....                          | 50,000           | 88,000           | 107,000          |
| Holland and other countries..         | 37,500           | 50,000           | 40,000           |
| <b>Total tons.....</b>                | <b>2,045,000</b> | <b>2,546,000</b> | <b>2,361,000</b> |

If we add the estimates of the cane sugar crops, viz. :—

|                                       | 1885-86.         | 1884-85.         | 1883-84.         |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cuba .....                            | 640,000          | 627,800          | 560,900          |
| Porto Rico.....                       | 40,000           | 60,000           | 65,000           |
| Trinidad.....                         | 52,000           | 65,700           | 59,800           |
| Barbados .....                        | 48,000           | 60,700           | 56,000           |
| Jamaica .....                         | 19,000           | 18,000           | 20,000           |
| Antigua and St. Kitt's.....           | 20,000           | 20,000           | 23,000           |
| Martinique.....                       | 40,000           | 38,800           | 49,400           |
| Guadeloupe .....                      | 45,000           | 41,200           | 55,300           |
| Demerara .....                        | 100,000          | 96,000           | 126,000          |
| Reunion.....                          | 36,000           | 37,000           | 37,800           |
| Mauritius .....                       | 105,000          | 128,000          | 120,400          |
| Java .....                            | 320,000          | 380,000          | 311,400          |
| British Indies .....                  | 50,000           | 45,000           | 60,000           |
| Brazil.....                           | 190,000          | 269,000          | 359,000          |
| Manila, Cebu, and Ilo Ilo....         | 220,000          | 203,400          | 123,000          |
| Louisiana .....                       | 110,000          | 94,500           | 128,400          |
| Peru .....                            | 40,000           | 35,000           | 25,000           |
| Egypt.....                            | 65,000           | 40,000           | 30,000           |
| <b>Together .....</b>                 | <b>2,140,000</b> | <b>2,260,100</b> | <b>2,210,400</b> |
| <b>This will give including Beet.</b> | <b>2,045,000</b> | <b>2,545,889</b> | <b>2,360,314</b> |
| <b>A total production of .....</b>    | <b>4,185,000</b> | <b>4,805,989</b> | <b>4,570,714</b> |

Showing a less production of about 621,000 tons.



The following figures of production and consumption for the sugar season July 1st, 1885, to June 30th, 1886, have been forwarded by Mr. J. Ernest Tinne, of Liverpool:—

THE SUGAR SEASON, JULY 1ST, 1885, TO JUNE 30TH, 1886.

|                          | Production.<br>Tons. | Consumption.<br>Tons. |                                    | Production.<br>Tons. | Consumption.<br>Tons. |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Germany .....            | 800,000              | 350,000               | Australia .....                    | 280,000              | 200,000               |
| France .....             | 280,000              | 360,000               | New Zealand .....                  |                      | 40,000                |
| Russia .....             | 525,000              | 350,000               | Turkey and Syria .....             |                      | 60,000                |
| Belgium .....            | 50,000               | 50,000                | Norway and Sweden .....            |                      | 40,000                |
| Holland .....            | 37,000               | 50,000                | Denmark .....                      |                      | 60,000                |
| Austria .....            | 343,000              | 240,000               | Switzerland .....                  |                      | 20,000                |
| Spain .....              | 15,000               | 15,000                | Portugal .....                     |                      | 35,000                |
| Cuba .....               | 630,000              | 50,000                | Canada .....                       |                      | 150,000               |
| Java .....               | 320,000              | 20,000                | Argentine States .....             | 30,000               | 100,000               |
| Louisiana .....          | 150,000              |                       | Greece .....                       |                      | 10,000                |
| Sandwich Islands .....   | 100,000              | 10,000                | Africa (Morocco, Natal, &c.) ..... | 50,000               | 60,000                |
| United States America .. |                      | 1,400,000             | Italy .....                        |                      | 80,000                |
| Fiji .....               | 20,000               |                       |                                    |                      |                       |
| Peru and Chili .....     | 100,000              | 50,000                |                                    | 5,085,000            | 5,395,000             |
| Brazil .....             | 200,000              | 40,000                | Add stocks carried over on         |                      |                       |
| Mauritius and Reunion .. | 140,000              | 5,000                 | 1st July, 1885, from               |                      |                       |
| Manila .....             | 220,000              | 10,000                | previous years .....               | 1,000,000            |                       |
| Egypt .....              | 80,000               | 20,000                |                                    |                      |                       |
| Demerara .....           | 100,000              | 10,000                | Total supply to 1st July,          |                      |                       |
| West Indies .....        | 200,000              | 20,000                | 1886 .....                         | 6,085,000            |                       |
| Martinique & Guadeloupe. | 75,000               | 5,000                 | Deduct consumption for             |                      |                       |
| Mexico .....             | 20,000               | 15,000                | 12 months .....                    | 5,395,000            |                       |
| Honduras .....           | 20,000               | 15,000                |                                    |                      |                       |
| China .....              | 300,000              | 295,000               | Stock carried over on 1st          |                      |                       |
| United Kingdom .....     |                      | 1,160,000             | July, 1886 .....                   | 690,000              |                       |

\*.♥ India excluded from above return.

DEMERARA, May 6th.—Heavy rains. BARRADOS, May 1st.—Good reaping weather. TRINIDAD, 5th May.—Wet weather retards sugar making. Latest from CUBA, good harvesting weather. PORTO RICO, reports bad yield. BRAZIL and MAURITIUS, dry but at time of report not too much injury to canes. REUNION, drought broken up, prospect of fair crop.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—The principal features are, for the four months to end of April, the imports of United States sugar into United Kingdom were 22,600 tons, against 28,500 same time last year. Refined sugar from countries not specified, but probably Russia, 29,700 tons, against 89 tons last year. Total refined imported 105,403, against 86,000 in 1885. Imports of raw from Germany were 75,000 tons, against 177,000 tons same period last year. Total raw imported 295,000 tons, against 375,000 tons for the four months of 1885.

By order,

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

51, LIME STREET, LONDON,

June, 1886.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—Meeting, 27th May. Resolved that a General Purposes Committee be formed from the subscribing members to take charge of general or common questions, with power to refer special questions, connected with particular colonies, to Special Committees, nominated by the General Purposes Committee. The following were nominated members of the General Purposes Committee, with power to add:—Sir G. H. Chambers, Mr. W. Tennant, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Mr. A. Miles, Mr. R. M. Harvey, Mr. C. Washington Eves, Mr. A. P. Marryat, Mr. J. McConnell, Mr. D. C. Da Costa, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. C. Gillespie, Mr. P. Wade, and Mr. Gaviller.

**UNITED STATES CONVENTION.**—Correspondence proceeding. Colonial Office writes, 28th May, Sir L. West communicated with us to representation of West Indian Colonies, at Washington International Conference on Trade Relations. The bearing of Mr. Bryce's recent statements in Parliament as to favoured-nation clauses upon above Convention is being considered. Also, Anglo-Spanish Treaty, as involving right of Spain to demand removal of bounties on sugar imported into the United Kingdom. Further movement in regard to Convention stopped by political crisis, as well as presentation of memorial in favour of countervailing duties to Chancellor of Exchequer. Mr. Baden-Powell's motion on Bounties is fixed for 22nd June, but will not be proceeded with.

**SUGAR IN BREWING.**—Memorials have been presented to Government to oppose Beer Adulteration Bill No. 66, as restricting use of Sugar in Brewing. Bill stands for Committee June 23.

**CINCHONA STATISTICS.**—Government have been requested to obtain these from Consul in Java for a series of years.

**SUGAR CANE PLANT.**—Under date 30th November, 1885, Colonial Office was requested to move Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica to take action to improve Sugar Cane. Committee suggested that each Government should set apart 100 acres of land on which cane should be grown, and that a careful selection of the best plants from year to year should be re-sown, the object being by careful selection to produce the finest plants, constantly improving in size, prolificness, early maturity, and saccharine quality. Letter referred to Kew. Mr. Morris, by desire of Mr. Dyer, writes May 13, recapitulating efforts made to supply fresh varieties of Cane to West Indies, and suggesting that all that was necessary had been done. Committee replied 8th June, to Lord Granville, that sufficient had not been done, and strongly urging again their proposal of November 30, 1885, as it is not the mere addition of varieties that is required, but a careful selection of the best specimens of varieties now cultivated, and the steady cultivation of these. Appreciation of services rendered by Kew was also expressed.

**ST. VINCENT.**—The petition praying for a constitution similar to that of Jamaica, whereby the people may have control over taxation and expenditure, and a legitimate share in legislation through their elected representatives, has been presented to the Lords by the Earl of Dunraven, and to the Commons by Mr. Baden-Powell, M.P.

**A NEW SUGAR.**—Dr. Fahlberg, of New York, writes that by mixing Starch or Grape Sugar with a composition called "Saccharin," made by benzoic acid, a substitute for Cane Sugar is found. Patents are being applied for in Germany. The principal argument of the inventor seems to be that such a composition would be harmless to men and dogs.

**NEW GERMAN LAW.**—Tax on Roots, 1 mark, 70 pf. Drawback from August 1st, 1886, to 30th September, 1887, m. 18. From October, 1887, m. 17. 25. For Leaf Sugar, m. 22. 20 to October 31st, 1887; and after, m. 21. 56. This law continues the principle of the tax on roots, and it shows a desire to export white sugars for direct consumption. At the usual computation of 1,000 kilos. per ton, and 20 marks to the £, the bounty will be reduced from 36s. as at present, after October, 1886, to 27s., and after October, 1887, to 19s. 6d., at 9 tons beet to 1 sugar; and from 20s. to 2s. 6d., at 10 tons. It takes, on the average, 9½ tons roots to make 1 ton sugar in Germany.

**GERMAN BEET.**—The production for the seven months, from 1st September to end of April, 1885-6, was 767,253 tons, against 1,102,230 tons in same period, 1884-5. The stocks, however, in Germany were in April, 1886, 225,300 tons against 187,600 last year. The deliveries show a decrease, being in seven months to end of



April, 1886, 654,833 tons against 935,561 tons in 1884-5. The consumption in Germany is not increasing, averaging since 1881 about 360,000 tons a year. The weather during May in Germany was such that field work began in some districts. The present state of the beet fields is reported fully satisfactory. The figures given in last Circular of Continental Beet production remain unchanged. The increase in the area planted for coming season is estimated (Licht) to produce 350,000 tons, but if Russia decreases, owing to expected cessation of bounties in July, the surplus over 1885-6 may only be 225,000 tons in Continental Beet.

**OTHER CONTINENTAL BEET.**—Eight months production in Austria-Hungary from September to April, 1885-6, 326,026 tons against 526,609. Consumption averages 190,000 tons per year. French Beet: Eight months to 15th of April, production 277,732 tons raw sugar value against 293,171. Russian exports from beginning of season to April 1, to Europe and Asia, were 120,000 tons raw sugar value.

**STOCKS.**—The visible Stocks of Sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes) in May 990,554 tons against 1,017,670 in 1885; in United States, 104,009 against 121,238; Havana, 116,881 against 97,598. Total Stocks, 1,211,444 against 1,236,506.

**BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.**—The principal features are, for the five months to end of May, the imports of United States sugar into United Kingdom were 26,750 tons, against 48,988 same time last year. Refined sugar from Russia, 32,643 tons, against 95 tons last year. Total refined imported, 128,147, against 119,116 in 1885. Imports of raw from Germany were 107,747 tons, against 214,514 tons same period last year. Total raw imported, 380,111 tons, against 475,209 tons for the five months of 1885.

#### APPROXIMATE COCOA CROPS, 1885.

| Tons.     |        | Tons.           |       | Tons.                 |       |
|-----------|--------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Guayaquil | 10,940 | Central America | 4,250 | St. Vincent           | 15    |
| Trinidad  | 6,500  | French Guiana   | 100   | Guadeloupe            | 180   |
| Venezuela | 5,000  | Ceylon          | 625   | British Guiana        | 160   |
| Grenada   | 2,400  | Philippines     | 400   | St. Domingo and Hayti | 300   |
| Brazil    | 7,500  | Dominica        | 170   | Martinique            | 500   |
| Africa    | 1,500  | Jamaica         | 120   | Mexico                | 1,000 |
| Surinam   | 976    | St. Lucia       | 200   | Reunion               | 50    |

The total Cocoa crop of the world may be put at from 45,000 to 50,000 tons a year. The United Kingdom receives for consumption, 7,300 tons; France, 12,000 tons (stocks in France, 30th April, 1886, 5,631 tons); North, South, and Central America, 6,000 tons; Spain, 10,000 tons; the remainder consumed in Germany (2,500), Italy (5,000), and other countries, in smaller quantities.

Guayaquil crops for 1880, 15,250 tons; 1881, 9,960; 1882, 9,045; 1883, 6,755; 1884, 7,965; 1885, 10,940. The first five months of 1886, receipts are telegraphed as 10,000 tons, and crop is likely to reach 16,500. Trinidad shipments, to May 15th, have unexpectedly exceeded last year; weather favourable for cocoa crop. In Grenada, efforts continue to be made to improve quality; planting is steadily extending, but severe droughts since 1883, have checked increase of production. Shipments in 1886 are at present short, and year's crop will probably show decrease as compared with 1885. Late showers will help the niddle picking, but the total may not much exceed 30,000 bags. In St. Lucia, unfavourable weather has interfered with expected increase, but larger exports are certain in two or three years time. In Tobago the cultivation is being introduced, for which there are large tracts of suitable land. The Surinam crop goes mainly to United States of America, cultivation extending, but drought affected last two crops; in 1881, 1,615 tons; 1882, 1,071; 1883, 1,618; 1884, 1,363; 1885, 976.

**BARBADOS.**—June 7th. Good reaping weather.

**TRINIDAD.**—June 2nd. Weather continued wet.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular, should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea, and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

(CIRCULAR No. 3.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON,

12th July 1886.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—Meeting of General Purposes Committee, 21th June. Any meetings on questions relating to particular colonies were left to the discretion of the chair, without calling first a meeting of General Purposes Committee. New members, at one guinea subscriptions, nominated, and form of election decided. Communication from St. Vincent proprietors as to export duties in that island, considered. (Further information on this point to be sent to the Secretary. Parliamentary proceedings on West India questions suspended by dissolution.

**LIVERPOOL ASSOCIATION.**—Annual Meeting, June 22nd. New appointments (British Guiana) should be at reduced salaries. Public Works' staff should be reduced. Loans should be carefully watched. (These opinions agree with those of a Demerara Meeting held in London June 21st, at which the present public expenditure of the Colony was discussed.)

**UNITED STATES CONVENTION.**—Foreign Secretary states (18th June) in reply to Mr. Baden-Powell that the representation of the British West Indies at Washington Conference of South American Countries on trade relations too hypothetical at present for British Government to take action. Matter making progress, however, in British Guiana and Barbados. In Court of Policy (June 8th), Messrs. Bascom & Mulligan carried a resolution for the necessary expenses of representing British Guiana at such Conference, and Governor agreed to put estimate before Combined Court. Barbados Commercial Hall call attention of Secretary of State (7th June) to the inconsistency of the Foreign Office giving the American Government the impression that Lord Graa-ville's despatch of February 12th, 1885, was the close of the specific negotiation for Convention; whereas Col. Stanley, Colonial Secretary, writes Governor Robinson, August 24th, 1885, that negotiations were pending, as the reason for not confirming Barbados Fiscal Act.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—Another Conference in London, to be followed by Parliamentary action, will be arranged as soon as possible.

**ST. LUCIA.**—Official correspondence can be seen at Office regarding an ordinance to authorize formation of a Company, with a capital of £100,000, with a Colonial (St. Lucia) guarantee for 20 years at 6 per cent. on loans to planters on security of lands and crops. The Secretary of State did not approve, and the ordinance fails.

**FRANCE.**—New Law continues surtax of 7 francs on raw sugar from Europe to 31st August, 1888. The discount on the duty (for supposed loss in manufacture) on French Colonial sugar is increased from 12 to 24 per cent. to place French colonial producers of cane on an equality with native beet. The Law of July, 1884, is otherwise continued. From September 1887, the quantities of sugar subject to duty will be estimated according to the weight of roots per 100 kilos:—Crop, 1887-8, 6½ kilos. of refined; 1888-9, 6½; 1889-90, 6½; 1890-1, 7. The weather is favourable in France, but rather too dry.

**BEET.**—The weather is dry and hot, but favourable for roots. Estimate for coming crop in beet countries practically unchanged.

**STOCKS.**—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe, including floating cargoes, were on 1st June 896,355 tons, against 897,384 in 1885; in United States, 138,592, against 154,211; in Havana, 137,306, against 113,378. Total stocks, 1,172,253, against 1,164,973. But it is difficult to place complete reliance upon these figures, as compared with last year. For instance, the stocks shown as existing in Germany last year excluded sugar nominally exported, but which still remained in warehouse. The following table shows the difference between nominal and real stocks in Germany:—



|   | Present Calculations. | Past Calculations. |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Stock, 1st September, 1884, and crop, 1884-5                      | 1,173,068             | 1,173,068          |
| Consumption and exports from 1st Sept., 1884, to 30th April, 1885 | 800,460               | 935,561            |
| Stocks, 1st May, 1885   | 372,608               | 237,507            |
| Consumption and exports, May                                      | 85,806                | 52,377             |
| Stocks, 1st June, 1885  | 286,802               | 185,130            |
| Consumption and exports, June                                     | 65,425                | 28,215             |
| Stocks, 1st July, 1885  | 221,377               | 156,915            |
| Consumption and exports, July                                     | 58,053                | 23,634             |
| Stocks, 1st August, 1885  | 163,324               | 133,281            |
| Consumption and exports, August                                   | 55,029                | 27,074             |
| Stocks, 1st September, 1885                                       | 108,295               | 106,207            |
| Crop, 1885-6  | 784,874               | 784,874            |
|   | 893,169               | 891,081            |
| Consumption, 1st September, 1885, to 30th April, 1886             | 627,365               | 654,833            |
| Stocks, 1st May, 1886   | 265,804               | 236,248            |

The above return shows that whereas *Leicht's Circular* gave the stocks in Germany in May, 1885, at 237,507 tons, the real stocks must have been 372,608. The discrepancy was being gradually redressed to May, 1886, but the large quantity of sugar thus remaining in Germany unaccounted for is so far an explanation of the apparent falling off in consumption and excess of supplies.

**BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS, SUGAR.**—The principal features are, for the six months to the end of June, the imports of United States sugar into the United Kingdom were 28,124 tons, against 73,145 same time last year. Refined sugar from Russia, 32,655 tons, against 96 tons last year. Total refined imported, 144,497, against 154,345 in 1885. Imports of raw from Germany were 129,469 tons, against 236,032 tons same period last year. Total raw imported, 463,653 tons, against 565,084 tons for the six months of 1885.

**COFFEE.**—Six months' imports into United Kingdom, 32,973 tons, against 33,095 same period last year. Home consumption remains stationary at 7500 tons for the half-year. In stock (Bonded warehouses), United Kingdom, 23,594, against 21,970. Exports for six months, 17,782 tons, against 20,115. A return will be prepared for an early Circular showing production of coffee and its distribution, similar to cocoa statistics in June Circular. The Secretary will be glad of any coffee statistics, &c.

**COCOA.**—Imports, United Kingdom, six months, 14,227,422 lbs., against 13,180,528. Home consumption, 8,541,857, against 7,985,135. Stocks (Bonded warehouses), 7,694,531, against 7,029,706. Exports, 2,838,386, against 4,143,623.

**ROM.**—The stock of Jamaica Rum in London on July 3rd was 11,081 puns., against 10,736 last year. Of other British Islands 2,254, against 3,081. Of Demerara and Berbice 10,099, against 7,801. Of Foreign 4,183, against 923. Of British East Indies 1,807, against 1,193. The stock of Vatted Rum in London is 3,534 puns., against 2,975.

**SUGAR NEWS.**—A daily paper is to be published in Germany, to give telegraphic reports on all matters concerning the sugar trade—all movements in sugar, prices, stocks, &c. Subscription, £5 per year.

**CROPS AND WEATHER.**—Demerara, 3rd July, weather showery and favourable for cultivation. Barbados, telegrams to date, heavy rains. The present Cuban crop is the largest for many years, estimated to reach 750,000 tons.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to Secretary.

JAMES L. OHLSON,

SECRETARY.

(CIRCULAR No. 4.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LINE STREET, LONDON,

9th August, 1886.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—Meeting of General Purposes Committee, August 5th. Deputations to New Government on United States Convention, and Sugar Bounties, authorized. Movement in Parliament also projected.

UNITED STATES CONVENTION AND WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.—Mr. Bayard to British Embassy, Washington, March 6th, 1886, writes that scarcely any two neighbouring areas of production and commercial consumption present identical conditions to govern the relations of trade between them and the United States. Specific provisions, whether founded on reciprocity or not, covering only a part of the total volume of trade in any given staple of supply or demand, were inexpedient because hindering rather than facilitating the attainment of the general end in view. Such specific provisions could only be made as part of a complete arrangement. But progress to the end desired might be made by wise legislation such as certain provisions of the Shipping Act of June, 1884. The whole subject now requires tentative treatment. The United States' Government therefore refrain from any further specific proposals, that would not be equally applicable to all other regions falling within the same geographical limitations and affected by the same conditions of transit and commerce. The West India Committee think that the above despatch leaves the door still open for further negotiations on the part of the British Government in favour of the draft Convention of December, 1884, or of the proposed tariff legislation in Barbados and British Guiana.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A special British Guiana meeting was held at Lime Street, London, on August 5th. The Medical Reorganization Ordinance, read 1<sup>st</sup> in the Court of Policy, was discussed. Resolved to protest against such ordinance, should it be passed in its present form, as restricting the influence and lowering the status of the Immigration Agent General as fixed by the ordinance passed on the recommendation of the Coolie Inquiry Commissioners, 1870-1. The following papers may be seen at the Office:—Half-Yearly Return of Immigrants to December, 1885. Report of Immigration Agent General for 1885, containing valuable information on state of Coolie population, and which Secretary used in his letter inserted in *Zeyher* of July 31st, in vindication of climate of colony. Report on Botanic Gardens, showing demand for cocoa plants, Liberian coffees, canes (the Honolulu cane is reported to be the richest in sugar, but its trial not yet satisfactory). The Bourbon is the common cane of the colony. At the above meeting in London, August 5th, other important matters concerning British Guiana were discussed. Reports may be made later on to the General West India Body.

TRENIDAD.—The Committee have called attention of Colonial Office to the presence of President Guzman Blanco in London as a good opportunity of coming to an understanding as to the protective duty of 30 per cent. on Trinidad goods imported into Venezuela.

SPAIN.—The Committee wrote a letter 12th July to Spanish Minister suggesting that in the Anglo-Spanish Convention, it should be provided that Spanish Colonial Sugar imported into Great Britain should be secured against unfair competition on the part of Bounty-fed Beet Sugar imported from Europe. The Spanish Minister sent the letter to Madrid.

SUGAR AT EXHIBITION.—Secretary is arranging a discussion on production and distribution of British West Indian Sugar at the Conference Hall, Exhibition, for an early date in October.

The estimates (Licht) of the continental beet sugar production in 1885-86 will compare with the two previous campaigns as follows:—

|  | 1885-86.  | 1884-85.  | 1883-84.  |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| German Empire..... Tons of 1000 kilos. | 812,500   | 1,155,000 | 986,000   |
| Austria Hungary .....                  | 357,500   | 558,000   | 446,000   |
| France .....                           | 290,000   | 308,000   | 474,000   |
| Russia and Poland.....                 | 525,000   | 387,000   | 308,000   |
| Belgium .....                          | 48,421    | 88,000    | 107,000   |
| Holland and other countries..          | 37,500    | 50,000    | 40,000    |
| Total tons.....                        | 2,070,921 | 2,546,000 | 2,361,000 |

The above figures show a deficit of 475,000 tons, as compared with previous crop.

GERMAN BEET.—The production for the ten months, from 1st September to end of June, 1885-6, was 805,471 tons, against 1,112,221 in same period 1884-5. The stocks, however, in Germany were in June, 1886,



150,000 tons, against 117,400 last year. The deliveries show a decrease, being in ten months to end of June, 1886, 768,713 tons, against 1,016,153 tons in 1884-5. Exports: 423,883 tons, against 634,412 tons. The consumption in Germany is not increasing, averaging since 1881 about 360,000 tons a year. The weather during July in Germany was varied, but on the whole satisfactory. The increase in the area planted for coming season is estimated (Licht) to produce 350,000 tons over whole continental crop, but if Russia decreases, owing to expected cessation of bounties in July, the surplus over 1885-6 may only be 225,000 tons in Continental Beet.

Stocks.—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes) in July, 784,190 tons, against 820,530 tons in 1885; in United States 158,541 tons, against 172,492 tons; Havana 126,481 tons, against 89,265 tons. Total Stocks: 1,069,212 tons, against 1,082,287 tons.

WEATHER for Beet too wet in France, enlarging leaves rather than root, but, on the whole, favourable for growing crop. Insects are largely complained of. The situation of the sugar industry in France is reported "*bien triste*," especially in view of increase of legal yield from roots. In Germany, same weather as in France, varied and wet, with cold nights. The root in Germany is less advanced than in 1885, but everything depends on August and September weather. The crop for 1886-7 in Germany is estimated at 15 per cent. more than present one, and in France 20 to 25 per cent. But in both countries, estimates at present stage of roots are not trustworthy. In Austria, roots are in good state, but vary much in different fields. Russian crop likely to be abundant. Ministry requested to take steps to limit production. Commission appointed to examine position of industry.

CANE Countries, especially Cuba report favourable weather for crops. In Leeward Islands crop promises well. Barbados, after heavy rains, seasonable weather. British Guiana, showery and favourable for growing canes. Trinidad news favourable.

BOARD OF TRADE Returns not published in time for this Circular.

OFFICIAL Report of West Indian evidence given before Trade Depression Commission can be seen at office.

HER MAJESTY'S Colonial Possessions, new volume can be seen at office.

COLONIAL FRENCH SUGAR.—The following figures are compiled (by Mr. C. M. Gillespie) from the Annual Accounts for Crop 1885 of Eleven Sugar *Usines* in the Island of Martinique. In transposing to English weights and sterling, 1000 kilos. are taken as equal to a ton, and 25 francs as £1:—

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Total weight of canes crushed . . . . .                                   | 243,091 tons.     |
| Total sugar of all kinds manufactured . . . . .                           | 19,167 "          |
| Of which 10 <i>Usines</i> made:—1st Jet . . . . .                         | 13,683            |
| 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Jet . . . . .   | 4,314             |
|   | 17,997 "          |
| Average price paid to growers for canes . . . . .                         | 15s. 4d. per ton. |
| Percentage of sugar made from canes . . . . .                             | 7.93 per cent.    |
| Percentage of molasses (by 5 <i>Usines</i> ) . . . . .                    | 3.89 "            |
| Average net proceeds of all sugar, deducting freight and charges. . . . . | 16s. 8d. per cwt. |
| Average cost of Coal per ton of sugar (9 <i>Usines</i> ) . . . . .        | 7s. 6½d. per ton. |
| Shareholders' Capital . . . . .   | £490,400          |
| Debentures and Preference Capital . . . . .                               | 160,600           |
|   | £651,000          |
| Reserve Funds—total . . . . .   | £64,200           |
| Profit and Loss—credit balances carried forward . . . . .                 | £24,480           |
| <i>Usines</i> stand in books at . . . . .                                 | £684,480          |
| Average dividend on Shareholders' Capital . . . . .                       | 3.91 per cent.    |

Gross profit from years working, 1885, £64,000. Nearly all the sugar from these *Usines* appears to have been sold in France under protection of the 12 per cent. reduction off French colonial imports. This was equivalent to £2 8s. per ton of sugar and it is evident that without such protection the figures as to net proceeds, profit, and dividends would be heavily affected. By the New Law the protection is doubled.

The cost of coal appears small, but it may be from use of stocks not appearing in year's accounts.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

(CIRCULAR No. 5.)

|         |         |                                |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1886-7  | 1886-7  | WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,          |
| 112,351 | 100,000 | 51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C., |
| 807,722 | 600,000 | September 8th, 1886.           |
| 611,208 | 400,000 |                                |
| 852,082 | 600,000 |                                |
| 501,22  | 150,000 |                                |
| 000,00  | 000,00  |                                |

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—Deputation to Secretary of State for the Colonies, August 20th. There was a large attendance, and the Members of the Committee were accompanied by forty Members of Parliament. Mr. N. Lubbock addressed the Minister, and stated the object of the Deputation, as follows:—

- 1.—To arrive at an understanding as to the present position of the proposed Convention, providing for a mutual exchange of certain goods duty free between the British West India Colonies and the United States upon the same principle as the Canadian Treaty of 1854. To ask the Government to re-open negotiations with the United States on this subject.
- 2.—To call attention to the Conference to be held in Washington next year between the United States and the South American Countries for mutual trade arrangements, and to ask the Secretary of State to move the Foreign Office to secure either the representation of the British West India Colonies at such Conference, or in some other way to include those Colonies in the benefits of any arrangement which may be made by it.
- 3.—In view of the present prolonged and severe depression of the Colonial sugar trade, and the probability that Continental Countries and the United States, now giving bounties on the export of sugar, might consent to an International Conference for the suppression of such bounties, to ask the Secretary of State to move the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade to take steps to bring about such Conference on Sugar Bounties, on an effective basis, as soon as possible.

Mr. Stanhope returned a satisfactory reply, stating that he would communicate with the Foreign Office as to the re-opening of negotiations with the United States on a trade arrangement with the West Indies, and also that there was a possibility of the Government inviting a Conference of the Bounty-giving Powers for the mutual abolition of bounties. (This probable effort to secure a Conference has been subsequently confirmed by announcement in Parliament in reply to questions.)

**SUGAR AT EXHIBITION.**—A Conference will be held at the Exhibition, on Thursday, 16th September, at 4 o'clock. Mr. B. Howell Jones will read a paper on the Production and Distribution of British Guiana Sugar. Mr. Lubbock will read a paper on the same subject in reference to the West India Colonies. It is hoped that all the Members of the Committee will be present on the occasion.

**JAVA.**—The Government in Holland are anxiously considering the means of supporting the Sugar Industry in Java. The first chamber of the States General has passed the Bill for increasing the duty on foreign raw sugar by 4 fl. per 100 kilogrammes, and increasing the deduction to be allowed for waste of Colonial sugars from 1½ to 2½ per cent.



**GENERAL BEET CROP.**—So much depends on the weather during September, that no trustworthy estimates can be formed as to the crop. The following are the latest figures (Licht):—

|                             | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          | 1884-5.          |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                             | Tons.            | Tons.            | Tons.            |
| German Empire .....         | 950,000          | 825,000          | 1154,817         |
| Austria .....               | 500,000          | 370,000          | 557,766          |
| France .....                | 435,000          | 290,000          | 308,410          |
| Russia .....                | 500,000          | 525,000          | 386,433          |
| Belgium .....               | 65,000           | 48,421           | 88,463           |
| Holland and other countries | 50,000           | 37,500           | 50,000           |
|                             | <u>2,500,000</u> | <u>2,095,921</u> | <u>2,545,889</u> |

As the result, an increase of 400,000 tons over last crop is expected, bringing figures up to the level of 1884-5.

**GENERAL CANE CROP.**—Cuba has concluded crop for 680,000 tons. In the British West Indies and British Guiana good crops are expected. The weather is favourable in British Guiana, and generally throughout West Indies. Last telegram from Barbados, received August 24th, reports heavy rains generally.

**GERMAN BEET.**—The production for the eleven months, from September 1st to July 31st, 1895-6, was 820,122 tons, against 1,118,752 in same period 1884-5. The stocks in Germany at end of July, 1886, were 96,000 tons, against 100,500 tons last year. The deliveries show a decrease, being in eleven months to end of July, 1886, 837,615 tons, against 1,039,787 tons preceding year; the exports amounting to 487,451, against 654,268. Consumption averages 360,000 tons.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were, including floating cargoes, in August, 1886, 661,129 tons, against 771,938 last year; in United States, 183,227, against 179,895; Havana, 110,987 tons, against 82,630. Total stocks, 955,343, against 1,034,463.

**JAMAICA.**—The following telegram was received on August 27th: "Hurricane on 19th. Some damage to buildings and crops, St. Mary's, St. Ann's, St. Andrew's, St. Catharine, St. Thomas, and Portland." Private telegrams also report: "Slight damage to Kingston, considerable damage to country."

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

(CIRCULAR No. 6.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LINN STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

October 4th, 1886.

**INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE.**—Government have decided to arrange Conference, but think it should be called by Belgium. Committee will take steps to secure Conference in London, if possible, and arrange effective basis.

**CANADA AND HAWAII.**—Committee have written to Colonial Office, 25th September:—"In the report of the Hon. W. M. Gibson, the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the kingdom of Hawaii, reference is made to the Reciprocity Treaty of 1875 between that country and the United States, under which the trade of Hawaii had enormously increased. It seems doubtful whether this Treaty will be renewed, and it is stated that negotiations have been opened through the Colonial Office with the Government of Canada for a treaty of reciprocal free trade between Canada and Hawaii, and that these proposals have not been unfavourably entertained by the Colonial Office and the Dominion Government. As this matter has an important bearing upon the recent negotiations between Canada and Jamaica for a similar Treaty, and generally upon the proposed commercial relations between the West India Colonies and contiguous countries, I am to ask whether there is any truth in the above statements as to a Treaty between Canada and Hawaii, and whether the Dominion proposes to extend to Great Britain and foreign countries the same terms as may be granted to Hawaii."

**SUGAR CONFERENCE AT EXHIBITION.**—Copies of Papers read by Mr. B. Howell Jones (on British Guiana Sugars) and Mr. N. Lubbock (on Usine Sugars) can be had from Secretary.

**GENERAL BEET CROP.**—A reduction in estimates is made for 1886-7, owing to continued heat and dryness of weather. Quality is reported good, but amount of yield doubtful. German estimate now reduced from 950,000 tons to 900,000, and more recently to 880,000 tons. The figures given in last circular as estimated total Beet crop, viz.:—2,500,000 tons, may probably be reduced by 100,000 tons.

**GENERAL CANE CROP.**—Next Cuban crop expected to be much smaller than last. Mauritius crop commenced—estimated between 105,000 and 110,000 tons. Java crop ending 30th June, 1886, 365,954 tons, against 374,376 tons in 1884-5. The British West Indian crops promise well.

**GERMAN BEET.**—The production for the twelve months from September 1st to August 31st, 1885-6, was 825,081 tons, against 1,154,818 in the same period 1884-5. The deliveries show a decrease, being in twelve months to end of August, 1886, 888,805 tons, against 1,066,861 tons preceding year; the exports amounting to 526,556 against 667,854. Consumption averages 360,000 to 370,000 tons.

**GENERAL STOCKS. (LICHT.)**—The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes) in September, 1886, 554,790 tons, against 733,121 last year. In United States 160,000, against 132,497. Havana 93,000, against 59,164. Total Stocks: 807,790 tons, against 924,782.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Raw Sugar in the first 38 weeks of 1886, with Stocks on the 25th of September, compared with the previous year:—

|               | Landings.     |               |               |               | Deliveries H. U. & Export. |               |               |               | Stocks.       |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|               | 1886.<br>tons | 1885.<br>tons | 1886.<br>tons | 1885.<br>tons | 1886.<br>tons              | 1885.<br>tons | 1886.<br>tons | 1885.<br>tons | 1886.<br>tons | 1885.<br>tons | 1886.<br>tons | 1885.<br>tons |
| London.....   | 245,573       | 253,900       | 236,731       | 251,420       | London.....                | 98,852        | 94,701        | 99,695        | 84,899        |               |               |               |
| Liverpool.... | 183,725       | 220,648       | 184,239       | 209,676       | Liverpool....              | 97,439        | 119,864       | 114,000       | 60,056        |               |               |               |
| Clyde.....    | 156,222       | 206,479       | 172,893       | 178,321       | Clyde.....                 | 49,665        | 79,056        | 51,754        | 44,271        |               |               |               |
| Bristol.....  | 39,480        | 39,006        | 42,280        | 38,356        | Bristol.....               | 5,360         | 5,340         | 5,430         | 4,110         |               |               |               |
| Total....     | 625,000       | 720,033       | 636,143       | 677,773       | Total....                  | 251,316       | 298,961       | 270,879       | 193,336       |               |               |               |
| Decrease..    | 95,033        |               | Decrease..    | 41,630        | Deficiency..               | 47,645        |               |               |               |               |               |               |

**RUSSIA.**—Report that Russian Government have restricted sugar production in 1886-7 to 300,000 tons. No exact information has been received as to bounty on export. The thanks of the Committee are due to Colonel Hill, M. P. for Bristol, for his question as to Russian Bounties. Government will inquire.

**UNITED STATES.**—There are signs of a reduction in the bounty. A Treasury minute has been issued reducing drawback by 1s. 1½d. per cwt. from November 1.





next; whilst the percentage obtained from the branches is practically *nil*. The different ways in which the bark is taken from the tree are:—(a) By “coppicing,” which method consists in lopping off the branches yearly from the tree, and taking the bark only from them. This method is not found to answer, and has fallen into disuse. (b) By “mossing,” or taking alternate strips of bark from the trunk of the tree, and filling up the intervals with moss or paper, to assist the formation of a new bark. The moss is said to attract insects, whilst the paper answers very well, but increases the cost of production. This method is still used to a great extent. (c) By “scraping” off only a thin covering of bark half way round the tree every six months. This method has been found to answer best, and is least injurious to the tree, as the bark quickly grows again if not cut too deep. (d) By “rooting” up the tree entirely and extracting the bark from the roots, stem, and branches. This system is only used when the percentage of quinine in the bark decreases as the tree gets older, which is said to be the case with the *Succirubra* species, whilst with the *Ledgeriana* it is quite the reverse. The accompanying statistics show the extent to which *Cinchona* has been cultivated in the last few years on Government and private estates.

The area of land planted in 1883 by Government with *Cinchona* about 1,800 acres.

CINCHONA STATISTICS.

| Years. | Government Crop.<br>Lbs. | Private Crop.<br>Lbs. | Amount realized for Government Crops.<br>£ sterling. | Plants in Nurseries. | Plants in Open Ground. |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1881   | 179,520                  | 25,290                | 18,204   | 736,600              | 2,036,480              |
| 1882   | 275,264                  | 35,259                | 28,036   | 1,205,800            | 2,099,400              |
| 1883   | 453,424                  | 172,733               | 28,915   | 1,333,000            | 1,966,500              |
| 1884   | 380,800                  | 275,762               | 30,000   | 1,516,500            | 1,753,900              |
| 1885   | 458,728                  | -----                 | .....  | 1,390,000            | 1,567,000              |

AVERAGE PRICES OBTAINED AT AUCTION IN HOLLAND FOR GOVERNMENT CINCHONA CROPS.

|                                    | Sterling Price per lb. English. |     |       |     |       |    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|----|
|                                    | 1852.                           |     | 1853. |     | 1884. |    |
|                                    | s.                              | d.  | s.    | d.  | s.    | d. |
| <i>Calisaya Ledgeriana</i> .....   | 3                               | 1½  | 1     | 10½ | 2     | 3  |
| <i>Calisaya Javanica</i> .....     | 1                               | 6   | 0     | 9   | 0     | 9  |
| <i>Calisaya Schulikrafft</i> ..... | 1                               | 5   | 0     | 10  | 0     | 8  |
| <i>Calisaya Anglica</i> .....      | 1                               | 3   | 1     | 2   | 0     | 9½ |
| <i>Masckarlana</i> .....           | 2                               | 1½  | 0     | 7   | 0     | 4½ |
| <i>Succiruba</i> .....             | 2                               | 0   | 1     | 0½  | 0     | 11 |
| <i>Officinalis</i> .....           | 2                               | 10½ | 2     | 4   | 2     | 0½ |
| <i>Lanceifolia</i> .....           | 1                               | 8   | 1     | 0½  | 0     | 8  |

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

P.S.—The American Government have at last taken steps to reduce the export bounty now given by the existing system of drawbacks. The change will be equivalent to about 1s. per cwt., out of a protection of something like double that amount now enjoyed by American exporters, and it is hoped that is also the first step towards breaking up the system of bounties carried out by European Governments to the detriment not only of our Colonial Trade and Home Refiners, but likewise of their own revenues. According to recent advices Russia seems likewise to become aware of the severe strain upon her exchequer caused by this year's shipment of crystals under the heavy premium given on export, and has issued a new order, given below, for regulating the future production of beet sugar. As far as we can judge it is likely to check or at least materially reduce further exports, as well as tend to restrict the industry within the limits of their home demand. The Russian Government will charge the excise of R. 0.85 on a quantity of 17 million poods=273,200 tons—but upon anything exceeding this the duty will be about 2.50, whilst upon exportation it is intended to give no extra premium.

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

November 1st, 1886.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE.—Government communicating with German Government as to calling of Conference. A General Meeting of Committee will be held soon, to decide upon further deputations to Ministers on this and other important matter.

CANADA AND JAMAICA.—One of the questions to be submitted to above General Meeting will be whether reciprocal trade arrangements could be made between these Colonies, without injuriously affecting the interests of other Colonies in the West Indies.

FRENCH BOUNTIES (by Mr. Lubbock).—The French law is very complicated in its operation. All that the *Fabricants* can obtain under this law from the taxpayers beyond the tax they (the *Fabricants*) pay, amounts, of course, to a bounty. I believe eventually, if the law continues, competition will gradually reduce the bounty to an insignificant amount; but at the present moment, the *Fabricants* can obtain a bounty of 43.50 francs, per 100 kilos, on  $\frac{1}{6}$ ths of their crop in this way:—Suppose a *Fabricant* works up 10,000 tons of roots, if he exports 600 tons of sugar, all the rest of the sugar he makes can enter into French consumption free of duty. It is well known that he can make 1,000 tons of sugar from the above quantity of roots, hence he can sell as duty paid 400 tons of sugar which have paid no duty. At the present moment duty paid or duty free sugar is worth 43.50 frs. more than sugar liable to duty or sugar for export. Thus on a make of 1,000 tons of sugar the manufacturer actually obtains at present a bounty of frs. 174,000 = £6,960. If this is divided by the tons of sugar he is forced to export in order to obtain it, the amount is £11 = £12 per ton, the value of the sugar being about £14.

FRENCH BOUNTIES.—The *Deutsche Zucker-Industrie* estimates that the loss to the French Treasury, on a production of 450,000 tons, is 81 million francs, and that, including the *dechet* on Colonial sugar, the total loss is 93,960,000 francs.

GENERAL BEET CROP.—The following are the latest figures (Licht):—

|                                  | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          | 1884-5.          |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| German Empire .....              | 925,000          | 825,050          | 1,155,000        |
| Austria .....                    | 525,000          | 377,000          | 557,500          |
| France .....                     | 450,000          | 299,400          | 308,400          |
| Russia .....                     | 500,000          | 540,600          | 386,400          |
| Belgium .....                    | 80,000           | 48,400           | 88,450           |
| Holland and other Countries .... | 50,000           | 37,500           | 50,000           |
|                                  | <u>2,530,000</u> | <u>2,127,000</u> | <u>2,545,700</u> |

GENERAL CROPS.—Notwithstanding improved weather in Germany yield per acre not entirely satisfactory, although quality of juice good. Favourable results are reported from France, Austria and Belgium, and also in





**(CIRCULAR No. 8.)**

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,**

**51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,**

*November 20th, 1886.*

The following are the latest figures (Licht):—

|                             | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          | 1884-5.          |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| German Empire               | 950,000          | 825,050          | 1,155,000        |
| Austria                     | 525,000          | 377,000          | 557,500          |
| France                      | 500,000          | 299,400          | 308,400          |
| Russia                      | 475,000          | 540,600          | 386,400          |
| Belgium                     | 80,000           | 48,400           | 88,450           |
| Holland and other Countries | 50,000           | 37,500           | 50,000           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>2,580,000</b> | <b>2,127,000</b> | <b>2,545,700</b> |

The weather in Germany has been favourable to the growth of root without injuring quality of juice. In Austria, the quantity of roots has increased, but the weather was not favourable to the preservation of the roots in the pits. The French production is doubtful. But, on the whole, the Beet production generally is not likely to exceed above figures, which show an excess of 50,000 tons over previous estimates.

**GENERAL CANE.**—Licht estimates as follows: For 1886-7, 2,368,000 tons against 2,197,000 for 1885-6. The figures for current crop include 800,000 tons for Cuba, weather in Cuba highly beneficial to crop. Rain has fallen in Demerara, and generally weather reported good in cane countries.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes) in November, 1886, 683,745 tons; against 875,850, in 1885. United States, 113,000; against 72,940. Havana, 40,640; against 29,771. Total stocks, 837,365 tons; against 978,577.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 46 weeks, 1886, 711,731 tons; against 806,181, in 1885; decrease, 94,450. Deliveries, 57,241; against 811,556; decrease, 44,315. Stocks, 196,949; against 251,336; deficiency, 54,387.

**CANADA AND JAMAICA.**—At a Meeting of the General Purposes Committee on November 11th (with Jamaica representatives added), the following resolution was passed:—"That it would be most desirable if reciprocal trade arrangements could be made between Jamaica and the Dominion of Canada, it being recognized that Jamaica occupies an exceptional position in such a matter; and that any such arrangement would not be prejudicial to the other West India Colonies. That this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

**COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN STATES.**—Colonial Office inform Committee, November 5th, there is no immediate prospect of the meeting of such Conference.

**GERMAN SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—Mr. Scott, of British Embassy, Berlin, reports, 16th September, to Foreign Office, a communication made to him by an important German expert, who is opposed to bounties, and advocates

(CIRCULAR No. 9.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

January 10th, 1887.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—In May, 1886, a General Purposes Committee was appointed to carry out more effectively the objects of the West India Body, and to create a larger interest in the questions connected with these Colonies. Meetings have been held regularly every fortnight with a fair average attendance. Parliamentary proceedings were carefully watched, although political events prevented the contemplated action in respect of the Bounty and other questions. A very important memorial advocating countervailing duties was addressed to Sir William Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, signed by a large number of the representatives of all the British Cane growing countries, as well as by those engaged in the industries allied to that of sugar production and manufacture. This document was largely circulated, and is capable of effective use in any further proceedings. The new German Sugar Law promised at prospective dates to raise drawback and restrict bounty, but its effect as yet has been inappreciable. The Committee strongly advocated an European Conference. No doubt in Germany anxious attention is being given to the question, and according to some high German authorities on Sugar, it is hoped that at the close of the present crop that country will consent to join a Conference. Nor apparently would Germany object to a countervailing duty in England that should strike all bounty giving countries alike. In France the immense losses to revenue caused by bounties have given rise to a movement, headed by M. Wilson, for a thorough change in the Sugar laws. Important discussions are expected in the French Chamber at an early date. By vigorous action on the part of the English Government it is believed that not only Germany and France, but the other countries concerned, might be induced to avoid further losses by agreeing to abolish their respective bounty systems. In other ways the Committee have drawn attention to this question. Evidence showing the effect of bounties upon the British Colonies and home industries was given before the Royal Commission on Depression of Trade. A loss of three millions annually was shown to be inflicted upon these industries. The Chairman of the West India Committee, Mr. Lubbock, took advantage of two meetings of the London Trades' Council to explain the loss to English labour caused by the bounty system. A conference was also held at the Exhibition, when papers were read by Mr. Lubbock and Mr. Howell Jones, on matters of interest to the Sugar planter, and in connection with which the bounty question was discussed by various speakers. Mr. Lubbock's paper at the Royal Colonial Institute also dealt with the same subject. The Deputation (supported by forty members of Parliament) to Mr. Stanhope, on his assumption of office as Colonial Secretary, forcibly brought before the Government the necessity of calling a conference on the bounty question, and also of promoting the proposals for a Trade arrangement between the Colonies and the United States. Since that time (August), the Committee have repeatedly pressed the Colonial and Foreign Officer upon these points. Among further proceedings to be adopted in respect of bounties will be a motion in Parliament, preceded, if possible, by a Mansion House Meeting, and every means will be adopted by Deputations to Ministers and in other ways to keep the serious attention of the Government alive to this question.

CONVENTION WITH UNITED STATES.—Not only by the above Deputation, but by subsequent letter, this question has been kept before Government. Two things are especially required, viz: the approval of the



Home Government of the draft Convention, and the Ambassador moved to ascertain the present views of the United States Government. In March, 1886, Mr. Bayard, writing to Sir L. West, said his Government would refrain from any further specific proposals that would not be equally applicable to all other regions falling within the same geographical limitations, and affected by the same conditions of transit and commerce. But this view is inconsistent with the present negotiations between Spain (on behalf of the Spanish Colonies), and the United States, which have reached to and advanced stage, and which the Committee are anxiously watching. Should the Spanish-American Treaty be completed, and our Colonies, to their great injury, be denied a similar arrangement, the responsibility of our Government will be very gravely increased. The British Colonies preferred a request to be represented at the Trade Congress of American States, to be called by the United States in 1887, but the Colonial Office inform the Committee that it is now not likely that such Congress will meet.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—The Committee have addressed the Secretary of State a letter, (December, 1886,) embodying a letter received from the Planters' Association urging a reduction in the Civil Service expenditure of the Colony.

**TRINIDAD.**—The Governor has circulated, as an official paper, a document written by Mr. J. L. O'Connor, Warden of Naparima, in which, among other suggestions, the immediate adoption of the diffusion process is recommended. This may in course of time be substituted for the present crushing process, but it has been very partially tried with cane without any superior results, and it would be wise for planters to wait before incurring expense for diffusion, until it has been tried on a sufficiently large scale and proved to be commercially a success. Although diffusion will be tried by Mr. Hogg as an experiment shortly in Demerara, all the existing apparatus will be retained in case it does not prove successful.

**GENERAL BEET CROP.**—The figures quoted in last Circular from M. Licht are maintained by him in his December Report, showing a total crop for 1886-7 of 2,580,000 tons against 2,124,300 in 1885-6, and 2,545,700 in 1884-5.

**GENERAL CANE.**—Colonial crops are generally satisfactory. Cuba estimates are reported to be reduced from 800,000 to 700,000 tons. Rain is reported in Demerara.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Litch.) The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes), in December, 1,028,712 tons, against 1,119,348 in 1885; United States, 105,000 tons, against 65,309; Havana, 26,416 against 19,762. Total stocks, 1,160,128 against 1,204,419 in December, 1885.

#### BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

##### IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

| Sugar, Refined and Candy :—            | 1884      | Year ended 31st December, |           |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
|  |           | 1885.                     | 1886.     |
| From Germany . . . . . (Cwts.          | 749,423   | 977,097                   | 1,830,142 |
| „ Holland . . . . . „                  | 1,327,452 | 1,277,092                 | 1,185,027 |
| „ Belgium . . . . . „                  | 77,634    | 74,180                    | 109,996   |
| „ France . . . . . „                   | 1,046,196 | 494,935                   | 996,392   |
| „ United States . . . . . „            | 1,042,271 | 2,298,605                 | 1,424,030 |
| „ Other Countries (Russia) . . . . . „ | 23,713    | 216,141                   | 821,440   |
| Total . . . . . „                      | 4,266,689 | 5,338,050                 | 6,367,027 |

## Sugar, Unrefined:—

|                                  |       |            |            |            |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|
| From Germany                     | Cwts. | 7,224,896  | 7,333,875  | 5,670,482  |
| „ Holland                        | „     | 234,625    | 285,621    | 281,034    |
| „ Belgium                        | „     | 487,965    | 544,720    | 757,727    |
| „ France                         | „     | 68,403     | 26,229     | 47,361     |
| „ British West Indies and Guiana | „     | 3,357,434  | 2,741,952  | 1,976,105  |
| „ British East Indies            | „     | 1,128,802  | 849,968    | 877,369    |
| „ China and Hong Kong            | „     | 103,647    | 14,679     | 48,257     |
| „ Mauritius                      | „     | 338,191    | 252,110    | 291,759    |
| „ Spanish West Indian Islands    | „     | 460,861    | 653,659    | 21,409     |
| „ Brazil                         | „     | 1,412,337  | 1,303,776  | 597,995    |
| „ Java                           | „     | 3,253,653  | 3,695,256  | 3,909,462  |
| „ Philippine Islands             | „     | 623,501    | 486,890    | 555,757    |
| „ Peru                           | „     | 374,029    | 609,610    | 472,311    |
| „ Other Countries                | „     | 584,020    | 585,401    | 633,978    |
| Total                            | „     | 19,652,364 | 19,383,746 | 16,141,006 |
| Molasses                         | Cwts. | 411,016    | 392,875    | 431,387    |

The above supply of sugar may be thus divided:—

|            |      | 1884.     | 1885.     | 1886.     |
|------------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Beet Sugar | Tons | 562,016   | 561,494   | 584,980   |
| Cane       | „    | 633,937   | 674,595   | 540,422   |
|            |      | 1,195,953 | 1,236,089 | 1,125,402 |

*Note.*—The imports of Refined from United States are taken as cane; also unrefined from “other countries.”

**COFFEE.**—Imports, year 1886, 1,029,462 cwts., against 1,035,610 in 1885. Home consumption, 289,207, against 298,306 in 1885. Stocks in Bonded warehouses, 31st December, 1886, 288,450 cwts., against 322,941 in 1885.

**Cocoa.**—Imports, 25,386,439 lbs., against 23,419,396 in 1885. Home consumption, 15,165,714, against 14,595,168. Stocks in Bonded warehouses, 7,936,457, against 5,434,096 lbs. in 1885.

**RUM**—Imports, 5,121,746 proof gallons, against 6,909,250 in 1885. Home consumption, 3,848,465, against 3,828,808. Stocks in Bonded warehouses, 8,402,896, against 8,910,405 in 1885.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers.



We now come to the Capital expenditure.

Plant capable of dealing with 111 tons of canes per day,

## DIFFUSION: By Mr. N. LUBBOCK,

*Chairman of the West India Committee.*

**N**OW that the question of diffusion, as applied to the Sugar Cane, is again coming prominently to the front, it will be of interest to planters to consider what are the advantages and disadvantages likely to result from the adoption of the system, and, more important than all, the prospects of profit or otherwise.

Judging from what has been done in Spain and elsewhere, it may probably be fairly assumed that the mechanical difficulties of slicing and diffusing the cane have been overcome.

The only practical difficulty attending the process, and it is one the overcoming of which is merely a matter of expense, is the removal of the "schnitzel," as the Germans call the slices of cane after being exhausted of sugar and saturated with water. It may, however, be a somewhat important expense, inasmuch as the weight of these "schnitzel" is from 20 to 25 per cent. more than the weight of canes from which they are obtained.

A sufficient supply of suitable water will of course be necessary, the quantity required, according to the figures given by the Fives-Lille Company, being 330 gallons per ton of canes.

Dealing first with the advantage likely to result from the system, it consists in obtaining in the dilute juice almost the whole of the Sugar contained in the cane. That is to say, that the quantity of juice obtained represents 84 per cent. of the weight of the cane, but in a highly diluted form, as compared with 66 per cent. in the case where a single crushing mill is used.

The disadvantages of the system are as follows:—

1. Where mills now exist the money spent upon them is lost, and further capital must be sunk in Diffusion Plant.
2. A largely increased evaporation is required, involving considerable outlay of capital and increased working expenses.
3. The megas now obtained and utilised as fuel is lost.
4. Expense of getting rid of "schnitzel."
5. Expense of water required.

we will take for example an estate now making 1000 tons of Sugar with a mill-extraction of 66 per cent. and a return of Sugar equal to 9 per cent. of the weight of the canes.

Then if 66 per cent. of juice give 9 per cent. of Sugar, 84 per cent. should give 11.45 per cent., but it will probably not do so, as it seems to be now fairly proved that when 66 per cent. of juice is expressed by crushing, the juice obtained is slightly richer in Sugar than the juice which remains unexpressed. We will neglect this, however, and assume that an increase of 2.45 per cent. can be obtained, and together with this an amount of offal equal to £1 5s. per ton of Sugar. At a price in the London Market of 15s. per cwt. this increase of Sugar (allowing 2s. 6d. per cwt. of freight and charges) would be worth per 100 tons of canes ... .. £30 12 6

|  |           |        |          |
|--|-----------|--------|----------|
|  | Add offal | ... .. | 3 1 3    |
|  |           |        | £33 13 9 |

gain per 100 tons of canes, say ... .. £33 13 9

1,000 tons of Sugar at 9 per cent. requires 11,111 tons canes ; the total gain will therefore

be  $\frac{11,111}{100} \times £33\ 13s.\ 9d. = £3,742.$

Let us now calculate the cost of obtaining this. FIRST: let us estimate the value of the megas lost. I estimate this at 16s. 6d. per ton of Sugar at present made. It would make this paper too long to explain how I arrive at this figure, but it is the result of very careful calculation, confirmed by experience. This will amount to £825.

SECONDLY.—We must estimate the cost of getting rid of the “ schnitzel.” The quantity to be got rid of will be 13,333 tons at least ; suppose we assume 1s. per ton, this would represent £666.

THIRDLY.—We have the increased evaporation. With an extraction of 66 per cent. the quantity of juice obtained would be 7,333 tons, of which 6,000 would be water to be evaporated. With diffusion, the quantity of diffused juice will be 14,000 tons—since  $11,111 \times \frac{84}{100} = 9,333$  tons, to which (see Fives-Lille Report) 50 per cent. of water is added;  $9,333 + 4,666 = 13,999$ , say, 14,000 tons ; of this 14,000 tons 12,241 tons will be water to be evaporated. The increased quantity of water to be evaporated will therefore be  $12,241 - 6,000 = 6,241$  tons. If this is done by means of a triple effect, we may assume 12 lbs. of water evaporated to 1 lb. of coal, or, roughly, 520 tons of coal will be required, which, at 28s. per ton, will cost £728. (N.B.—The value of the coal must be estimated at its cost at the boiler furnace ; 28s. is not too high if the cost of carrying the coal from ship-board to the estates, and again from the coal-heap to the furnaces, is taken into account.)

FOURTHLY.—We have the increased labour required. This is rather a guess, but it will not be less than £1 per ton on the increased quantity of Sugar, or £245.

FIFTHLY.—We have Sugar packages 5s. per ton, and transport to ship-board, say 10s. per ton = £184.



We now come to the Capital expenditure.

The cost of a Diffusion Plant, capable of dealing with 111 tons of canes per day, with freight and erection added, will be about £1,500.

The cost of a triple effet, capable of evaporating 6,241 tons of water in 100 working days, together with boiler-power and increased vacuum pan and centrifugal power, &c., would be fully £2,500.

Taking the interest and wear and tear on these two sums at 10 per cent., we have £400 for this item.

Against this expenditure it would, however, be fair to make some allowance for a smaller future expenditure on maintenance, as the existing mills are a perpetual source of expense for repairs, which would no doubt be less in the case of diffusion. It is impossible to say what this may amount to, until some practical experience has been gained.

Again, the risk of stoppage from the breakage of spur-wheels, headstocks, &c., will be done away with.

#### SUMMARY OF PROFIT AND LOSS.

| EXPENSES :—                          |   |   |   |   |   |   |        |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|
| Loss of Megas                        | - | - | - | - | - | - | £825   |
| Removing Schnitzel                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 666    |
| Evaporation                          | - | - | - | - | - | - | 728    |
| Labour                               | - | - | - | - | - | - | 245    |
| Packages, &c.                        | - | - | - | - | - | - | 184    |
| Interest and Depreciation of Capital | - | - | - | - | - | - | 400    |
|                                      |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>  |
|                                      |   |   |   |   |   |   | £3,048 |
| Value of increased output of Sugar   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,742  |
|                                      |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>  |
| Apparent Profit                      | - | - | - | - | - | - | 694    |
|                                      |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>  |

In the above calculations a good deal is taken for granted which yet remains to be proved.

1. No allowance is made for the increased cost of firemen where coal is used instead of megas.
2. No allowance is made for the cost of the water necessary for Diffusion. The cost of this will obviously vary much on different estates.
3. It is assumed that no more labour will be required to work the diffusion of the cane than is now required to work mills. This is a point upon which more information is necessary.
4. It is assumed that the increased quantity of juice to be obtained by diffusion from the cane will be as rich in Sugar as that now obtained. It is almost certain that this will not be the case, but it is not possible with our present knowledge to say to what extent it will be less rich.

5. Every practical man acquainted with Sugar works will realise that whilst there are no doubt many estates upon which the Diffusion Plant, and the increased evaporating plant which is necessary, can be introduced without difficulty, there are very many where a considerable alteration of existing arrangements would be required, involving a greater expenditure than that set down.

Lastly, it is worthy of remark that, so far as any data are available in regard to the result of Diffusion, they are confined to showing the increased quantity of Sugar obtained in the diluted juice, and there is absolutely no evidence as yet of so large a percentage of Sugar having been actually obtained from the cane by means of Diffusion as has been obtained in Guadeloupe and Trinidad with single mills.

From the foregoing remarks, and when allowance is made for contingencies and for the usually deceptive character of paper calculations, it is evident that, whilst the process of diffusion is not without promise, its advantages over our present system, if any, cannot be very considerable, and it can hardly prove to be the El Dorado which some, who have not gone carefully into the question, imagine.

We ought all of us to feel grateful to Mr. Hogg for having determined to make a trial of it in Demerara, and, with his usual liberality, he will no doubt enable all who are interested in the subject to obtain conclusive information upon the points which yet remain a matter of uncertainty.

51, LIME STREET, E.C.,

LONDON, *January 24th*, 1887.

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*Note.*—Copies of this Paper can be had, price 1s.; also of Mr. Lubbock's Paper on Foreign State Bounties, their effect on British Labour, with Discussion at London Trades Council, price 2s. 6d. Apply, 51, Lime Street, E.C.



February 22nd, 1887.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—In last circular a summary was given of proceedings in 1886 on Sugar Bounties. An important further movement has to be now recorded. A large meeting of those interested in Sugar production in every part of the world was held at Cannon Street Hotel, on February 10th. The effect of the bounties granted on the export of Sugar from Germany, France, and other Continental Countries was considered, especially in relation to depression in price below the natural free trade level, and the injurious effect of this upon the Colonies. It was also recognised that large and important interests in the United Kingdom were deeply injured by the foreign bounty system, and it was resolved to co-operate with the Sugar Refiners so as to form a strong Colonial and Home Association (independent of the West India Committee), to make the abolition of bounties an urgent matter for redress by the English Government and Parliament. It was felt that it was desirable to obtain the support of the Engineering interests, and also that of English Labour. An "Anti-Bounty Association" has therefore been formed, and has appointed a representative Committee: Chairman, Mr. Lullbock; Vice-Chairmen, Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., K.C.M.G., of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, and Fiji; Henry Tate, Esq., Sugar Refiner, London; T. O. Easton, Esq., Sugar Refiner, Liverpool; the Committee comprises representatives of Mauritius, the West Indies and other Sugar-growing Colonies, and of Home interests. Steps are about to be taken to secure Parliamentary action. The Government have announced in the House of Commons that informal negotiations have commenced with Foreign Governments in respect to a Conference on the Bounty question. The Sugar Law is to be brought up in the French Chamber and an important decision is likely to be soon arrived at.

**BRITISH WEST INDIES.**—The crops for 1886 have been generally good. Trinidad telegrams report "favourable weather," and "showery and unsettled." In British Guiana the cultivation is feeling the effects of too much rain.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—A letter has been received from the Colonial Office (18th February, 1887), in reply to a letter from the West India Committee of 15th December, 1886, stating, as to retrenchment in the Civil Service Expenditure of British Guiana, that Sir Henry Holland concurs as to the necessity for economy in the affairs of the Colony, and the matter will have his best attention when the Colonial estimates are received. Sir H. Holland does not think that the state of the Colony has been officially ignored. Salaries (including that of the Governor) will be considered at each vacancy. The rules of leave of absence apply to British Guiana as to all Colonies not having responsible government, and the amount of leave is not excessive. (The above will be replied to as acknowledging the necessity of retrenchment, and important results are anticipated from the combined action of the West India Committee and the Planters' Association of British Guiana.)

**VENEZUELA.**—A Parliamentary paper has been published as to the relations between Venezuela and the British West Indies (especially Trinidad). The Committee used every means to induce the British Government to utilize the presence of President Guzman Blanco in Europe, to come to an arrangement as to the duties on Trinidad exports to Venezuela; but the negotiations have been inconclusive, as the Venezuelan Government required a treaty providing that favoured-nation treatment should only be granted upon the same terms as a third Country might have granted in return for the favourable treatment it received.

**BEEF PRODUCTION.**—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—1886-7, 2,657,500 tons, as compared with 2,137,351 in 1885-6, and 2,545,889 in 1884-5:—

|                                   | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          | 1884-5.          |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany .....                     | 1,012,500        | 838,131          | 1,154,817        |
| Austria .....                     | 525,000          | 377,032          | 557,766          |
| France .....                      | 500,000          | 298,407          | 308,410          |
| Russia .....                      | 475,000          | 537,860          | 386,433          |
| Belgium.....                      | 95,000           | 48,421           | 88,462           |
| Holland and other Countries ..... | 50,000           | 37,500           | 50,000           |
|                                   | <u>2,657,500</u> | <u>2,137,351</u> | <u>2,545,888</u> |

**GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).**—The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes) in February, 1,297,165 tons, against 1,304,222 in 1886; United States, 93,000, against 47,980; Havana, 37,592, against 32,051. Total stocks: 1,427,757 tons, against 1,384,253.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 11.)

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 087,000 | 1881 |
| 088,000 | 1881 |
| 700,000 | 1881 |
| 812,000 | 1881 |
| 600,000 | 1881 |

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 089,000 | 1881 |
| 017,000 | 1881 |
| 017,000 | 1881 |
| 017,000 | 1881 |
| 017,000 | 1881 |

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

March 21st, 1887.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES QUESTION.**—A prospectus of the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association will be issued in a few days to all concerned. In the meantime copies can be obtained confidentially from the Secretary of the West India Committee (who is also acting as Secretary to the Association, subject to the approval of the West India Committee). Parliamentary action on this question is likely to be soon reported to the West India Committee.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BOUNTIES.**—It is understood that the British Government are proceeding with informal negotiations. The Committee called the attention of Lord Salisbury, the Foreign Minister, on March 2nd, to following documents:—(1.) Copy of telegram from Berlin in the London newspapers of 28th February. (2.) Copy of extract from *Die Deutsche Zucker Industrie*, Berlin, 25th February. This journal is the leading one in Germany devoted to the sugar interest, and is always well-informed; and (3.) telegram from Berlin published in the London newspapers of 1st March. "From these extracts it would appear that Germany, the principal sugar-producing country of the Continent, as well as Austria, are disposed to join in an International Conference on the Sugar Bounty Question, and we believe that there is little doubt Holland and Belgium would come into such an arrangement. We would therefore express our earnest hope that the object of the Conference would be to draw up a scheme for the suppression of the bounties to be submitted to the different Governments interested. We beg, further, to request inasmuch as there seems now good reason to anticipate that the Conference will take place, that your Lordship would be pleased to secure the West India Committee being kept thoroughly informed (confidentially, if necessary,) of all that is passing on this subject, so that we may have the opportunity of expressing the views of those who are interested in the sugar industry of the British Colonies at the various stages of the proceedings." The following are the extracts alluded to above:—

*The Times*, February 28th, 1887.

"BERLIN, February 27th.

"The German Government has consented to take part in the International Conference on the Sugar Premiums, proposed by England."

*The Times*, March 1st, 1887.

"BERLIN, February 28th.

"At a general meeting held to-day of the German Taxation Reform Association a resolution was adopted affirming the necessity of seeking to effect by means of an international treaty the universal abolition, or at least the reduction as far as possible of the export bounties on sugar. The resolution declares that in the event of such a treaty being concluded, a consumption tax of 12m. per meter-centner on sugar of any kind would yield to the empire an adequate revenue without injury to the sugar industry."

From *Die Deutsche Zucker Industrie*.

"BERLIN, 25th February, 1887.

**INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONGRESS.**

"At the sitting on the 19th inst. of the Sub-Committee of the Committee elected by the Austrian Senate for the consideration of the sugar tax law, the following resolution, proposed by Deputy Menzer, was carried unanimously:—'To take advantage of every opportunity for the bringing about of international negotiations for the abolition of all export bounties.'"

An acknowledgment was received from Sir J. Fergusson (March 7th), promising further communication with the West India Committee when the reports of Her Majesty's representatives at Berlin, Paris, &c., have been received.

**JAVA PRODUCTION.**—(Mr. Consul McNeill, Batavia, February, 1887.)—"As regards the sugar cultivation of Java, I beg to report as follows:—



The following figures show the production from 1875 to 1885:

|      | Piculs.   |      | Piculs.   |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| 1875 | 3,286,680 | 1881 | 4,606,780 |
| 1876 | 3,717,716 | 1882 | 4,809,322 |
| 1877 | 4,048,574 | 1883 | 5,348,867 |
| 1878 | 3,700,630 | 1884 | 6,493,248 |
| 1879 | 3,843,470 | 1885 | 6,259,355 |
| 1880 | 3,593,404 |      |           |

From this table it will be seen that the production has taken great strides since 1880, caused by the yearly erection of new mills during the prosperous years of 1881-83. The yield of 1884 was an unusually abundant one, owing to the exceptionally fine weather which prevailed, and the decrease in 1885 was owing to a generally smaller yield of sugar per acre, and not to any reduction in the acreage planted.

The 1886 crop will probably about equal that of 1885, and for 1887 the acreage planted is about the same as in 1885 and 1886, so that the production of that year will only differ from that of its predecessors as it may be influenced by climatic or other unforeseen causes. No new mills are at present being erected; and, in reply to the query of the West India Committee as to whether the production is extending or decreasing, I may safely say that at the moment it is stationary, and will probably remain so for, in any case, another couple of years.

The question as to the price at which sugar can be produced here is a very vexed one, in view of the varying circumstances under which mills work in the different districts of the island.

Mr. Van den Berg, the President of the Java Bank, who has a wide reputation for the interest he takes in the welfare of this and other industries in the colony, lately collected statistics bearing on this point from all the districts of the island, and came to the conclusion that the crop of 1885 cost on an average 8*fl.* per picul of 136*lbs.* English, or about the equivalent of 11*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., free on board, for No. 14.

The present crop will, it is said, cost less, owing to further economies having been introduced in the manufacture of the sugar.

Turning from the average cost of production over the whole island to that of some individual mills, I may mention that, in several well-authenticated instances, this does not exceed 6*fl.* per picul, or about 8*9d.* per cwt., free on board; while a cost of 7*fl.* per picul, 10*s.* 3*d.* per cwt., free on board, is by no means rare.

These figures include an export duty of 9*c.* per picul, or 1½*d.* per cwt.; and there are other taxes weighing exclusively upon this industry, which vary in different districts, but may be taken as running from 50*c.* to 75*c.* per picul, or 8½*d.* to 1*s.* 0½*d.* per cwt."

**BEET PRODUCTION.**—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—1886-7, 2,657,500 tons, as compared with 2,137,351 in 1885-6, and 2,545,889 in 1884-5:—

|                             | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          | 1884-5.          |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany                     | 1,012,500        | 838,131          | 1,154,817        |
| Austria                     | 525,000          | 377,032          | 557,766          |
| France                      | 500,000          | 298,407          | 308,410          |
| Russia                      | 475,000          | 537,860          | 386,433          |
| Belgium                     | 95,000           | 48,421           | 88,462           |
| Holland and other Countries | 50,000           | 37,500           | 50,000           |
|                             | <u>2,657,500</u> | <u>2,137,351</u> | <u>2,545,888</u> |

**CANE CROPS.**—Mr. Licht estimates the principal cane crops for 1886-7 at 2,094,000 tons (including 600,000 tons Cuba). Preceding year (1885-6) is recorded at 2,188,000 (including Cuba 700,000).

**SUGAR LAWS.**—Russian Treasury proposes a law on factories as follows:—The first 50,000 pud sugar to pay 50 kop. duty, the next 50,000 pud to pay 65 kop., the third 50,000 pud 80 kop., and so on up to 1 rouble 25 kop., the object apparently being to restrict the production. It is said that Italy has taken to grant export bounties. In Germany changes in sugar duties are being also discussed, with intention to lower drawbacks, which, if carried out, would be a step in the right direction.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht.) The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes), in March, 1,221,807 tons, against 1,222,515 in 1886; United States, 86,000 tons, against 65,045; Havana, 78,232 against 61,837. Total stocks, 1,386,039 tons, against 1,349,397.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 12.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

April 18th, 1887

**SUGAR BOUNTIES QUESTION.**—The Association recently formed is proceeding with its work. An influential Parliamentary Committee is being formed. The English labour interest is being communicated with, and it is hoped that the great Trade Societies will support an application to the Government and Parliament for the abolition of bounties, either by Conference or other means. At a Meeting of Delegates of London Trades Societies convened by the London Trades' Council, on March 10th, the following Resolution was passed:—"That this meeting of London Trades' Unionists cordially endorses the resolution passed by the National Trades' Union Congress—viz., 'That foreign State Bounties are a violation of the principles of free trade, and the Congress urges the Government to take such measures as it may deem expedient, consistent with free trade principles, to secure their immediate abolition.'" The following application has been made to the Colonial Office by the West India Committee, April 13th: "That you would be good enough to allow at one of the sittings of the Colonial Conference a discussion of the effect of foreign State Bounties upon the Sugar Industry of the Empire. We suggest that the representatives of Queensland, New South Wales, Fiji, Natal, Mauritius, the West India Islands, and British Guiana, should attend such meeting." The above was signed by the following representatives at the Colonial Conference: N. Lubbock (Chairman of the West India Committee); J. Ernest Tinne (British Guiana; Chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool); George H. Chambers (Barbados and Windward Islands); Albert P. Maryat (Trinidad); Rodolph A. Haukey (Leeward Islands); G. Washington Eves (Jamaica).

**BRITISH GUIANA AND VENEZUELA.**—The suspension of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Venezuela brings to a point the Boundary question. It is felt that every effort should be made to support the Government in maintaining the Schomburgh boundary, but it is further contended that the real boundary, as acquired from the Dutch, is the range of Imataca, which extension would include many of the gold fields claimed, but not properly governed, by Venezuela. No opinion is here expressed on this extension, which is certainly an important matter for the Colony. Mr. Hugh Watt, M.P., who represents large British interests and capital in the interior of Guiana, proposes to call public attention to the question by an address in Exeter Hall, on Monday, April 25th, at 3 p.m. He has requested that this meeting should be made known to all interested in British Guiana.



**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Planters' Association are communicating with Government on important questions.

(1) The new method of presenting the Immigration Fund Account, by which the balance to the credit of the planters disappears, or is appropriated for purposes to which it is not applicable. (This matter has been referred by the General Purposes Committee, West India Committee, to a Committee of the British Guiana Proprietors, who will urge the attention of the Secretary of State to it.) (2) Sea Defences. (A copy of the Bill to secure the maintenance of the Sea River and outer Dams of Estates can be seen at West India Committee's office.) The working of the new Medical Ordinance has also been considered by the Association, as well as the important point involved in the action of the Governor regarding the salary of the Surgeon General. This was fixed by the Combined Court in approving estimates in 1885, and it is contended that any further payment beyond the amount so placed on the estimates is illegal and unconstitutional. (The British Guiana Proprietors will be called to attend a meeting to discuss these questions, in the meantime a request has been made to the Secretary of State to defer any decision until the proprietors have been heard.)

**FRANCE.**—Chamber separated without voting any change in Sugar Law. Discussion proposed for May 10.

**BET CROPS.**—The figures of the full crops of 1886-7 are not complete, for estimates see last circular.

**Stocks.**—The visible stocks (Rueb) at end of March are in Europe 1,198,774 tons against 1,179,030 in 1886; United States, 82,258 against 83,882; Havana, 85,999 against 82,790; Total, 1,367,031 against 1,345,702,—or an excess of only 21,329 tons on the visible stocks of the world.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 14 weeks, 1887, 236,356 tons; against 201,264, same period, 1886, decrease, 24,908. Deliveries, 228,340 against 218,314; increase, 10,026. Stocks, 199,776 against 306,685; deficiency, 106,909.

**UNITED STATES.**—The Consumption of the United States continues to increase, while the export of Refined Sugar so much objected to by English Refiners sensibly diminishes, this year it only reached 11,057 against 18,090 at same date last year.

**JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.**

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The undersigned proposes to call public attention to the question of the interior of Guiana, and to request that the meeting should be held in the interior of Guiana.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

May 16th, 1887.

**THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.**—On Friday, April 29th, the question of the Sugar Bounties was discussed, at the request of the West India Committee addressed to the Secretary of State, by the Colonial Conference at the Foreign Office. The following attended as representing the West Indies: Mr. Lubbock, Sir George H. Chambers, Mr. R. Hankey, Mr. C. Washington Eves, Mr. J. E. Tinne, Mr. A. P. Marryat, Mr. Oldson. No report of the proceedings is yet possible, but it is hoped that the great influence of the Conference, as representing all the Colonies, will be effective in hastening a settlement of the question.

**INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE.**—It is understood that formal negotiations are now proceeding to bring about a Conference, Continental Governments having agreed, subject to further explanations, to take part. The West India Committee were called upon by Her Majesty's Government to forward any suggestions they might have to make. The following letter was accordingly written to the Colonial Office, May 5th, signed by Mr. Lubbock: "Upon a careful review of the propositions submitted to various International Conferences since 1862, it does not appear likely that any arrangement for the suppression of Bounties based upon a system of yields, correlation, or saccharimetric tests would be satisfactory or have any element of permanence. Manufacturing and refining in bond, which would abolish drawbacks founded on yields, seems to offer the most acceptable solution. This was urged upon Foreign Powers by Her Majesty's Government from 1872 to 1878, agreed to repeatedly by France and Holland, and was also recommended by the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1880, although the consideration of equivalents was not excluded. (Select Committee's conclusions on this point here quoted). We therefore respectfully suggest that Her Majesty's Government should invite the European Governments concerned to a Conference with the object of arriving at a common understanding to form the basis of a Convention binding the Governments to bring the system of Bounties to an end at a given date. That Her Majesty's Government should express the opinion that this end can be most effectively and surely obtained by the abolition of all drawbacks, and by a system of manufacturing and refining in bond, at the same time expressing their readiness to consider any equivalent proposals. No doubt an important question may be raised as to the position of the contracting powers in regard to non-contracting countries that continue to grant Bounties. This question has been raised before and is one of some difficulty. We would, however, respectfully suggest, in the event of the point being raised, that Her Majesty's Government should express their willingness to consider the views of the Powers, which could be fully ascertained at the Conference as to some arrangement whereby they may be secured from any disadvantage in our markets arising from the fact of their becoming parties to a Convention with this country."

**FRANCE.**—The Sugar Duties have been discussed in the French Chamber, especially with regard to a change in the method of assessment. An additional tax of 10 francs per 1,000 kilos. on all Sugars has been agreed to. But the further discussion of these points appears for the time to be suspended.

**BOUNTIES.**—The following calculation has been made by *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie* of the loss to Continental revenues from Sugar Bounties. France, £3,280,000; Austria, £1,036,667; Holland, £309,655; Germany, £1,886,690; Belgium, £813,000. Total, £7,326,012 (or, excluding Russia, about an average of £3 10s. per ton on the Beet root production).

**GERMANY.**—The following is an extract from the *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*, 13th May, 1887:—On the assembling of the Federal Council yesterday, the Sugar Tax Bill, contrary to expectation, had not yet been distributed, although it was to be considered immediately, and probably has been by this time. The Federal Council will refer the scheme to the Committees, who will not get the matter out of hand so quickly as is generally expected. It would appear that the basis of the new law is a combination of the tax on Beets and a Consumption Tax, and it is already very evident that in establishing the latter a good many very carefully considered stipulations will be necessary. It is, therefore, doubtful whether the Bill can be submitted to the Reichstag before the Whitsuntide holidays. The Bill is said to propose a tax on Beets of 1 mark per 100 kilos., and a Consumption Tax of 10 marks: and a drawback of 10 marks per 100 kilos., according to the proportion of 10 to 1. The new law is expected to come into operation on 1st August, 1888. This was only what was to be expected, as the present law forms the only foundation for the extension and condition of this year's Beet cultivation.



The new law will exercise a powerful influence on prices; the day it comes into force, reducing the drawback from 18 marks to 10 marks, will see the value of the Sugar Stocks of the factories and refineries reduced by 8 marks per 100 kilos., and to accommodate themselves to this, the industry will require time, and the refineries especially will have to make arrangements for this change. If, consequently, the maintenance of the present law for next campaign is based upon justice and equity, it is of the utmost importance to the trade and industry to be definitely informed on the point as soon as possible. It lies with the Federal Council to let this be known at once, for, without their assent, the Reichstag is unable to fix an earlier date for the new laws coming into operation, and we therefore beg to ask for the earliest possible information on the subject.

(MEMORANDUM ON ABOVE EXTRACT.)

The existing German Tax is 1·70 marks per 100 kilos. of Roots and the drawback 18 marks per 100 kilos. Sugar. Thus, if 11% of Sugar is obtained from roots, the drawback on the Sugar produced from 1,000 kilos. Roots is 19·8 marks, whilst the duty paid is only 17·0 marks, leaving a bounty of 2·80 marks per 100 kilos. Sugar. Under the proposed new law the tax will be 1 mark per 100 kilos. Beetroot, and the drawback 10 marks per 100 kilos. of Sugar, thus if 11% is obtained, the drawback on the Sugar produced from 1,000 kilos. Beets will be 11 marks, whilst the duty on the same quantity of Roots will be 10 marks, and thus the bounty will be reduced from 2·80 to 1 mark per 100 kilos. Sugar, assuming 11% is obtained. In addition there will be a Consumption Tax, or, in other words, a duty on manufactured Sugar going into consumption, of 10 marks per 100 kilos. Germany is thus proposing to adopt, to this extent, the principle of manufacturing in bond.

GENERAL BEET CROP.—The Beet crops up to the end of April for 1886-7, were estimated at 2,657,500 tons, against 2,137,351.

GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).—The visible Stocks of Sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes) in April, 1,039,829 tons, against 1,111,153 in 1886; United States, 100,000 tons, against 94,726; Havana, 108,712, against 102,522. Total Stocks, 1,248,541 tons, against 1,308,401.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—The importation of Refined Sugar for the four months ending 30th April, 1887, was 113,688 tons, against 105,403 tons same period last year.

Raw Sugar, 304,083 tons, against 295,494 tons in 1886. Total imported, 417,772 tons, against 400,897 tons. Of the total imported in the four months 247,679 was Beet.

The principal feature of the return is the continuance of large imports from the United States of Refined.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A letter to Colonial Office, signed by Mr. Lubbock, 11th May, approves of the application of Immigration Fund surplus to reduction of Indenture Fee, and disapproves of the new form of Account by which expenses for the continuance of Immigration are charged against a season already closed and provided for.

TRINIDAD.—Weather reports by telegram to 10th May: Weather too wet, and rain has fallen heavily.

DEMERARA.—Weather showery and unsettled (May 16th).

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 14.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

June 15th, 1887.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—No further information has been received respecting proposed International Conference. A Parliamentary Committee of more than 100 Members has been formed. A great deputation to Lord Salisbury is in prospect.

**BRITISH GULIANA.**—The Secretary of State writes to say that he thinks the supposed balance to the credit of the Immigration Fund at the end of 1884, did not really exist. He recommends that the financial year for the purpose of Immigration Accounts should run from the 1st July to 30th June. The suggestion that the surplus fund which has accumulated in the hands of the Immigration Loan Commissioners should be invested as a fund to meet any excessive ~~term~~ and for back passages, has been approved by the Secretary of State.

**TRINIDAD.**—At the request of the West India Committee, Mr. Baden-Powell, M.P., very kindly asked the following question of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and received the subjoined reply:—"What was the reason for the delay in issuing licences for the working of that portion of the Pitch Lake in Trinidad hitherto reserved; whether it was true that the Government of Trinidad were considering an offer of £10,000 a year from the present lessees to secure exclusive rights; and whether, if the lake were kept open to public competition of lessees, the receipts of revenue would not be greater than the rental mentioned in the above offer.

"Sir H. Holland.—Licences have not been issued for getting pitch from the reserved portion of the lake because the Colonial Government and Legislature are considering an offer by the lessees of the other part of the lake to take a lease of the whole on terms which would insure a *minimum* royalty of £10,000 a year. From the information in my possession I have no reason to think that a greater revenue would be obtained by offering the lease of the reserved portion to public competition, but I am not prepared to answer the question more definitely until the opinion of the Colonial Legislature has been ascertained."

**TRINIDAD COOLIES.**—Mr. Nourse has received the contract for shipping 600 return immigrants from Trinidad to Calcutta, at £9 18s. 3d. With regard to Coolie Shipping generally, a suggestion has been made that the requisitions in British Guiana and Trinidad should be made up by the end of January in each year, so as to allow greater time for the arrangements.

**REM SALE TERMS.**—The following letter has been received by the West India Committee from Mr. Arthur H. Robinson, dated 9th June. "At a Meeting of the principal Rum buyers held to-day, the following resolutions were passed, a copy of which I beg to hand to you as representing the Importers. I shall be glad if you could arrange for your Committee to meet us on Thursday next, at any hour convenient to them, in order to discuss the subject." *Enclosure:* At a Meeting of the Rum buyers, held this day (9th June), Mr. Percy Bence Trower in the Chair. It was resolved unanimously that it is desirable that the terms of payment should be assimilated to those existing at Liverpool, viz.—Cash in 14 days less 2½ per cent. discount. It was also unanimously resolved that Mr. Trower, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Lamb, be appointed a Committee, with power to add to their number, to confer and arrange with the Importers to carry same into effect."



**FRENCH SUGAR LAW.**—This has passed the Chamber and has to pass the Senate. From 1st September, 1887, the yield will be, for crop 1887-88, 7 kilos. of refined sugar per 100 kilos. of roots; 1888-89, 7.25 kilos., and the next two crops 7.50 and 7.75 respectively. The law imposing a special tax, to come into operation at once, has been passed. This law is for the sole purpose of recouping the loss on sugar revenue, and contributing to make good the general deficit on the Budget.

**GERMAN SUGAR LAW.**—The particulars of this law given in the last *Circular* are confirmed. The Bill has now passed important stages, and will take effect, if passed finally in its present form, on 1st August, 1888.

The following is from Messrs. H. Clark & Co.'s *Circular*, dated 8th June:—

|                            | 1886-87. | 1885-86. |                        | 1886-87.  | 1885-86.  |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cuba.....                  | 650,000  | 692,250  | Java.....              | 370,000   | 366,000   |
| Porto Rico.....            | 40,000   | 40,000   | British India.....     | 50,000    | 50,000    |
| Trinidad.....              | 60,000   | 49,200   | Brazils.....           | 260,000   | 186,000   |
| Barbados.....              | 55,000   | 44,000   | Manilo.....            | 145,000   | 190,000   |
| Jamaica.....               | 18,000   | 19,000   | Louisiana.....         | 87,500    | 122,900   |
| Antigua and St. Kitts..... | 20,000   | 20,000   | Peru.....              | 30,000    | 30,000    |
| Martinique.....            | 38,000   | 33,000   | Egypt.....             | 50,000    | 65,000    |
| Guadeloupe.....            | 40,000   | 37,000   |                        |           |           |
| Demerara.....              | 120,000  | 111,800  | Total Cane (tons)..... | 2,163,500 | 2,204,150 |
| Reunion.....               | 30,000   | 34,000   | Total Beet (tons)..... | 2,657,500 | 2,137,350 |
| Mauritius.....             | 100,000  | 114,000  |                        |           |           |
|                            |          |          | Tons.....              | 4,821,000 | 4,341,500 |

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 22 weeks, 1887, 398,890 tons; against 403,143, same period, 1886; decrease, 4,253. Deliveries, 366,940 against 341,975; increase, 24,965. Stocks, 223,710 against 324,893; deficiency, 101,183 tons.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

25th July, 1887.

Mr. CRUM EWING.—The West India Committee desire to record their sincere regret at the death of Mr. Humphrey Ewing Crum Ewing. For many years, both in and out of Parliament, he rendered most valuable service in connection with West Indian questions. He was a member of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Sugar Duties in 1862.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—A Meeting between the representatives of British and Colonial Sugar Industries, and Members of Parliament, took place at the House of Commons on July 12th. The result was that Mr. Staveley Hill, Sir A. Orr Ewing, and Mr. Baden Powell, agreed to see Mr. W. H. Smith as to facilities for a Parliamentary discussion this Session if possible. An endeavour is being made to bring the question before the House of Lords. The great Deputation of the 'Trades' Union Societies to Lord Salisbury took place on July 22nd. The Premier announced that negotiations were proceeding for an International Conference, and advised that a clear issue should be put before the country, so that the Government would be justified by public opinion in securing a practical remedy for the evils arising from bounties.

BEER CROPS.—The recent weather has been favourable to the beetroot in Germany. The vegetation of the roots has developed in excellent condition, although the yield is likely to be affected by the heavy rains. In Austria-Hungary rain has fallen, but the long continued dry weather has affected the roots. In Russia, the weather is favourable, and crop likely to be good. (The estimates of crop, by Licht, had not been received in time for this circular).

*Board of Trade Returns.*

IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM, 6 Months ended 30th June.

|                           | 1885.     | 1886.     | 1887.     |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                           | cwts.     | cwts.     | cwts.     |
| SUGAR REFINED AND CANDY:— |           |           |           |
| From Germany .....        | 531,777   | 827,617   | 1,404,027 |
| „ Holland .....           | 694,515   | 524,584   | 686,012   |
| „ Belgium .....           | 44,737    | 51,713    | 96,278    |
| „ France .....            | 351,028   | 270,437   | 756,020   |
| „ United States .....     | 1,462,919 | 562,490   | 657,043   |
| „ Other Countries .....   | 1,938     | 653,102   | 9,164     |
| Total .....               | 3,086,914 | 2,889,943 | 3,608,544 |



[REPRODUCED FROM THE]

## SUGAR, UNREFINED:—

|                                     | 1885.<br>cwt.     | 1886.<br>cwt.    | 1887.<br>cwt.    |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| From Germany .....                  | 4,720,656         | 2,589,398        | 3,435,170        |
| „ Holland .....                     | 115,217           | 173,325          | 202,094          |
| „ Belgium .....                     | 211,105           | 392,931          | 467,958          |
| „ France .....                      | 22,212            | 6,141            | 17,172           |
| „ British West Indies and Guiana .. | 1,366,899         | 1,198,440        | 1,473,304        |
| „ British East Indies .....         | 231,928           | 380,143          | 174,867          |
| „ China and Hong Kong .....         | 14,679            | 44,226           | 312              |
| „ Mauritius .....                   | 104,151           | 167,164          | 58,640           |
| „ Spanish West India Islands .....  | 360,238           | 5,000            | 104,466          |
| „ Brazil .....                      | 878,167           | 372,859          | 384,722          |
| „ Java .....                        | 2,575,338         | 3,020,247        | 2,357,828        |
| „ Philippine Islands .....          | 124,454           | 192,772          | 153,643          |
| „ Peru .....                        | 260,391           | 331,869          | 199,855          |
| „ Other Countries .....             | 356,248           | 398,564          | 295,459          |
| <b>Total .....</b>                  | <b>11,301,683</b> | <b>9,273,079</b> | <b>9,325,490</b> |
| <b>Molasses .....</b>               | <b>203,006</b>    | <b>115,400</b>   | <b>172,246</b>   |

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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|                                     | 1885.<br>cwt.     | 1886.<br>cwt.    | 1887.<br>cwt.    |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| From Germany .....                  | 4,720,656         | 2,589,398        | 3,435,170        |
| „ Holland .....                     | 115,217           | 173,325          | 202,094          |
| „ Belgium .....                     | 211,105           | 392,931          | 467,958          |
| „ France .....                      | 22,212            | 6,141            | 17,172           |
| „ British West Indies and Guiana .. | 1,366,899         | 1,198,440        | 1,473,304        |
| „ British East Indies .....         | 231,928           | 380,143          | 174,867          |
| „ China and Hong Kong .....         | 14,679            | 44,226           | 312              |
| „ Mauritius .....                   | 104,151           | 167,164          | 58,640           |
| „ Spanish West India Islands .....  | 360,238           | 5,000            | 104,466          |
| „ Brazil .....                      | 878,167           | 372,859          | 384,722          |
| „ Java .....                        | 2,575,338         | 3,020,247        | 2,357,828        |
| „ Philippine Islands .....          | 124,454           | 192,772          | 153,643          |
| „ Peru .....                        | 260,391           | 331,869          | 199,855          |
| „ Other Countries .....             | 356,248           | 398,564          | 295,459          |
| <b>Total .....</b>                  | <b>11,301,683</b> | <b>9,273,079</b> | <b>9,325,490</b> |
| <b>Molasses .....</b>               | <b>203,006</b>    | <b>115,400</b>   | <b>172,246</b>   |

SUPPLEMENT TO CIRCULAR 15.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

25th July, 1887.

(*Licht, Germany.*)—The weather throughout the whole of the past month was dry and warm, by which at first the consequences of the superabundance of moisture of the preceding month were counterbalanced. But when throughout the whole month rain fell but sparingly, and, besides, the wind dried up the soil, moisture was wanted seriously by the end of June already, yet, notwithstanding the repeated cooling of the air, rain did not fall in sufficient quantities until the end of last week. The field-works were pushed on vigorously, and the ground was cleared of noxious weeds, which work had been very difficult in the month of May on account of the wet weather. The beet fields at this time are presenting a splendid view, the leaves having developed luxuriantly; yet, it cannot be denied that there is a decided retardment against former years, as will be seen by the figures of our proof takings. It would be a great mistake to draw any conclusions from the present state of the beet fields upon the yield of the coming crop, since the latter entirely depends upon the further state of the weather. But, as said already, it cannot be denied that the beets in the field are still behind in regards to weight as well as to contents of sugar, yet this may easily be changed by better weather.

**BET PRODUCTION.**—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—1887-8, 2,600,000 tons; as compared with 2,653,620 in 1886-7, and 2,137,351 in 1885-6:—

|                             | 1887-8.          | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany .....               | 1,000,000        | 1,012,500        | 838,131          |
| Austria .....               | 450,000          | 525,000          | 377,032          |
| France .....                | 550,000          | 500,000          | 298,407          |
| Russia .....                | 440,000          | 475,000          | 537,860          |
| Belgium .....               | 110,000          | 91,120           | 48,421           |
| Holland and other Countries | 50,000           | 50,000           | 37,500           |
| Tons.....                   | <u>2,600,000</u> | <u>2,653,620</u> | <u>2,137,351</u> |

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(*Licht.*)—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes), in July: 627,855 tons, against 802,287 in 1886; United States, 183,000 tons, against 162,535; Havana, 97,536, against 124,137. Total stocks, 908,391 tons, against 1,088,959.



## DIFFUSION.

The following are some of the points referred to by Mr. Quintin Hogg, in his recent lecture in Demerara:—

He said, the trials at Nonpareil were brought to a premature termination by the breakdown of the cutters. These cutters are on a new principle by the Sangerhouse Company, and the worst that can happen is that we go back to the vertical instead of the horizontal, and which slice on an average 60 or 70 tons in the 24 hours. He might be asked what results they actually got at Aska. They diffused at Aska to the extent of 60 per cent. it took them 10 cwt. of coal to induce diffusion, 2 tons of coal to a ton of sugar. They got from 13 to 14 per cent. *masse cuite* from cane juice at 8½ Beaume. That he calculated to be about 25 per cent. more than was obtained out here from 8½ Beaume. Then they also claimed—and it was worthy of consideration—that as albumen coagulated at 160, and you work this diffusion process up to 200 and 212, you coagulated the albumen in the chips, and a great part of the mucilage and albumen went away with the chips instead of coming into the juice; and so they explained the absence of slime and scum in the clarifiers. Megass cannot be diffused. You may macerate megass, but not diffuse it. In diffusion the cell of the cane should not be ruptured at all; if once ruptured, it became maceration instead of diffusion, and impurities come out instead of remaining in. It was perfectly useless to try diffusion without weighing the canes, and so the canes had to be thrown on the dam, weighed 2 tons at a time, and put into punts. The handling had a very injurious effect on the canes, for whereas the co-efficient of purity when milled was 95, it fell down to 82 in one case, and 84 in another in the diffusion. The handling, moreover, seemed to increase the glucose, which immediately ran up to 2½ per cent. Then the cutters came to utter grief. These cutters were horizontal, for the makers had argued in this way:—"The vertical cutter gives you one hopper, and the knives coming round cut only the canes in that one hopper, but a horizontal cutter will allow of six hoppers, and so you will get six times the work of the vertical cutter." But here at Nonpareil the cutters broke down. A great mass of threads and cush-cush got into the disc to such an extent that the engine could not, after a time, be put round even with crowbars. That difficulty was taken in hand by Mr. Schultz and Mr. Jones, and little slits were cut and other arrangements made to allow the stuff to run out. The next difficulty was that the cush-cush accumulated on the outside corner of the knife, and monopolised from 15 to 20 per cent. of the cutting surface of the knife. If got rid of from one hopper, it slid on and re-appeared at the next hopper. Great difficulty was experienced in getting rid of this, in fact, they never succeeded in getting rid of it entirely. Then came the question of feed. They could not get the cutters to take the feed properly. It required a man to be at each hopper pushing as hard as he could, and when a cane got down to a small length and could no longer be held with safety, it slid down horizontally and was whittled and churned round and round instead of being sliced. To cut matters short, instead of cutting up 200 tons of cane in 24 hours, these machines did not cut up 20; instead of filling diffusers, as they were guaranteed to do, in 8 minutes, they could not fill under 35 to 50 minutes; and instead of the juice being on the battery for about a quarter-of-an-hour,

and then run aloft into the *triple effet*, it remained stewing for 52 hours. After all this it was to be wondered at that they got any sugar at all. Some, however, was obtained, but they got also 20 per cent. more *masse cuite* than with the mill. The co-efficient of purity was 82, there was about 24 per cent. of glucose, and they got a return of 14.63 of *masse cuite*, or on the tonnage of the canes a total of 15.60 from the 108 tons of canes that were sliced up. That was the only result, so far as he knew, that they got at all. — It was utterly illusory to pretend to go into details when the feeding part of your apparatus only gave 4 or 5 of the proper power. No great amount of inversion took place in the diffusion batteries, which of themselves worked admirably, except that the doors at bottom were slightly weak, and a little alteration had to be made. They gave very fair juice, but personally he was disappointed in the colour of the juice. At Aska it was extremely brilliant and as clear as perfectly pure spring water. At Nonpareil, savannah water was used, the ordinary brown water. This water passing through the chips of canes will be filtered, and however impure it may be when put into cell No. 1, depend upon it when it comes to cell No. 2, and cell No. 3, though it might not lose its pea-colour, it will lose the vegetable matter." He (Mr. Hogg) did not know who were to blame for the long time the juice was kept in the batteries, but when it came to the clarifiers it was cloudy, and though not as cloudy as mill juice, was yet not as clear as Aska juice. He had seen chips dried and burnt at Aska with great success, and having made up his mind to try the experiment himself, he had sent out a wire tramway to carry wet chips away, to be subsequently scattered to dry and to be brought to the furnace in baskets. The experiment was tried at Nonpareil, and to their astonishment, after drying, the mill slightly elevated took the chips without trouble: so that there was no doubt whatever as to the chips, when dried, making excellent fuel. One point which struck him was that it would be better to have hydraulic joints in the mill in connection with the diffusion process, instead of, as now, putting merely metal to metal.

*[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a continuation of the technical discussion or a separate section of notes.]*



[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 16.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

5th September, 1887.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Several Meetings of Proprietors have been held in London to discuss various matters connected with the Colony. As a result, some papers were presented to Sir Henry Holland, at a private interview, especially bearing upon the reduction of the salary of the Governor, and of the Civil Service Expenditure generally. After full consideration the Proprietors decided not to propose, at present, any changes in the financial arrangements of Immigration, but the change in the Medical Service, by which the authority of the Head of the Immigration Department is made subordinate to that of the Surgeon General, is strongly deprecated, and the Secretary of State is to be immediately addressed in confirmation and further explanation of the statements on this subject made by the Deputation, which comprised two Members of the Court of Policy. The following official papers have been recently received from British Guiana, and can be seen at this office:—British Guiana Blue Book, for 1886; Reports of the Medical Inspector and Immigration Agent General, for 1886; Annual List of Arrivals and Allotments of Immigrants, for season 1886-87.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BOUNTIES.—The following Countries have unconditionally agreed to enter into the Conference: Austria, Hungary, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, and Denmark. Belgium accepts, but insists upon Refining in Bond. France, Russia, Brazil, Portugal, Sweden, and Norway, have not replied. United States accepts provisionally while Congress is not sitting. The West India Committee have addressed a letter to the Colonial Office, August 24th, asking the Government to bring about the Conference, notwithstanding the reluctance or refusal of France to join. The Committee referred to the proceedings, reported in the "*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*," of August 17th, of the Association of Raw Sugar makers, in which they (the Fabricants) say they cannot compete with the sugar industry in Germany, or against the producers of cane sugar if the premiums on fabrication and the surtax on importation are suppressed. They protest against the Conference and urge their Government to refuse its adhesion, on the ground that the suppression of premiums would result irrevocably in the extinction of the French Sugar Industry. After quoting the above views, the West India Committee proceed "to point out the confirmation of the view we have always expressed, that without bounties the French Beet Sugar production could not compete successfully with that of the cane, but our object in writing this letter is to impress upon Her Majesty's Government that whether France immediately comes into the Conference or not, the said Conference should be held as soon as possible. There can be little doubt that when the Conference begins its work, France will see the necessity of joining in its proceedings." The letter closes by asking to be kept informed of the progress of the negotiations.

**BEEF PRODUCTION.**—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—1887-8, 2,600,000 tons; as compared with 2,653,620 in 1886-7, and 2,137,351 in 1885-6 :—

|                             | 1887-8.          | 1886-7.          | 1885-6.          |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany .....               | 1,000,000        | 1,012,500        | 838,131          |
| Austria .....               | 450,000          | 525,000          | 377,032          |
| France .....                | 550,000          | 500,000          | 298,437          |
| Russia .....                | 440,000          | 475,000          | 537,860          |
| Belgium .....               | 110,000          | 91,120           | 48,421           |
| Holland and other Countries | 50,000           | 50,000           | 37,500           |
| <b>Tons</b> .....           | <b>2,600,000</b> | <b>2,653,620</b> | <b>2,137,351</b> |

The above figures are from Mr. Licht's last *Circular* of August 20th. It will be noticed that he had not reduced his estimate of the present crop, but it is understood that a considerable reduction of the estimate is probable, and this, combined with the generally favourable statistical position has caused the rise, which it is expected will become still more marked if unfavourable reports continue to be received from the continent. Up to the end of August, the dry hot weather was distinctly unfavourable to the roots, and the possibility of a smaller crop was gaining ground, not only in Germany, but in all the beet growing countries. In France, the roots have suffered so much that it is doubtful if the present rains will be of great benefit. Numbers of fields have been partially cleared (*éclaircis*) by insects. Germany and Austria have also had abundant rains, but it is assumed now that the present crop of Europe will be inferior by 50 to 100,000 tons to the last.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Litch.)—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes), in August:—511,090 tons, against 677,406 in 1886; United States, 167,000 tons, against 184,450; Havana, 81,280, against 106,926. Total stocks, 759,370 tons, against 968,782.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 31 weeks, 1887, 576,717 tons, against 588,921, same period 1886; decrease, 12,204. Deliveries, 567,429, against 562,121; increase, 5,308. Stocks, 201,018, against 290,525; deficiency, 89,477.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 17.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

3rd October, 1887.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Fortnightly Meetings of the General Purposes Committee will be resumed, after the recess, on Thursday, October 13th. During the last few weeks special attention has been given to particular questions connected with British Guiana and Trinidad. A selection from the correspondence is printed in this *Circular*.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—The following letter, addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, will show the present position of this question: "28th September, 1887. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Robert Herbert's letter of the 14th instant, enumerating the countries which had accepted the invitation of Her Majesty's Government to a Conference on the subject of the Sugar Bounties. I am instructed to inquire, as France is the only important country, connected with the question, which had not replied at the date of Sir Robert Herbert's letter, whether any communication has now been received from the French Government. In any case, we beg respectfully and most earnestly to urge upon you, in justice to the countries which have replied and also to the interest of the British sugar industry, the desirability of convening the Conference as soon as possible. Should France not take part in the early meetings of such Conference (and as the bounty on the coming crop is estimated at four millions sterling, it is not likely the French industry will approve of an immediate Convention to abolish bounties), there can be little doubt that she would eventually participate in any result arrived at. We, therefore, suggest that the absence of a reply from France should be no obstacle to the meeting of the Conference, and we hope to have the honour of receiving from you, Sir, an intimation of the probable date at which the Conference will meet. Signed, N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

TRINIDAD PITCH LAKE.—The following letter has been addressed to the Colonial Office:—"28th September, 1887. I have the honour to bring to your notice, on behalf of the principal Trinidad proprietors in this country, certain grave objections to the Resolution passed by the Legislative Council of that Island on the 1st September last, respecting the Pitch Lake. I am to premise that in taking this course the Proprietors have no pecuniary interest one way or the other in the question of the Pitch Lake, but venture to address you now upon the ground of our interest in the general welfare of the Colony. We think, in the first place, that the action of the Trinidad Government is open to serious objection, and practically amounts to a breach of faith with the public of the Colony, and those who are connected with it in this Country. On the 1st of June, 1887, the Council discussed the matter, and the Government, finding that there were many reasons and much weight of public feeling against a monopoly in connection with the Pitch Lake, agreed to lay upon the table certain Resolutions which would be generally acceptable. Accordingly, on the 1st of July, these Resolutions were laid on the table. They were so far satisfactory that they recognised the principle of open competition as being best for the public interest. In order to allow of a full consideration of their bearing, the discussion was postponed for two months. They were on the orders of the day for the September meeting of Council, and it was of course expected that they would have been moved by the Attorney-General, in whose name they stood. Without any notice, however, and certainly without any adequate explanation why the Government did not fulfil its pledge to submit these Resolutions to Council, the Attorney-General withdrew them, and substituted one of an entirely contrary character, by which exclusive rights were given

to a particular company for 14 years, at the rate of not less than £10,000 a year, payable by an export tax, with power to extend for a further period of seven years provided the actual payments amounted in the 14 years to £168,000, or at the rate of £12,000 a year. By means of the official vote, which we submit should not have been used on this occasion, the Resolution was passed at a single sitting of Council. We further desire to call your attention, Sir, to the following objections to the Resolution:—(a) That amongst the Members of Council opposing it are the names of Mr. Frederic Warner, Dr. de Vertail, and Dr. de Boissiere, the three oldest Members of Council and of very long standing and experience as residents in the Colony, and who are gentlemen in whom the fullest confidence is justly entertained by the entire community. The conclusions of these influential gentlemen upon such a question are, we venture to say, entitled to more weight than those of the official members whose temporary connection with the affairs of the Colony cannot be considered as entitling them to a preponderating influence in matters that more immediately concern the Colonist themselves. Had such a question arisen in Jamaica, we feel assured that the Governor would not have permitted the official vote to be taken, and this practice was partially recognised by Governor Robinson, although of course there is the greatest possible difference between granting a supposed option as to voting, and not taking the Official vote at all. And the Resolution, it must be remembered, was introduced and strongly urged by the Attorney-General, and became by that means practically a Government measure. The fact remains it was passed by Official votes. (b) That the main contention of the Attorney-General, that in order to develop the Pitch Lake it should be placed in the hands of one person or set of persons, is unreasonable. It simply amounts to this:—That a constant and unlimited supply of an article now used in every important city in the world, is to be restricted by being confined to a particular Company, who can make their own terms, produce as much or as little as they please (for they are not bound to pay £168,000 in 14 years, except for securing a continuance of the contract), choose their own markets, regulate their own prices, and indeed enjoy all the profits that might be expected to follow such a monopoly. Instead of £10,000 a year which, after all, is only between £5,000 and £6,000 additional to the present revenue derived by Government from this source) it is probable, as generally believed, that under a system of open competition, a very much more considerable amount might be obtained as revenue, and in such times as the present might afford a sensible relief to the taxation imposed upon the Colonists. (c) That an export duty, without any corresponding internal duty, makes it possible for the Concessionaires to obtain a market for the products of the Lake for consumption in the Colony itself, without contributing anything to the Revenue. (d) That Pitch is obtained in other parts of the Colony than the Lake, and any export duty of 6s. 8d. per ton would fall equally upon all exporters of Pitch, therefore the Concessionaires, as a matter of fact, would be obtaining the use of Government portions of the Lake rent free, or without any expenditure of capital beyond the mere working expenses and duty. It would seem to be more just to divide any payment from the Concessionaires to (1st), a royalty of 3s. 4d. per ton; (2nd), the remainder of the contribution to be made up by an export tax of 3s. 4d., which would be the rate paid upon all Pitch exported coming from whatever source. We would, therefore, pray that you, Sir, would be pleased to consider the above, as well as all the detailed objections to the Resolution which have been made both in Council and subsequently by various parties, and that you would not approve of the said Resolution, but leave the matter for further discussion of the unofficial Members of the Council. (Signed) N. LUNBOK, Chairman."

**MEDICAL ORDINANCE, BRITISH GUIANA.**—The following letter has been addressed to Colonial Office:—  
 28th September, 1887. We beg respectfully to inform you that the opinions expressed by a Deputation of British Guiana Proprietors, who recently had an interview with you on the subject of Ordinance No. 9, of 1886, have been confirmed by each subsequent mail. We do not now wish to enter into any details, but generally to support the statement already made to you, Sir, that the change made by that Ordinance has caused most unnecessary friction between the estates and the authorities, and between the Immigration Office and the Medical Department. Although, no doubt, the present personnel of the Medical Administration adds



greatly to this friction, yet we feel that it is, to a more or less extent, unavoidable under the newly introduced system. The charge of the Coolies, for instance, is practically transferred from the Immigration Agent General to a gentleman who may know nothing whatever of the character of the Coolies or of East Indian life and its needs and customs. We, therefore, think we have good ground for complaint that the basis settled in 1873 has been departed from to the detriment of effective administration, and also to the satisfactory and harmonious working of the whole Immigration system. We submit that there was no adequate reason for any such change; as we believe that the practice previously in force was much preferable. That practice was for the Inspector of Estates Hospitals to report to the Immigration Agent General, and the results of the inspections were also noted at the time in the registers of Estates Hospitals. By this means any deficiencies (if they existed), in the appliances or condition of the hospitals would be brought at once to the notice of Proprietors of Estates, and also to that of the Immigration Department. An immediate remedy would thus be provided. This view is borne out by recent circumstances that have occurred in connection with the Medical Inspector's Department, which show that it is impossible for the new dual system to be successful. This system is indeed calculated to give rise to differences of opinion upon important matters, especially as the respective functions of the two heads of departments are very vaguely defined and imperfectly understood. (Signed), N. LURBROCK, Chairman."

**BET PRODUCTION.**—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—1887-8, 2,550,000 tons; as compared with 2,625,442 in 1886-7, and 2,137,351 in 1885-6:—

|                             | 1887-8.   | 1886-7.   | 1885-6.   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany .. . . . . .        | 1,000,000 | 997,962   | 838,131   |
| Austria .. . . . . .        | 450,000   | 523,060   | 377,032   |
| France .. . . . . .         | 550,000   | 488,299   | 298,407   |
| Russia .. . . . . .         | 400,000   | 475,000   | 537,860   |
| Belgium .. . . . . .        | 100,000   | 91,120    | 48,421    |
| Holland and other Countries | 50,000    | 50,000    | 37,500    |
| Tons .. . . . . .           | 2,550,000 | 2,625,442 | 2,137,351 |

The recent weather upon the Continent has not, upon the whole, been generally favourable to the beet root. It will be observed that Mr. Licht reduces his estimate by 50,000 tons.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht.)—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes), in September:—436,544 tons, against 568,877 in 1886; United States, 126,000 tons, against 151,000; Havana, 50,800, against 86,000. Total Stocks, 613,344, against 805,877.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 38 weeks, 626,026 tons, against 625,000 same period 1886; increase, 1,026. Deliveries, 635,223, against 636,143; decrease, 920. Stocks, 182,563, against 251,316; deficiency, 68,753.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

31st October, 1887.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Committee in various ways have been promoting the International Conference on Sugar Bounties. They have the pleasure to announce that the Conference will meet in London shortly, probably before the end of the year. The following letter from the Colonial Office, dated 14th October, is in reply to that of 28th September, printed in last Circular. Since this letter was received, it has become known that France has agreed to take part in the Conference. It is hoped that Lord Salisbury will preside at the first meeting:—"The Chairman, I am directed by the Secretary, Sir Henry Holland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, and to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are now expecting to receive shortly from the Government of France, a definite reply as to their participation in the proposed Conference on the Sugar Industries. I am to add that the Governments of Italy, Russia, and Brazil, have now accepted the invitation to take part in the Conference. (Signed,) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—The Countries which have agreed to send representatives, are Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, the United States of America, Russia, and Brazil.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—A public meeting on the general question will be held in Bristol, on November 8th, at which Mr. Lubbock will be the principal speaker.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Various important matters, connected with the affairs of this colony, have been considered, and action taken, but report of same must be postponed. Any British Guiana proprietors, by applying to the Secretary of the West India Committee, will be furnished with full information.

MEDICAL ORDINANCE.—BRITISH GUIANA.—The following, dated 19th October, is in reply to letter printed in last circular:—"I am directed, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, with reference to the relations of the Medical and Immigration Departments in British Guiana, and to say that, having regard to recent occurrences in the colony, of which he is imperfectly informed by telegraph, he will defer any further reply until he has heard further from the colony. (Signed,) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

CIVIL SERVICE EXPENDITURE.—BRITISH GUIANA.—The following letter, dated 18th October, has been received from Colonial Office, in reply to representations referred to in Circular No. 16:—"I am directed by Secretary, Sir Henry Holland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd of August last, enclosing one which was read to me on the 22nd of August by a deputation of British Guiana Proprietors, upon the subject of the expenditure on the Civil Service Establishments of the Colony. I am to inform you that Sir Henry Holland has given careful consideration to the matters referred to in that letter, to which the deputation called his attention, and that he is not of opinion that the financial difficulties of the Colony are such as to call for a general reduction of the salaries of officers now in the service of the Colony, but that he is in communication with the Governor as to the expediency of a general prospective reduction to take effect, as vacancies occur, of the salaries of the higher officers. I am to point out to you that the cost of the establishments was reduced by £5,000 on the estimates for the current year. Sir H. Holland concurs with the West India Committee in thinking that the salary of the Governor should be reduced, and he is in communication with Sir H. Irving on this point also. With respect to the question of the leave of absence granted to public officers, I am to refer you to the last paragraph of the letter from this Department of the 18th of February last. (Signed,) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

TRINIDAD PITCH LAKE.—The following letter, from the Colonial Office, dated 25th October, is in reply to letter printed in last circular:—"I am directed by Secretary, Sir Henry Holland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th September, stating objections which are entertained by certain Trinidad proprietors in this country to the Resolution, passed by the Legislative Council of that colony, on the 1st of September, respecting the Pitch Lake. With regard to the action of the Trinidad Government, while Sir Henry Holland is



unable to approve of the course adopted by the Attorney-General in withdrawing, without previous notice, the resolutions which he had laid on the table, and substituting a resolution in a contrary sense, he is not prepared to admit that there has been any breach of faith with the public. When the proposal, made to the Government by Mr. Finlayson, on behalf of the present lessees of the greater part of the Pitch Lake, was, by the discretion of the Secretary of State, submitted to the Legislative Council on the 1st of June, it was distinctly stated by the Attorney-General that it was not brought forward as a Government measure, but that the Secretary of State desired to obtain the view of the Council, and Mr. Gatty undertook to move a resolution 'either affirmatively or negatively, that the proposal should be accepted, and get the opinion of the Council at the next meeting.' The resolutions which he subsequently laid on the table were opposed to the acceptance of the proposal of the lessees, but after what had been stated at the meeting on the 1st of June, Sir H. Holland considers that though it would naturally be supposed that Mr. Gatty's personal opinion was in accordance with those resolutions, it should have been understood that the Government was not committed to support them, and, in order to prevent any misapprehension, he took care to remind the Governor that the official members of the Council were free to vote as they thought fit, and I am to point out that one official member voted against the resolution ultimately moved. Mr. Gatty's action on the 1st of September no doubt took the Council by surprise, but the members who opposed the resolution which was passed, did not ask for delay on that ground, nor has Sir H. Holland received any remonstrance from the colony founded on the action of the Attorney-General. As to the objection that a majority of the unofficial members, who took part in the division, voted against the Resolution, I am to observe that it was not intended by Sir H. Holland, nor would he think it right, to leave the decision of the question to the votes of the unofficial members. Sir H. Holland is aware that opinions differ widely as to the most advantageous manner of dealing with the Pitch Lake, and he is not surprised to find that there are persons in this country, interested in the welfare of Trinidad, who do not share the views of the majority of the Legislative Council, but, having referred to the Council the question whether the offer made by the present lessees, of which, I am to observe, the imposition of an export duty of 6s. 8d. on pitch obtained outside the lake was an express condition, he does not see that sufficient grounds have been shown for rejecting their decision. It is only fair to add that that decision coincides with the opinion which, after consideration of all the circumstances of the case, he formed and expressed to the Governor, on the receipt of Mr. Finlayson's proposals.— (Signed,) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

BEER PRODUCTION.—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—1887-8, 2,450,000 tons; as compared with 2,625,442 in 1886-7; and 2,137,351 in 1885-6:—

|                                   | 1887-8.   | 1886-7.   | 1885-6.   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany .....                     | 950,000   | 997,962   | 838,131   |
| Austria .....                     | 425,000   | 523,060   | 377,032   |
| France .....                      | 525,000   | 488,299   | 298,407   |
| Russia .....                      | 400,000   | 475,000   | 537,860   |
| Belgium .....                     | 100,000   | 91,120    | 48,421    |
| Holland and other countries ..... | 50,000    | 50,000    | 37,500    |
| Tons.....                         | 2,450,000 | 2,625,442 | 2,137,351 |

The reduced estimates for 1887-8 are therefore 175,400 tons less than 1886-7. The weather in Germany during September was fairly favourable to the beet, but with a smaller yield. In Austria complaints are also raised about the smaller yield, and the same is reported from France.

GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were (including floating cargoes), in October: 437,948 tons, against 549,563 in 1886; United States, 100,000, against 137,000 tons; Havana, 34,544, against 67,056. Total Stocks, 572,492, against 753,619.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, 42 weeks, 687,642 tons, against 656,190 same period 1886; increase, 31,452. Deliveries, 701,622, against 706,716; decrease, 5,094. Stocks, 177,780, against 211,933; deficiency, 34,153.

## SUGAR SEASON, 1ST JULY, 1887, TO 30TH JUNE, 1888.

Return forwarded by Mr. J. Ernest Tinne, of Liverpool.

| Estimated Supplies, in Tons.                               |               | Estimated Consumption for<br>12 Months.   |
|--|---------------|---|
| Stocks on Hand and Afloat for U.K. (Licht), 1st July, 1887 | 953,000       |   |
| Afloat for U. S. A. (Willett)                              | 22,000        |   |
|  | 975,000       |   |
| Germany  | 900,000       | 380,000   |
| Austria  | 400,000       | 250,000   |
| France   | 500,000       | 400,000   |
| Russia   | 400,000       | 360,000   |
| Belgium  | 90,000        | 55,000  |
| Holland  | 50,000        | 55,000  |
| United Kingdom   | .....         | 1,250,000   |
| Spain  | 15,000        | 60,000  |
| Cuba   | 550,000       | 50,000  |
| Java   | 350,000       | 30,000  |
| Louisiana and U. S. A.                                     | 150,000       | 1,500,000   |
| Sandwich Islands   | 110,000       | .....   |
| Fiji   | 30,000        | .....   |
| Australia  | 60,000        | 150,000   |
| New Zealand  | .....         | 30,000  |
| Canada   | .....         | 100,000   |
| Peru and Chili   | 100,000       | 50,000  |
| Brazil   | 280,000       | 40,000  |
| Mauritius and Réunion                                      | 145,000       | 5,000   |
| Manilla  | 190,000       | 10,000  |
| Egypt  | 55,000        | 20,000  |
| Demerara   | 130,000       | 5,000   |
| West Indies  | 165,000       | 20,000  |
| Martinique and Guadeloupe                                  | 90,000        | 5,000   |
| Porto Rico   | 50,000        | 5,000   |
| Mexico   | 30,000        | 20,000  |
| Honduras   | 20,000        | 15,000  |
| Argentine Republic   | 30,000        | 100,000   |
| Morocco, Natal, &c.  | 50,000        | 60,000  |
| Turkey   | .....         | 70,000  |
| Denmark  | .....         | 65,000  |
| Norway and Sweden  | .....         | 45,000  |
| Switzerland  | .....         | 25,000  |
| Portugal   | .....         | 40,000  |
| Greece   | .....         | 10,000  |
| Italy  | .....         | 110,000   |
| India and China  | Not included. | Not included.   |
| Total Supplies   | 5,915,000     | 5,390,000 Total Consumption.  |
| Deduct Consumption   | 5,390,000     |   |
| Probable Visible Supply, 1st July, 1888                    | 525,000 tons  | (i.e., assuming no increase in Consumption from July 1st, 1887, to 30th June, 1888. |

JAMES L. OILLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 19.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

28th November, 1887.

**THE SUGAR CONFERENCE.**—All the different bodies representing British sugar interests have now made their respective views known to the British delegates. The West India Committee had an interview, by deputation, with the delegates on November 23rd. A full statement was then made by Mr. Lubbock on behalf of the Committee, and this has been supplemented by a written statement agreed upon at a Meeting of the General Purposes Committee, on November 25th. These statements are being printed, and copies will be ready for members immediately, together with the letter addressed to the delegates by the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association. The British Sugar Refiners' Association have also presented a statement especially dealing with the question as affecting them. Important representations have also been made by the labour interests.

**COLONIAL INTERESTS AT CONFERENCE.**—Extracted from the *Times*, November 16th:—“A very largely attended meeting of gentlemen connected with the sugar industries of Queensland, Victoria, New Zealand, New South Wales, Fiji, Mauritius, Natal, and the British West Indies and British Guiana, was held at the Rooms of the West India Committee, in Lime Street, yesterday. Mr. Nevile Lubbock was in the chair, and stated the object of the meeting to be to consider the appointments which had been made by Her Majesty's Government of the delegates at the approaching Conference. It was resolved that a letter be at once addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies declaring that, in view of the undoubted fact that the colonial interests were of considerable magnitude, that a very large portion of the injury inflicted by the bounties upon our home interests arose directly from the injury to our colonies—that, in fact, the colonial interest was the largest one concerned in the question—it was very disappointing to find, while recognizing the earnestness of Her Majesty's Government, that in the appointments which had been made the colonial interests had not been specifically represented. The Board of Trade had persistently, since the appointment of the Select Committee on Sugar Industries in 1879, maintained, contrary to the expressed opinion of leading statesmen of all parties, that the continuance of bounties was an advantage to this country; and considering also that the Board of Trade had opposed every effort to secure the abolition of bounties, it was unsatisfactory that a representative of that department should preside at a Conference, the object of which was to bring about the termination of bounties. But if the Board of Trade were now prepared to approach the subject, unbiased by the views they have hitherto put forward, the objection of colonists to the present nomination of delegates would be materially diminished. In deciding upon this letter the meeting strongly felt that against Baron De Worms personally there was no ground of objection whatever; they recognize that his able services would be most valuable if he were the representative of the Government, and not of the Board of Trade, at the Conference. Mr. James L. Ohlson was the Secretary of the meeting.” The following is an extract of letter from the Foreign Office, addressed to Mr. Lubbock, 16th November, by Sir T. V. Lister:—“I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that Baron Henry de Worms will preside at the approaching Conference on the sugar question as the representative of Her Majesty's Government, and not in his official capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade.”

The reply of the Colonial Office to the letter addressed to the Secretary of State, as resolved at the above meeting, was as follows, dated November 23rd:—"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 15th inst., I am directed by Secretary, Sir H. Holland, to acquaint you that the Earl of Onslow, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been appointed a delegate to the forthcoming Conference on the sugar question, and Mr. C. A. Harris, a Clerk in this Department, has been appointed to be one of the Assistant-Secretaries to the Conference. (Signed,) Edward Wingfield."

**TRINIDAD PITCH LAKE.**—The Colonial Office inform the West India Committee, November 12th, that—"instead of paying as originally proposed, an export duty of six shillings and eightpence per ton on raw pitch, and ten shillings per ton on epurè, and similar duties being imposed on pitch derived from other sources than the Lake, the Concessionaries shall pay a royalty of one shilling and eightpence per ton on raw pitch, and two shillings and sixpence per ton on epurè, and the export duty to be paid shall be five shillings per ton on raw pitch, and seven shillings and sixpence per ton on epurè, such amount of export duty being imposed on all pitch exported from Trinidad, and the guarantee of £10,000 a year shall be for royalties and export duty on 30,000 tons instead of for export duty only."

**FIRE INSURANCE, WEST INDIES.**—Owing to the action taken by the Colonial Company (limited), the Fire Insurance Companies have decided to reduce their rates for fire insurance on sugar estates and plantations in Demerara and Trinidad by 30 per cent., or, in other words, to allow a discount of 30 per cent. on all risks ratable under the Demerara and Trinidad tariffs under the heading of Estates and Plantations; and a discount of 25 per cent. on all risks ratable under the Demerara tariffs, except the foregoing.

**BEET SUGAR.**—Mr. Licht, 19th November, repeats figures of last Circular.

**GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).**—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe (including floating cargoes) in November: 724,562 tons, against 752,603 in 1886; United States, 60,000, against 113,000 tons; Havana, 15,240, against 40,640. Total stocks, 799,802, against 906,243.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 46 weeks, 753,545 tons, against 711,731, same period in 1886; increase, 41,814. Deliveries, 779,884, against 777,241; increase, 2,643. Stocks, 165,421, against 196,949; deficiency, 31,528.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

26th December, 1887.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.—INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.**—The following is a list of the Delegates and Officials:—

Allemagne: M. Jordan, Conseiller Intime Actuel de Legation, Consul-Général de l'Empire d'Allemagne à Londres; M. Jaehnegu, Conseiller des Finances. Autriche-Hongrie: M. le Comte de Kuefstein, Envoye Extraordinaire et Ministre Plenipotentiaire. Belgique: M. Guillaume, Directeur-Général au Ministère des Finances; M. Du Jardin, Inspecteur-Général au Ministère des Finances; assistés par M. de Smet, Sous-Directeur au Ministère des Finances. Brésil: M. le Dr. Pedro Dias Gordilho Paes Leme; en son absence M. A. A. Fernandes Pinheiro, Délégué en Europe du Ministère des Travaux Publics. Danemark: M. Lange, Directeur-Général des Contributions Directes et Indirectes. Espagne: M. Batamero, Député; M. Dupuy de Lome, Secrétaire d'Ambassade. France: M. Saus-Leroy, Député; M. le Comte de Florian, Premier Secrétaire de l'Ambassade de France à Londres, Représentant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères; M. Pallain, Conseiller-Général, Directeur Général des Douanes; M. Catusse, Conseiller-Général, Directeur Général des Contributions Indirectes; M. Legros, Délégué Suppléant, Administrateur à la Direction Générale des Douanes; M. Boizard, Sous-Chef de Bureau au Ministère des Finances, Secrétaire des Délégués Français; M. Boizard est en même temps un des Secrétaires de la Conférence. Grande Bretagne: M. le Baron Henry de Worals, Membre de la Chambre des Communes; Le Comte d'Onslow, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au Colonial Office; Mr. C. M. Kennedy, C.B., Directeur des Affaires Commerciales au Foreign Office; Mr. F. G. Walpole, Directeur de la Douane à Dublin. Italie: M. T. Catalani, Charge d'Affaires d'Italie à Londres. Pays-Bas: M. W. A. P. Verkerk Pistorius, Directeur-Général des Contributions Directes, Douanes, et Accises au Département des Finances; M. B. Reiger; M. G. Eschauzier; M. C. J. C. van de Ven, Controleur des Douanes et Accises à Rotterdam. Russie: M. Kamensky, Conseiller d'Etat Actuel. Suède: M. Dickson, Secrétaire-Général au Département des Finances. *Secrétaires*: Mr. H. Farnall, Attaché au Foreign Office; Mr. A. E. Bateman, Sous-Directeur au Board of Trade. *Secrétaires adjoints*: Mr. E. Crowe, Attaché au Foreign Office; Mr. C. A. Harris, Attaché au Colonial Office.

The following Protocol was signed on December 19th, 1887, by the Delegates of the various States represented at the Conference:—

"The undersigned Delegates of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, and Sweden met in London on the 24th of November, 1887, in order to study the bases of an understanding with regard to the suppression of bounties on the exportation of sugars. After the deliberations recorded in the *procès verbaux* of the sittings, they arrived at an agreement upon the principles enunciated in the report of the Commission. In order to give a practical application to this enunciation, the President of the Conference communicated to them a proposal of convention, which they have examined and undertake to submit to the consideration of their Governments, praying them to make known to her Britannic Majesty before the 1st March, if they adhere to the principles of this proposed convention which is annexed to the present Protocol. In case of agreement each Government shall communicate with the British Government before the said date a proposal indicating the bases of the application of the system of taxing the quantities of sugar produced. This proposal is to state with what limitations and in what cases saccharimetry will be employed. Each Government will at the same time make known if, for the sake of uniformity it may be disposed to admit what is called the French method generally employed in the commerce of several nations. With regard to Article III. of the said proposed convention, the French Delegates, not considering that the system proposed by Belgium presents for the suppression of bounties the guarantees with which the high contracting parties ought to be furnished, make the most express reserves as to this article. The Delegates of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Russia adhere to the reserves made by the French Delegates.

"Done at London, 19th December, 1887."



The following is the annexe to the above Protocol:—

The high contracting parties desiring to ensure the total suppression of premiums, open or disguised, on the export of sugars, have resolved to conclude a convention to this effect, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries the following: ——— who, after having exhibited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:—

“1. The high contracting parties undertake to take, or to propose to their respective Legislatures, measures which shall constitute an absolute and complete guarantee that there shall not be granted any premium open or disguised on the export of sugars.

“2. The high contracting parties undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective Legislatures, a system of taxation of the quantities of sugar produced, and destined for consumption, as the only plan which permits of the suppression of the premiums in question, and to submit to the same arrangement the factories of glucose and factories for the extraction of sugar from molasses.

“3. Belgium not being under the same conditions with regard to the application of the system of taxing the quantities of sugar produced, the system at present in force in that kingdom may be maintained with the following modifications:—The assessment of the tax shall be reduced from 45fr. to 25fr., from the time the present Convention shall be put in force: The capacities of the compounding factories shall be increased from 1,500 to 1,700 grammes.

“4. States, or colonies and possessions not among the high contracting parties, who, though not adopting the system mentioned in Article 2, do not levy taxes on sugars, or who agree not to allow upon raw or refined sugars which are being exported, any drawback, reimbursement, or reduction of charge of dues or quantities, shall also be admitted to the Convention.

“5. In case a State which does not levy duties on sugar shall impose them, this State must levy those duties upon the quantities of sugar produced and intended for consumption, or at least must not give any drawback, reimbursement, or discharge of duties or quantities.

“6. The high contracting parties shall communicate the laws which may have been already adopted, or which are about to be enacted in their respective States with reference to the object of the present Convention.

“7. States which have not taken part in the present Convention are admitted to adhere to it on their demand. This adhesion shall be notified in diplomatic course to the Government of her Britannic Majesty, and by them to other contracting Powers.

“8. The stipulations of the present Convention shall be applicable to the Colonies and possessions of her Britannic Majesty with the exception of those here named, that is to say:—The East Indies, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape, Natal, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand. In any case the stipulations of the present Convention shall be applicable to any of the colonies above indicated from the time when the British Government shall notify the adhesion of that colony or possession to the other contracting Powers. Each of the colonies or possessions above named which may have adhered to the present Convention preserves the power of retiring in the same manner as the contracting Powers. In case one of the colonies or possessions alluded to should desire to withdraw from the Convention, a notification to this effect shall be given by the British Government to the other contracting parties.

“9. The present Convention shall be put in force from ———. It shall remain in force for 10 years from that day, and in case none of the high contracting parties shall have notified 12 months before the expiration of the said period of 10 years its intention to put an end to it, it shall continue in force for a year, and thus from year to year. In case one of the Signatory Powers shall denounce the Convention, this denunciation shall have no effect save with respect to that Power.

“10. The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in London within ——— months or sooner, if possible.”

THE SUGAR CONFERENCE.—West India Committee to Sir Henry Holland, Secretary of State for the Colonies, December 21st. Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that a meeting of the West India Committee was held here yesterday, attended by gentlemen largely interested in all the West India Colonies as you will.



perceive from the enclosed list. As Chairman of the Committee, I was authorized to request that you would be good enough to convey to Her Majesty's Government the sincere and respectful thanks of all who are interested in those Colonies for the very satisfactory manner in which the negotiations for the Sugar Convention have been conducted. We earnestly hope that Her Majesty's Government will continue their efforts to bring about a final settlement of the question upon the basis of the Protocol which has just been published. We hope to have the honour of communicating with you further upon the matter, but in the meantime we would especially desire to recognise the great ability and energy displayed by the President of the Conference, Baron Henry de Worms, and by the Earl of Onslow, and the other British delegates to whom we feel that the result already achieved is mainly due. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

EXPORT, IMPORT, AND EXCISE DUTIES AND DRAWBACKS (WEST INDIES).—The following letters have been addressed to Her Majesty's Government, by the West India Committee. 24th November, 1887, to Baron HENRY DE WORMS, President of Sugar Conference. Sir,—In reference to the point which was raised in discussion yesterday regarding the Export Duties levied in some of the West India Colonies, we beg to state that we are quite satisfied that there would be no objection to the removal of any export duty which may be in existence in the West Indies, should such a measure be desired by the Conference, and submitted in due form to the Colonies by the Secretary of State for that Department. As a matter of fact, these export duties in all the important Colonies are simply the means of raising a certain amount of money towards the expenditure incurred in importing Coolies. If the export duties did not exist, the Planters would pay in some other way an equal amount for labour to that which they now pay, partly directly, and partly in the form of an export tax. The said export tax is, therefore, a contribution to maintain the system of Coolie Immigration, by which the producers are enabled to obtain the labour they require, and is not in the ordinary acceptation of the word a duty at all. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK. West India Committee to Colonial Office. Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that at a largely attended and representative meeting of the West India Committee, held here yesterday, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—The West India Committee agree to express their opinion to Her Majesty's Government that no objection would be put forward in the West India Colonies where Custom Duties on Imported Sugar are raised, to be bound to give no drawback upon the export of such Sugar, and that in the case of Excise Duties a system of Manufacturing and Refining in Bond shall be adopted; and, further, should it become necessary with a view to secure the Convention binding all the European Governments to abolish bounties, the West India Committee are of opinion that the West India Colonies would not object to Her Majesty's Government agreeing, on their behalf, to remit all import duties on Sugar. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Colonial Office to West India Committee, 9th December. Sir,—With reference to the letter from this department of the 19th of October, I am directed by the Secretary, Sir Henry Holland, to inform you that he has carefully considered the representations of the Deputation of British Guiana Proprietors, but he cannot agree with the views which they entertain as to the satisfactory working of the Immigration Law of 1873, as regards the medical supervision of the immigrants, and he considers that the principle of the Medical Ordinance of 1886, which was introduced after full consideration by, and with the approval of his predecessor, viz.: that the Medical Department should (subject to the Governor), have entire control of all hospitals, and of the medical treatment of the immigrants, is sound, and he cannot approve of its being repealed. Sir Henry Holland regrets to learn that there has been some friction in carrying out the provisions of the above-mentioned ordinance, and he will request the Governor to impress upon the officers of both the departments concerned the importance of discharging their duties in a conciliatory manner, and especially to desire the Medical Inspector, when inspecting estate hospitals, to point out to the managers any defects which he notices and to enter all his requisitions in the register as required by law. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The report of the Immigration Agent General on the report of the Medical Inspector for 1886 can be seen at West India Committee Rooms. The unofficial members have resumed their seats in the Court of Policy after receiving the required explanations afforded by the Governor under instructions from the Secretary of State. The Right Hon. Viscount Gormanston has been appointed Governor in succession to Sir Henry Irving.



**EXPORT DUTIES—GRENADA.**—West India Committee to Colonial Office, 29th November. Sir,—The attention of the West India Committee has been drawn to the imposition of an export duty by the Legislative Council of Grenada. We understand that five unofficial members voted against this measure, and considering that an export duty has always been confined to the payment of immigration expenses, and not in aid of general revenue, the West India Committee are of opinion that the imposition of such a tax, especially at the present moment, is particularly inopportune and objectionable, and we have to request that you will be good enough to withhold your assent to the measure until the Committee have had an opportunity of explaining to you, Sir, more fully their views. (Signed) JAMES L. OHLSON, Secretary. Colonial Office to West India Committee, 14th December. Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir H. Holland to acquaint you, for the information of the West India Committee, that he has decided that the application of the export duty in Grenada for the purposes of the general expenditure cannot be allowed, and that he has instructed the Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, as the duty appears not to be required for immigration purposes in 1888, to direct the introduction of a Bill suspending the raising of the export duty in 1888. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

**MR. GLADSTONE ON SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—Replying to a resolution passed at a meeting at Bristol condemning the system of sugar bounties, Mr. Gladstone writes:—“All bounties on sugar are, in my opinion, based on folly and injustice, and I hope that all men of all parties will wish well to every effort to destroy them. At the same time, I regret to perceive the decision of the Conservative Association at Oxford in favour of Protection, which, of course, includes bounties, and justifies them as far as such folly can be justified.”

**TOTAL SUGAR PRODUCTION.**—Mr. Licht's monthly circular has not been received in time to quote but the following extract from the circular of Messrs. Willelt and Hamlen, New York, December 8th, will be interesting to compare with the figures from other sources printed in Circular No. 18. “As regards the probability of beet sugar quotations being sustained or increased, the news of the week is very important and significant. Mr. Licht has deemed it necessary to reduce his estimate for Germany 50,000 to 75,000 tons, and intimates a further reduction for France of 50,000 tons. Latest estimates of cane crops also indicate a decrease of 90,000 tons from last year's, so that a revision of the figures given in our statistical of November 23rd is necessary, as follows:—

|  | Tons.     |
|--|-----------|
| Total stock in principal countries October 1st, 1887 .. .. .                 | 568,188   |
| Latest estimated production Oct. 1, 1887 to Oct. 1, 1888, reduced to .. .. . | 4,430,000 |
| Total Supply .. .. .   | 4,998,188 |
| Estimated consumption, October 1, 1887, to October 1, 1888 .. .. .           | 5,172,000 |
| Apparent deficiency in supplies .. .. .                                      | 173,812   |
| Plus a moderate carrying stock of, say .. .. .                               | 400,000   |
| Apparent deficiency in requirements .. .. .                                  | 573,812   |

In order to bring the consumption within the limit of supplies, prices for beets must not only be maintained, but a further advance of 20s. need not surprise anyone. The figures of the sugar position are certainly startling, and unprecedented for several years; and was it not for the rapid marketing of our Louisiana crop, which supplies the country largely just now, and diverts attention from occurrences elsewhere, our markets would be advancing quite as rapidly as the foreign markets, from which we must soon obtain our supplies. Total stocks in all principal countries at latest uneven dates is 736,924 tons against 823,816 tons last year, and against last week's figures of 724,299 tons and 817,516 tons.”

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landing, 50 weeks, 836,877 tons, against 774,329, same period in 1886; increase, 62,548. Deliveries, 859,026, against 845,007; increase, 14,019. Stocks, 169,611, against 191,781; deficiency, 22,170.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 21.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

23rd January, 1888.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The fortnightly meetings of the General Purposes Committee will be resumed on Thursday, February 2nd, unless important business arises requiring a meeting before.

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—Colonial Office to West India Committee, December 30th, 1887. "I am directed by Secretary, Sir Henry Holland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, respecting the attitude of the West Indian proprietors as regards the concessions which the West Indian Colonies might make to ensure the success of an International Convention for the regulation of the sugar industries. I am also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the same date, expressing the satisfaction of the West India Committee at the results of the International Conference, and their recognition of the ability displayed by the President and other British delegates. (Signed) EDWARD WINOFIELD."

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—Extract from the *Times*, 18th January:—"Paris, January 17. Baron de Worms, who has been here dealing with the sugar question, has to-day obtained results which justify a hope that this matter, hitherto believed to be very difficult of settlement, will be arranged conformably with the well understood interests of all countries. Baron de Worms has been endeavouring to effect the general abolition of bounties, which have become a veritable warlike weapon in the hands of certain Governments. France and Germany in particular have embarked on a struggle threatening to be absolutely disastrous for the finances of both countries. The bounties last year cost France 71,000,000*l.*, and are this year likely to cost 80,000,000*l.* There is no telling to what length the struggle would go unless put a stop to. The beet-growers and refiners, who are pocketing enormous sums, would, of course, do their utmost to keep up the bounty system at the expense of the taxpayers, France pouring sugar into England and Germany into France. The chief point is to convince all Governments of the urgency of abolishing a system which threatens to be an overwhelming burden, and to place competition in sugar on the same natural footing as that in other products. Baron de Worms has to-day had interviews with leading politicians, such as MM. Rouvier, Ferry, Lockroy, Dautresme, Tirard, Flourens, and many others, who are all to second his views. He is to start to-morrow for Brussels, and will probably be accompanied by M. Sans Leroy, the French Delegate at the London Conference. The Belgians offered the most opposition at the Conference, not to the principle of abolishing bounties, but to the method of refining in bond. The great object is to induce Belgium to agree to the plan, and everything tends to show that this will be effected by Baron de Worms and M. Sans Leroy. Baron de Worms will then go on to Berlin, where it is believed his proposals will be accepted. As the Conference is to reassemble on the 15th of April there is no time to lose, but there is every prospect that the Baron's efforts will be crowned with success." (The Earl of Onslow also visited Paris with Baron de Worms on this subject.)

LORD SALISBURY ON SUGAR BOUNTIES.—Extract from speech at Liverpool, January 11th:—"Let me give one or two illustrations. Mr. Forwood alluded in terms of just praise to the efforts of my friend Baron de Worms in favour of abolishing bounty upon sugar. (Cheers.) Now that is one very good case in point. What does bounty on sugar do? It favours the consumer, undoubtedly it does; and what I may call your freetrader



presumes that everything that favours the consumer, whether it be legitimate or whether it be not, must be sanctioned by the doctrine of free trade; and so you see people writing in the newspapers that because it is good for the consumer it ought to be encouraged. They do not see that advantages to the consumer secured by illegitimate means are only transitory in their character, and that when they have served the purpose of destroying the industry against which they have been levelled the advantage to the consumer will cease." (Cheers.)

SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH AT BRISTOL.—Extract from speech, January 17th:—"I have seen nothing that has been yet propounded by fair-traders or protectionists that induces me to agree with their views. (Hear, hear.) On the contrary, in one sentence, I believe that the adoption of their theories, if it were possible, would only aggravate our present difficulties. On the other hand I am very far from approving what I may call the smugglers' doctrine, that cheapness to the consumer, however illegitimately produced, is the only real national good. I believe our Government has acted wisely and rightly in their negotiations with foreign countries on the subject of the sugar bounties. (Cheers.) I wish that Mr. Gladstone, while he was in power some years ago, had acted in the same way according to his expressed opinions, for I think if he had done that he might have saved much ruin and misery to an industry which is largely connected with your great city. I hope that if any other English industry is attacked by foreign countries in a similar way to the sugar industry our Government will adopt a similar policy, and that in good time. (Hear, hear.) I was glad to see a strong determination expressed by Lord Salisbury—(loud cheers)—in one of his speeches at Liverpool the other day that as soon as legislation could do it another illegitimate form of bounty—namely, the preferential charges by our railway companies upon the conveyance of foreign produce—should also be put an end to. (Cheers.) It used, I think, to be part of the Radical creed that interference by Government or Parliament in these matters was a mistake. That is not my opinion. I think that a Government which does not occupy all its time in attempting constitutional innovations, may do a good deal to promote the prosperity of the country in this manner. (Hear, hear.) It may do a great deal by commercial negotiations with foreign countries. It may do more by a constant watchfulness over all legitimate English interests in the world, specially in those uncivilized countries which are our best markets; and it may do more than all by giving such tangible proofs of real sympathy with our self-governing colonies as were afforded at the late Colonial Conference, a course of policy which I believe, by showing them that we really care for their wants and their aspirations, may induce them to pay a fair and ready attention to our own. (Cheers.) In such ways as this I think we may keep open our existing markets, we may open markets that are closed to us, and we may find new markets for our trade. In that way we may do more, in my mind, to promote English trade and commerce than can ever be done by the adoption of any fair-trade tenets."

TRINIDAD COCOA EXPORTS.—From 1st October to 30th September:—

|                   | England. | France. | America. | Total. |
|-------------------|----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Crop.             | Bags.    | Bags.   | Bags.    | Bags.  |
| 1883-84 . . . . . | 40,659   | 22,758  | 14,724   | 78,141 |
| 1884-85 . . . . . | 47,992   | 25,265  | 12,586   | 85,843 |
| 1885-86 . . . . . | 51,232   | 20,930  | 17,384   | 89,546 |
| 1886-87 . . . . . | 47,868   | 18,922  | 11,658   | 78,448 |

(From Messrs. Gordon, Grant, and Co.'s Circular).

GENERAL STOCKS (Rueb).—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were in January: 1,047,981 tons, against 1,234,962 in 1887; United States, 45,526, against 96,226 tons; Havana, 3,745, against 19,789. Total stocks, 1,097,252, against 1,350,977. In addition to the above figures, the following will be interesting:—Mr. Licht says according to our calculations the quantity of sugar disposable for exportation from the German Empire for the



period of January to August will this year only be 240,000 tons, against 404,000 tons in 1886-87. In Austria-Hungary it will be 143,500, against 192,400 in 1886-87, making for the two countries the sugar disposable for export 383,500 tons, against 596,400 tons in 1886.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, two weeks, 33,275 tons, against 27,175, same period in 1887; increase, 6,100. Deliveries, 29,787, against 26,352; increase, 3,435. Stocks, 188,713, against 192,593; deficiency, 3,880.

UNITED STATES.—Messrs. Willett and Hamlen calculate the total consumption of sugar in the United States for the year 1887 at 1,392,909 tons, against 1,355,809 tons, 1886. The consumption was in 1887 52 pounds per head of population.

*Board of Trade Returns.*

IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM, year ended 31st December.

|                                     | 1885.             | 1886.             | 1887.             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                     | cwts.             | cwts.             | cwts.             |
| <b>SUGAR, REFINED AND CANDY:—</b>   |                   |                   |                   |
| From Germany .....                  | 977,097           | 1,830,142         | 2,834,924         |
| „ Holland .....                     | 1,277,092         | 1,185,027         | 1,503,522         |
| „ Belgium .....                     | 74,180            | 109,996           | 216,717           |
| „ France .....                      | 494,935           | 996,392           | 1,551,435         |
| „ United States .....               | 2,298,605         | 1,424,030         | 782,552           |
| „ Other Countries (Russia) .....    | 216,141           | 821,140           | 121,612           |
| <b>Total .....</b>                  | <b>5,339,050</b>  | <b>6,367,027</b>  | <b>7,010,762</b>  |
| <b>SUGAR, UNREFINED:—</b>           |                   |                   |                   |
| From Germany .....                  | 7,333,875         | 5,670,482         | 7,573,636         |
| „ Holland .....                     | 285,621           | 281,034           | 408,408           |
| „ Belgium .....                     | 544,720           | 757,727           | 1,068,683         |
| „ France .....                      | 26,229            | 47,361            | 68,186            |
| „ British West Indies and Guiana .. | 2,741,952         | 1,976,105         | 2,148,245         |
| „ British East Indies .....         | 849,968           | 877,309           | 853,663           |
| „ China and Hong Kong .....         | 14,679            | 48,257            | 16,312            |
| „ Mauritius .....                   | 252,110           | 291,759           | 104,986           |
| „ Spanish West India Islands .....  | 653,659           | 21,409            | 176,358           |
| „ Brazil .....                      | 1,303,776         | 597,995           | 865,281           |
| „ Java .....                        | 3,695,256         | 3,909,462         | 3,200,343         |
| „ Philippine Islands .....          | 486,890           | 555,757           | 460,386           |
| „ Peru .....                        | 609,610           | 472,311           | 436,634           |
| „ Other Countries .....             | 585,401           | 633,978           | 574,108           |
|                                     | <b>19,383,746</b> | <b>16,141,006</b> | <b>17,955,229</b> |
| Molasses .....                      | 392,875           | 431,387           | 305,538           |

The above supply of sugar may be thus divided:—

|                  | 1886.            | 1886.            | 1887.            |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | Tons.            | Tons.            | Tons.            |
| Beet sugar ..... | 561,494          | 584,980          | 767,356          |
| Cane sugar ..... | 674,595          | 540,422          | 480,943          |
|                  | <u>1,236,089</u> | <u>1,125,402</u> | <u>1,248,299</u> |

NOTE.—The imports of refined from United States are taken as cane; also unrefined from "other countries."

COFFEE.—Imports, year 1887, 1,046,212 cwts., against 1,029,462 in 1886. Home consumption, 268,322, against 289,207. Stocks in bonded warehouses, 31st December, 1887, 322,534 cwts., against 233,218.

Cocoa.—Imports, 27,459,500 lbs., against 25,386,439 in 1886. Home consumption, 15,873,698, against 15,165,714. Stocks in bonded warehouses, 10,813,785, against 8,170,906 in 1886.

RUH.—Imports, 6,378,377 proof gallons, against 5,121,746 in 1886. Home consumption, 3,902,325, against 3,848,465. Stocks in bonded warehouses, 8,292,037, against 7,758,113.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(CIRCULAR No. 22.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

20th February, 1888.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE**—Extract from the Queen's Speech at the opening of Session, 9th February, 1888:—"A Conference of Delegates from the Powers interested in the sugar industry was summoned in London in the autumn to consider the possibility of putting an end to the injurious system of bounties; and they have made considerable progress towards the conclusion of a satisfactory arrangement."

**SUGAR BOUNTIES IN BELGIUM**.—Extract from *The Times*, February 2:—"The Belgian Association of Sugar Manufacturers agreed to a petition to M. Beernaert, Premier and Minister of Finance, declaring in favour of the abolition of the sugar tax in all countries."

**SUGAR REVENUE IN FRANCE**.—Mr. Crowe, in reporting upon the French Revenue Returns for 1887, says, "Among the items which have disappointed the calculations of financiers, sugar is prominent, producing 44,500,000 francs less than the receipts of 1886."

**SUGAR BOUNTIES IN GERMANY**.—Extract from *The Times*, February 11:—"Baron de Worms had a long interview with Prince Bismarck, who expressed himself cordially in favour of the abolition of the obnoxious sugar bounties." The *Times* correspondent, telegraphing under date February 12, adds, "There is no concealing the fact that had Germany entertained an antagonistic view to the *projet de convention* recommended in December last at the Conference in London, there would have been but little chance of the Convention itself being ratified in April next. Now, however, the approval by Prince Bismarck and his Finance Minister of the abolition of the sugar bounties as well as of the means to that end—namely, manufacturing and refining in bond—practically insures the success of the Conference. Naturally, Germany will not be alone in the adoption of the system, and her adhesion would be contingent on that of the majority of the sugar producing Powers. Throughout the course of these negotiations, it has always been understood that France would make her acceptance of the Convention contingent upon that of Germany. The success which Baron de Worms has obtained here is therefore of a double nature; it secures the adhesion of France while obtaining that of Germany—the two greatest sugar-producing Powers. Germany, as I pointed out in a recent telegram, sends to England more than half the total amount of sugar which she exports. Here the slight divergent action of Belgium is in the highest official



circles not considered of real importance. The Conference would not be allowed to fail from any opposition which she might offer to the general intentions of the Powers."

**SUGAR BOUNTIES IN FRANCE.**—French sugar refiners protest to their Government against any alteration in the mode of assessing the sugar duty. The "Journal des Fabricants de Sucre" disapproves of the appointment of a Commission to report upon the Protocol agreed to in London, especially on the ground that no representative of the sugar industry is appointed thereon. The Commission is composed as follows:—M. Tirard, Minister of Finances, is President; and M. Sans-Leroy, Vice-President; M. Pallain, Directeur General des Douanes; M. Catusse, Directeur General des Contributions Indirectes; M. Maric, Directeur General du Commerce Exterieur; M. Déchaud and M. Ramond, Administrateurs des Douanes. The meetings of the Commission are to be private.

**TERMS OF RUM SALES IN LONDON.**—A meeting of the West India Committee (the General Purposes Committee and other London members specially interested), was held on February 9th, to consider letters from Mr. A. H. Robinson, on behalf of the rum buyers as to the terms of sale. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Lubbock, the Chairman; seconded by Mr. Campbell, and resolved unanimously:—"That the terms of selling Jamaica, Demerara, and other Rum in London, be with prompt of fourteen days and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. discount; interest to be charged from day of sale to date of application for warrant at 5 per cent., and in the case of Jamaica Rums that a halfpenny price be made." At a further meeting, similarly constituted, held on February 16th, it was also unanimously resolved:—"That notice for delivery of warrant should not be given later than noon for delivery on the same day; that interest shall not commence to run until the day subsequent to date of sale; and, that rent shall be at seller's expense to date of prompt, buyers to have the benefit of any unexhausted time of storage remaining after prompt."

**STOAB CROPS.**—Mr. Licht's circular, for February, has not been received in time for reference here. Messrs. Willett, Hamlen & Co. give, in their February circular, the total stocks on January 1st, 1888, as 1,070,712 tons, against 1,302,761 same date, 1887.

**STOAB IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 6 weeks, 116,070 tons, against 101,065 same period in 1887, increase, 15,005. Deliveries, 93,812, against 91,478; increase, 2,334. Stocks, 207,483, against 201,357; surplus, 6,126.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR (No. 23.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

19th March, 1888.

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—West India Committee to the Baron Henry de Worms, 1st March, 1888. "Sir, I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the West India Committee, held here to-day, the following Resolution was unanimously passed:—That the West India Committee representing the proprietary interest in the British West India Colonies desire respectfully to tender to the Baron Henry de Worms their sincere thanks for the great service he has rendered to the Colonies, as the President of the International Conference on Sugar Bounties, and sincerely trust that those efforts will be completely and finally successful at the approaching further session of the Conference; and the West India Committee also desire to congratulate the Baron Henry de Worms upon his appointment as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which position they feel assured he will deal with important questions relating to the Colonies with the same eminent ability and success that have characterised his term of office at the Board of Trade. (Signed) QUINTIN HOGG, Chairman of the Meeting, and Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee." Baron Henry de Worms replied as follows:—"Colonial Office, 2nd March. Dear Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 1st, conveying to me on behalf of the Meeting of the West India Committee, over which you presided, the thanks of that important body for my work in connection with the Sugar Bounties question. I beg to assure you that I highly appreciate this mark of approval of my efforts to do away with the injurious system of Bounties on Sugar. Resolutions such as the one which you have sent me are doubly valuable, inasmuch as they demonstrate the interest taken by the influential traders of this country in the abolition of the Bounties, while they at the same time encourage me to persevere in my efforts to bring the subject to a satisfactory and final conclusion. My recent negotiations abroad convince me that the Powers mostly interested have decided to meet the question in a fair and equitable manner, and I am therefore warranted in the hope that the Conference which is to assemble in April may have a successful result. With regard to the latter portion of your resolution, in which your Committee is good enough to congratulate me on my appointment as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to refer in complimentary terms to my recent connection with the Board of Trade, I have only to say that it will be my endeavour, in the position I now hold, to do my utmost to strengthen the ties which bind the Colonies to the mother country by promoting and advancing the vast commercial interests they have in common. I am, Dear Mr. Hogg, very faithfully yours. (Signed) H. DE WORMS."

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—West India Committee to the Earl of Onslow, 1st March. "I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the West India Committee held here to-day the following Resolution was unanimously passed: That the West India Committee representing the Proprietary interest in the staple industries of the British West India Colonies desire to tender their respectful thanks to the Earl of Onslow for the courtesy and attention he has extended to them during his tenore of office as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and they beg further to express their high appreciation of the services so ably and successfully rendered by his Lordship to the Colonies in his capacity as one of the British Delegates at the International Conference on Sugar Bounties. (Signed) QUINTIN HOGG, Chairman of the Meeting and



Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee." The Earl of Onslow replied as follows:—"Board of Trade, 3rd March. Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. and to express my gratitude to you as Chairman, and to the Members of the West India Committee, for the very flattering terms in which you are pleased to acknowledge any small service I may have been able to render in my late official capacity as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies or while serving as one of the British Delegates at the International Conference on Sugar Bounties. I have &c. (Signed) ONSLOW."

**SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.**—Two Blue Books have been published, one of 168 pages, containing the correspondence relative to the Conference, and the other of 134 pages the official minutes. The correspondence begins in September, 1886, when Mr. Stanhope, Secretary of State for the Colonies, wrote to Lord Iddesleigh, Foreign Secretary, with the concurrence of the Board of Trade, suggesting that the German Government should be sounded on the subject. In October, the West India Committee asked to be put in communication with the Government Department having charge of the subject, and they were referred to the Board of Trade. The British Sugar Refiners also addressed the Government. In December, the German Government agreed to consider the question if a formal invitation were sent. In the same month the British Guiana Planters' Association, through Governor Irving, repeated their request for a conference; and, in January, 1887, the Association forwarded a more urgent Petition to Mr. Stanhope. At the same time, a Petition came home through Governor Norman from the Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce. Frequent representations were made by the West India Committee, and at length in July, 1887, Lord Salisbury instructed the British Ambassadors to give the formal invitation to the respective Governments. In the end, all the Powers agreed, after some reluctance by France, and the Conference actually met in London on November 24, 1887. A representative of the United States unofficially joined the Conference, but took no part in the protocol. During the sittings the fullest representations, by letters and Deputations, were made to the British Delegates by the West India Committee, the British Sugar Refiners, the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association, the London Trades Council, and other important bodies, including the Journeymen Coopers of Birmingham, the Liverpool Workmen's Anti-Bounty Association, the Sheffield Federated Trades' Council, the Southport United Trades' Council, the Workmen of the Thames Sugar Refinery, &c. As the Protocol itself was printed in the West India Committee's circular, No. 20, it is not necessary to analyse the Minutes, except to notice that the Spanish Delegates raised the question of penalty for violation of convention or guarantees to be given to contracting countries; also, whether the receipt of Bounty-fed Sugar, on the same terms as Non-Bounty Sugar, was not an infraction of the Favoured Nation clause. These points will be again discussed when sittings are resumed.

**EXPORT DUTIES.**—West India Committee to Colonial Office (Lord Knutsford), March 6th, 1888. "My Lord, The West India Committee have received a telegram from the United States, which conveys the impression that a reduction of the Customs' duties on Sugar is probable during the present Session of Congress, and that it is proposed that only those countries which impose no export duties on Sugar shall be included within the advantages of the reduced tariff. Your Lordship is aware that British Guiana, having no export duty, would at once be able to send Sugar into the United States at the lowest duty which may be imposed; but Trinidad and other of the West India Islands, where export duties are imposed for defraying part of the cost of immigration, would be excluded from that arrangement to their serious detriment and loss. I have, therefore, to ask whether your Lordship would be good enough to treat this matter as an urgent one, and communicate by the outgoing mail, to-morrow, with the Governors of Trinidad and the Islands, so that measures may immediately be taken to abolish export duties and provide for the cost of immigration, as in British Guiana, by an acreage tax, or in some other equally equitable and unobjectionable



way. We beg to add that the above proposals are confined exclusively to Sugar. There is no desire to disturb the taxes on Cocoa, Asphalt, and other articles. I beg to hand you copy of resolution passed by a meeting of Trinidad Proprietors held here to-day on this subject. (Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman." "At a meeting of Trinidad Proprietors, held at 51, Lime-street, on the 6th March, 1888. Mr. N. Lubbock in the chair, it was resolved—That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State, calling his attention to the possibility of a reduction in the Sugar duties levied in the United States, and that such reduction would only apply to Sugar coming from countries where no export duties are imposed; and that he be respectfully requested to call the attention of the Governors of those West India Colonies where export duties on Sugar are charged, with a view to such duties being removed." Reply—Colonial Office to West India Committee, March 9. "Sir, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., respecting the expediency of removing the export duties levied for purposes of immigration in certain West India Colonies, in case the United States Government reduces its duty on Sugar from places where no export duties are levied. Copies of your letter were sent by yesterday's mail to the Governors of Jamaica, Trinidad, the Windward and the Leeward Islands. (Signed) R. G. W. HERBERT."

WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.—At the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee, March 15th, it was Resolved:—"That the West India Committee desire to place on record their sense of the importance of maintaining, in a satisfactory and permanent manner, the Telegraphic communication between the United Kingdom and the West Indies, and that a Sub-Committee be appointed to confer with the Telegraph Company, and to report to the Committee upon the subject."

BRITISH GUIANA.—The attention of the Committee has been called to a statement by the Under Secretary for the Colonies in the House of Commons, that Government considered some amendment of the Constitution of this Colony desirable. A Meeting of all the British Guiana Members of the West India Committee, will be held, as soon as possible, to consider a proposed communication to the Government.

SUGAR DUTIES IN THE UNITED STATES.—The new draft Bill proposes to abolish No. 13 as one of the standards for Duty. It provides that all Sugars not above No. 16 Dutch Standard, shall pay a duty of one and fifteen hundredths cents per pound. All Sugars above No. 16 and not above 20, two and twenty hundredths cents per pound; above No. 20 two and fifty hundredths cents per pound. The reduction of duty amounts to 22 per cent.

SORGHUM SUGAR.—Copy of British Consul's Report on Sugar Manufacture, from Sorghum, in Kansas will be sent to any Member applying for same.

TRINIDAD WEATHER reported fine for harvesting, March 16th.

CHINESE EMIGRATION.—A Treaty having been made between China and the United States, excluding Chinese labourers from the latter country, it has been suggested that the Chinese Ambassador in London be approached on the subject of diverting a stream of Chinese labourers to the British West Indies, under a carefully regulated system.

SUGAR CROPS.—The total Beet crop for 1887-8 is given by Mr. Licht's latest figures at 2,384,550 tons, against 2,728,810 in 1886-7, and 2,216,595 in 1885-6; or, 344,000 tons smaller than the last, and 168,000 tons greater than 1885-6. Cane crops for 1887-8 are estimated at 2,453,000 tons, against 2,339,550 in 1886-7, and 2,389,950 in 1885-6. The total production of Beet and Cane will therefore be 4,837,500, against 5,066,350

in 1886-7, and 4,556,550 in 1885-6. The visible supply of sugar is thus given, 1st March:—Stocks in Europe, 997,000 tons, against 1,177,000 in 1887. United States (18th February) 104,000 against 104,000. Havana (19th February) 31,000, against 46,000. At sea from East of Europe, 141,700, against 145,810. Total visible supply 1,273,700, against 1,472,810.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, ten weeks, 180,262 tons, against 162,081 same period in 1887; increase, 18,181. Deliveries, 146,980, against 159,047; decrease, 12,067. Stocks, 218,507, against 194,804; Surplus, 23,703.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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P.S.—Mr. Licht, under date March 17, estimates Beet Crop 1888-9 at 2,825,000 tons; and he gives the total visible stocks for March 1888 at 1,162,732 tons, against 1,370,779.



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[CIRCULAR (No. 24.)

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.

16th April, 1888.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.**—The Delegates resumed their sittings at the Foreign Office on April 5th. The Reports of the different Governments explaining the means they propose to adopt for the suppression of bounties formed the basis of discussion. A Committee of the Conference has been appointed to settle technical details.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES IN FRANCE.**—The following telegram dated Lille, April, 11th, is extracted from the *Times*. "To-day, during the sitting of the Council-General of the Nord, the Prefect read a telegram from the Minister of Finance contradicting the report that the French Delegate at the Sugar Conference in London had accepted, in the name of the French Government, the proposal for the suppression of the bounties on Sugar. The Minister explains that the Delegate received instructions to adhere to the suppression of the bounties only in the case of an understanding being arrived at among all the interested countries."

**EXPORT DUTIES IN SPAIN.**—In the Budget Statement a Law is proposed for the abolition of export dues on Sugar in accordance with the views of the International Conference.

**TELEGRAPHS.**—Government advertise that they are prepared to recommend Parliament to grant a Subsidy to a Contractor who will undertake to lay, maintain and work a Submarine Telegraph Cable from Halifax to Bermuda. The Contractor must state the amount of Subsidy required, the period not to exceed 20 years.

**BRITISH GUIANA MEDICAL LAW.**—West India Committee to Colonial Office, March 31st, 1888.—"With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Medical Law of British Guiana, and especially to Mr. Wingfield's letter to the West India Committee, of the 9th December last, I beg respectfully to call your attention to the following points:—Mr. Wingfield says: 'Sir Henry Holland regrets to learn that there has been some friction in carrying out the provisions of the above-mentioned Ordinance (1886), and he will request the Governor to impress upon the Officers of both of the Departments concerned, the importance of discharging their duties in a conciliatory manner, and especially to desire the Medical Inspector when inspecting Estate Hospitals to point out to the Managers any defects which he notices, and to enter all his requisitions in the Register as required by law.' In a statement made by His Excellency, the Governor, at a Meeting of the Court of Policy, held on February 28th last, and reported in the *Royal Gazette* Newspaper, of March 2nd, upon the question of entering requisitions in the Estate Register, His Excellency said that: 'No directions of the kind had been communicated to him by the Secretary of State, or the Colonial Office.' I am therefore to request that your Lordship would be pleased to allow the West India Committee again to express an opinion that the satisfactory working of the Medical Ordinance depends to a very large extent upon the requisitions of the Medical Officers being entered at the time of the visit of inspection in the Estate Register, so that proper explanations may be at once given, and the requirements of the law satisfied in the event of any default being shown." (Signed) JAMES L. OHLSON, Secretary. Copy reply—Colonial Office, April 4th. "In reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to inform you that instructions have been given to the Governor of British Guiana, that the requisitions of the Medical Inspector are in future to be entered in the Hospital Registers in accordance with the law." (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.



BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION FUND ACCOUNT.—Important papers have been received from the Colonial Office which are not available for printing in this Circular. They are open to the perusal of British Guiana Members, and will be printed in next Circular.

POST OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS.—Letters posted on board the Mail Steamers fully stamped with the Colony stamps are charged as unpaid letters on arrival in England. Secretary was requested by Members to obtain an explanation from the Post Office as to the practice. The following is the reply.—“General Post Office, London, April 12. I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state that it is the practice of this Department to charge as unpaid any letters written in the West Indian Colonies and irregularly carried on board the Contract Packets at West Indian ports, even though such letters bear postage stamps of the Colony in which they have presumably been written. In order that the sender of a letter may claim that he has ‘properly stamped with Colonial stamps’ any letter which he may wish to send from a Colony to this country, he must conform to the regular practice of posting his letter at the local Post Office. No Post Office can reasonably be expected to recognize payment by means of its stamps unless it has had the usual opportunity of carrying the value of such stamps to its revenue by cancelling them. Moreover, in the case in point, it is also to be considered that through avoiding the proper channel of the local Post Office, the letters escape being brought properly to account, so that, even when the Colonial stamps are eventually cancelled before delivery and so carried to the Colonial revenue, the service of conveyance by sea is not paid for out of such Colonial revenue, as it should be, but is performed at the cost of this Department, which, unless it treats these irregularly deposited letters as unpaid, would have no funds applicable to the cost of sea conveyance. It should be obvious to the senders of these letters that, if they desire the advantage of depositing their correspondence on board the Packets at the moment of their departure they cannot expect to enjoy, at the same time, the convenience proper to a Post Office; and the recipients of such letters have presumably their remedy against the senders, whom they should request to post their letters in proper time at the Post Office.—Signed) EDW. H. REA.”

SUGAR IN EGYPT.—Extract from Mr. Lang's report, printed by Foreign Bondholders Committee, January, 1888:—“The chief interests of the Daira Sanieh are connected with sugar, and these have been affected most seriously by the extensive and continuous fall in the value of that article during recent years. The extent of the injury caused to the Daira Sanieh from the recent fall in the price of sugar may best be understood when it is said that, had the price of sugar been the same in 1886 as it was in 1883, the Daira operations in 1886, instead of showing a loss of over £200,000, would have left a profit of £40,000 after payment of taxes and interest. The hope, therefore, of avoiding a deficit in the future depends upon the price of sugar. Every rise of 6d. per cwt. in sugar is equivalent to £20,000 of profit to the Daira Sanieh. Other influences are also at work tending to improve our position. Previously to 1887 the purchases of canes from private individuals were made at prices which left a large loss to the Daira. This unnecessary generosity has been put a stop to, and the prices paid for these canes have been reduced to a point at which even present low prices for the manufactured article do not leave a loss. Speaking generally, the operations of the factories are very satisfactory. While sugar has been falling, increasing efforts have been made to reduce the loss by greater manufacturing efficiency and constant economies. The details furnished in the Official Report on this point will be read with interest. In the short space of three years the cost of production has been reduced by 43 per cent., and the extraction of sugar from the cane has increased by 7 per cent. The average cost of fabrication was, in 1886, 3s. 8½d. per ton of sugar cane, while three of the









CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 25.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

14th May, 1888.

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—The *Times* of May 10th says—"We understand that the Sugar Bounties Conference have arrived at a practical agreement; that the final protocol, establishing a treaty under which Sugar Bounties are to be abolished, will receive the signatures of all the representatives of the Powers to-morrow or Saturday; and that after this week there will probably be an adjournment till Thursday, July 5th, when it is hoped the Treaty will be signed." The London newspapers notice favourably the approaching conclusion of a convention. The Delegates were entertained by the Grocers' Company on May 7th, when important speeches were made by Mr. Reeves (Master), Baron Henry de Worms, Count Kuefstein, Mr. White (the United States' Delegate) and Sir G. H. Chambers. It is announced that the proposed retention of the present system by Belgium will not interfere with the satisfactory conclusion of the Conference. Urgent protests have been made by the West India Committee and the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association, against the date of August, 1890, being fixed for the operation of the Convention. These bodies suggest that the date should be the summer of 1889 at the latest. It is not known what is the final decision on this point, but probably 1890 will be retained. The protocol has been signed. Questions reserved will be considered by the Governments of Countries interested, preparatory to signature of final Treaty in August. The Treaty is expected to contain a provision for prohibiting Sugar Imports under bounty.

A FRENCH VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE.—The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* mentions that the Convention may provide for a permanent International Commission, relating to Sugar Laws and Statistics. Belgium prefers to retain her present system, and the United States are not expected formally to come into the Treaty. The Spanish Delegates have raised the question of a penal clause. The French Sugar Industry awaits with impatience the Reports of the Sub-Committee of the Conference on technical points. The *Journal* urges that all the Powers should adopt the New System to satisfy the French industry.

SUGAR AND THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.—The West India Committee have considered whether a Trade Mark could be acquired, or any special designation by any Association or other body by which the produce of the members of such Association or body would be guaranteed as being genuine West India or Demerara Sugar. It seems clear that a selector of goods could register a Trade Mark to indicate Goods that he had so selected; or, without any Registered Trade Mark, the Committee might adopt some indication of its own to be attached to West India Sugars, by way of showing they were made or produced there. This becoming known, any person using it as attached to Sugars that were not West India, would be giving a false trade description within the meaning of the Merchandise Marks Act of 1887. No action has yet been taken upon these points; but, in the meantime, the following Advertisement has been inserted in the *Grocer*, and London Daily papers, "Caution.—Whereas certain Sugars are sold in England, artificially dyed to resemble the Crystallized Sugars of the British West Indies and Demerara, but which are not made or produced in those countries. All persons dealing in such Sugars are cautioned that the sale thereof as the produce of the British West Indies, or Demerara, or under any name or description calculated to lead to the belief that they were made or produced in those countries, is a false trade description within the meaning of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, and punishable as such.—By order, JAMES L. OHLSON, Secretary."

will now be made regarding it. I am afraid that if the scheme should be seriously contemplated the Governments concerned will consider their national interests rather than those of British commerce." A question for consideration by the West India Committee would be whether the above statements might not be supplemented by another in the following or similar terms—"To ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government would now consent to renew the negotiations for a Trade Treaty between the West India Colonies and the United States, according to the terms of the draft Treaty, provisionally agreed to in 1884, which Treaty gives to Great Britain and the Colonies generally the same advantages as are proposed to be given by the West India Colonies to the United States; and whether Her Majesty's Government will send a Delegate to the proposed Conference at Washington."

UNITED STATES' TARIFF.—The House of Representatives is still debating the general question. The discussion is likely to be prolonged for some time.

BRITISH GUIANA CONSTITUTION.—No further action has been taken. It is understood that the Governor is to report upon the whole question. Mr. Watt, M.P., has given notice, on going into Committee of Supply, to call the attention of the House to the necessity of a reform in the existing constitution of British Guiana.

BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION.—It has been decided, pending advices from the Colony, not to print the recent correspondence upon the Immigration Fund Account, but it may be stated that the Government appear to incline to the view that the Balance to the credit of the Immigration Fund in December 1884, was not a real Balance. In order to obtain the true Balance at that or any other date all receipts and expenditure up to the given date should be taken into account. That the date for closing the account should be 30th June to agree with Indian Immigration Season, and year of tax imposition; and that if on closing said account, there is any considerable balance it might be safe to make some reduction of Indenture Fee for next season; but it should rather be invested with the balance of interest account in the books of the Loan Commissioners for a back passage fund, the interest of which might be treated as revenue of Immigration Fund.

EXPORT DUTIES.—With reference to the correspondence in Circular 23 on the subject of the abolition of Export Duties in view of the Tariff changes in the United States it is observed that the Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State has been submitted to the Legislatures of the different Colonies. Governor Sir Henry Norman, Jamaica, announced that he was in communication with the British Minister at Washington. With regard to Trinidad the following statement expresses, still further, the views of the West India Committee on this subject:—"There is a general objection to any remission of the contribution of the Cocoa Industry towards Immigration. It would be extremely inequitable for such a course to be taken, considering the great advantages in respect of immigrant labour enjoyed by the Cocoa Proprietors. It is hoped, therefore, that the amount will continue to be contributed by that Industry in the most convenient form, which would probably be an export duty based on the amount that would have been paid by Cocoa had the export duties as a whole remained untouched. If an acreage tax on Cocoa, upon the above basis were imposed, the effect would be the same, if the produce of the tax were as usual carried to the Immigration Fund. Any increase of the Indenture fee on new immigrants would be very unfair, as Sugar bears more than its proper share at present, and without Sugar contributions in the past to the Immigration Fund there would have been but little labour, and the other Industries could not have been maintained at all. As to the question of *immediate* legislation so as to cover this crop there is no urgent necessity, but everything depends upon the news from the States



which will reach the West Indies as soon as it does this country. The main thing is to be in time to take advantage of the reduced duties as soon as they come into force."

CUBA.—ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITION.—The German Journal, *Export*, communicates an extract from the report of the Austrian Consul-General at Havana, the following particulars of which are interesting. Another year has passed away without in any way improving the sad situation here, both in an economic and financial respect. It was again a year of heavy struggles for existence, and it is only owing to the "eternally bountiful" nature, which has so richly endowed this Spanish province, once upon a time justly called the "Pearl of the Antilles," that the threatening danger of total impoverishment has once more been safely passed. The indifference of the Government at Madrid has, in a great measure, to account for this. Export duties, heavy taxes, expensive wages, &c., make it almost impossible for the cultivators of cane sugar to compete with the foreign manufacturers of beetroot sugar, who are strongly supported by their respective Governments. The blindness or ignorance of the Madrid Cabinet seems incomprehensible; it ought to know that the existence of this province depends mainly upon its successful competition with beetroot sugar, and that this can only be brought about by a complete abolition of the Export Duties, and of other imposts heavily burdening the plantations. If that were done, Cuba might still gradually recover from the wounds inflicted; but, if not, the island will cease to hold a position in the commercial world. Enormous sums have been invested in the grand machinery of many Sugar Plantations, and, if the production of Sugar were discontinued, the owners would be completely ruined."

DEMERARA WEATHER.—20th April, rainy season appears to be approaching; 25th April, heavy rains beneficial to cultivation; 4th May, showery and favourable for cultivation; 7th May, showery and favourable for cultivation.

TRINIDAD WEATHER.—24th April, weather favourable—weather fine for harvesting; 30th April, weather favourable; 6th May, weather favourable; 9th May, weather fine for harvesting. (Members receiving telegrams of weather in any Colony are requested to send copies to the Secretary. The Secretary begs to thank Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., for so kindly forwarding copies of their telegrams).

BEET CROP.—In France, Austria, and Germany, the sowings have been considerably retarded by the weather. M. Licht, in Circular of April 21st, reduces the estimate of Beet crop for 1888-9 from 2,825,000 tons to 2,800,000, owing to a modification of the figures for Germany.

GENERAL STOCKS.—The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were, in April (including floating cargoes) 952,930, against 1,054,495 in 1887. In United States, 3rd May, the total stocks were 150,000 tons, against 166,330. Havana, 105,000, against 109,308. Total stocks, 1,207,930 tons, against 1,330,133.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings: 18 weeks, 334,620 tons, against 321,605 same period 1887; increase 13,015. Deliveries: 283,161, against 301,019; decrease 17,858. Stocks: 230,684, against 212,346; surplus: 24,338.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 26.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

51, LIME STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

11th June, 1888.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—After June 16th the address of the West India Committee will be BILLITER HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. The direct entrance is in Billiter Street, the office being on the first floor. The office may also be reached by an entrance in Billiter Square, opposite Druces', and one in Billiter Avenue, opposite the West India Docks' Office.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.**—Since the last Circular, no fresh information is available. The Draft Convention, respecting the details of which it is understood the Powers are still negotiating, has not been made public. It is still believed the Treaty will be finally signed in August. The Committee are informed that working men's meetings are being held in different parts of the country, and that the following Resolution is being sent in to the Government: "That this Meeting is gratified to learn that all the Delegates from the Nations represented in the International Conference have signed a Draft Protocol and Convention for the abolition of Export State Bounties on Sugar, and trusts that the Government will maintain the penal clause in such convention excluding from the markets of the other countries the Bounty-aided products of any nation which does not conform to the provisions of the Treaty, as was adopted by Parliament in the 16th section of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887."

**SUGAR BOUNTIES CONVENTION.**—The West India Committee addressed the following letter to the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., on May 16th.—"We notice that in the course of the conversation which followed your reply to Mr. Bolton's question in the House of Commons last evening on the Sugar Conference, a fear was expressed that the people of this country would in consequence of any clause prohibiting the import of sugar from countries continuing to grant bounties after the Treaty came into operation, have to pay an increased price for this article of food. We beg to assure you, from our knowledge of the sugar industries of the world, and especially of the capacities for producing sugar in the British Colonies (respecting which latter point we possess the greatest possible experience), of our earnest and settled conviction that no increase of price to the English consumer will follow from the operation of such a measure. On the contrary, the absence of competition based upon bounties will give such an impetus to the production of Sugar in all parts of the world that the interests of the consumer will be benefitted rather than injured, because a lower price, based upon free competition, must in the long run be established. Signed, N. LEBBOCK, *Chairman*." Mr. Smith thanked the Committee for the above letter. On May 17th, the following further letter was sent to Mr. Smith, and duly acknowledged by him. "Referring to the letter which we had the honour to address to you yesterday, we beg respectfully to call your attention to the enclosed letter which recently appeared in the *Times*. The writers of the letter, Messrs. James Keiller and Son, are the well known manufacturers of Jams and Preserves, using a very large quantity of Sugar in the articles which they produce. You will observe that these representatives of the important Jam industry, acquiesce in the abolition of bounties and express the opinion that such abolition would not be detrimental to that industry, or increase the price of sugar to the consumer, in whatever form it may be purchased. (Signed) N. LEBBOCK, *Chairman*." Copies of Messrs. Keiller and Son's letter can be



had from the Secretary. On May 16th, the Committee wrote to Lord Salisbury, calling attention to an extract from the *Deutsche Zucker Industrie* of May 11th, showing a remarkable agreement of opinion that unless a ~~penal~~ clause in regard to countries continuing to grant bounties is inserted in the Convention, it is hopeless to expect that any satisfactory result will follow the protracted labours of the Conference. This view is in entire harmony with the representations addressed to Her Majesty's Government by the British Home and Colonial Sugar Industries. The following is the conclusion of the above extract: "So much however, is clear to us, that if the English Government only determines upon having countervailing duties, the bounties will be abolished by Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Holland (for Java). And this would put an end to the fear of prices in the English market going up to the extent of the countervailing duty, for the enormous production of the countries just named would have to continue the struggle on the world's market with all other sugar producing countries. If, however, the English Government cannot resolve upon such a measure, the Conference will very probably pass away without having led to any useful result." On May 25th, the Committee sent further extracts from Continental sugar papers, showing still more strongly that it was within the power of Her Majesty's Government to secure an effective settlement of the question. The *Bulletin des Halles* of May 12th, acknowledges England to be the "mistress of the situation," and in declaring her intention to exclude from her market all bounty-fed Sugar necessitates the unanimous adhesion of all the Powers to the Convention. The *Deutsche Zucker Industrie* of May 18th, says "We have yet to learn that the English Government really made any declaration as to prohibiting imports, and we also require confirmation of the report that Germany and Russia are in consequence prepared to abolish their premiums. Should, as we think it very probable, the latter report prove to be correct, Austria must follow the example of Germany and Russia; and then the only country to consider will be Belgium, for the production of France in the three campaigns, 1884-85//1885-86, // 1887-88, was not sufficiently large to cover her own consumption. Only in the calendar year 1887 was there a surplus available for export of 21,000 tons, whilst in the year 1885 as much as 195,000 tons had to be imported by France. Although the quantity of Sugar which Belgium has to dispose of on the world's market is very large for that country, it is too small to have any influence on the market, so that English consumers of Sugar need not have any fear of prices advancing. The English Parliament cannot but come to this conclusion, based as it is on irrefutable figures, and it may consequently be asserted that, provided the above two reports be true, the question of Sugar Bounties is now settled."

SUGAR LEGISLATION IN FRANCE.—A Bill applying only to the crop of 1888-9 has been passed by the Chamber. It nominally reduces from 50 to 40 francs per 100 Kilos the duty on refined Sugar of whatever origin, but imposes a temporary surtax of 50 per cent. upon duties imposed on Sugars of all origin, thus bringing the duty up to 60 francs per 100 Kilos Refined Sugars. Lower qualities in proportion. Sugars free under the law of 1884 will be subjected to a tax of 20 francs per 100 Kilos. Other provisions deal with the surtax on Colonial Sugars subject to *déchet* and the surtax of 7 francs upon all foreign Sugars is continued to 31st August, 1890. The Bill has been strongly opposed by the Sugar representatives in the Chamber, as it reduces their Bounty by one third. The "Times" of June 6th, inserts the following Paris Telegram:—"The Bill curtailing the profits of the Beet-root Sugar Refiners was adopted by the Chamber to-day (June 8th) by 242 to 208."

RUSSIAN LEGISLATION.—The London Newspapers of June 4th mention a report that Russia will raise the duties on refined Sugar to sixty shillings per 100 Kilos.



**UNITED STATES TARIFF BILL.**—The St. Louis Convention in nominating Mr. Cleveland for a second term as President includes the passing of the Tariff Bill as one of the "planks in its platform." The Bill itself is at present making but very small progress in the House of Representatives.

**BRITISH GUIANA CONSTITUTION.**—The debate raised by Mr. A. O'Connor in the House of Commons on June 1st will have been read with interest. The Under Secretary of State, Baron H. de Worms, after clearly explaining the Constitution of the Colony, said Her Majesty's Government considered some amendment desirable and added: "To prevent misunderstanding, it was desirable to state plainly that although there was every disposition to consider the expediency of reforming the constitution of the colony, so as to give all classes a more direct participation than they have at present in the consideration of its internal affairs, Her Majesty's Government had no intention of adopting any such changes as would transfer from the Crown the full control of such questions relating to the Boundary, or otherwise, as were being agitated by some persons at the present time." The Secretary of State has not yet received the Governor's Report on the subject.

**ST. LUCIA CARGO DUES.**—The Committee regret to be informed that the law imposing cargo dues on steamships arriving in this Colony will be confirmed on the ground of the necessities of the revenue. Such taxation was objected to as being likely to prejudice the interests of the Port.

**GRENADA EXPORT DUTIES.**—The protest of the West India Committee (see Circular No. 20) against the levying of export duties in Grenada for general revenue has been warmly supported by a very large number of proprietors and others in the Island. The West India Committee are gratified by this expression of confidence, and trust that in this and other West India Colonies it will be largely felt that the efforts of the West India Committee are directed to secure the full and unrestricted prosperity of the agricultural and commercial interests connected not only with Sugar, but with every industry. The subscription raised in Grenada is acknowledged in a special letter to Mr. WILLIAMSON.

**QUARANTINE IN BARBADOS.**—The Committee have been informed, in answer to an inquiry as to the present position of this question, that the Secretary of State has directed the Governor of the Colony to bring the representations of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company before the Quarantine Board, with an expression of Lord Knutsford's opinion that some modification of quarantine, as at present imposed, might safely be made.

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.**—An important Parliamentary Return is about to be published, showing the Favoured Nation Treaties between Great Britain and Foreign Countries. The bearing of these Treaties upon inter-colonial Trade arrangements will be seen from this return. Copies of the following papers will be forwarded to Members if desired:—British Guiana Consolidated Half-yearly Return of Immigrants to December, 1887; Report of Immigration Agent-General for 1887; Statement of the Public Debt of British Guiana, 1887; Speech of the Governor to the Combined Court, May, 1888; Balance Sheet and Financial Statement of British Guiana for 1887; Annual Report of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, 1887. Also a Bulletin regarding some diseases of Plants issued by the same Department.



**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Barbados: 28th May, good reaping weather; 11th June, slow reaping weather. Demerara: 23rd May, weather continues wet; 5th June, weather showery; 8th June, weather showery and favourable to cultivation. Trinidad: 15th May, weather middling; 22nd May, weather favourable; 24th May, weather fine for harvesting; 30th May, weather too wet; 5th June, weather too wet; 7th June, the rainy season has set in; 7th June, the rainy weather has set in. (Members receiving telegrams of weather in any Colony are requested to send copies to the Secretary. The Secretary begs to thank Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., The Colonial Company, Limited, and Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited, Glasgow, for so kindly forwarding copies of their telegrams.

**BET CROPS.**—The weather for the Beet has become more seasonable, although rain is still much wanted. The crop in France is seriously menaced by the dryness leaving the fields free to numerous insects. Besides these insects the *Sylphe* or *Bouclier Sombre* (order of coleoptera or beetle) has made great ravages in the north of France. Where this larve passes, beet must be resown. From these causes great apprehensions are formed as to the future of the crop so strongly compromised at the beginning. In Belgium and Holland some rain has fallen, but not sufficiently, and in Austria and Germany the weather conditions are the same as in France. This delay renders the result of the sugar crop very uncertain. M. Licht estimates as follows:—

|                     | 1888-89.<br>After last<br>year's yield. | 1888-89.<br>After an<br>average yield | 1887-88.  | 1886-87.  |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany ... ..      | 970,000                                 | 1,070,000                             | 925,000   | 1,018,842 |
| Austria ... ..      | 480,000                                 | 515,000                               | 412,500   | 523,060   |
| France ... ..       | 425,000                                 | 490,000                               | 405,000   | 486,443   |
| Russia ... ..       | 440,000                                 | 450,000                               | 430,000   | 479,582   |
| Belgium ... ..      | 155,000                                 | 165,000                               | 135,000   | 132,570   |
| Holland ... ..      | 42,500                                  | 45,000                                | 36,000    | 32,263    |
| Other Countries ... | 62,500                                  | 65,000                                | 56,050    | 56,050    |
| Tons ... ..         | 2,575,000                               | 2,800,000                             | 2,399,550 | 2,728,810 |

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht.) The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were in May (including floating cargoes), 843,123 tons, against 873,824 tons in 1887. In United States, 127,000 against 120,000. Havana, 106,680 against 111,760. Total Stocks, 1,076,803, against 1,105,584.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings: 22 weeks, 417,889 tons, against 398,890 same period 1887; increase 18,999. Deliveries: 356,485, against 366,940; decrease 10,455. Stocks: 246,629, against 223,710; surplus 22,919.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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[CIRCULAR No. 27

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET,

LONDON, E.C.,

9th July, 1888.

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—Baron Henry de Worms has again proceeded to the Continent to consult the representatives of the French, Belgian, and other Governments as to the final arrangements. Strong hopes continue to be entertained of a successful result. The Russian Government, according to a newspaper telegram, dated St. Petersburg, July 6th, have authorised the signature of the Convention. The question has been several times recently mentioned in Parliament. On June 21st, Baron de Worms, replying to Mr. Labouchere, said, "If legislation were necessary, ample time would be given for considering and discussing the Convention before such legislation was introduced." On June 25th, replying to Mr. Picton, Sir J. Fergusson said the negotiations related solely to sugar bounties, and did not enter into questions of protective duties on British sugar, or on British manufactures in which sugar was used. Sir J. Fergusson also stated in reply to Mr. Illingworth, that the United States representative attended the Conference, but without committing his Government, and that it was not known what course that Government might take at future stages. On June 28th, Baron de Worms replying to Mr. Summers, stated— "That the New Zealand Act of 1884, for the encouragement of Beetroot and Sorghum had been practically inoperative, and that the Colonial Government would come into the Convention." Mr. W. H. Smith has also again assured the House that ample time would be given to consider the Convention before legislation, if any were necessary, were proposed. A good meeting has been held by workmen at Derby in support of the action taken by the Government. Resolutions of support have also been forwarded from several other industrial centres. This action on the part of the working men of the country is particularly effective at the present crisis of the question, and important letters in acknowledgment have been published, especially from Baron de Worms, the President of the Conference.

SACCHARINE.—The *Bulletin des Halles*, July 5th, referring to the discussion at the Academy of Medicine on the introduction of Saccharine into food, says that some wines, called Champagne, had been received by the laboratory, in which sugar had been replaced by Saccharine. Certain quantities of glucose, solid and liquid, containing a percentage (1 to 2 pour mille) of Saccharine made in German factories, had been introduced into France. These facts have been placed before the Prefect of Police for consideration by the Council of Hygiene and Health of the Department of the Seine. A commission was appointed and its report adopted by the council. In this report M. Dujardin-Beaumez calls attention to the digestive troubles caused by Saccharine, and the commission unanimously consider it a "medicament" and not a food. To prevent falsifications the commission demands the rejection of Saccharine from general alimentation as dangerous to the public health. It might render some service in therapeutics, notably among a small number of diabetic patients who could not take sugar.



CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.—The proposal for trade arrangements between these countries has been often discussed in past years. The most practical attempt was made in 1885 by Jamaica, from which Island a deputation, consisting of two Government officials and two members of Council, proceeded to Ottawa to endeavour to bring about an arrangement. While the negotiation did great good, for various reasons it was not at the time carried through. Lord Derby's despatch, intimating that the arrangement should include all the West-India Colonies, discouraged Jamaica from contemplating a certain sacrifice of revenue for advantages in a market capable of taking only a limited quantity of Sugar, which advantages would be open, on similar conditions, to all the West Indian Colonies. A general impression has thus been caused that while one colony (or perhaps two) could beneficially enter into relations with Canada, no good result would follow by including at the present time the whole crop of the West Indies, of which Canada could only take about a third. The question, however, has been revived in an interesting debate in the Canadian House of Commons in April last, raised by General Laurie, who has sent reports of the same to the West India Committee, and to the West Indian Legislatures and Governments. General Laurie summarizes the history of the negotiations not only with Jamaica, but with the Leeward Islands, which latter were less advanced than the former. He enumerates various articles, now largely supplied by the United States, which might be imported into Jamaica from Canada. The Dominion could take in return the Sugar and other products of Jamaica with a mutual reduction, or absence of duties. As Jamaica could not supply the whole of the Sugar required by Canada, say 80,000 to 100,000 tons, another colony might join Jamaica, and perhaps gradually, as consumption increased in Canada, the whole of the West Indies might be included in the course of time. The difficulty on the part of Canada is to make up the loss of the revenue now derived from Sugar, and the financial aspect of the question would also have to be very seriously considered by the West India Colonies desirous of coming in. The West India Committee have not arrived at any general policy upon the matter, which is mentioned now to elicit the opinion of their friends in the Colonies.

BEET CROP.—Following abundant rains, the weather on the Continent remains too cold. In France, the ravages of the *Sylpha opaca* have much decreased, although insects of other kinds are much complained of. The yield of the Beet fields is likely to be very unequal, and crop estimates are difficult to form. In Austria-Hungary and Germany the weather has been better for the roots than in France, although temperature has now fallen in those countries as well, with probably like results, as in France. The last estimate of M. Licht, dated 16th June, retains practically the figures quoted in Committee's circular, No. 26.

GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).—These are rather more favourable for prices. The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were, in June (including floating cargoes), 752,821 tons, against 750,848 in 1887. In United States, 194,000 against 237,016. Havana, 91,440 against 106,680. Total stocks, 1,038,261 against 1,094,544.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings: 26 weeks, 497,532 tons, against 475,479 same period, 1887: increase 22,053. Deliveries: 424,256, against 429,140; decrease, 4,884. Stocks: 258,501 against 238,099; Surplus 20,402.

WEATHER TELEGRAM.—Barbados: 26th June, fine rains generally throughout the Island 10th July, weather showery; Demerara, 13th June, moderate rains continue: 20th June, weather showery: 21st June, weather dry. Trinidad: 12th June, weather too wet.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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Manufacturers. This year the sum taken from the State would be 70,000,000*l.* The result was to make the price of a kilogramme of French Sugar 1*l.* in France, and 30*s.* in England. This was a state of things which could not be justified, and the treasury could not continue to make these sacrifices. If the moderate proposal of the Government was not accepted, the whole question would come up, and the Sugar Manufacturers might be serious losers. M. Peytral, Minister of Finance, said that the Government opposed the amendment. On a vote it was rejected by 169 against 111. The clauses and the Bill in its entirety were adopted."

The following is a Berlin telegram in *The Times* of 23rd July:—"Now that Germany has formally given her adhesion to the terms of the Draft Convention respecting the Sugar Bounties, the probable attitude of the other Powers concerned in this question becomes a matter of anxious and immediate interest. In official circles here it is thought certain that the joint action of Germany, Holland and Spain, the three countries exporting the largest proportion of the Sugar entering the United Kingdom, must prove of irresistible force in bearing down possible opposition. The proceedings at the last Conference have not yet been made public, but here it is no secret that the German Government has not in any way altered its views, expressed by the German delegates at the first meeting of the Conference, condemnatory of the proposals of Belgium to substitute in her own case, for a total abolition of the Bounties, a so-called system of 'equivalents'—that is, to lower her duty on Sugar and raise the standard of the legal yield of the saccharine matter from the beet. It is equally well known that France would reject such a compromise, which Holland has already absolutely declined. Were Belgium to refuse to give way upon this point, her position would be one of dangerous isolation; for more than four-fifths of her total production of Sugar is exported, and of this quantity the largest proportion finds its way into the English market. In France the problem in its present state has certain points of peculiarity. There the Bounties have steadily increased as a burden on the taxpayer, from 73,000,000*l.* per annum three years ago, to the very large sum of 92,000,000*l.*, which they will reach next year. However, the reason why there are still difficulties in the way of abolishing the Sugar Bounties in France is to be found, not in any doubt, on the part of the Finance Minister, as to the economical expediency of such a course, but in the great influence exercised by the representatives of the Sugar Industry in the Senate, the Chamber and the Press. These are the views entertained in Berlin on the subject of the Sugar Bounties Convention by those best qualified to express an opinion. Germany will now depute a plenipotentiary, the German Ambassador, to sign the Convention in London, at the meeting next month. The treaty will be presented to the Reichstag for ratification at the commencement of next Session. Baron Henry de Worms left Berlin for Brussels this morning. In German official circles great credit is given to the British Plenipotentiary for the tact with which he has conducted the difficult negotiations intrusted to him."

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.—Acknowledging a resolution passed by the Sheffield branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, in favour of the abolition of Sugar bounties, Baron H. de Worms writes from Berlin:—"I hardly know which is the more obnoxious form of competition—that which is, or was, conducted by false trade marks or State bounties. Judged by approved commercial principles they are both indefensible, for while the former enabled an inferior workman to filch away and profit by the reputation of the skilful artisan, the latter made it quite impossible for British traders not in the receipt of State subsidies to compete on natural and equitable terms with the foreign producers. Bounties must



therefore be placed in the same category as spurious trade-marks. They are both illegitimate, unfair and unjust; and it is to me surprising that the British workmen, whose interests are mainly concerned, should have so long tolerated either species of improper dealing. I only hope our present efforts may secure to the Sugar operatives as effective redress for their undoubted grievances as was obtained for mechanics and others when the Merchandise Marks Act became law. It is of the essence of our national existence to welcome competition from whatever source, provided it be fair and honest, but when it is otherwise we are bound to recognise our obligations to the industrial classes, to defend them against systems which, like bounties, are antagonistic to free trade, and which deprive them of the fruits of their labour, and indeed, of the labour itself." Mr. Mundella replying to the resolution, reminds the Society that the Merchandise Marks Act does not prohibit importation unless the goods prohibited are falsely or improperly marked.

**NEW BOUNTIES AND DRAWBACKS IN GERMANY.**—The West India Committee sent the following notification to the English Press. An official notification has recently been issued in Germany, to the effect that, in consequence of representations having been made to the Government by the manufacturers of goods containing sugar and cocoa, that if a drawback were given of the duty paid upon the sugar and cocoa used, the export trade might be largely increased, the Bundesrath has empowered the First Land Finance Bureau, conditionally, under the necessary regulations for official control, to grant a drawback upon the exportations of such goods corresponding to the tax paid upon the sugar and cocoa used. Upon the above statement the following conversation ensued in the House of Commons.—Mr. Bolton (July 23rd) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was true, as stated in the *Times* newspaper, that the German Government had determined to grant a drawback upon the exportation of manufactured goods containing sugar and cocoa corresponding to the tax paid upon the sugar and cocoa used; and, if so, whether the importation of such goods into the United Kingdom would be prohibited under the provisions of the recently concluded convention or treaty respecting bounty-fed sugar? Mr. W. H. Smith.—“I have reason to believe that the statement that the Hon. Member quotes is accurate, but I have repeatedly informed the House that the convention for the suppression of sugar bounties has not yet been concluded, but is still under consideration of the Governments concerned, and I am not, therefore, in a position to enter into details with respect to its provisions, nor to say whether a particular course is or is not at variance with them.”

**WEST INDIAN CONSTITUTIONS.**—The following is reproduced, without expressing any opinion on the subject:—“Sir T. Esmonde (July 17th) asked the Secretary for the Colonies whether any representations had been made by the inhabitants of the West India Islands with reference to a reform of the system of government obtaining in those Colonies; and, if so, whether the Government intended taking any steps to meet their wishes.”—Sir J. Gorst—“Her Majesty's Government is considering the request of some of the inhabitants of Trinidad for a modification of the Constitution of that Island, and it is possible that some limited changes may be agreed to. Some of the inhabitants of other islands have also expressed a desire to have representative government, but have been informed that Her Majesty's Government does not think it desirable to change the Constitutions of these islands. The education and political knowledge of the bulk of the population in the West India Islands are not yet sufficiently advanced to enable them to exercise the franchise beneficially to their interests.”



BRITISH GUIANA.—A representative meeting of British Guiana Proprietors was held at Billiter House on 12th July. The question for discussion was connected with the Excise arrangements, as to the quantity of Rum produced in the Colony. Mr. W. S. Turner, was present by invitation, in an unofficial capacity. He referred to the tables in his report, 1886, pp. 6-7, showing comparison between different colonies as to consumption of Rum, leading to the belief that the consumption in British Guiana being so low, a quantity must be consumed without paying duty, to the loss of the Revenue. He attributed this to the present, faulty system of ascertaining the quantity made and the unreliability of the returns from distilleries. He wished to have more accurate returns by means which would not hamper the distilleries unduly with Government interference, which he did not desire to increase. In the course of the discussion a calculation was made that apparently half a gallon per head was less drunk in British Guiana than in other Colonies, (It was pointed out that there was a large population of Coolies who, as a rule, did not drink much spirits.) But supposing this half gallon to be really drunk without duty, it meant a loss to the Revenue of about £40,000. It was admitted by the meeting that Rum statistics were unreliable, and that it would be a great advantage to Estates if they could be made more correct. It was generally agreed that the principle of making such changes as would bring about this result was worthy of acceptance, but in regard to the detailed regulations proposed by Mr. Turner, the proprietors would take time to consider them and communicate further with him. Mr. Turner said vats should be accurately gauged, the result being checked by the Commissary, or a system of weighing should be adopted. Managers should be able to ascertain correctly the quantity of Rum made. (Discussion on best means of gauging.) Managers should know what spirits ought to be in distillery when Commissary visits it. The result of the meeting was that the principle of enabling Managers to know what they are making, under correction by the Commissary, was approved; detailed regulations to be considered later. Mr. Turner called attention to Siemen's Alcoholometer, which registers both bulk and proof gallons. (Cost, about £60.) He had examined it at Hanimersmith Distillery, and had returns made up showing how it agreed with Inland Revenue results.

JAMAICA IMMIGRATION.—The Jamaica Members of the Committee had the honour of an informal and unofficial interview at Billiter House with Governor Sir Henry Norman, on July 26th, on the subject of the Labour Supply for the Sugar Estates of Jamaica. A letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State. His Excellency, the Governor, is not responsible in any way for the acceptance of the statements made in the letter, but it is understood that the matter will be considered at an early meeting of the Legislative Council. The following is the copy of the letter addressed to the Secretary of State. This letter is for the confidential information of the proprietors concerned. "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Wingfield's letter of the 18th July enclosing, for the information of the West India Committee, copy of a letter addressed to your Lordship, by Sir Henry Norman, containing observations on the letter from the West India Committee to your Lordship, of the 22nd June, on the subject of Coolie Immigration into Jamaica.—(2). I have to express the thanks of the Committee for the copy of His Excellency's letter, and to assure you that the views therein expressed have received the most serious consideration. We are aware that the policy of the Jamaica Government and Legislature has been to suspend Coolie Immigration, and to reduce the establishment, but we would respectfully submit that this would not be inconsistent with an occasional introduction of a few hundreds of immigrants whose services might be required in a particular district of the Island, and might, indeed, be essential to keep the Sugar Estates of that district in cultivation.—(2). Sir Henry Norman has been good enough to allow us to consult with him,



during his present visit to England, and we believe that His Excellency would not object to lay the matter before the Council, should fresh legislation be required—(4). Although the establishment in Jamaica is in course of reduction we do not gather that the introduction of 500 people during the present season would necessitate any considerable enlargement of that establishment, or increase of its cost, as the machinery for the inspection and protection of the Coolies already in the Island must presumably be maintained for some time to come, and the proposed small addition to the number of Coolies could hardly make much difference in this respect: The decision upon this point, however, rests with the Jamaica Government. We would only premise that the charges should not be increased to an extent that would be prohibitory.—(5). This proposal is of course made with no intention of causing any interference with the reduction (with a view to the eventual abolition) of the Export duties. We understand that there would be no objection on the part of the Jamaica Government to the cost of introduction (with the proportion for back passage) being repaid in the usual way by indenture fees spread over five years, at probably a less rate of interest than at present.—(6). We notice that the rate of passage money, per statute adult, in the two ships of 1878 was £12 10s. od., or equal to the passage money for each individual immigrant £10 14s. 2d. The Indian expenses and Surgeons superintendents' fees were £4 9s. od., the amount to be invested on arrival to provide back passage was £2 18s. od., showing a total cost to employer (irrespective of interest) of £16 1s. 2d.—(7). But the ordinance of 1879 settled the cost to the employer (covering the above items, but excepting official salaries) at £15. According to the Immigration Fund Account of British Guiana for 1887.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| The average rate of passage-money per statute adult was | £9 5 10 |
| Charges in connection with recruiting                   | 2 6 0   |
| Charges in connection with voyage                       | 0 12 6  |
| <hr/>   |         |
| Making a sum of   | 12 4 4  |

If the above calculation is correct as an indication of the expenses of the proposed Jamaica Immigration, there may be added, say, a capitation fee for the agent (the British Guiana Agent—supposing the Jamaica Agent not to be available, will probably close his shipments by the end of the year, and could send a ship to Jamaica before the close of the season in February or March, 1889).

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Capitation fee   | 1 0 0   |
| The investment for back passage should not be estimated at more than | 1 10 0  |
| <hr/>  |         |
| Showing the cost to employer   | 14 14 4 |

(8). With regard to the bounty payable under Sec. 15 of Law 18, of 1879, we have always considered this to be unnecessary to the extent at which it has been carried, and might be modified; but if the Government decide to continue the same or grant a less amount to new immigrants at the expiration of their term of residence, the amount would be paid as heretofore by the general revenue, for the reasons (which need not be here stated) which govern the colonization of immigrants as beneficial to the revenue, and for the good of the Island generally. We notice that no further expense will be incurred for some time to come under this head on account of old immigrants, all the claims being now exhausted, and any new immigrants now introduced would not be able to claim the payment of this back passage money for ten years.—(9). The employer should continue to have the option of paying the total cost at the time of the allotment of the immigrants



to his estate ; or if he elects to have the cost spread over 5 years, we would suggest that the interest chargeable on planters' notes should be reduced to the lowest amount at which the Government could borrow the money, which would probably be not more than 3 or 4 per cent.—(10). We notice that there will be an estimated surplus on the 30th September, 1888, of Immigration Revenue over Expenditure, amounting to £12,218 15s. 7d. (see page 163, Estimates for 1888). In connection with this, we have to point out that while the sum of £15 was made payable by the employer under Section 8 of Law No. 18, 1879, for a particular year, the principle was recognized that any balance arising year by year in consequence of the financial operations then settled, should be applied to diminish the charges payable by the employers of new immigrants. As the above balance at the credit of the Immigration Fund on September 30th next is clearly the result of the financial working of the immigration system, we may assume that a portion of it could be used to defray any extra expense of the establishment in the colony caused by the introduction of 500 new immigrants, and also in reduction of the direct charge payable by employers. The account does not appear to show any charges against this surplus.—(11). We might also infer that the balance of the sums invested for back passage, paid by the employers of immigrants in past years, now amounting to £12,213 13s. 6d., is in excess of what would be actually required. We think that if this is the case, part of the money might be employed in reducing any amounts still payable by existing employers of indentured immigrants, and in reducing still further the sum to be invested for back passage by the employers of new immigrants.—(12). In humbly submitting this matter to your lordship, the West India Committee are acting upon the wishes of the owners of estates in a particular district of Jamaica, where labour has become very scarce. We have at present no means of knowing what number would be actually applied for in the colony, but we trust your Lordship would approve of the head of the Immigration Department issuing a circular, or a notification in the Gazette, stating the cost to employers as estimated by the Government, hours of labour, rates of wages, house accommodation, and other points necessary for the guidance of the applicant for immigrants, and inviting applications on the basis of that estimate. In any case, it will thus be ascertained what demand exists for Coolie labour, and if that demand is sufficient, supposing a reasonable cost, we trust that arrangements will be approved by which the introduction of 500 Coolie immigrants from India will be effected during the present season."

UNITED STATES.—There are two Tariff Amendment Bills now before the Legislature of the United States. The Mills' Bill has passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate are engaged upon another Bill presented by the Republican party. It is hardly likely that the question will be settled until after the Presidential campaign.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Blue Book for 1887 has been received, and is open to the inspection of Members.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Barbadoes: 24th July, weather wet. Demerara: 12th July, weather showery and favourable to cultivation ; 25th July, weather showery and favourable to cultivation.

BEET PROSPECTS.—The weather in France is very wet, exceptionally cold for the season, and there is no sunshine. Each day the injury to the Beet Root becomes aggravated. Some of the earlier sowings may produce a satisfactory crop, but the later sowings have shown such tardy development, and the Root is so small, that, unless the weather changes entirely, and the end of the season does not present any exceptional

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atmospheric aspects, the crop generally in France must be seriously affected. In Germany, the weather has been more seasonable, and the Beet Root has made considerable progress. The complaints relative to the yellowing of the leaves, the smallness of the Roots, &c., do not appear to apply generally to the crop. In Austria-Hungary, July weather has been more like April. The improvement is hardly likely to be durable. Owing to excessive humidity the leaves have become yellow, and are more luxuriant in proportion to the size of the Root. In this country, again, better weather is regarded as essential. The Russian weather is reported to be on the whole favourable.

| BEET CROPS.—    | 1888-89.  | 1887-88.  | 1886-87.  |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany         | 990,000   | 937,500   | 1,018,842 |
| Austria         | 575,000   | 412,500   | 523,060   |
| France          | 445,000   | 405,000   | 486,443   |
| Russia          | 450,000   | 430,000   | 479,582   |
| Belgium         | 160,000   | 135,000   | 132,570   |
| Holland         | 43,000    | 36,000    | 32,263    |
| Other Countries | 62,000    | 56,050    | 56,050    |
| Tons            | 2,725,000 | 2,412,050 | 2,728,810 |

GENERAL STOCKS.—(Licht) The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were in July (including floating cargoes), 655,140 tons, against 641,506 tons in 1887. In United States, 171,000 against 240,024. Havana 72,136 against 94,216. Total stocks, 898,276 against 975,746.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings : 30 weeks, 589,930 tons, against 523,393 same period 1887 ; increase 66,537. Deliveries : 499,272, against 494,198 ; increase 5,074. Stocks : 277,973, against 220,955 ; surplus 57,018.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular, should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of one Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

3rd September, 1888.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES CONVENTION.**—The conclusion of this Treaty has been regarded with satisfaction, notwithstanding the fact that it has not at present received the full signature of all the Powers. Its operation now depends upon the assent of the different Legislatures, the passing of the necessary laws, and final ratification in August (or earlier) of 1890. The following is the text of the Articles and accompanying Declaration and Protocol. After reciting the names of the Plenipotentiaries, the document states that after exchanging their full powers they have agreed upon the following Articles:—

*Article I.* The high contracting parties engage to take such measures as shall constitute an absolute and complete guarantee that no open or disguised bounty shall be granted on the manufacture or exportation of sugar.

*Article II.*—The high contracting parties engage: To levy the tax on the quantities of sugar intended for consumption without granting on exportation any drawback or repayment of duties, or any writing off which can give rise to any bounty. To this end, they engage to place in bond, under the permanent supervision both by day and by night of the Revenue authorities, sugar factories and factories which are also refineries, as well as factories for the extraction of sugar from molasses. For this purpose, factories shall be so constructed as to give every guarantee against any surreptitious carrying away of sugar, and the said authorities shall have power to enter all parts of the factories. Controlling books shall be kept on one or more of the processes of manufacture, and finished sugar shall be placed in special storehouses, giving all proper guarantees of security. As an exception to the principle mentioned in the first paragraph of this Article, repayment or writing off may be granted on the tax on sugar used in the manufacture of chocolate and other produce intended to be exported, provided no bounty is produced thereby.

*Article III.* The high contracting parties engage to place sugar refineries under the same system as sugar factories. Each country may nevertheless keep a refining account, as a means of control, by the system of saccharimetry or any other supplementary control, in order to prevent a bounty on exportation.

*Article IV.* Her Britannic Majesty's Government agree not to impose differential duties on cane or beet sugar imported from countries, provinces beyond the seas, colonies or foreign possessions taking part in the Convention. As long as the Convention lasts, therefore, no higher duties shall be imposed on beet-root sugar than on cane sugar on importation into the United Kingdom or into the colonies and foreign possessions of the British Empire taking part in the Convention. It is agreed, moreover, that sugar imported into the United Kingdom from the countries, provinces beyond the seas, colonies, and foreign possessions taking part in the Convention shall not be subject to duties which shall not equally apply to similar sugar of national origin or manufacture.



*Article V.* The high contracting parties and their provinces beyond the seas, colonies, or foreign possessions which do not tax sugar, or which grant on the exportation of raw sugar, refined sugar, molasses, or glucose, neither drawback, repayment, nor writing off of duties or quantities, are absolved from abiding by the provisions of Articles II. and III. so long as they maintain one of these systems. In case of any change they shall adopt the system established in Articles II. and III.

Russia, which levies the tax at one single rate on the whole amount manufactured, and which grants on the exportation of all kinds of sugar a repayment not exceeding such rate, is put on the same footing as the Powers specified in the preceding paragraph, so long as its present system is maintained.

*Article VI.* The high contracting parties engage to establish a permanent International Commission charged with watching the execution of the provisions of the present Convention. This Commission shall be composed of delegates of the different Powers; a permanent Bureau will be connected with it. The delegates shall be instructed—(a) To ascertain whether the laws, orders, and regulations respecting taxes on sugar are in harmony with the principles laid down in the preceding Articles, and whether in practice any open or disguised bounty is granted on the exportation of sugar, molasses, or glucose. (b) To pronounce an opinion on contested points ("questions litigieuses"). (c) To consider ("d'instruire") requests for admission to the Union made by States not having taken part in the present Convention.—The permanent Bureau shall collect, translate, arrange, and publish information of all kinds respecting legislation on and statistics of sugar, not in contracting countries only, but in all other countries as well. In order to insure the execution of the preceding provisions, the high contracting parties shall transmit through the diplomatic channel, to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, which shall forward them to the Commission, the laws, orders, and regulations on the taxation of sugar which are or may be in force in their respective countries, as well as statistical information relative to the object of the present Convention. Each of the high contracting parties may be represented on the Commission by a delegate, or by a delegate and an assistant delegate. The first meeting of the permanent Commission shall be held in London, after the coming into force of the present Convention. The Commission shall be charged with controlling and examining only. It shall draw up a report on all questions submitted to it, and forward the same to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, which shall communicate it to the Powers interested, and, at the request of any one of the high contracting Powers, shall convoke a Conference which shall take such decisions or measures as circumstances demand. The expenses incurred on account of the establishment and working of the permanent Bureau and of the Commission—excepting the salaries or expenses of the delegates, who will be paid by their respective countries—shall be borne by all the contracting countries, and shall be divided among them in a manner to be determined by the Commission.

*Article VII.* From the date of the present convention coming into force all raw sugar, refined sugar, molasses or glucose coming from any countries, provinces beyond the seas, colonies or foreign possessions maintaining the system of open or disguised bounties on the manufacture or exportation of sugar shall be excluded from the territories of the high contracting parties. Any contracting Power shall, in order to exclude from its territory raw sugar, refined sugar, molasses, or glucose that has benefited by open or disguised bounties, take the measures necessary therefor, either by prohibiting these articles altogether or by levying thereon a duty which must necessarily exceed the amount of the bounty, and which shall not be levied on sugar not bounty-fed coming from the contracting countries. The high contracting parties shall concert as to the measures which the Commission may consider necessary in order to obtain these results, and to prevent bounty-fed sugar passing in transit through one of the contracting countries from enjoying any of the advantages of the Convention. The fact of the existence in any country, province beyond the seas, colony, or foreign possession of a system involving open or disguised bounties on raw sugar, refined



sugar, molasses, or glucose shall be established by the decision of the majority of the signatory Powers of the present Convention. In the same manner the *minimum* amount of the bounties in question shall be determined. It is agreed that privileges under the most-favoured-nation clause existing in other treaties shall not be pleaded with a view to evading the consequences of the application of the second paragraph of the present article, even on the part of such signatory States as may hereafter withdraw from the Convention.

*Article VIII.* States which have not taken part in the present Convention may adhere to the same on their request, provided their laws and regulations in the matter of sugar are in agreement with the principles of the present Convention, and have been previously submitted for the approval of the high contracting parties in the manner laid down in Article VI.

*Article IX.* The present Convention shall be put in force from September 1, 1891. It shall remain in force for ten years from that day, and in case no one of the high contracting parties shall have notified, twelve months before the expiration of the said period of ten years, its intention of terminating the effects thereof, it will remain in force for another year, and so on from year to year. Each of the high contracting parties may, however, by denouncing the Convention twelve months beforehand, put an end to it, as regards such Power, at the expiration of the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth years of the said period of ten years. In case one of the signatory Powers should denounce the Convention, such denunciation shall affect that Power only; but the other Powers are entitled, until October 31 of the year in which denunciation takes place, to notify their intention of retiring from August 1 of the following year. Should more than one Power wish to retire, a Conference of the contracting Powers shall meet in London within three months to determine what steps should be taken.

*Article X.* The provisions of the present Convention shall be applied to the provinces beyond the seas, colonies, and foreign possessions of the high contracting parties. In case one of such provinces beyond the seas, colonies, and foreign possessions of the high contracting parties should wish to retire separately from the Convention, a notification to that effect will be made to the contracting Powers by the Government of the mother country, in the manner and with the consequences shown in Article IX.

*Article XI.* The execution of the reciprocal engagements contained in the present Convention is, in so far as necessary, subject to the formalities and rules established by the Constitutions of each of the contracting countries. The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged in London, on August 1, 1890, or sooner if possible. In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have attached their seals thereto.

Done at London, August 30, 1888.

(Signed)

|                 |            |                 |              |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| SALISBURY.      | KUEFSTEIN. | C. DEL MAZO.    | T. CATALANI. |
| HENRY DE WORMS. | SOLVYNS.   | ANTO. BATANERO. | W. GEYERS.   |
| VON HATZFELDT.  | GUILLACME. | DUPUY DE LOME.  | PISTORIUS.   |
| JAHNIGEN.       | DE JARDIN. | C. ROHLANT.     | BOYTENEFF.   |
|                 |            | G. KAMENSKY.    |              |

*Declaration annexed to the Convention of August 30, 1888.* The Plenipotentiaries assembled to sign the Convention for the suppression of export bounties on sugar have agreed to the following declaration: Eight months after the signature of the Convention, to which the present declaration is annexed, there shall meet a Special Commission, at which all the States interested may be represented, with instructions to examine the existing laws or drafts of laws for bringing the Convention into force. The Commission in question shall make to the British Government, which shall communicate it to the other Governments



interested, a report, showing in what particulars existing or intended legislation in one or other of the contracting countries shall, if necessary, be changed in order to bring it into harmony with the stipulations of the present Convention. Two months at least before the Special Commission meets the laws put in by the different Powers, as suppressing all bounties, shall be communicated to the various signatory Governments. In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Declaration.

Done at London, the 30th August 1888.

(Same signatures as above.)

*Protocol annexed to the Convention of August 30, 1888.* The Plenipotentiaries of the Powers which have signed the Convention of the 30th of August, 1888, or which have taken part in the Conference, have taken act of the following declarations:—

*Declaration of Austria-Hungary.* Austria-Hungary, which has always held that a Convention for the suppression of bounties on the exportation of sugar ought to include all countries of importance as producers or consumers of sugar, gives, although this condition is not yet fulfilled, her adhesion to the present Convention, so as not to compromise the understanding to be arrived at. But, having regard to the effect which may be caused by the abstention of one or more European countries of importance, as producers or consumers of sugar, she can give her signature only with the condition that the adhesion of these countries shall be secured at the moment of the Convention coming into operation, and she reserves, in default of this adhesion, the right to examine and decide whether she is or is not able to put the Convention into execution at the time indicated in Article IX. (Signed) KUEPSTEIN.

*Declaration of the Brazilian Government.* The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Brazil in London makes the following declaration in the name of his Government:—The Government of Brazil adheres in principle to the Convention, while reserving the right to adhere formally thereto after its final adoption by the signatory Powers. (Signed) PENEDO.

*Declaration of the Danish Government.* The Danish Plenipotentiary makes the following declaration in the name of his Government:—The King's Government adheres to all the provisions of the Convention, as finally adopted, on the 28th of August, 1888, with the exception of Article VII., the terms of which would not be in agreement with the obligations undertaken in our existing treaties. The King's Government reserves the right to adhere thereto later, under Article VIII. (Signed) BARNEK.

*Declaration of the French Government.* The French Plenipotentiary makes the following declaration in the name of his Government:—The Government of the French Republic adheres in principle to the Convention of the 30th August, 1888, respecting the suppression of bounties, and reserves the right of adhering to it definitively in accordance with the Article VIII., after the adhesion of all the countries producing raw or refined sugar, and after communication to it of laws by which it is intended to afford complete and absolute security against the granting of any open or disguised bounty on the manufacture or export of sugar. (Signed) WADDINGTON.

*Declaration of the Swedish Government.* The British Plenipotentiaries are authorized to make the following declaration:—The Swedish Government, whilst reserving the right to adhere to the Convention later, does not think it right at this moment to depart from the attitude of reserve which it has observed hitherto. (Signed) SALISBURY.

HENRY DE WORMS.



*Declaration of the Egyptian Government.* The British Plenipotentiaries declare further that the Egyptian Government has expressed the intention of adhering to the Convention.

(Signed) SALISBURY.  
HENRY DE WORMS.

(Done at London, the 30th August, 1888.)

|                 |              |                  |              |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| SALISBURY.      | SOLVYNS.     | ANTO. BANTANERO. | W. GEVERS.   |
| HENRY DE WORMS. | GUILLAUME.   | DUPUY DE LOME.   | PISTORIUS.   |
| VON HATZFELDT.  | DU JARDIN.   | WADDINGTON.      | BOUTENEFF.   |
| JAHNIGEN.       | PENEDO.      | C. ROHLANT.      | G. KAMENSKY. |
| KUEPSTEIN.      | C. DEL MAZO. | T. CATALANI.     |              |

**SUGAR CONVENTION.**—The actual signatures were those of Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands and Russia. The position of some of these powers, and also that of France will be observed from the various declarations in the Protocol. When it became known that France was likely to remain outside, the West India Committee, conjointly with the Anti-Bounty Association, addressed an urgent and strongly worded letter to Lord Salisbury, praying him to proceed to sign the Convention with the other Powers, notwithstanding the attitude of France. The Committee have much satisfaction in knowing that this communication had the desired effect.

**THE VALUE OF THE CONVENTION.**—This is shown in the following extract: "A meeting of the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association was held at Billiter House on August 31. Mr. N. Lubbock, chairman of the Association, presided, and there were present gentlemen representing the sugar industry in Great Britain, Australia, the West Indies, and other parts of the Empire. After careful consideration of the Convention just signed, the following resolutions were passed: (1) That this Association representing all branches of the British home and colonial sugar industry, desires most respectfully to record its grateful appreciation of the immense service rendered by Her Majesty's Government to the cause of free trade in procuring an international agreement for the cessation of bounties on sugar; and this association is convinced that the Sugar Convention of 1888, by freeing British markets from a dependence on bounty-aided products, and once more permitting the free access of sugar from all countries upon equal conditions, must prove a benefit to consumers and producers alike, and that the 7th article of the Treaty, providing an effective and equitable international security against the continuance or revival of the bounty system (without which the assent of the foreign Powers would have been impossible), can have no other effect than, by prohibiting bounties, to secure the fullest supplies of sugar from all parts of the world. (2) This Association however, regrets that there should be a delay of three years in carrying out the terms of the Convention, and ventures to think that it would be greatly to the interest of all the contracting Powers to adopt an earlier date. (3) This association desires to express its high appreciation of the energy, skill and tact shown by Baron Henry de Worms and the other British delegates, and desires to convey its warm thanks to them for the great service they have rendered to this country and the Empire at large. (4) That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Lord Salisbury and Baron Henry de Worms."

**THE ST. CROIX SUGAR FACTORY.**—At the request of the West India Committee the Foreign Office, through the British Ambassador at Copenhagen, obtained from the Danish Government some valuable papers as to the process, cost of production and other particulars regarding the manufacture of Sugar in St. Croix. These papers were submitted to Mr. William Gillespie, at whose suggestion the request was originally made, and who has drawn up Statistical Tables and memoranda founded upon the papers. There is no space in this circular to print any of these results but they will appear as soon as possible. In the meantime they can be seen at the office of the Committee.



**SACCHARINE.** A Hygienic Commission has been nominated to draw up a report for the Minister of Commerce in France. Its conclusions are that Saccharine is not a food and could not be used as a substitute for Sugar. In certain cases its effect is to trouble profoundly the digestive functions and promote dyspepsia, and the Commission think that Saccharine and its diverse preparations should be excluded as food. The French Government is expected to take measures in accordance with these recommendations.

**BET PROSPECTS.**—The weather for the month ending August 18th, in Germany, was unusually cool and wet. In the inundated districts of Eastern Germany beets were thinned out. Floods in Silesia and Prussia destroyed more or less large quantities of field crops. Complaints of irregular growth and insects do not exceed the usual amount. Austrian weather has been similar to that in Germany, but a considerably better crop than last year is expected. From France since warm weather set in appearances of crop are more satisfactory. Latest accounts from France, however, report unfavourable weather owing to absence of warmth. Leaves are largely developed. Latest report from Austria-Hungary to date announces weather again cold and wet, and the effect on the beet-root is feared. In Germany also at the present time weather is cold and wet. The lateness of season will combine with other causes to render stocks of sugar very low at a later period, with it is expected a corresponding strength of prices.

**BET CROPS.**—The figures given in last Circular remain the same, except that for 1887-8, Mr. Licht estimates (August 18) 2,407,050 tons, against 2,412,050 given in his July report, or a reduction of crop now closing of 5,000 tons. The crop for 1888-9 is still estimated at 2,725,000 tons.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht) The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were in August (including floating cargoes), 534,432 tons, against 526,332 tons in 1887. In United States, 149,000 against 221,724. Havana 52,832 against 74,168. Total stocks, 736,264 against 822,224.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings: 34 weeks, 650,166 tons, against 576,747 same period 1887; increase 73,449. Deliveries: 582,740, against 567,429; increase 15,311. Stocks: 254,741, against 201,048; increase 53,693.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Barbadoes: 8th August, seasonable weather; 28th August, fine rains generally. Demerara: 11th August, weather changeable, heavy showers; 31st August, weather favourable for cultivation.

**JAMES H. OHLSON, Secretary.**

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular, should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of one Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members.

**THE ST. CROIX SUGAR FACTORY.**—At the request of the West India Committee the Foreign Office through the British Ambassador at Copenhagen, has from the Danish Government some valuable papers as to the progress of production and other particulars regarding the manufacture of Sugar in St. Croix. These papers were submitted to Mr. William Gilchrist at whose suggestion the report was originally made and who has drawn up Statistical Tables and memoranda founded upon the papers. There is no space in this circular to print any of these results but they will appear as soon as possible. In the meantime they can be seen at the office of the Committee.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

1st October, 1888.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—The fortnightly Meetings of the General Purposes Committee will be resumed at an early date. The most important business to be considered relates to the proceedings necessary to be taken to prevent the retail sale of a certain kind of Sugar as "Demerara," "Trinidad" or "West India Crystals."

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—An important Conference of Proprietors connected with this Colony was held at this office on September 27th. There were also present informally, The Hon. Charles Bruce, Lieutenant Governor and Government Secretary, and Mr. Nicholas Cox. The Hon. A. H. Alexander was prevented by indisposition from being present. The proceedings were private. It is understood that the Hon. Charles Bruce proceeds by this mail to administer the Government, Lord Gormanston being compelled to return to England on account of illhealth.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—Since the last circular, the official minutes of the International Conference have been issued. A copy can be seen at this office. The discussion in the public press has subsided for the time, but preparation must soon be made for the expected debate in the Autumn Session of Parliament. The most important letters in the press are those of Sir Thomas Farrer, Mr. Lubbock, and Mr. Martineau, the two latter in reply to the former. The correspondence has been widely read. There is only room in this circular for Mr. Lubbock's letter which is as follows:—

*To the Editor of the Times.*—Sir,—The letter in your columns of yesterday on the subject of the Sugar Bounties Convention from Sir T. H. Farrer will be read with the attention to which anything coming from the pen of the late permanent chief of the Board of Trade is naturally entitled. That the Convention should be as gall and wormwood to him will cause no surprise to those who have for years past watched the intense—I had almost said the acrimonious—zeal which he has displayed in preventing anything whatever being done to bring about a cessation of bounties. Sir Thomas Farrer says, "Bounties, like protective duties, are bad things, but this is not the way to get rid of them." Perhaps he then would explain how he would get rid of them. The doctrine was preached many years ago that foreign Governments, if left alone, would abolish bounties themselves. This has been tested for 25 years, with the result that the policy of giving bounties, so far from being abandoned, has been largely extended. Your correspondent taunts the Government with going cap in hand to foreign Powers, but this has been rendered necessary by the commercial policy of this country for the last half century. Would he have wished the Government to follow the example of Spain, who, when she wished us to reduce the duties on her wines, did not come to us cap in hand, but imposed 30 per cent. extra duty on English goods going into Spain? Although this measure was successful, it was one which Sir Thomas Farrer would hardly wish to see imitated by our Government. Your correspondent speaks more than once of cheap bounty-fed sugar in such a way as to lead any one who was excessively ignorant into the belief that bounty-fed sugar is cheaper than non-bounty-fed sugar. I need hardly say that this is not, and never can be, the case, either with or without the Convention. Sugar,



bounty-fed or otherwise, will sell at the same price in the same market relatively to its value at all times. Sir Thomas Farrer fears that we may possibly under the Convention be prevented from buying sugar from the United States and Sweden. The United States produce less than 200,000 tons, and consume more than 1,200,000 tons, so that they are not likely to have any surplus sugar to send us for some time to come. Sweden may or may not export sugar, but if she does the quantity is so small that it finds no place in any published returns available to those interested in the sugar industry. He also throws out some doubts respecting France, Austria, Brazil and Denmark. But the quantities of sugar we receive from France and Austria are comparatively small, while from Denmark we receive none at all. But as regards Austria and Brazil, there can hardly be a doubt as to their adhesion to the Convention, and I believe it will be found that France will also come in. But even if these powers remain outside, the total amount of sugar available for export from France and Austria is hardly one-twentieth of the world's supply, and the effect of excluding their sugar would consequently be absolutely inappreciable upon the price. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that it is only sugar receiving a bounty that would be boycotted. Brazil does not give a bounty, so that her sugar would in no case be shut out; and as for France and Austria, these Powers are solemnly committed by their declarations in the protocol to the policy of suppressing bounties. Further, a complaint is made that the process of ascertaining whether sugar is bounty-fed or not "is one of the most perplexing technical questions which financial necessities have ever inflicted upon legislators—a question which all the cleverest experts of the ablest Governments have hitherto been unable to solve." But this is a complete mistake. It is quite true that some of the authorities of the Board of Trade, while Sir T. Farrer was its chief, professed to find great difficulty in ascertaining whether bounties were granted or not in certain countries, but no such difficulty has been found by foreign officials, and the countries giving bounties are perfectly well known not only to them, but to all concerned in the industry. I should be sorry to think that the officials of our own Board of Trade, under their late chief, were lacking in intelligence as compared with foreign officials; but if Sir T. Farrer, when alluding to "the cleverest experts of the ablest Governments," meant to refer to his own department, there is, I fear, no other conclusion to be arrived at. Further, some alarm is expressed at the possible effect the Convention may have in preventing our colonies from giving bounties, and that we may have to boycott their sugar. It is really quite amusing to see Sir Thomas Farrer posing as the friend of our colonial sugar industries, and professing alarm on their account; but I am happy to be able to reassure him. The colonies are included in the Convention, and all their sugar industries are fully represented upon the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association, of which I am the chairman, and I am in a position to say that there is not the slightest fear of our having to boycott any colonial sugar whatever. It is not for me to say whether Sir T. Farrer's allusions to Baron Henry de Worms are in good taste; but I do know that those who are practically acquainted with the subject are best able to appreciate the great ability shown by the Baron in overcoming the difficulties he has had to contend against—difficulties which Sir T. Farrer, in spite of his condemnation of bounties, has certainly not assisted to remove. I believe the services rendered by Baron de Worms will be more generously appreciated by an unprejudiced public, as I know they are by our sugar-growing colonies and the home industries connected with sugar. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, N. LUBBOCK, Chairman of the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association, Billiter House, Sept. 6th.

Mr. Gladstone having written a letter to a correspondent at Greenock, which was published, the attention of the Right Hon. Gentleman was called to the letters of Mr. Lubbock and Mr. Martineau above-mentioned. Mr. Gladstone acknowledged copies of these letters in the following terms:—"Dear Sir, I thank you for your communication, and I view with pleasure all efforts to elucidate the complex and important subject to which it relates.—Yours faithfully and obediently, W. E. GLADSTONE, September 18, 1888. To James L. Ohlson, Esq., Secretary British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association."



The following is an important article from the *Deutsche-Zucker-Industrie* of September 21st, showing the opinion of the best authorities on the Continent of the Convention—“Before we further discuss the carrying out of the Convention in the different countries, let us examine the difficulties which stand in the way of the first steps being taken in order to obtain its ratification by the Governments concerned. Scarcely had the Convention been signed, when both *The Economist*, in its number of 1st September, and Sir Thomas Farrer, ex-Secretary of the Board of Trade, in the *Times* of 5th September, wrote against it, and referred to it as almost a still-born measure. Sir Thomas Farrer, who appears to be a determined opponent of the Convention, asserts that the only effect it would have would be to make Sugar dearer in England, and cheaper in those countries that did not join it. There is nothing new in the first part of the assertion, and if his opinion proved to be correct it might be of some importance, but it would not, we venture to think, be a fatal objection. Meanwhile, a very few figures will show that his view is not correct. Stated in Raw Sugar, the United Kingdom imported:—

|                               | In 1887.  | 1886.     | 1885.           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| And exported ... ..           | 1,287,248 | 1,160,773 | 1,265,745 tons. |
|                               | 70,442    | 92,965    | 88,817 „        |
| Showing Consumption...        | 1,207,806 | 1,067,808 | 1,176,928 tons. |
| There were exported from the— |           |           |                 |
| British Colonies ... ..       | 483,548*  | 483,548   | 507,861 tons.   |
| Germany ... ..                | 626,456   | 581,270   | 538,083 „       |
| Cuba ... ..                   | 584,248   | 565,136   | 512,696 „       |
| Totals ... ..                 | 1,704,252 | 1,629,954 | 1,559,540 tons. |

\* Estimated same as 1886.

The supplies from these sources alone are, consequently, sufficient for the consumption of the United Kingdom, with nearly 50 per cent. to spare, so that we have no need to speak here of other countries which supply England with sugar, such as Java with an average of 350,000 tons, the Philippine Islands with 200,000 tons, &c., &c. The competition on the English market will, consequently, continue to be very great, and this being so, the second half of Sir Thomas Farrer's assertion also falls to the ground. To show how far Sir Thomas goes in his opposition, we may add that, in his view, the Convention is objectionable, since it would expose England to the danger of not being able to purchase Sugar in Sweden, a country which never exports any Sugar, but which has to import nearly all it requires for its own consumption. We are aware that the figures compiled by the Board of Trade for the year 1886 give the Sugar imports from Sweden as 13,200 cwts., but that was Russian Sugar sent *via* Sweden, just as Russian Sugar also reaches England *via* Germany, and is recorded as imported from Germany. Sir Thomas Farrer might have known this. In England it is pretty generally thought that the effect of abolishing the Bounties would be to check the Beet Sugar production and thus make Sugar dearer. It is not, however, probable that production would be checked in any way; the Sugar production of the two last crops fell short of the world's requirements, as shown by the figures of the visible stocks, and the small stocks on hand in August this year are all the more telling, for with the higher prices that for months past have ruled for available Sugar as against Sugar for future delivery, the invisible stocks must also have been largely reduced. It is still very doubtful whether this year's crop of Beet Sugar will prove materially larger than last year's, and



the prospect is even less favourable with regard to the crop of cane sugar, in view of the serious damage caused by the recent exceptionally violent storms in Louisiana and especially in Cuba. In a year's time, therefore, we shall probably see a further reduction in the present low stocks; in any case, however, they will not have regained their average level. As, therefore, we have at present good prices for both available and future delivery sugar, we can expect to have such paying prices next year also, and this shuts out the fear of any check to Sugar production. If, then, the Convention comes into force on the 1st September, 1891, the reduction or abolition of taxes on Sugar to take place at the same time, will, as we more fully explained in our previous article, lead to a highly satisfactory extension of both Beet and Cane cultivation. A more serious objection than that about making Sugar dearer exists in the reference to the most favoured-nation-clause, which is said to be opposed to the contemplated prohibition of imports and the imposition of differential duties. With regard to this, however, there exists a decisive precedent in the Convention of 8th November, 1864. This agreement, made between Great Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, likewise for the abolition of Bounties, contained in its Articles 13 and 16 important reciprocal advantages in favour of the Sugar of the four contracting Powers. In virtue of these Articles, France, for example, abolished the surtax of fr. 2 per 100 kg. on Belgian, English, and Dutch Sugars, but the same advantage was never conceded to any other country on the strength of the most favoured-nation clause, and, so far as we know, it was never even claimed. Neither can France, therefore, as the *Economist* fears, retaliate upon England if the latter, in accordance with the terms of the Convention, which every country is quite free to join, refuses to admit French Sugar. There is still another lesson to be gained from the Convention of 8th November, 1864. According to Article 19, the contracting Powers had agreed to put differential duties on the Bounty-fed Sugar of other countries, but this agreement never came into effect, and consequently the Convention produced no result. The Convention which has recently been signed will be equally barren of result if the conditions directed against countries that give Bounties are not strictly carried out. Whether, however, in adhering to these stipulations it will really come to the prohibition of imports or the imposition of differential duties is a question which deserves further discussion."

CONVENTION.—The following letter was addressed to the Baron Henry de Worms, on Sept. 4th :—  
 "I am desired by the West India Committee to express their satisfaction at the completion of your protracted and successful labours in securing the International Convention of August 30th last, for the suppression of Sugar Bounties; and I am to convey to you the cordial and hearty thanks of all who are interested in the prosperity of the West India Colonies for the manner in which you have conducted, with the assistance of the Earl of Onslow, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Walpole, the difficult negotiations which have resulted in the Convention; and we feel that these Colonies must always be deeply grateful for the advantage they have derived from the great ability and energy you, Sir, have so conspicuously displayed in a matter of such vital importance to them. (Signed,) N. Lumock, Chairman." In acknowledging the above, the Baron wrote (Sept. 5th) :—"I may fairly claim that the Treaty which has just been concluded, signed by the European Powers sending the largest quantity of bounty fed Sugar to the English Market, will, while maintaining true free trade, secure that fair untrammelled competition which is the first and essential attribute of all just commercial relations."

ELECTRIC SUGAR.—The following is from Messrs. Willett & Hamlen's Circular, dated New York, 13th Sept., 1888 :—"We saw the raw Sugar and the refined, but not the progress of the transition through the secret rooms, although we heard the machinery in operation, and can say that the refined Sugar came into the barrels direct from some machine, in three different grades of apparently quite fresh manufacture, the time occupied from the starting of the raw to the appearance of refined being twenty-five minutes, and a barrel being filled regularly every two minutes when in full operation. About thirteen barrels of refined



were thus produced, when the trial ended in consequence of injury to the machinery. In addition to the three grades mentioned, eight other grades were made at this trial and by subsequent private trials by the operator. We understand grades can be made and changed by changing plates in the granulators. . . . The importance of these claims, and the evidence of their fulfilment being thus far limited to the view of the Sugars produced, and not to any permitted examination of secret machinery or secret rooms, to guard against deception, the public are slow to believe in them as realities completed, and about to revolutionize the refining business." For the above reasons practical men in England suspend their judgment upon this matter, and decline to believe in a so-called process which has every appearance of being of the nature of a miracle.

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—The weather for the Beet on the Continent during September has been fairly favourable though rather too dry ; indeed the dryness has retarded the development of the root, although it has not interfered with its richness.

**BEET CROPS.—**

|                     | 1888-89.         | 1887-88.         | 1886-87.         |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany ...         | 1,025,000        | 941,322          | 1,018,842        |
| Austria ...         | 600,000          | 408,565          | 523,060          |
| France ...          | 500,000          | 391,258          | 486,443          |
| Russia ...          | 475,000          | 430,000          | 479,582          |
| Belgium ...         | 137,500          | 135,000          | 132,570          |
| Holland ...         | 45,000           | 36,000           | 32,263           |
| Other Countries ... | 67,500           | 56,050           | 56,050           |
|                     | <u>2,850,000</u> | <u>2,398,195</u> | <u>2,728,810</u> |

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(LICHT).—The visible Stocks of Sugar in Europe were, in September (including floating cargoes), 415,594 tons, against 436,544 in 1887. In United States, 105,000 against 151,229 ; Havana, 24,384 against 58,928. Total Stocks, 544,978 against 646,701.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings: 38 weeks, 688,318 tons against 626,026 same period 1887, increase 62,292. Deliveries: 679,585 against 635,223 ; increase 44,362. Stocks : 196,048 against 182,563 ; surplus 13,485.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara : 10th September, weather dry ; 1st October, weather continues too dry. Barbados: 1st October, seasonable weather.

JAMES L. CHILSON, SECRETARY.

London, correction. ... Also ...



SUGAR SEASON, 1ST JULY, 1888, TO 30TH JUNE, 1889.

Return forwarded by Mr. J. Ernest Tinne, of Liverpool.

| Estimated Supplies in Tons, for 12 Months.                        |                        | Estimated Consumption for 12 Months. |                    |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Stocks on Hand and Afloat for U.K. 1st July, 1888 (Licht) 890,000 |                        |                                      |                    |
| Afloat for United States, 1st July, 1888 ... 50,000               |                        |                                      |                    |
| Visible supply 1st July, 1888 ... 940,000                         |                        |                                      |                    |
| Germany ...   | Beet Sugar.<br>(Licht) | 990,000                              | 380,000            |
| Austria ...   |                        | 575,000                              | 250,000            |
| France ...  |                        | 443,000                              | 400,000            |
| Russia ...  |                        | 450,000                              | 360,000            |
| Belgium ...   |                        | 160,000                              | 55,000             |
| Holland ...   |                        | 105,000                              | 38,000             |
| United Kingdom ...  |                        | —                                    | 1,300,000          |
| Spain ...   |                        | 15,000                               | 60,000             |
| Cuba ...  |                        | 500,000                              | 60,000             |
| Java ...  |                        | 390,000                              | 40,000             |
| Louisiana and U.S. America ...                                    | 120,000                | 1,500,000                            |                    |
| Sandwich Islands ...  | 120,000                |                                      |                    |
| Fiji ...  | 30,000                 |                                      |                    |
| Australia ...   | 60,000                 | 150,000                              |                    |
| New Zealand ...   |                        | 30,000                               |                    |
| Canada ...  |                        | 100,000                              |                    |
| Peru and Chili ...  | 100,000                | 50,000                               |                    |
| Brazil ...  | 280,000                | 40,000                               |                    |
| Mauritius and Reunion ...   | 150,000                | 5,000                                |                    |
| Manilla ...   | 180,000                | 10,000                               |                    |
| Egypt ...   | 50,000                 | 20,000                               |                    |
| Demerara ...  | 130,000                | 5,000                                |                    |
| British West Indies ...   | 200,000                | 20,000                               |                    |
| Martinique and Guadeloupe ...                                     | 90,000                 | 5,000                                |                    |
| Porto Rico ...  | 50,000                 | 5,000                                |                    |
| Mexico ...  | 30,000                 | 20,000                               |                    |
| Honduras ...  | 20,000                 | 15,000                               |                    |
| Argentine Republic ...  | 30,000                 | 100,000                              |                    |
| Morocco, Natal, &c. ...   | 50,000                 | 60,000                               |                    |
| Turkey ...  |                        | 70,000                               |                    |
| Denmark ...   |                        | 65,000                               |                    |
| Norway and Sweden ...   |                        | 45,000                               |                    |
| Switzerland ...   |                        | 25,000                               |                    |
| Portugal ...  |                        | 40,000                               |                    |
| Greece ...  |                        | 10,000                               |                    |
| Italy ...   |                        | 110,000                              |                    |
| India and China (not included, say 2,000,000 tons)                |                        | (Not included, say 2,000,000 tons).  |                    |
| Total Supplies for 12 months ...                                  | 6,260,000              | 5,460,000                            | Total Consumption. |
| Deduct Consumption for 12 months ...                              | 5,460,000              |                                      |                    |
| Probable Visible Supply, 1st July, 1889 ...                       | 800,000 tons.          |                                      |                    |

Mr. Licht's estimate of the beet crops is probably above what will be produced this season. Cuba and Brazil crops are still uncertain. The invisible supply in 1887-8 has been heavily diminished in quantity.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular, should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of one Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

29th October, 1888.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—Several Meetings of the General Purposes Committee have been held during the month, principally to discuss what steps should be taken to prevent the sale by retail Grocers of Crystals manufactured in England as "Demerara Crystals." A large number of samples were obtained, and the opinion of a distinguished counsel was procured as to the bearing of the Merchandize Marks' Act, 1887, upon the question. The Committee have it still under consideration. In the meantime members can see papers and obtain information at this office.

**SUGAR CONVENTION.**—Discussion is still proceeding in the *Times*. Further letters by Mr. Lubbock, Mr. Martineau, and Sir T. H. Farrer have appeared. The next important stage will probably be a discussion in Parliament during the Autumn Session, for which preparation, especially by disseminating information must be immediately made. Newspapers of October 8th report the following Resolution by the London Trades' Council:—

"That this Council tenders the Government its appreciation of the great and beneficial work accomplished for legitimate industrial production, and an equitable commercial policy for the country in the completion of the International State Bounties Convention, and considers that the ability, tact and good judgment exercised by Baron de Worms, M.P., and his colleagues representing Great Britain, have established a valuable principle of national importance, calculated to secure in the future friendly mediation between the nations of the world in their International relations, which convention no political faction should prevent being speedily ratified by Parliament, in the interest of social order and progress."

The following Telegram in the *Times*, dated Berlin, October 21st, only tends to bring into stronger relief the general acceptance of the Convention by the German Sugar industry:—

"A Meeting of Beetroot Sugar Manufacturers in the province of Saxony, the principal seat of the Sugar industry in Germany, yesterday, unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that the London Sugar Bounties' Convention was incompatible with the German manufacturing interests since the introduction of a tax on the manufactured article was calculated to injure the Beet industry."

**SACCHARINE.**—The attention of the Board of Trade was called by the Committee to the results of an inquiry recently conducted in Paris as to the actual properties of Saccharine. *The Board of Trade Journal* for October summarizes the Report of the Commission appointed by the Committee of Hygiene. The conclusions are as follows:—(1.) Saccharine is not an article of food, and cannot replace Sugar. (2.) The use in food of Saccharine or Saccharinaceous preparations suspends or extends the changes of the amylaceous or albuminous substances in the digestive tube. (3.) These preparations have the effect of seriously troubling the digestive functions. They are such as to increase the number of affections designated under the name of dyspepsia. (4.) The use of Saccharine is still very recent, so that the consequences of a diet, in which Saccharine would enter daily may be very easily determined; but henceforth it is well established that its use has an injurious influence on digestion, and we are perfectly justified in concluding that Saccharine and its various preparations must be prohibited as articles of food." *The Journal de la Chambre de Commerce de Constantinople* (from which paper *The Board of Trade Journal* quotes the above) adds that the Portuguese Government has prohibited the introduction of Saccharine into that country.



**SUGAR MAKING IN ST. CROIX.**—Mr. G. A. Hagemann, a Sugar Expert of this Island, in his report of 23rd July, 1888, commences by stating the difficulties of Sugar making in St. Croix, viz.:—the very rough ground, the patchy nature of the cultivation, the want of water for condensing purposes. The ground being so irregular, made a railway system too expensive to be thought of, so it was decided to work the Central Fabrik on the system of pipe lines, as carried out in France. The Cane is crushed at the various plantations, and at once the juice is treated with 1 % burnt lime and passed on to the Central Fabrik by force pumps, first allowing as much as possible of the pith and unabsorbed lime to settle in the tanks. Great importance, however, is attached to getting the juice as quickly as possible to the Central Works. If, say two days old, it will not work well, and the sugar will be dark. It ought to be delivered within from 24 to 36 hours to avoid danger. He therefore recommends continuous working, Sundays excepted. Another 1 % of lime requires to be added to the juice at the Central Fabrik. The clearing of the juice is carried on as usual in the Continental Raw Sugar Houses, the residue being in hard, dry cakes, useful for manure. The boiling is done with a pipe condenser such as is used on steamers. At the St. Croix Fabrik the condensing water is got from the harbour, and it is mentioned that close to the shore the water was so impregnated with sulphur-hydrogen as to damage the condenser pipes, but when taken 20 to 30 metres from land there was no danger. The last difficulty is with the vacuum pans. Experience has taught that old juice will not work well with the ordinary apparatus. With quick and continuous boiling and a pressure of one atmosphere a first class "masse cuite" is obtained. He then again lays stress on the necessity of immediate treatment of the juice with lime, and the prompt forwarding through the pipes to the Central Fabrik. The molasses are only of use for cattle feeding, the same as at Martinique. The Sugar has a strong grain, and is alkaline, disagreeably so, in fact, but it is a peculiarly strong product, and is much sought after by the Refiners at higher prices than Java Sugar. (The above translation is forwarded by Mr. Gillespie. A portion of the figures showing detailed results of working of the St. Croix Sugar Boiling Company will be printed in a later circular).

**BET CROPS.**—Mr. Licht's estimate (Oct. 20th) remains the same as quoted in last circular. The weather in Germany for the past month has been cool and dry on the whole; crop prospects are reported (Licht) as encouraging. The late beginning of this year's working, renders the weather of the next few weeks of unusual importance for the time of year. Estimates are not spoken of so confidently, but may be altered when the state of things is more clearly seen. In Austria, harvesting is proceeding, and the crop promises well with regard to weight. Prospects in France are also favourable, and although French Trade Journals estimate from 450,000 to 500,000 tons, Mr. Licht prefers to retain the larger figure. Estimates are also maintained for Belgium and Holland, and also in Russia, notwithstanding some unfavourable weather, the effect of which more seasonable weather would quickly remove. Although there is an estimated increase of production, Mr. Licht thinks that in view of the deficiency of stocks and increase of consumption, sugar is statistically strong. The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* (France) while reporting good weather in the latter half of October, thinks that yields will vary in different fields, *The Journal* of October 24th retains the estimate at 450,000.

**GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).**—The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were, in October (including floating cargoes), 307,143 tons, against 446,471 in 1887. In United States 83,000 against 120,993. Havana, 15,240 against 25,400. Total stocks, 405,383, against 592,864.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings: 42 weeks, 727,626 tons, against 687,642 same period, 1887: increase 39,984. Deliveries: 758,439, against 701,622; increase, 56,817. Stocks: 156,502, against 177,780. Deficiency, 21,278.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara: 27th October, rain has fallen slightly. Barbados: 29th October, light partial showers.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 32

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

26th November, 1888.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—This subject continues to receive the closest attention. It is expected that in the course of a few days a discussion will take place in the House of Commons, Mr. Labouchere having given notice of a motion to reduce the vote for the Foreign Office by the amount charged in the estimates for "unforeseen missions and services." Every effort is being made to secure a satisfactory statement of the reasons in favour of the Convention. The formal debate will probably take place early next Session, when the Government are expected to submit a Bill in view of the Meeting of the Commission in April to consider the legislative proposals of the different Countries. In the meantime Resolutions of Thanks and support are being received from the Colonies, and it is most desirable that all the Colonies, including Australia and Mauritius, should adopt this method of showing their interest in the question and assisting in its settlement. The following letter and inclosure were received by the West India Committee:—

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, JAMAICA,

October 9th, 1888.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward by the Governor's direction for the information of the West India Committee, the enclosed copy of a Resolution passed by the Legislative Council of this Island on the 5th instant, expressing their appreciation of the great services rendered to this Colony by the efforts of Her Majesty's Government, of Baron Henry de Worms, and of the West India Committee, to procure the abolition of the Sugar Bounties.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) J. ALLWOOD,  
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

At a Meeting of the Legislative Council of Jamaica, held at Headquarter House, on Friday, October 5th, 1888, Mr. Solomon moved the Resolutions, of which he had given notice, with verbal amendments, as follows:—"Resolved that the thanks of the Legislature of Jamaica be tendered to Her Majesty's Government for their efforts to abolish the system of bounties on the exportation of sugar from Foreign Countries."

"That the special thanks of this Council be offered to Baron Henry de Worms for the valuable services he has so ungrudgingly given to the West India Colonies in his endeavours to effect the abolition of Sugar Bounties. And this Council desires to place on record its high appreciation of the untiring energy, tact, and great ability he displayed throughout the prolonged negotiations with Foreign Countries."

"That the Council offers grateful thanks to the West India Committee for their efforts to bring about the abolition of Bounties, a result which this Council hopes may be of lasting benefit to this and other West Indian Colonies.

"That His Excellency the Governor be solicited to forward copies of these Resolutions."

Motion seconded by Mr. Espeut.

Resolutions agreed to.



Extract from the minutes of a Meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association held at the Exchange Room, Georgetown, on Monday, 15th October, 1888.—Present, The Hon. Alexander Barr, Chairman, Hon. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. A. Braud, Mr. Wm. Craigen, Mr. G. L. Davson, Mr. Fleming, Mr. H. Garnett, Mr. R. J. Kelly, Mr. E. C. Luard, Mr. F. C. Massiah, Mr. F. I. Scard, and Mr. J. E. Tinne. It was proposed by Mr. Craigen, seconded by Mr. Davson, and carried unanimously, "That a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Neville Lubbock, and the Members of the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association, for their efforts to secure the abolition of the Sugar Bounties."

The Chairman having moved the suspension of the standing orders, put the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. R. J. Kelly, and carried unanimously—"Whereas the Right Honourable Baron H. de Worms has been most indefatigable in his efforts to secure the abolition of the Bounty system in Europe."

"Be it resolved, that the Association begs to tender him its most cordial and sincere thanks for his untiring exertions in this matter."

(Signed) A. SUMMERSON, SECRETARY.

The preceding Resolution was forwarded to the Baron Henry de Worms, and his acknowledgment was duly transmitted to the Association, the Members of which will probably not object to its insertion here for the general information of our friends. Baron de Worms writes, under date Nov. 13th, to Mr. Lubbock as follows:—Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing, on behalf of the British Guiana Planters' Association, a Resolution of Thanks passed by that body at Georgetown in reference to my efforts to abolish the Sugar Bounties. You will readily understand that the receipt of such a resolution has afforded me special pleasure because of my connection not only with the Sugar Bounty Conference but with the Colonial Office. I entertain the sincere hope that the Sugar Bounties Treaty will secure to all the Colonies directly concerned a return of all those natural advantages of which they have been deprived by a system of unjust competition. In proportion as this is the case, the British working classes will, I am persuaded, also benefit. Requesting that you will be good enough to convey my cordial thanks to the Members of the Planters' Association,

I am, yours truly,

(Signed) H. De WORMS.

Discussion in the *Times* is still proceeding, a further letter from Mr. Lubbock in reply to Sir Thomas Farrer now awaiting publication. A very bulky Blue Book has been issued containing the minutes of the Conference and papers laid before it. Also a paper containing Sugar Statistics and information on the employment of labour in the various Sugar Industries of the United Kingdom and other points. The following is the import of Sugar into the United Kingdom for 1887:—

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Raw Sugar from Cane growing Countries (British and Foreign) | 439,325          |
| Ditto Beet do. (European)                                   | 461,192          |
| Refined Sugar from Cane growing Countries                   | 38,792           |
| Ditto Beet do.  | 311,022          |
| <b>Tons</b>   | <b>1,250,331</b> |

The production of Sugar in Germany has increased from 262,551 tons in 1872-3 to 985,628 tons in 1886-7. The consumption in Germany has only increased in the same period from 271,698 to 329,178, or from 14.1 lbs. to 17.2 lbs. per head.



PAPERS FOR DISTRIBUTION.—Copies of Baron de Worms' speech at Greenock can be obtained at this office: Also copies of the first number of the new monthly magazine *Sugar in United Kingdom*...

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.—Proprietors connected with this Colony are about to memorialize the Secretary of State against the increase of expenditure and taxation, and in favour of the principal recommendations of the Commission appointed by Lord Gormanston in 1857.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.—The question of resuming immigration from India has been discussed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica, upon the report of the select Committee recently appointed. The Committee recommended in view of the benefit to the general community that any cost above £16 per head (which would be borne by the employers) should be paid by the General Revenue. By fixing the employers' contribution at £16, a very small amount would remain chargeable to the revenue. No immigrants can now be obtained before the close of the present season, but a notification is to be issued by the Jamaica Government in view of applications for immigrants to be introduced next season which commences August, 1889.

BET CROPS. (Licht, Nov. 17).—In Germany a somewhat extended frost interrupted the harvesting of the roots left in the ground. The Beets suffered in consequence, for not only were their heads frostbitten, but the roots themselves were affected for several inches below the surface of the ground. If these Beets cannot be worked up rapidly losses or minor yields will result. From 10 to 15 per cent. of the total yield remain in the ground. If these are to be worked up without serious loss depends entirely upon the weather. No figures can be given therefore of the extent of the damage. The estimate of crop for Germany has in consequence not yet been reduced. Mr. Licht reserves his right to do this should necessity occur. Beets in Austria have likewise suffered from sharp frosts. The Austrian Estimate is reduced by 25,000 tons. Estimates still vary in France, but Mr. Licht retains his figure of 500,000. The French Trade Journals keep their estimate at 450,000. It will be noticed that Mr. Licht retains all the previous figures for 1888-9 with the exception of Austria. He thus explains his view of the situation.

|                                  |     |     |     |     |       |                    |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------------------|
| Bet Sugar production—Crop 1888-9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2,825,000 tons     |
| Cane do. do. do.                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2,441,000 "        |
| Stocks                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 540,193 "          |
|                                  |     |     |     |     | Total | <u>5,806,193 "</u> |

The consumption for the last campaign year ending August 31st, was 5,658,601 tons.

| BET CROPS.—     |     |     |     | 1888-89.         | 1887-88.         | 1886-87.         |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany         | ... | ... | ... | 1,025,000        | 942,441          | 1,012,968        |
| Austria         | ... | ... | ... | 575,000          | 408,616          | 523,060          |
| France          | ... | ... | ... | 500,000          | 392,824          | 485,739          |
| Russia          | ... | ... | ... | 475,000          | 430,000          | 479,582          |
| Belgium         | ... | ... | ... | 137,500          | 135,000          | 132,570          |
| Holland         | ... | ... | ... | 45,000           | 39,280           | 36,098           |
| Other Countries | ... | ... | ... | 67,500           | 56,050           | 56,050           |
|                 |     |     |     | <u>2,825,000</u> | <u>2,404,211</u> | <u>2,726,066</u> |

GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).—The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were, in November (including floating cargoes), 528,286 tons, against 721,210 in 1887. In United States 69,000 against 95,413. Havana, 10,160 against 15,240. Total stocks, 607,446, against 831,863.

PAPERS FOR DISTRIBUTION.—Copies of Baron de Worms' speech at Greenock can be obtained at this  
 SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings against period, 1888, 1,774,877 tons, against 1,545,545 tons, an increase of 229,332 tons. Deliveries: 830,422, against 779,884: increase 50,538. Stocks: 151,280, against 165,421; deficiency, 14,141.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara: 8th November, weather dry; 14th November, weather showery; 15th November, weather showery; 16th November, nice showers have fallen; 19th November, weather dry. Barbados: 14th November, fine rains generally throughout the island; 26th November, good showers but partial.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

BEET CROPS (Licht, Nov. 17).—In Germany a somewhat extended time has elapsed since the planting of the roots in the ground. The Beets required in consequence for not only were their beds finished, but the roots themselves were affected for several inches below the surface of the ground. If the Beets could be worked up rapidly losses or serious yields will result. From 10 to 12 per cent of the total yield remain in the ground. If these are to be worked up without serious loss depends entirely upon the weather. The quantity of crop to be raised has in the greater can be from therefore of the extent of the damage. The quantity of crop to be raised has in consequence not yet been reduced. Mr. Licht reserves the right to do this should necessary. Beets in Austria have likewise suffered from sharp frosts. The Austrian farmers to reduce by 17,000 tons. Estimates will vary in France, but Mr. Licht retains his figure of 200,000. The French Beets have their estimate at 400,000. It will be noticed that Mr. Licht states at the present time that the situation of Austria. He thus explains his view of the situation.

|                                 |           |           |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Stocks                          | 240,193   | 240,193   | 240,193   |
| Cane do.                        | 2,111,000 | 2,111,000 | 2,111,000 |
| Beet sugar production—Crop 1888 | 2,100,000 | 2,100,000 | 2,100,000 |
| Total                           | 4,451,193 | 4,451,193 | 4,451,193 |

The comparison for the last campaign year ending August 31st, was 4,488,601 tons.

| BEET CROPS.—    |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1888-89         | 1887-88   |
| Germany         | 1,021,000 |
| Austria         | 1,700,000 |
| France          | 2,000,000 |
| Russia          | 475,000   |
| Belgium         | 137,500   |
| Holland         | 45,000    |
| Other Countries | 17,500    |
| Total           | 5,386,000 |

General Stocks (Licht).—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were in November including working cargoes, 2,286 tons, against 2,210 in 1887. In United States 6,500 against 6,515. Havana 1,200 against 1,270. Total stocks, 607,440, against 611,525.



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[CIRCULAR No. 33.]

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E. C.,

24th December, 1888.

WEST INDIA MAILS.—The question of the Mail communication is one of great interest. If arrangements could be made to despatch the Mails on Wednesday, making Tuesday the writing day, and the incoming Mails always received on Thursday morning, it is assumed that such arrangements would meet with general approval. The same speed for the Ocean Service, 12 knots, is mentioned in the form of tender, and 10 knots between Barbados and Demerara, and on the other branches  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots. The following letter has been addressed to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, dated 7th December, 1888:—"The Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Sir,—The Proprietors and Merchants comprising the West India Committee desire me to express to you their satisfaction at the conduct of the Mail Service under the existing contract, and to say that we would heartily support the renewal of the same in the interest of the West India Colonies and British Guiana. No doubt particular Colonies will express their views to you, but the only suggestion we have to make, is that the passage out and home should be accelerated by two days each way. The Glasgow West India Association, to whom we referred the question, are strongly of this opinion. We are expecting a communication on the same subject from the West India Association of Liverpool.—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

WEST INDIA MAILS.—The carriage of the Mails by New York is strongly opposed, especially as it would increase the course of post very considerably. For British Guiana and Trinidad it would be quite impossible. The following is the Government advertisement:—"The West India Service as now maintained, comprises:—1. A Service, once a fortnight, from Southampton to Colon, calling at Barbados, Jacmel, and Jamaica; calling at the same Ports on the return voyage, and landing the Mails at Plymouth. 2. A Service, once a fortnight, from Barbados to Demerara and back. 3. A Service, once a month, from Barbados to Tobago, calling at St. Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad; the packet returning from Tobago to Barbados, calling at Trinidad, Grenada, and St. Vincent. 4. A Service, once a month, from Barbados to Trinidad, calling at St. Vincent and Grenada; the packet returning from Trinidad to Barbados, calling at Grenada and St. Vincent. 5. A Service, once a fortnight, from Barbados to St. Thomas, calling at St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua (St. John's), and St. Kitts, returning from St. Thomas to Barbados, calling at St. Kitts, Antigua (St. John's), Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, and St. Lucia."

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—Proceedings in Parliament regarding the Convention have been carefully watched. There will be now no debate upon the question until February. In the meantime the following correspondence has taken place. The Marquis of Salisbury was addressed as follows on



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Dec. 11th, 1888:—I have the honour to convey to your lordship the enclosed letter, embodying an expression of opinion, by those entitled to speak with great authority upon the subject, as to the effect the abolition of bounties provided for in the Convention will have upon the supply of sugar in the United Kingdom and the price to be paid by the consumer. In commending this letter to your lordship's kind attention I am to point out its thoroughly representative character, the signatures comprising those who are engaged in the sugar refining industry in the United Kingdom, as well as those interested in the growth and production of sugar in the British Colonies and other countries, including the East Indies and Java, the West Indies and British Guiana, Mauritius, Natal, Queensland, New South Wales, Fiji, and Cuba and Brazil. The representatives of the engineering and other industries in the United Kingdom have also expressed their concurrence. It may be asked, if we as producers, merchants and traders, do not believe that present prices will be raised by the abolition of bounties, why should we be so active in promoting that abolition. To such an inquiry we reply that our interest lies not in raising prices, but in depriving our competitors of the cash bounty as an addition to the amount of the market price—whatever that may be—which enables them to obtain a higher real price than our producers, and therefore to increase and improve their production to our detriment, while we are conversely from the same cause, precluded from increasing and improving to the same extent. In short, our interest requires that all producers should recoup their cost of production solely and only from the market price of the whole world's competition, so that all producers may have the same opportunity and the same inducement to progress in proportion with the increase of consumption. At present, whatever the price may be, we are still hindered, by the prospect of bounty-fed competition, from making the progress which, under natural conditions, we undoubtedly should make. So long as the price of sugar depends upon such uncertain and fluctuating conditions as are brought about by the bounty system, prudent capitalists are necessarily reluctant to invest capital in the industry.

(Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman of the West India Committee and the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association.

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G.—My Lord,—We venture respectfully to address your lordship upon the main objection which has been raised to the Sugar Bounties Convention, viz., that its effect will be to raise the price of sugar to the consumer. We claim to speak with authority upon this subject, inasmuch as we represent the Home Industry connected with sugar refining—the sugar producing industry of the British Colonies and other countries—also the engineering and other industries in the United Kingdom connected with the production, manufacture, and distribution of sugar. Indeed, we practically represent the whole of the British sugar industry, in all its various departments, both at home and abroad. We are, therefore, thoroughly acquainted practically with the cost of producing and refining sugar, and we can unhesitatingly express our conviction that the coming into force of the proposed Convention and the consequent abolition of bounties will not raise the price of sugar above its present level, nor will there be any restriction in the quantity of sugar imported into this country.

We have, &c.

(List of names attached.)

N. LUBBOCK, Chairman of the West India Committee and the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association.

JAMES DUNCAN, Chairman of the British Sugar Refiners' Committee.

HOGG, CURTIS, CAMPBELL & CO., Proprietors and Merchants, West Indies and British Guiana.

ROBERT KERR, Chairman Scottish Sugar Refiners' Association.

TOM NEIL, Hon. Sec. Scottish Sugar Refiners' Association.

ABRAM LYLE & SONS, Sugar Refiners, London.



GEORGE MARTINEAU, Hon. Sec. British Sugar Refiners' Committee.  
 THOMAS DANIEL & Co. LIM. (Edward Chambers, Director), Proprietors & Merchants, West Indies and British Guiana.  
 The Right Hon. E. P. BOUVERIE, Chairman of the Colonial Company, Limited  
 MACLAINE, WATSON & Co., Merchants, London and Java.  
 SMITH, WOOD & Co., Merchants, London and Manila.  
 ARRUTHNOT, LATHAM & Co., Merchants, London.  
 C. CZARNIKOW, Sugar Broker, London.  
 THOS. J. JOHNSTON, Director of the St. Lucia Central Sugar Co., Limited.  
 JAS. CHILD, Chairman of the Aerated Bread Company, London.  
 SIR THOMAS THORNHILL, Bart., Barbados  
 C. TENNANT, SONS & Co., London and Trinidad.  
 THOMSON HANKEY & Co., Merchants, London.  
 DANIEL DE PASS, Sugar Planter, Natal, South Africa.  
 C. WASHINGTON EVES, Sugar Planter, Jamaica.  
 E. D. & F. MAN, Sugar and Colonial Brokers  
 COTTAM & HILL, Sugar and Colonial Brokers.  
 C. & C. J. COLES, Sugar and Colonial Brokers.  
 J. V. DRAKE & Co., 10 and 11, Mincing Lane and Magdeburg, Sugar Merchants.  
 THE DENNERY CO., LIM., THE ST. LUCIA USINES & ESTATES Co., per H. Hales, Manager, Mincing Lane, London,  
 Sugar Producers, St. Lucia, West Indies.  
 J. & E. WILLIAMS, Sugar Merchants & Brokers, Mincing Lane, London & Magdeburg.  
 CAREY & BROWNE, Produce Brokers, 36, Mincing Lane.  
 WILLIAM ANDERSON & Co., 10, Mincing Lane, Sugar and Colonial Brokers.  
 MACDONALD, HUTCHESON & Co., London and Greenock, Sugar Brokers.  
 C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE, Sugar Brokers.  
 LIVENS & BISHOP, 27, Mincing Lane, Sugar Brokers.  
 L. COWAN & SONS, Hammersmith Bridge Works and 7, Mincing Lane, Sugar Refiners.  
 ED. KYNASTON, 10, Mincing Lane, Sugar Broker.  
 BIEBER & Co., 4, Fenchurch Avenue, London and Brazil, Merchants.  
 MEE, BILLING & Co., 9 Great St. Helens, London & Brazil, Merchants.  
 RAGGIO-CARNEIRO & Co., 129A, Winchester House, London and Brazil, Merchants.  
 JAMES KEILLER & SONS, Manufacturing Confectioners, Marmalade and Preserve Makers, Dundee and London.  
 ERDMANN & SIELCKER, Merchants, London and Java,  
 BLYTH, GREENE, JOURDAIN & Co., London and Mauritius.  
 SENDALL & WADE, Merchants and Proprietors, St. Kitts, West Indies.  
 J. C. SHAW, Madras, East Indies.  
 SIR DANIEL COOPER, Bart., G.C.M.G. for Australia, New Zealand & Fiji.  
 YOUNG, EHLERS & Co., Merchants and Proprietors, London and Australia.  
 BODDINGTON & Co., Merchants and Proprietors, West Indies and British Guiana.  
 D. LARNACH, Banker and Proprietor, Australia.  
 JNO. MCCONNELL & Co., British Guiana, Proprietors and Merchants, London and Liverpool.  
 FOR THE NATAL SUGAR Co., LIM., D. Don, Managing Director  
 R. J. JEPFRAY, for Queensland and Victoria.  
 JAMES B. ALLIOTT, for Manlove, Alliot & Co. Limited, Engineers and Manufacturers.  
 HERMANN VOSS, for the Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's) Guano Works Limited.  
 CHARLES PARBURY, Proprietor and Merchant, Australia.  
 F. PARBURY & Co., Proprietors and Merchants, London and Australia.  
 GEORGE FLETCHER & Co. (W. Parratt), Engineers and Manufacturers, London and Derby.  
 SANDBACH TINNE & Co., West India Planters and Merchants, Liverpool.  
 ALEX. GARNETT & Co., West India Planters and Merchants, Liverpool.  
 SIR T. EDWARDS MOSS, Bart., West India Planter, Otterspool.  
 BUSHBY, SON & BEAZLEY, Sugar Brokers, Liverpool.  
 EDWD. H. HARRISON & Co., Produce Brokers, Liverpool.

NICH. WATERHOUSE & SONS, Produce Brokers, Liverpool.  
 FAIRRIE, ASTLEY & Co., Produce Brokers, Liverpool.  
 BRANCKER, FOXWELL & Co., Produce Brokers, Liverpool.  
 HAMPSHIRE, TURNER & Co., Produce Brokers, Liverpool.  
 A. CRITHERLAND JONES & Co., Produce Brokers, Liverpool.  
 MACFIE & Sons, Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 HENRY TATE & SONS, Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 FOR FAIRRIE & Co. LIM. (Jas. Fairrie), Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 JAMES LEITCH & Co., Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 JOS. HEAP & SONS, Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 For the SANKEY SUGAR Co., Edward C. Turner (Partner), Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 G. JAGER & SON, Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 CROSFIELD, BARROW & Co., Sugar Refiners, Liverpool.  
 GEO. CROSFIELD & Co., Sugar Merchants, Liverpool.  
 ANTHONY JONES & Co., Sugar Merchants, Liverpool.  
 EDWARD P. PANNY & Co., Sugar Merchants, Liverpool.

INDIAN EMIGRATION.—Certain statements having appeared in the *Globe* newspaper of London regarding the Coolie Emigration system in India, the Secretary sent the following letter, which was published in the *Globe* of the 17th December:—"Sir,—The letter of Mr. J. C. Bell, in your Friday's issue, shows that he is not aware of the strict regulations connected with the Emigration of Coolies from India to British Colonies. The Government of India supervises every step of the process. The emigrants are brought before the magistrates of their district, who explains to them where they are going, the nature of the work and other particulars relating to their engagement. His duty is to make them thoroughly understand their position. If they do not understand, or seem unwilling to go, he sends them back to the place whence they came. It is impossible for the agent to deceive them, for it would be at once discovered. Those who are willing are taken to Calcutta, where they come under the Protector of Emigrants, an officer specially appointed by the Indian Government to see that all is right and that they are not deceived. They are free to leave the depot whenever they please, and many do leave it, having only engaged as emigrants to obtain free carriage to Calcutta. Both the Government of India and that of the colony to which they are going are scrupulously anxious in arranging every detail and preventing any abuse, and I cannot help thinking that with regard to the case of deception mentioned by your correspondent, he has evidently been misinformed.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, JAMES L. OHLSON, Billiter House, December 15th."

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.—The following is the memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, referred to in previous circular:—"My Lord,—We have the honour to call your lordship's attention to the constantly growing public expenditure in St. Kitts and Nevis, in which united colony we have a very extensive interest as proprietors and merchants. When the federation of the Leeward Islands was proposed it was expected by the advocates of the change that there would be a greater efficiency of Government and a more economical expenditure. In both of these particulars, so far as St. Kitts-Nevis is concerned, we would respectfully represent to your lordship the great disappointment which has resulted. The burdens of the colony, instead of having been diminished, have been largely increased, a variety of new duties and taxes have been imposed in recent years, while the general population has not been relieved by any reduction of the import duties on food or on any other articles of consumption. In 1887 His Excellency Viscount Gormanston appointed a Com-



mission to inquire into the system of taxation by which revenue is at present raised in the Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis with a view of abolishing all export duties and reducing import duties, and also to inquire into the present public expenditure of the presidency. The Commissioners reported on August 29th, 1887, and in forwarding the report to the officer administering the Government of the Leeward Islands, Mr. Edward Pogson, said, "The Commissioners cannot too earnestly impress on your Excellency the necessity for a speedy reduction of expenditure, as during the serious depression in value now existing in the markets of the world for our staple product, the revenue could not be made to meet the present charges on it in the event of a reduced sugar crop." The report gives the statistics showing the increase of expenditure since 1867, until the amount has now reached £38 249, notwithstanding the federation of the Leeward Islands and the special union of St. Kitts and Nevis under one presidency; and notwithstanding the greatly decreased value of the Island produce. The Commissioners make various proposals as to retrenchment which need not be here particularised. Among these the reduction of the president's salary from £800 to £700 is recommended, and that he should perform the duties of Auditor and directly supervise the public departments and officials. There is apparently no efficient audit of the accounts. Various other changes are proposed; such as the abolition of the office of Surveyor of Roads and the establishment of District Resident Boards. Suggestions are made as to Medical Officers, Gaol Chaplaincies Payment for Medical Evidence, Police, Hospitals and Charitable Institutions, Gaols, and other items of expenditure. The monopoly of the Crown Agents is objected to, and all requirements for the public services should be imported through respectable London houses. The ineffective audit is again the subject of complaint in the report, and it is further alleged that the contributions to the General Government of the Leeward Islands are excessive, but upon this point the Commissioners have no power to report. We would suggest that this should be made the subject of further inquiry especially as our Colony has no control in the matter. The reductions and combinations specifically proposed by the Commissioners would amount to a saving of £2,932. We venture respectfully to support the recommendations of the Commissioners, and trust that your Lordship will not agree to the proposal of Mr. Haynes Smith, the Administrator, that the tax on cultivated land should be 3s. per acre, and uncultivated 6d. We also humbly protest against His Excellency's proposals for large expenditure in the erection of new public buildings. We think, also, that the question of telephonic and telegraphic communication might be deferred, or more properly left to private enterprise, as, although it would be appreciated, we submit that this is not a proper time to increase the burdens of the Colony for such purposes, and would not constitute an item properly chargeable to the General Revenue. The proposed taxation by the Administrator is estimated by His Excellency to produce a surplus of £2,379. We submit that this is a proof that the said taxation is not required. Nor can such taxation be considered as a substitution for the Export Tax, as that tax was devoted to special purposes now abolished or in course of extinction, viz.: the Militia and Ecclesiastical payments in certain Parishes by the Public Revenue. We therefore humbly pray that your Lordship would not approve of the increased taxation proposed by His Excellency as introduced in the Bill now before the Legislature of St. Kitts-Nevis, but that you would be pleased to sanction the carrying out of the reasonable recommendations of the Commissioners, and to prevent the taxation of the Colony from becoming too great for its resources to sustain. The following is a list of names attached to the above memorial.

PAGET A. WADE, 34, Fenchurch Street.

NEVILLE C. SENDALL, 34, Fenchurch Street.



CLAUD NEILSON & SONS, St. Mary Axe.  
 C. W. & W. GRAY, 31, Great St. Helens.  
 WM. C. DALRYMPLE, 4, Cullum Street.  
 G. ESTRIDGE, 8, Pembroke Villas, Richmond.  
 SAM. ABBOT, St. Kitts, W.  
 R. & T. NEAVE, 9, New Broad Street.  
 JAS. DOUGLAS ADAMSON, 12, Lime Street.  
 RODDINGTON & Co., St. Helens Place.  
 EDWARD POGSON, Bourkes, St. Kitts.  
 FRED. GREENE, 12, Nicholas Lane.  
 EDWIN S. WADE, St. Kitts.  
 B. B. GREENE,  
 ETHELBERG WADE, Hermitage Estate, St. Kitts.  
 VISCOUNT COMBERMERE Combermere Abbey, Whitchurch.  
 STEUART S. DAVIS, Sadler's Estate.  
 ANNA L. DAVIS, Sadler's Estate.  
 ANNE MILLS, Jersey, Prospect Estate, Nevis.  
 JAS. EWING & Co., Glasgow.  
 SIR M. H. BRISCO, BART.  
 W. H. BUCKE, Bush Hill Estate, Nevis.  
 CECIL S. MOLYNEUX MONTGOMERIE, Molyneux Estate, St. Kitts.  
 THOS. TYNDALE,

The above memorial was acknowledged as follows:—"Downing Street, Dec. 8, 1888.—SIR,—  
 I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., forward-  
 ing a memorial addressed to him by certain proprietors of land in St. Kitts and Nevis, with regard  
 to expenditure and taxation in that presidency of the Leeward Islands, and I am to request you to  
 be so good as to convey to the memorialists the observations which his lordship desires to make  
 upon the points referred to by them as follows:—Lord Knutsford is well aware that the financial  
 administration of St. Kitts-Nevis requires careful attention, and no opportunity will be neglected of  
 effecting economies consistently with the efficiency of the public service. As regards the expecta-  
 tions which had been entertained that greater efficiency of Government would result from the con-  
 federation of the Leeward Islands, his lordship considers that there are yet no grounds for any feel-  
 ing of disappointment. With respect to economy of expenditure, it is true that the gross amount  
 of the annual appropriation has increased, but this is almost wholly due to the application of a  
 larger amount of tax revenue to useful public purposes of an entirely local character, while the  
 services affected by confederation, with the exception of those concerned with education and the  
 administration of justice, which have been specially and beneficially developed, were performed  
 in the year 1887 at a less cost by upwards of £900 than in 1871, and further savings  
 will shortly be made in the cost of administration, and, it is hoped, also in the cost  
 of the judicial establishment of the presidency. With reference to the observations  
 of the memorialists in support of the Report of the Finance Commission appointed in 1887, they  
 will be glad to know that Lord Knutsford had instructed the Governor of the Leeward Islands  
 that effect is to be given to many of the recommendations of that Commission with as little delay



as may be. The salary of the now vacant office of President will be reduced, but it would obviously be undesirable to make the President the Auditor of Accounts, for payment of which he is himself responsible. It is at present, as the memorialists consider it should be, his duty directly to supervise and control the public departments and officials of the Presidency in the absence of the Governor. Lord Knutsford cannot concur in the opinion expressed by the Finance Commissioners that the practice of obtaining supplies for the public service through the Crown agents for the Colonies should be discontinued. The present system ensures that such goods are obtained, as the memorialist appears to desire, only from respectable and trustworthy London firms, whereas the Commissioners suggested that they might, as an alternative, be purchased in the local market. Nor can his lordship admit that the present system of audit is ineffective. It is to some extent hampered by the want of constant communication between the various Presidencies, but the statement of the memorialists that "there is no efficient audit of accounts" can only be based on insufficient information. As regards the statement that the contribution to the General Government is excessive, if by this it is meant that the Presidency pays more than its fair share, Lord Knutsford cannot agree; if it is meant that the Federal expenditure is excessive, very close attention to economy in this respect has been paid by successive Secretaries of State, and his lordship is of opinion that no further appreciable saving is possible. I am to point out that the Commissioners in their report do not give any specific grounds for their statement that there is room for material reductions. The Commissioners' estimate of possible reductions in expenditure, amounting to £2,932 a year, made no allowance for any pension or compensation to the officers whose appointments they proposed to abolish. It is evident that unless such compensation be paid, the reductions proposed in the establishment can only be made by degrees. Lord Knutsford has approved the proposal that a tax should be imposed of three shillings an acre on cultivated land, and sixpence an acre on uncultivated, he does not agree with the opinion of the memorialists that it is not required. His Lordship has received no proposals for large expenditure in the erection of new Public Buildings, and is not likely to assent to such proposals until the finances of the Presidency are in a healthier condition than at present. The erection of houses for Medical Officers where necessary was recommended by the Finance Commission, but it is proposed that it shall be carried out without addition to the charges on General Revenue. Lord Knutsford believes that the memorialists will agree with him in thinking that the £600 proposed to be applied to the provision of a line of telegraph round the island of St. Kitts, will be well spent, in view of the increased efficiency which will thereby be given to the Police Force, both for the maintenance of order, which some persons fear may be endangered by the abolition of the militia, and for the better prevention of smuggling, and consequent increase of revenue. With respect to the anticipated surplus of revenue His Lordship hopes that so soon as the balance of the finances is restored it may be found possible to effect the long promised reduction of import duties and in that manner relieve the pressure of taxation. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION INTO JAMAICA.—There is no space to print a copy of the despatch of Governor Norman to the Secretary of State for the Colonies upon this question. Hopes are still entertained that arrangements may be made for a ship with Coolies to be despatched to Jamaica at the beginning of next season, namely, August, 1889. The matter is still in suspense awaiting the views of the Government of Jamaica with regard to the expense to employers.



**SACCHARINE.**—This preparation has been formally excluded by decree from France and Algeria. A law has been submitted to confirm this decree.

**BET PROSPECTS.**—The weather in France has been seasonable, and the frosts have not interfered with the sugar manufacture. Similar reports are given as to the weather in Germany. Estimates of the current German crop reduce the amount to 975,000 tons. The French crop is still estimated at from 450,000 to 475,000 tons. Crop in Austria-Hungary is still estimated by some authorities at 550,000 tons. An increase of the sowings for next crop in Austria-Hungary is expected.

**SANDWICH ISLANDS.**—Advices from Honolulu announce a satisfactory crop which will probably be not less than 120,000 tons against 110,000 last year.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings 50 weeks, 869,342 tons, against 836,877 same period 1887; increase 32,465. Deliveries: 903,851, against 859,026; increase 44,825. Stocks: 152,806, against 169,611; deficiency 16,805.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 5th December, nice showers have fallen; 8th December, fine rains have fallen generally.

**JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.**

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.



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[CIRCULAR No. 34.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

21st January, 1889.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—A well-attended meeting of the General Purposes Committee was held on January 17th. The subject of the Mail Communication was discussed, and the minutes of a meeting of British Guiana Proprietors, held on 10th January, were laid on the table, to which several amendments were proposed. A printed paper forwarded by the Colonial Office, giving particulars of experiments in connection with Sugar Canes in Barbados was laid on the table. (This paper will be lent to any member on application.) The following is the letter to the Secretary of State on the question of the Mail Communication which was submitted to the above meeting and approved:—  
"15th January, 1889.—My Lord, —We understand that tenders are now being considered by Her Majesty's Government for a contract for mail service between Great Britain and the West Indies and British Guiana. We beg respectfully to inform you that we have had for many years practical experience of the manner in which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have conducted the service. By their punctuality and despatch they have won the confidence of all who are interested in the Colonies, and the comfort and convenience of their Steamers, especially in recent years, have been much appreciated. They carry the Mails directly from Great Britain to British Colonies without transshipment at any Foreign Port, and the long experience which they have gained conduces much to the facilities of the Service, which facilities no new undertaking commencing such a business could possibly secure. We think there might be some increase in speed, and as to the central depôt we can only say that we are connected with *all* the Colonies, and it would therefore not be our duty to express any opinion with regard to this question so long as a choice is made that would obviously be consistent with an efficient Service. As representing the Proprietary and Mercantile interest of the British West India Colonies in the United Kingdom, I have, on behalf of the West India Committee, the honour humbly to request that your lordship would be pleased, in any communications with the Departments of Her Majesty's Government having immediate charge of this matter, to convey the great satisfaction felt generally in the West Indies with the manner in which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have carried on the Service, and the great disappointment which we feel sure would be experienced throughout the West Indies if the Service should be placed in other hands." Signed, N. LUBBOCK.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—Arrangements are being made in Liverpool for a hearty reception of Baron Henry de Worms. A blue-book has been published, bringing the correspondence up to date. It contains the resolutions of the Trades Unions in all parts of the country in support of the Convention. Letters from the West India Committee and the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association are also included. The resolutions of thanks to Her Majesty's Government from the Leeward Islands, Jamaica, and Trinidad, are printed. These resolutions include references to the exertions of the West India Committee, and particularly to the manner in which the chairman,

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Mr. Lubbock, has conducted the movement. The Secretary to the Imperial Treasury of Germany has announced that the Government would make the necessary preparations for giving effect to the agreement concluded in London. The eventual co-operation of Germany in executing the treaty would, however, depend upon a full guarantee being given that sugar from States which were not parties to the Convention should not be admitted into England, or else that it should there be so dealt with that German sugar would incur no danger.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Among the important matters dealt with at the meeting of British Guiana Proprietors above referred to was a Circular issued from the Immigration Department dated 11th December, 1888, of which the following is a copy:—"Sir, I have the honour to inform you that at the late Session of the Combined Court, Mr. A. R. Gilzean, Financial Representative for Essequibo, moved the following resolution:—"Whereas it is desirable that the Colony should not be drained of a valuable number of its inhabitants and of its wealth as it is by the present system of back passages to East Indian Immigrants: *Be it Resolved*,—That the Lieutenant-Governor is requested to name a Committee of the Immigration Agent and two non-official members of this Court, with power to add to their number, to take the opinions of persons interested in the subject, and to report to this Court, submitting a scheme for the removal of the above-named evil." After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a Committee should be appointed for the purpose set forth in the above resolution, and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor accordingly nominated the Honourable C. B. King, Acting Immigration Agent-General, Honourable B. Howell Jones, and D. C. Cameron, Esquire, Vice-President of the Financial Representatives, to form the said Committee, with power to add to their number. In the exercise of that power the Committee associated with them Thomas H. Glennie, Esquire, and J. E. Finne, Esquire. It is the desire of the Committee to carry out to the fullest extent the object of the above Resolution, and also to comply with the wishes of the Combined Court, by inviting an expression of opinion from every person who, from his position in connection with the Estates or with the working of the Immigration system, is likely to be able to assist them in coming to a clear and satisfactory conclusion on the subject. The Committee, therefore, request that you will be good enough to favour them at as early a date as possible, with your opinion on the following points. First.—Do you consider it to be either necessary or desirable that any alteration should be made in the conditions as to Back Passage under which the Immigrants have hitherto been introduced into the Colony? Second.—If so, do you approve of the suggestion made in the course of the discussion in the Combined Court, that the Immigrants at the close of their Indentures should be offered a money payment of Twenty-four Dollars, in commutation of their claim to a Return Passage? Third.—Do you consider that the above-named sum would be an equitable equivalent for the surrender of all claim to a Return Passage to India? Fourth.—If not, would it in your opinion be expedient to offer a larger amount, say Forty or Fifty Dollars? Fifth.—As no exceptions could be made in carrying out such a system, would it not be the case that the offer of money would have to be made in some instances to Immigrants whose return to India would be more to the interest of the Colony than their remaining in it? Sixth.—If you are not prepared to agree with the suggestion as to a money payment in lieu of Back Passage, is there any other alternative measure which you could propose as likely to tend to reduce the number of applications for Return Passage? Seventh.—In your opinion has the return to India each year of a proportion of the immigrant population been a disadvantage or otherwise, regarded in connection with the development of the Immigration system? Eighth.—If you consider that it has had a



beneficial effect on Immigration, might not this be looked upon as, to a great extent, compensating for any general disadvantages caused by the withdrawal of labour and capital? Ninth.—Considering that the Immigrants who return to India each year come from all parts of the Colony, from the towns, villages and settlements as well as from the estates, and that they include at least 5 per cent. of paupers and lepers, is it probable that any particular estate is materially affected thereby in respect to labour supply? In answering the above questions the Committee request that you will give your reasons for any opinion you may express on the subject. In the course of the discussion in the Combined Court, a suggestion was further made that the term of indenture should be reduced from five to two or three years. The Committee will be glad to receive an expression of your views on this point also, in its relation to the probable effect of such a change on both the immigrants and their employers. It will be a convenience to receive your reply at as early a date as possible.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, C. B. KING, Chairman." With regard to the above Circular no formal resolution was passed, but the opinion of the meeting was that the question required grave consideration, especially in view of the following objections:—(1) That unless the arrangement were made retrospective it would cause discontent among the Coolies now in the Colony. (2) That if on the other hand it were made retrospective it might cost the Colony from £250,000 to £300,000. (3) That the increased applications for Back Passages during the last three or four years will probably prove to be temporary, and that if applications again assume their former proportions there would be the less necessity to consider any scheme involving a possibly heavy financial burden upon the Colony. (4) That return immigrants are important evidence in India of the advantages of emigration and no doubt facilitate recruiting. (5) That it would be highly inexpedient to reduce the term of indenture from five to two or three years. (Information with regard to the other points discussed at this meeting can be obtained by Members from the Secretary.)

**JAMAICA IMMIGRATION.**—The West India Committee are awaiting a communication from the Colonial Office as to the terms upon which Coolie Immigrants can be introduced into the Colony. It is feared that the Government contemplate a charge to employers that would be quite prohibitory.

**ANTIGUA.**—A meeting of Antigua proprietors is shortly to be arranged for the purpose of settling the terms of a letter to the Secretary of State upon proposed large expenditure, and consequently fresh taxation in that Colony.

**SUGAR TRUSTS IN AMERICA.**—According to a New York telegram published on the 10th Jan. :— "The Judge of the Supreme Court of New York State to-day gave judgment to the effect that the North River Sugar Refining Company had forfeited its charter because it had entered a Trust. This has long been regarded as a test case. The Trust in question includes all the sugar refineries in New York State, and, with a few exceptions, all those in the United States."

**PRICES IN 1888.**—The following average has been made by taking prices of 88 per cent. beet on every day on which business was done, and at the end of the month divided by that number of days. If this calculation is sound the following is the monthly average of the above-named sugar in London:—January, 15s. 4½d.; February, 14s. 6d.; March, 14s. 4½d.; April, 13s. 9d.; May, 13s.; June, 13s. 6d.; July, 14s. 3d.; August, 14s. 3d.; September, 14s. 7½d.; October, 13s.; November, 13s. 1½d.; December, 14s. Average for the year 1888, 13s. 11¾d.

## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

## IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER.

| 1886                      | 1887      | 1888      |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cwts.                     | Cwts.     | Cwts.     |
| From Germany ... ..       | 2,834,924 | 3,177,340 |
| .. Holland ... ..         | 1,503,522 | 1,426,276 |
| .. Belgium ... ..         | 100,996   | 203,888   |
| .. France ... ..          | 1,551,435 | 1,570,237 |
| .. United States ... ..   | 782,552   | 41,628    |
| .. Other Countries ... .. | 121,612   | 470,479   |
| Total ... ..              | 7,010,762 | 6,889,848 |

| 1886                                     | 1887       | 1888       |
|--|------------|------------|
| Cwts.                                    | Cwts.      | Cwts.      |
| From Germany ... ..                      | 7,573,636  | 5,320,106  |
| .. Holland ... ..                        | 408,404    | 283,549    |
| .. Belgium ... ..                        | 1,068,683  | 694,302    |
| .. France ... ..                         | 68,186     | 37,367     |
| .. British West Indies and Guiana ... .. | 2,148,245  | 2,140,438  |
| .. British West Indies ... ..            | 853,663    | 1,006,913  |
| .. Cape and Hong Kong ... ..             | 16,312     | 10,733     |
| .. Mauritius ... ..                      | 104,986    | 256,463    |
| .. Spanish West India Islands ... ..     | 170,358    | 304,496    |
| .. Brazil ... ..                         | 865,281    | 2,267,225  |
| .. Java ... ..                           | 3,200,343  | 3,612,487  |
| .. Bourbonnais Islands ... ..            | 400,366    | 722,425    |
| .. Other Countries ... ..                | 436,634    | 497,142    |
| Total ... ..                             | 17,955,221 | 17,850,371 |
| Molasses ... ..                          | 35,538     | 346,029    |

The above supply of Sugar may be divided:—

| 1886              | 1887      | 1888      |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Tons              | Tons      | Tons      |
| Best Sugar ... .. | 767,356   | 659,177   |
| Coar Sugar ... .. | 424,943   | 577,833   |
| Total ... ..      | 1,242,299 | 1,237,010 |

Note.—The imports of refined from United States are taken as cane, also unrefined from "other countries."

COPPER.—Imports, year 1888, 955,274 cwts., against 1,046,212 in 1887. Home consumption 277,024 against 268,322. Stock in Bonded Warehouses 31st December, 1888, 168,664, against 304,824.

COFFEE.—Imports, 566,547 lbs. against 27,459,500 in 1887. Home consumption 18,227,017, against 15,873,698. Stocks in Bonded Warehouses, 13,030,424, against 10,397,186 in 1887.

REU.—Imports, 4,147,656 proof gallons, against 6,378,377 in 1887. Home consumption 1,850,315 against 3,902,325. Stock in Bonded Warehouses 6,604,833, against 8,030,381.

BEST CROP.—In Mr. Licht's Circular for 24th December, the estimate for the crop of 1888-9 was reduced from 2,825,000 tons to 2,408,000.



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**BET PROSPECTS.**—The weather in France has been seasonable and is favourable to culture. A similar report is published from Germany.

**GENERAL STOCKS (Licht).**—The visible stocks of Sugar in Europe were, in December (including floating cargoes) 880,969 tons, against 1,030,938 in 1887. In United States 55,000 against 85,394. Havana 9,144 against 8,128. Total stocks, 945,113 against 1,124,460.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 2 weeks, 32,624 tons, against 33,275 same period 1888; decrease 651. Deliveries, 25,914, against 29,787; decrease 3,873. Stocks, 158,431, against 188,713; deficiency 30,282.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 24th December, 1888, weather showery; 27th rain has fallen heavily; 10th January, 1889, weather continues wet. Barbados, 14th January, good showers. Trinidad, 17th January, crop is fairly commenced, weather all that could be desired.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

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[CIRCULAR No. 35.]

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,  
18th February, 1889.

WEST INDIA MAILS.—At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on 14th February, the following letter was agreed upon with regard to the proposed change in the day of despatching the Mails, and the increase of speed by which the Mails will be delivered in this country on Thursday, or certainly not later than Friday morning:—"West India Committee to Postmaster-General, February 15th.—SIR,—In reply to the verbal inquiries which a gentleman from your Department has been good enough to make, I beg respectfully to inform you that the West Indian Merchants and Proprietors of London have no objection to the despatch of the mails on Wednesday instead of Thursday, and they trust that the course of post will be accelerated as far as possible. The West India Merchants and Proprietors of Liverpool and Glasgow agree in this opinion. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

COOLIES FOR BRAZIL.—The following correspondence is reported. "West India Committee to Colonial Office, 24th January.—MY LORD,—I have the honour to call your Lordship's attention to a report which has come to the knowledge of this Committee that a Steamship Company has been requested to tender for the conveyance of a large number of Coolies from British Guiana to Barbados, to be transhipped from there to Brazil. In this latter country no doubt there is a dearth of labour, and it is not improbable that the West Indian Colonies may be regarded as a recruiting ground. But considering how important the immigrant population is to the British Colonies, and that no security could be obtained for their proper treatment in Brazil, we would humbly request that your Lordship would be pleased to call the attention of the Government of British Guiana and other Colonies to the matter. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman." "Colonial Office to West India Committee, 6th February.—SIR,—I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th of January, calling attention to a report that steps had been taken for the conveyance of a large number of Coolies from British Guiana to Barbados, to be transhipped from there to Brazil; and to state that copies of your letter have been sent to the Governors of West Indian Colonies, in accordance with your request. I am to add that Lord Knutsford has called the attention of the Governors to the Colonial Statutes prohibiting the emigration of Coolies for service in countries with which there is no Indian Emigration Convention, or to which emigration from India is not permitted. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

SUGAR BOUNTY CONVENTION.—The Committee had much pleasure in observing the important demonstration in Liverpool (following the one in Glasgow) in recognition of the great services rendered by the Baron Henry de Worms in connection with the Convention. It is now a matter of consideration as to what steps shall be taken in London to organise a similar demonstration, as well as to prepare for the important debates which are expected to take place in Parliament upon this question. Full reports of the Liverpool speeches can be seen at this office, and a large number of copies of the Glasgow speeches are still available.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION IN GERMANY.—A discussion took place in the German Reichstag on the 28th January, in which the Secretary for the Imperial Exchequer made a statement with regard to the Convention. In accordance with the undertaking by the contracting countries to communicate mutually to each other the laws or projects of laws which they might frame with a view to carrying out the Convention, a Bill embodying suitable Sugar Tax legislation for Germany is nearly ready. The Special Commission will probably meet in the beginning of May. The attitude of Germany rests on the presumption that a sufficiently large number of Sugar-producing countries will ultimately join the Convention, and that the suppression of bounties in the contracting countries, and the exclusion from their markets of bounty-fed sugar will everywhere be loyally carried out. In the course of the debate the reserved attitude of France and Austria was particularly referred to



Dr. Witte said with regard to premiums in Germany, according to this year's results, he reckoned that there would be a premium of about m. 2.10 per 100 kilos. raw sugar, and to this must be added a premium on the sugar exported as refined of m. 1.35. There would thus be paid in premiums in the season 1888-89 more than 14,000,000 marks. The factories for making sugar from molasses found this suited their interests. The Convention should therefore be loyally carried out both in letter and in spirit. In replying to certain speakers the Secretary of State for the Exchequer repeated that the further action of the Government depended upon the stipulations of the Convention being loyally maintained and executed. They were revising their Sugar Tax legislation in the spirit of the Convention for the purpose of submitting it to the Special Commission as prescribed in the Convention. In the further course of the debate the attitude of the United States and France was again prominently discussed. An important question will arise later on with regard to a consumption tax on Saccharine or starch mixed with that preparation.

**PLANTING CANES.**—Professor Stubbs, Director of the Experimental Station of Louisiana, has studied the influence upon quantity and quality of the distance between planted canes. The Louisiana Planters have a space of three or four feet, but a discussion has arisen as to whether a distance of five or seven feet would not be more effective. According to Professor Stubbs' experiments, the advantage remains in the case of the three feet distance, in regard to the weight of cane per acre and in sugar extractable therefrom.

**JAMAICA IMMIGRATION.**—Copies of Despatches relating to Immigration, both from Barbados and the East Indies into Jamaica, are open to the perusal of members at this office. The correspondence with the Colonial Office upon this subject is proceeding, and the whole of the papers will be printed later on. In the meantime, owing to the heavy proposed charge for Coolies in Jamaica, there does not seem at the present moment any prospect of obtaining any during the approaching season unless of course the result of the correspondence with the Colonial Office is to reduce the charge to the planters to about £18 to £20 per immigrant.

**ANTIGUA HARBOUR WORKS.**—The Antigua Proprietors have addressed to the Secretary of State detailed objections to a scheme for Harbour improvements at St. John's, set forth (1) in the Report of the Harbour Commissioners presented in 1888, and (2) in the memorandum of the present Governor thereon laid before the Legislative Council. Members connected with Antigua can peruse this correspondence at the office, and as soon as a reply is received from the Secretary of State, the whole correspondence will be printed.

**BET CROPS.**—M. Licht says in his annual report, that he finds the yield has attained 113.70 per cent., against 12.27 per cent. of weight of beet roots in 1886-7. The total German production expressed in raw sugar was in 1887-8 959,166 tons, against 1,012,967 in 1886-7. The exportation amounted to 523,922 tons against 638,389 tons in 1886-7. The consumption in Germany has been 439,660 tons, equivalent to 18½ pounds per head of population. The estimates for the total European crop 1888-9 remain as they were reported last month by M. Licht.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 6 weeks, 100,854 tons, against 116,070 same period 1887; decrease, 15,216. Deliveries, 94,425, against 93,812; increase 613. Stocks, 158,150, against 207,483; deficiency, 49,333.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 14th February, 1889; weather showery. Trinidad, 31st January; weather fine for harvesting; 31st January; weather favourable; 7th February, weather favourable; 12th February, weather favourable.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free.

P.S.—A Supplementary Circular will be issued next mail, with latest Sugar Statistics and Correspondence on subjects above mentioned.



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[CIRCULAR No. 36.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET LONDON, E C.

4th, March. 1889.

**SUGAR BOUNTY CONVENTION.**—The following is an extract from the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament. "Legislative provision will be necessary for executing the Convention into which I have entered for the suppression of bounties on the exportation of Sugar." In the course of the debate upon the Address some interesting speeches were delivered upon this question, notably by Baron Henry de Worms, and Mr. Sutherland. Lord Granville is reported to have said in the House of Lords, "the Convention we regard as retrograde in principle, and we shall feel bound to oppose it." But the Liberal leaders in the House of Commons have not endorsed this declaration.

**SUGAR LAW IN UNITED STATES.**—The Senate of the United States has voted the Tariff Bill, and has also granted an export bounty of 1 cent. per pound on sugar produced from Beet or Cane in the United States. This would amount to a bounty of a dollar per 100 lbs. As the United States imports 1,200,000 tons of Sugar for her own consumption, and produces something less than 300,000 tons, including the produce of the Sandwich Islands, it is clear that America cannot be a large exporting country. Hitherto Louisiana Sugar has had protection to the extent of about £10 per ton, but with the reduction of duties this advantage would be reduced one half. In order, therefore to preserve the *status quo* with regard to Louisiana the above-mentioned bounty is now proposed to be given. It is in fact a bounty on American production, and will have little or no influence whatsoever upon the export of Sugar from the United States. The Bill has yet to go through the House of Representatives, and no confident opinion can be expressed as to the prospect of its passing.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—An important Meeting of Proprietors was held at this office, on February 28th, to consider certain papers received from the Colony, containing Government proposals with regard to Estates Hospitals and the general population. Draft minutes were ordered to be sent to the Proprietors, so as to secure general concurrence for the purpose of addressing the Planters' Association upon the subject by next mail.

**TRINIDAD STEAMERS.**—The following is an extract from a letter from Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull & Co., of Glasgow, dated 28th February, 1889.—"We have now arranged with the Trinidad Government to put on a line of First-class Steamers, to ply between New York and Trinidad direct, making the passage in 8 days. This service begins about 1st April, when the first vessel leaves Trinidad, and will be continued by fortnightly sailings from each port. So soon as arrangements can be made a Steamer will ply round the Island of Trinidad, and to Tobago in connection with above service. The vessels will be especially adapted for conveyance of Fruits, as well as general freights, and will have accommodation for about ten cabin passengers at first which can be extended as trade warrants."

**COOLIE IMMIGRATION INTO JAMAICA.**—The documents received from the Colonial Office upon this subject will be printed in next Circular, together with the proposed reply to same.



ANTIGUA HARBOUR WORKS.—The following letter, dated 15th February, 1889, has been acknowledged by the Secretary of State. It is printed here for the information of Antigua members. "My Lord,—I have the honour, on behalf of proprietors, merchants, and others interested in the Island of Antigua, to submit to your Lordship the views entertained upon the schemes for Harbour Improvements at St. John's, set forth (1) in the Report of the Harbour Commissioners presented in 1888, and (2) in the Memorandum of the present Governor thereon laid before the Legislative Council. The works recommended by the Commissioners are estimated by them to cost £50,000, and a sum of £3,500 per annum for 21 years will be required on their showing, to provide sinking fund and interest. Against this the Report, while referring generally to other prospective advantages, proves only a saving of £670 per annum, leaving an annual balance to be provided, which will require the imposition of additional port dues of 1s. 5d. per ton on all imports and exports, calculated on the tonnage of 1887—a year, the trade of which was certainly not below the average. The Commissioners suggest aid from the Imperial Government to the extent of a quarter of the Capital cost, and quote the report of Captain Alexander in support. It must be remembered, however, that Captain Alexander's report is dated 1881, and that since then the Imperial Government has committed itself to considerable expenditure in St. Lucia. It is apparent that the Commissioners' scheme holds out but slender advantages in convenience and economy compared with the proposed cost, that it would not attract additional trade to any considerable extent, and that it would offer no inducement to the Imperial Authorities to subsidise the work. From the proprietors' and merchants' point of view, it must be noticed that although drogherage will be somewhat lessened, still droghers will be necessary in loading and unloading all vessels, as the report does not contemplate wharves with deep water alongside. Reference is made to a probable lowering of freights consequent on the Commissioners' improvements, but it appears to us that the new conveniences would be so slight that freights would hardly be affected, while we affirm with confidence that the predominant factor in raising or lowering freights is the volume of goods handled. Freights are low in Demerara and Trinidad, where a vessel can load an entire cargo with despatch. Among the smaller islands vessels must go from port to port in order to fill up, and in consequence freights run high. Turning to the Governor's Memorandum, it is obvious that a much more complete scheme is presented. If fully carried out, some of the advantages predicted by the Governor and Captain Alexander would no doubt accrue. It appears, however, taking the figures of the Commissioners' Report as a basis of inference, that the cost of the larger scheme is much under-estimated. It is not clear on the face of the memorandum whether Mr. Moore's estimate includes the cost of dredging a passage through the bar to a depth of 30 feet, the provision of deep water space in the harbour beyond the deep water lanes alongside the proposed quays (an obvious necessity), and the cleaning of the upper reaches proposed by the Commissioners. It is difficult to see how these matters could be dispensed with, and equally difficult to see how an expenditure of £60,000 could cover them all. With respect to the proposed Graving Dock, it appears that (without reliable figures in support) the idea is a speculative one. The burden of proof of something more than a probable pecuniary advantage seems to lie on the advisers of the necessary expenditure. Meanwhile, the history of the floating dock at St. Thomas is not encouraging. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to add that, if St. John's is to become a great trade emporium and distributing centre, and to possess the full harbour accommodation then required, a much larger expenditure than £125,000 would be necessarily incurred. In such a case unless the Imperial Government made St. John's a naval and military station, the war risks of the community would be considerably increased. With respect to both

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schemes, I am to suggest that certain consequential expenses are not noticed. Will not the construction of wharves and warehouses at Rat Island, and the discharge and loading of all large ships there, necessitate the removal of some at least of the Government buildings, and many of the merchants' places of business to that spot? Has the question of the maintenance of the works been duly considered, and especially has proper allowance been made for the cost of the annual dredging required? The harbour floor is soft mud and clay, and the channel through the bar will be liable to silt up rapidly from the same causes that formed the bar itself. Finally, I am respectfully to urge on your Lordships's consideration two arguments which seem of the greatest weight against the improvement schemes—firstly, that the benefits which may accrue from the proposed improvements will be enjoyed chiefly by the merchant community and the urban population, while the burden of financial non-success must fall almost entirely on the struggling and heavily-weighted planting interest; and, secondly, the fact of the present acute depression of the colony which is such as to justify schemes of large financial responsibility only if they are practically certain of financial success. I am to submit that this practical certainty is far from being proved."

(Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman.

BEET CROPS.—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—

|                        | 1888-89.  | 1887-88.  | 1886-87.  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany ... ..         | 975,000   | 959,166   | 1,012,968 |
| Austria ... ..         | 550,000   | 428,616   | 523,059   |
| France ... ..          | 475,000   | 392,824   | 485,739   |
| Russia ... ..          | 510,000   | 441,342   | 487,460   |
| Belgium ... ..         | 140,000   | 140,742   | 135,755   |
| Holland ... ..         | 45,000    | 39,280    | 36,098    |
| Other Countries ... .. | 55,000    | 49,980    | 49,127    |
| Tons ...               | 2,750,000 | 2,451,950 | 2,730,206 |

GENERAL STOCKS.—(Licht.) The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were in February ~~1888~~ <sup>1889</sup> (including floating cargoes), 1,046,158 tons, against 1,179,286 tons in 1888. In United States, 78,000 against 104,630. Havana, 29,464 against 31,496. Floating to North America, 50,616 against 18,107. Total Stocks, 1,204,238 against 1,333,519.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings: 8 weeks, 128,696 tons, against 147,323 same period 1888; decrease 18,627. Deliveries: 126,224, against 114,721; increase 11,503. Stocks: 154,193, against 217,827; deficiency 63,634.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, 23rd February, weather changeable slight showers. Trinidad, 19th February, weather favourable; 28th February, weather fine for harvesting. Antigua, 26th February, four inches of rain have fallen. Barbados, 27th February, good reaping weather.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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[CIRCULAR No. 37.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET LONDON, E.C.,

18th, March. 1889.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—The following correspondence with Lord Salisbury is reported—March 12, 1889. My Lord Marquis,—I am requested to respectfully inform your Lordship that the West India Committee are looking forward with great anxiety to the Special Commission to be held in London in May next, for the purpose of considering the legislative proposals of the contracting countries, in accordance with the terms of the Sugar Bounties Convention. I am humbly to ask whether Her Majesty's Government will be pleased, in due time, before the said Meeting, to introduce a Bill into Parliament for the purpose of obtaining the powers necessary to enable the United Kingdom to fulfil its engagement under the Convention. We venture to repeat to your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government, having taken the leading part in this endeavour to bring about a settlement of the question, such a course would be essential for the satisfaction of Foreign Governments, who are already engaged in preparing the measures which will become necessary under the scheme of the Convention, and who may possibly withdraw from further proceedings if the approaching Meeting were likely to be rendered abortive by any delay in the expression of an opinion upon the subject by the British Parliament. As an instance of the action now being taken by Foreign Governments, I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that the Bill for giving effect to the Sugar Convention has been submitted to the Federal Council of Germany, by whom it has been referred to the Committee whom it concerns, and who were expected to proceed to an immediate decision respecting it. I am to add that I am expressing the views entertained in the West India Colonies, when I venture to inform your Lordship that the present state of uncertainty is of serious detriment to their interests, inasmuch as no new capital can be expended, or further enterprise undertaken until it becomes practically certain that the Convention will be carried out, so far as any action on the part of Her Majesty's Government and of the British Parliament is concerned. (Signed) N. LUMMOCK, Chairman.

"March 15. SIR,—I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, expressing the hope of the West India Committee that Her Majesty's Government will introduce a Bill to enable them to give effect to the Sugar Bounties Convention before the meeting of the Special Commission in May next. In reply I am to state to you, for the information of the Committee, that a Bill is in preparation, and will be shortly introduced into Parliament. (Signed) JAMES FERGUSSON."

MR. GLADSTONE.—The following letter from Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Tinne appeared in the *Demerara Argosy* of 13th October, 1888.—"London, 14th July, '88. MY DEAR SIR,—Though I have taken a sincere interest in the controversy on the Sugar Bounties, I fear it is uncertain whether I can intervene in its remaining stages. After 55 years of public work, I ride at single anchor in the House of Commons, and perforce let much go by which 20 or 30 years ago would not have escaped me. I hope the matter will come to a happy issue.—Faithfully yours, (Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE."

RUM TERMS.—The Secretary will be glad to know the opinion of importers on the following—"17 Great Tower-street, 7th March, 1889—The Chairman of the West India Committee—Dear



Sir,—The decision of the West India Committee on the terms of discount on Rum to which the trade never assented, as you will find by my letter of 16th February, 1888, having worked in an unsatisfactory manner, I am requested by the members of the trade to ask you to make an appointment to discuss the very moderate alteration necessary to permanently settle this question.—I am, etc. (signed) ARTHUR H. ROBINSON. The following is the letter referred to:—"Will you kindly convey to the Chairman and to the West India Committee my thanks to those of the other Rum buyers for having acceded to our request (*to a certain extent*) and altered the terms of payment, but at the same time I regret that for simplification and convenience they were not arranged as suggested in my letter to the Chairman, viz., 2½ per cent. discount *within* 14 days, no further discount given nor interest charged for that term."

BRITISH GUIANA.—A meeting of Proprietors took place on February 28. The following Minute was sent to the Planters' Association. Papers laid on table were:—A letter from the British Guiana Planters' Association, dated 1st February, enclosing documents as follows: (1.) Printed copy of letter addressed by the Government Secretary to the Planters' Association, dated 23rd January, 1889, with regard to the utilisation of the Estates Hospitals for the outside population. (2.) A Circular issued by the Planters' Association dated 29th January, 1889, asking (1) Whether Proprietors would be willing to extend Hospital accommodation to all classes of the community on payment being made by the Government at the rate of 50 cents (fifty cents) per diem per adult, for persons other than residents on their Estates. (2) With the present Hospital on plantation—how many beds would be at the service of the Government for people living off the Estate. Letter from Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., of Liverpool, upon the above papers. It was Resolved unanimously that the Proprietors would not approve of the Estates Hospitals being taken over by the Government. It was, however, Resolved that the proposal of the Government asking for accommodation at the Estates Hospital should be met as far as possible under certain restrictions. The Proprietors would be glad to meet the views of the Government in the matter as far as possible. It was decided, first, to ask the Government to formulate definitely their proposals, especially as to the amount of accommodation required, and also requiring them to explain what would be the effect of an outbreak in the villages of cholera or small-pox upon the accommodation of the Estates Hospitals. No separate wards to be provided and no patients with infectious diseases to be received, except under special arrangements with the Government. The letter of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., was generally concurred in, and it was felt all the more necessary to invite the Government to make a definite proposition. Questions of cost arose, and it was decided that there should be a limitation of the number of beds placed at the disposal of the Government—say four or five beds. An opinion was expressed that it might possibly be better for the Government to pay a sum per bed for a prescribed accommodation for the year. Where there are large local centres in which there are large village populations, the general opinion was that the Government should undertake their own hospital accommodation without drawing upon the Estates, and that the Estates would give any supplementary accommodation that might be required. With regard to the preliminary step suggested by the Government, that Government medical officers should attend on certain days, at fixed hours, at convenient stations, the Proprietors of Estates would be willing generally to co-operate with the Government by allowing their hospitals to be included in such a system. The question of the sufficiency of the payment of 50 cents a patient per day was mentioned, also whether in view of the concession the Planters are thus disposed to make for the advantage of the community, Government might not be



asked in return to make some concession such as the taking over the roads, &c. No definite resolution was come to on these points. A member suggested that in the case of outside people being received in estates hospitals it will be necessary, to prevent great inconvenience arising, to place restrictions upon the number of visitors to patients.

JAMAICA IMMIGRATION.—It is proposed to write to Lord Knutsford on the following points:— To ask what prospect there is of organising the scheme for introducing labourers from Barbados; to object to the heavy charge of £40 for every Coolie immigrant allotted to an employer; to point out that anything above £20 would be prohibitory; and to show that the cost of staff, viz., £17 6s. 8d. per Coolie, is altogether out of the question, and that no such addition to the present staff would be requisite.

ST. KITTS.—A letter to Colonial Office has been prepared in continuation of correspondence previously reported, regarding expenditure in this island.

BEEF STATISTICS.—Mr. Licht's Monthly Report for March is not yet published.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, 10 weeks, 170,844 tons, against 180,262 same period, 1888; decrease, 9,418. Deliveries, 172,011, against 146,980; increase, 25,031. Stocks, 150,554, against 218,507; deficiency, 67,953.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, 14th March, weather too dry. Trinidad, 3rd March, weather favourable; 12th March, weather favourable; 13th March, weather fine for harvesting.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY,

Information, corrections, &c, relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free. Members receiving Telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the secretary.

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[CIRCULAR No. 38.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET LONDON, E.C.

15th April 1889.

SUGAR CONVENTION.—This question has now reached a very important stage, the Bill to enable the Queen to issue an Order in Council to carry out the provisions of the Convention having been read a first time without a division. Among the names on the back of the Bill is that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said, a few weeks ago, that he intended to advocate it on free Trade principles. The speech delivered by Baron de Worms in introducing the Bill was an excellent one, and appeared to create a great impression upon a full House. Of course, the really crucial stage will be the second reading, some time at the end of May or in June, when an elaborate debate and division are expected. At present sufficient has been done on the part of Her Majesty's Government to satisfy the requirements of the Convention, in view of the meeting of the Special Commission a few weeks hence. These Parliamentary proceedings have necessarily entailed great and anxious labour upon the Chairman, Members and Secretary of the West India Committee. A very large number of printed documents have been prepared and distributed in support of the Convention with, so far as can be ascertained, very good results. Renewed and even more energetic efforts will be necessary during the next few weeks to encounter the opposition which is being developed against the Convention, and to keep public opinion alive to the soundness and justice of the case. An excellent and influential meeting was held at Derby on the 10th instant, the resolutions and speeches being calculated to impress and inform public opinion on the question, especially among the working classes.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A very representative Meeting of Proprietors was held at this office on which general regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr. Cox, the Inspector General of the Colony. It was decided to submit to the Secretary of State the views of the Proprietors in regard to his appointment. A letter has accordingly been addressed to Lord Knutsford which at present would be premature to print. A copy has of course been forwarded confidentially to the Colonists' Association, and can be seen at this office by any Member of the Committee.

ANTIGUA.—A letter was received from the Secretary of State, dated March 20th, in reply to the Committee's letter of February 19th. It announces "that after considering, with the Board of Admiralty, the scheme for the improvement of the harbour of St. John's, Antigua, which has been laid before the Legislative Council of the Presidency, his Lordship has informed the Governor of the Leeward Islands that he does not consider it advisable to embark upon the construction of a graving dock, but that he is prepared to consider favourably the proposal for deepening the harbour and constructing a wharf at Rat Island, as suggested in paragraph 10 of the Governor's message to the Legislative Council of Antigua, of the 30th October, 1888." Copies of the above reply were sent immediately on its receipt to the gentlemen at whose request the Committee moved in the matter. As they have no objection to any further action, it may be concluded they do not wish the correspondence to be continued. At the same time, as the Government, from the above letter, appear to regard the question as one of Imperial concern, it might be reasonably expected that part, at least, of the cost should be defrayed by the Imperial Treasury, and that the whole of the expense should not become a burden upon the Colony.



INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN BRITISH GUIANA.—A set of interesting returns have been received from the Colony on this subject. The indentured population has gradually become smaller since 1867, while the number of unindentured people living on Estates has been considerably increased. In 1887, out of a total estimated Coolie population of 102,746, 53,057 were unindentured resident on Estates and 17,770 indentured. The total number of Coolies introduced appears to have been, up to 1888, 158,510. The number of return passages claimed has been 28,393, and the number of passports granted 1,206, making a total of departures of 29,599. In ten years, from 1879 to 1888, the number of people born in the Colony, of Indian parentage, who went to India in the return ships was 3,350 or 22 per cent. of the total number of souls embarked in that period for India. Besides the above there are two interesting returns, which need not be printed now—one of them giving an account up to 1888 of the 7,500 people introduced in the year 1873.

RUM TERMS.—A further letter has been received from Mr. Robinson, urging on behalf of the rum buyers that the Committee should re-consider the terms of sale which were settled last year.

SUGAR SUPPLY.—In Messrs. H. Clark & Co.'s Circular, dated April 5th, it is stated that instead of large imports, which were looked for during the remainder of the season, the supply will be insufficient. A sharp rise in price has taken place in consequence. Consumption has overtaken production. The action of the Trust in the United States has caused the Stock there to run too low. The supply of beet in Germany on the 1st April was 220,000 tons, or 40,000 tons less than at same time last year. Imports into Liverpool from Brazil, which in the first three months of last year were 52,000 tons, amount this year to only 20,000 tons, and the Brazil crop is practically finished. For the next six months Great Britain will be mainly dependent on cane, and smaller supplies are expected from many quarters. The United States, with their increasing consumption, will feel the dearth of supply for many months, and will influence European markets by drawing supplies from all quarters. The stocks in America equal about three weeks' consumption. The sugar afloat from the East to March 31st was 63,170, against 116,380 last year. The visible supply of sugar in Europe is 865,030 tons, against 995,000. The stocks in United States, including refiners' stocks, were (April 4th) 47,000, against 130,000. Stocks in Havana, 67,000, against 62,000. With the above 63,000 afloat from the East, the visible supply is 1,042,000, against 1,303,000. The principal cane sugar crops for 1888-9 are estimated at 2,347,000, against 1887-8, 2,540,000; beet, 2,725,000, against 2,451,900. The combined cane and beet crops for 1888-9 are thus 5,072,000, against previous year (1887-8), 4,991,900.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, 14 weeks, 247,777 tons, against 255,559 same period last year; decrease 7,782. Deliveries, 245,376, against 212,176; increase 33,200. Stocks, 154,122, against 228,608; deficiency 74,486.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, 28th March, weather too dry, rain much wanted; 5th April, rain has fallen slightly. Trinidad, 26th March, weather favourable; 27th March, weather fine for harvesting; 9th April, weather favourable; 10th April, weather fine for harvesting. Barbados, 19th March, slow reaping weather.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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[CIRCULAR No.39.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

13th May 1889.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—Owing to extreme pressure of work, caused by the critical stage which the Bounty question has now reached, it has been impossible to devote that constant attention to other matters connected with the Colonies which their importance demands. It is hoped, however, that in a very short time, the regular meetings of the Committee will be resumed, and various points relating to particular Colonies adequately considered.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION BILL.—Since the first reading of the Bill an opposition has sprung up of a most misleading character, which the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association have made every effort to correct. Further steps are about to be taken, by means of public meetings and leaflets, to disseminate sound views upon the question, and to support the Government and induce them to carry the Bill through. In the meantime an important statement is to be made by the leader of the House of Commons to-day (13th), explaining the intentions of the Government. The International Commission, to discuss the laws proposed by the different countries, is now sitting in London.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A reply to a question in the House of Commons, given by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, indicates that the subject of the amendment of the Constitution of British Guiana is still under consideration at the Colonial Office. The question was asked by Mr. Pease without any communication from anyone practically interested in the Colony.

TRINIDAD.—The Committee will be glad to receive any expression of opinion respecting the published despatch of Lord Knutsford as to an amendment of the Constitution of Trinidad. The principal alteration appears to be that, while the present system of official and nominated members is to remain, the nominated members are to be appointed only for a term of years, instead of for an indefinite period or practically for life. The Committee have not taken any part either for or against such change.

JAMAICA RAILWAY.—Papers have been received containing despatches on this subject and copy of Contract made by the Jamaica Government with an American Syndicate for the purchase and extension of the Railway. These arrangements are necessarily subject to the passing of a Law by the Legislative Council.

SUGAR.—Prices still rule high. No sign is yet apparent of consumption being checked. There appears still a prospect of short supplies during the next three months. There is no doubt of a considerable deficiency in the crops of Cuba and Brazil. The weather is favourable for the Beet sowings which are now very general and will be soon completed. Some estimates give 2,860,000 tons as the figure of the next crop, being about 240,000 tons in excess of the last one. Stocks remain unusually low in the United States, and indeed all authorities agree in anticipating an unparalleled general scarcity in the summer and early autumn. The stocks in Europe, United States and Havana, including floating cargoes from the East, make up, at the present time a visible supply of 949,000 tons against 1,278,000 tons last year. Mr. Licht's Estimate of Beet crop of 1888-9 is 2,725,000 tons.



SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, 18 weeks, 320,188 tons, against 334,620 same period last year; decrease 14,432. Deliveries, 314,736, against 283,161, increase 31,575. Stocks, 157,172 against 236,684; deficiency 79,512

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, 20th April, fine rains have fallen generally since 15th inst.; 23rd April, heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation; 26th April, rainy season has set in; 7th May, rain has fallen heavily. Trinidad, 16th April, weather favourable; 23rd April, weather favourable; 24th April, weather fine for harvesting; 7th May, weather favourable. Barbados, 13th, good reaping weather.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c. relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary

The Committee will be glad to receive any expression of opinion respecting the proposed amendment of the Constitution of Trinidad. The proposed amendment appears to be that which the present system of official and nominated members is to be replaced by a system of election only for a term of years, instead of for an indefinite period as at present. The Committee have not taken any part either for or against such change.

James Russell. Papers have been received containing despatches on this subject and copy of Contract made by the Jamaica Government with an American Syndicate for the purchase and extension of the Railway. These arrangements are necessarily subject to the passing of a law by the Legislature.

Stamps. Papers will be sent to the printer for reprint of consumption being checked. There appears to be a prospect of some improvement during the next three months. There is no doubt a considerable deficiency in the crops of Cuba and Brazil. The weather is favourable for the crop in both countries. Some estimates give that harvest will be now very good and will be soon completed. Some estimates give 2,000,000 tons as the figure of the crop of the United States and indeed all authorities agree in anticipating a very large harvest in the United States and early autumn. The stocks in Europe, United States and Havana, including foreign cargoes from the West Indies, at the present time a visible supply of sugar has against 1,200,000 tons less than the stock of 1850.

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[CIRCULAR No. 40.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

10th June 1889.

**SUGAR CONVENTION BILL.**—A great deal of progress has been made during the last month in distributing information upon this question, and it is generally felt that public opinion is becoming much more favourable to the policy of Her Majesty's Government upon the sugar question. The Anti-Bounty Association have been indefatigable in their endeavours to this end, and their Secretary will be glad to forward the Association's papers to any who have not yet seen them.

**WEST INDIA TELEGRAPH.**—The Committee have had pleasure in receiving a letter from the West India & Panama Telegraph Company, dated 4th June, as follows:—"Owing to the representations made by our Chairman when in New York to the International Company, as well as to the Cuba Company here, both companies have agreed to reduce their rates for messages between the West Indies and the United States and Europe by 21 cents per word, on the understanding that the International Telegraph Convention mode of counting, adopted all over the world, be put in force. The only differences between our mode of counting and that of the Convention is that we have allowed the public to send cypher messages, counting five figures to a word, and charging a rate and a half, whilst by the Convention three figures to a word and no extra half rate is the rule. The other difference is that we allow seven syllables as the length of a word, whilst the Convention permits of only ten letters, but inasmuch as all codes are arranged for a ten letter limit it practically makes no difference. You will perceive that by the adoption of this one uniform system of counting words, much confusion and uncertainty will be obviated by having only one rule throughout, instead of two rules for counting the same message as at present. All the West India Colonies have agreed to the new method of counting."

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—The following letter has been received from the Colonial Office, dated 18th May, 1889:—"The Chairman, Sir,—I am directed by Lord Knutsford to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 28th of March last, that his Lordship has selected Colonel the Honourable R. S. Cotton for the appointment of Inspector-General of Police for British Guiana. (Signed), EDWARD WINGFIELD." Colonel Cotton is expected to proceed by this mail.

**TRINIDAD.**—The Secretary will be glad if any correspondent in Trinidad will supply him with information regarding the Ordinance recently passed relating to real property, especially as to any points of objection which might be taken to that legislation.

**ST. KITT'S.**—With regard to the proposed expenditure on the Treasury Buildings in St. Kitts, the Secretary is informed by Proprietors connected with that Colony that while no doubt a limited amount might well be spent in providing increased accommodation yet that the proposals of the Government in regard to a large expenditure are altogether unsuited to the condition and interests of the Colony.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

**JAMAICA.**—Falmouth, Harbour Water Fees on Shipping.—Ship owners in Glasgow, trading between the United Kingdom and Jamaica, have called the attention of the West India Committee to the continued imposition by the Falmouth Water Company of fees on shipping at 3½d. per registered ton. The Falmouth Water Company is a chartered company dating from the end of the last century. Steamers now call at the port and may or may not derive any benefit from the water works. The representatives of the Scotch Steamship Companies have therefore asked the West India Committee to move the Colonial Office to take measures to relieve shipping visiting Falmouth Harbour from this tax. The Secretary pointed out in reply that he thought it would be better, as an Ordinance would have to be passed altering the conditions, that the initiative should come from those interested in the matter in the Colony itself. The question would then be formally considered by the West India Committee and they would decide whether to take action or not.

**BET PROSPECTS.**—The weather is suitable for the Beet Crop, although possibly there is too much rain. The excessive humidity favours the ravages of the insects. In France 5 per cent. more has been sown than last year, some of which would be necessary for distilling purposes. In Germany and Austria-Hungary the delay at the beginning of the season has been more than compensated for by the subsequent growth. The augmentation in the sowings for the whole of Europe is stated at 7½ per cent. or 205,000 tons of sugar all round. This augmentation will have very little effect, considering the general depletion of stocks.

**BET CROPS.**—Mr. Licht estimates as follows:—

|                 | 1889-90.              | 1888-89.         | 1887-88.         |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany         | 1,080,000             | 990,000          | 959,166          |
| Austria         | 630,000               | 525,000          | 428,616          |
| France          | 520,000               | 470,000          | 392,824          |
| Russia          | 535,000               | 510,000          | 441,342          |
| Belgium         | 145,000               | 140,000          | 140,742          |
| Holland         | 47,000                | 45,000           | 39,280           |
| Other Countries | 58,000                | 55,000           | 49,980           |
|                 | <b>Tons 3,015,000</b> | <b>2,735,000</b> | <b>2,451,950</b> |

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht.) The visible stocks in Europe were in May, 1889 (including floating cargoes) 697,346 tons, against 928,394 tons in 1888. In United States, 75,000, against 180,332. Havanna, 94,392, against 114,422. Floating to North America, 39,823, against 23,256. Total Stocks, 906,561, against 1,246,404.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES AND PRICES.**—The present rise in the price of sugar has been brought about by a deficiency in the supply. The figures of the visible supply of the world, *i.e.*, of the known stocks in Europe and the United States, and what is known to be afloat, show this very clearly.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| On the 23rd of May, this supply amounts to | 884,000 tons. |
| Last year, 1888, at the same date, it was  | 1,133,000 "   |
| In 1887, at the same date, it was          | 1,221,000 "   |
| In 1886                                    | 1,324,000 "   |

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It will thus be seen that the supply of sugar for each of the last three years has been below the consumption, and stocks are now so low that they are hardly sufficient, in addition to what is still likely to come forward, to last the world up to the new Beetroot Crop.

|                               |     |     |     |           |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------------|
| Visible supply, 1st May, 1888 | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 1,133,000 tons. |
| 30th October, 1888            | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 350,000 "       |
|                               |     |     |     | Reduction | ...             |
|                               |     |     |     |           | 783,000 "       |

If supply and consumption this year are the same as last year, the result will be:—

|                                  |     |     |     |     |               |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Visible supply, 1st May, 1889    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 884,000 tons. |
| Reduction, as above              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 783,000 "     |
| Apparent supply, 30th October... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 101,000 "     |

but, as far as is known, supply this year is likely to be less—up to October next—than last year, whilst consumption is larger. Such a stock as the above figures would lead one to expect is practically impossible, and, unless consumption is checked by a high price, it is not easy to see how it is to be increased. It will therefore be seen that the statistical position amply accounts for the rise in price.

For the last four years the beet crops have been as follows, according to M. Licht Circulars:—

|      |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|      | 1885-86.  | 1886-87.  | 1887-88.  | 1888-89.  |
| Tons | 2,137,351 | 2,733,900 | 2,451,900 | 2,735,000 |

and the cane sugar production, from Messrs. Clark & Co.'s Circulars:—

|      |           |           |           |            |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|      | 1885-86.  | 1886-87.  | 1887-88.  | 1888-89.   |
| Tons | 2,339,950 | 2,345,550 | 2,465,000 | 2,263,000. |

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings, 22 weeks, 396,427 tons, against 417,889 same period last year; decrease 21,462. Deliveries, 391,812, against 356,485; increase 35,327. Stocks, 156,325 against 246,629; deficiency 90,304.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, 4th June, weather dry; 6th June, heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation. Trinidad, 21st May, weather favourable; 28th May, weather middling. Barbados, 28th May, slow reaping weather caused by light winds.

JAMES L. OHLSON. SECRETARY.

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[CIRCULAR No. 41.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

8th July, 1889.

SUGAR-CANE FROM SEED.—At a meeting of the West India Committee held on the 4th of July, the following letters were reported and approved. "West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, 28th June, 1889:—My Lord,—We had the honour of addressing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Earl Granville, in the year 1885, suggesting that the attention of the Governors of the West India Colonies might be called to the desirability of utilising to a greater extent the Botanic Gardens in those Colonies with the view of improving the Sugar-cane by means of careful observation of and selection from the varieties of Cane by the Government Botanists. We have been gratified to observe that the result of our calling attention to this important matter has been the collection of information of some practical usefulness to planters. We were particularly interested in the Report from Barbados, which your Lordship was good enough to forward to us in the early part of this year, in which a record was given of the experiments carried on in that Island to propagate Sugar-cane from seed. These experiments open up the possibility of improving the Cane, and have an important bearing upon the future of the Sugar Colonies. We are also much indebted to the authorities of the Royal Gardens at Kew for the encouragement which they have given to these experiments. We would venture further to respectfully request that your Lordship would be pleased to call the attention of the Governors of the Colonies to what has been done in this matter of growing Sugar-cane from seed, with the view of obtaining similar experiments in all the Botanic Gardens of the West Indies, and of making the seedlings available to planters. (Signed), N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

"West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, 4th July, 1889:—My Lord—With reference to the letter which we had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 28th ultimo, respecting the experiments in connection with the propagation of Sugar-cane from seed, we desire to add that the important discovery which has been made in Barbados has caused the greatest possible interest, and that the public spirit of the Legislature of the Island in making an annual grant for the purpose of these experiments is in the highest degree to be commended. The object of this supplementary letter, is to ask your Lordship if you would be good enough to communicate especially with the Governor of Barbados, to inform him of the great interest which is felt in our Sugar Colonies in these matters and the importance of continuing, at all events for some further time, the financial support which has been given to them during the last two or three years. So much importance is attached to this question and to a further practical issue of the experiments that we trust your Lordship will pardon our troubling you again upon this matter. We would wish to add our opinion that great credit is due to Professor Harrison for his persevering experiments with Sugar-cane which have led to a discovery which is likely to be of very considerable importance. (Signed), N. LUBBOCK, Chairman." (Professor John B. Harrison, whose services are referred to in the above letter is described as follows in the Colonial Office List—Scholar Christ's Coll., Camb., B.A. (Nat. Sc. Tripos) 1887; M.A. 1887; Professor of Chemistry and Agricultural Science, Barbados, Sept., 1879; also Science Master, Harrison Coll. and Chemist to the General Agric. Soc.,

**THE SUGAR QUESTION.**—The Government intend to drop the Sugar Bounties Bill for this Session. It is possible that some discussion may take place upon the resolution for the discharge of the Bill, but it is not likely that the question will be discussed upon its merits. It is hoped that the Government will re-introduce the Bill early next Session. In the meantime Branch Associations of the British and Colonial Anti-Bounty Association are to be formed in Liverpool, Greenock, Derby, and Bristol. A meeting is to be held at this office on Thursday next, the 11th July, at 3 o'clock, at which all interested in this question are requested to be present whether formal invitation has been forwarded or not. The Committee have observed with much satisfaction the speech delivered on this question by the Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., on the 26th June. Authorised copies of the speech may be obtained at this office, where also copies may be obtained of an important pamphlet recently published by Dr. Herbertz, of Berlin.

**TROOPS IN COLONIES.**—The following statement was made by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies in the House of Commons, on the 24th of June:—"The transfer to Barbados of the one company of Infantry which had been stationed in Trinidad is a part of the arrangements considered most expedient for the defence of the West Indian Colonies generally. A small force is at present stationed in British Guiana, and her Majesty's Government do not think it necessary at the present time to retain any troops in Trinidad." It is understood that the above statement has been received with great dissatisfaction in Trinidad. A meeting is to be held at this Office on Friday next the 12th inst., at 3 o'clock, to consider the whole question of the retention of troops in the Colonies.

**THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.**—The following statement was made by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons, on the 27th June:—"In order to secure the extensions, which were so much needed, of the existing Jamaica Government Railway, an agreement has been made on behalf of the Government of Jamaica, subject to confirmation by the Legislative Council, with an American syndicate for the sale of the Government Railway to a company to be incorporated in Jamaica and for the construction of the required extensions of the railway. The railway is in a flourishing condition, and is earning sufficient to pay its working expenses and the interest, and 1 per cent. sinking fund on the railway loan. The Government is to receive from the company £100,000 cash and £700,000 second mortgage bonds, bearing 4 per cent. interest, payable after payment of the 4 per cent. interest on the first mortgage bonds to be issued to provide for the cost of the extensions, which will ultimately amount to £1,500,000. The promoters are to pay £100,000 for £100,000 second mortgage bonds. They are also, as part of the general arrangements, to receive the same amount of ordinary stock of the company and a square mile of land for every mile of the extension. In the event of the company failing to pay the interest on the mortgage bonds or to maintain and work the railway, including the extensions, in accordance with the agreement, it may be wound up, and in that case the Government are to take over the railway and extensions and issue to the bondholders £100 3½ per cent. Government stock in exchange for each £100 of first mortgage bonds. In that event the Government will have incurred an addition to the public debt of £1,500,000, and will have to look to the earnings of the railway and extensions to provide for the interest. The Secretary of State has not been officially informed of the confirmation of the agreement, but he learns from the Colonial newspapers that it has been confirmed by the Legislative Council, subject to some modifications. He awaits the Governor's report and the law which will have to be enacted to give effect to the agreement; but,



as, at present advised, he does not think it necessary that the matter should be again submitted to the consideration of the constituencies." Other statements were subsequently made as follows:—  
 "The question practically before the Secretary of State with regard to the sale of the Jamaica Government Railway was whether there was anything in this scheme which rendered it incumbent upon him to interfere with the decision in regard to it of the Legislative Council, which, under the new constitution, has, with few exceptions, the control of all financial measures; and after very full examination of the scheme and making considerable modifications in it he considered that it was one which might be submitted to the Legislative Council for their decision. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, do not intend to submit the scheme to any further examination in this country. Papers will be presented to Parliament when they are more complete than at present."  
 "The event in which the Colonial Government would have to give the bondholders Government Stock in lieu of their mortgage bonds is the winding up of the company and the forfeiture of their property to the Government. Such an event would not be advantageous to the company, however it might affect the interests of the bondholders. It is calculated that the completed line would be fully worth to the island the amount of Government Stock which would have to be assigned to holders of the company's bonds in the event of the company being wound up." "The Government Stock will be chargeable on the general revenues of the Colony and not contingent only on the profits of the railway. This applies equally to the principal and interest of the Stock."

COLONIAL BANK.—The following is an extract from the report of the Colonial Bank, presented at the meeting on the 4th July:—"The season throughout the British West Indies has been, on the whole, favourable, and although the Sugar Crop now being reaped is estimated to yield 10 per cent. less than that of 1888, the increased value should more than compensate planters for any deficiency. The rise in prices is too recent to have had any influence upon the business of the Bank during the period covered by the accounts now placed before the shareholders, but may be expected to have a beneficial effect hereafter. The Sugar Convention Bill has been withdrawn for the present, but there is good reason to anticipate that the terms of the Convention will be carried out, the Governments of those countries chiefly interested in the question having now been made fully aware of the serious burden which the fiscally unsound practice of giving Bounties on exports imposes upon them. During the present Parliamentary Session no progress has been made with the Bill for modification of the Bank's charter, and contrary to expectation, the appeal in the suit 'Williams v. Colonial Bank' has not yet come before the House of Lords. The directors have recently opened an agency of the Bank at St. Pierre, Martinique, which so far as they can judge promises well." The Chairman in addressing the meeting spoke as follows with regard to Sugar:—"I may tell you that the rise in the price of Sugar, from the 31st of December, amounts to fully £10 per ton of Sugar, and that it took place at a time most favourable for the realisation of the crops in the West Indian Islands, though Demerara has not benefitted so materially, as the bulk of the Demerara crop had changed hands before the rise took place; still, I think upon a very moderate computation, we may say that the planters in the islands have realised on an average from £6 to £7 more per ton than they did for the previous crop, and that the Demerara crop realised about £2 more per ton on an average. This means a difference in the pockets of the planters of between  $1\frac{1}{4}$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions sterling, which you will appreciate is a very large amount in a small community, and means a difference to the planters between prosperity and comparative adversity. And I think that what we have most to congratulate all connected with the West Indies upon is that this rise has been produced entirely by natural causes, the increase of consumption over production; and, inasmuch

as, as far as we can judge, we shall not have any excessive supply for some time to come, there is every probability of remunerative prices ruling for some considerable time. The principal danger which suggests itself to our minds is that the relatively high prices may check the consumption. That is the only danger we see at present. Now, there is no doubt that the West Indies are able to produce sugar under more favourable circumstances, and more economically than they did when the crisis set in about four years ago. They are also less absolutely dependent upon the production of sugar than they were. The production of cocoa and coffee, and of spices, and fruit particularly, and dye-woods, increases steadily, and I think I may say even more emphatically than I did in January—and my colleagues agree with me in that opinion—that the prospects for the British West Indies and, therefore, for this Bank, are more favourable than they have been for many years.

**COLONIAL COMPANY, LIMITED.**—It is announced that this Company has just completed the payment of one whole year's arrears on its Preference Shares.

**GOVERNOR OF TRINIDAD.**—Sir William Robinson is now in London.

**THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR SYNDICATE, LIMITED.**—Some papers have been forwarded to the Committee, but as they do not give any particulars or names of the promoters it is impossible to attach any importance to the movement. The Syndicate are issuing invitations to an International Meeting of Sugar Manufacturers and Refiners, to be held at the Grand Hotel, Brussels, on Monday the 15th July, but no information is given as to who are likely to be present. The papers can be seen by members at this office.

**CHANGES IN FIRMS.**—The following letter has been received from Messrs. R. & T. Neave:—“We beg to inform you that the partnership between Mr. Edward Strangways Neave and Mr. Arthur Morier Lee, the present partners in the firm of R. & T. Neave, will be dissolved on 30th June inst., by mutual consent. The whole of the West Indian business of the late firm will be taken over by Mr. Lee, and will in future be carried on by him, in partnership with Mr. Alexander Crerar (for several years manager with Messrs. James Ewing & Co., of Glasgow, West India Merchants), under the style of Lee, Crerar & Co., at 9, Fenchurch Avenue, London, E.C., as West India and General Merchants. Mr. E. S. Neave, will in future continue to carry on business, in partnership with his brother, Mr. Sheffield Neave (who will rejoin him as formerly) under the old style of R. & T. Neave, at the above address. Mr. E. S. Neave, trading as R. & T. Neave, will assume the liabilities and collect the debts of the late firm.”

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—The weather in June upon the Continent was exceedingly warm, to the advantage of the Beet, especially in Germany. In Austria and Hungary complaints are made of too much dryness. In France the state of the Beet fields is fairly satisfactory. The same reports are issued as to Belgium and Holland. In Russia the weather is exceptionally hot and dry. In the present month (July) the weather continues hot and dry, and on the whole in all the Continental countries satisfaction appears to be expressed with regard to the crop just planted.



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BEXT CROPS.—Mr. Licht estimates 22nd June as follows :

|                     | 1889-90.       | 1888-89.  | 1887-88.  |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany ...         | 1,030,000      | 990,000   | 959,166   |
| Austria ...         | 630,000        | 525,000   | 428,616   |
| France ...          | 495,000        | 470,000   | 392,824   |
| Russia ...          | 535,000        | 510,000   | 441,342   |
| Belgium ...         | 145,000        | 140,000   | 140,742   |
| Holland ...         | 47,000         | 45,000    | 39,280    |
| Other Countries ... | 58,000         | 55,000    | 49,980    |
|                     | Tons 2,940,000 | 2,735,000 | 2,451,950 |

The above estimates for 1889-90 show a reduction as compared with previous estimates of 75,000 tons.

GENERAL STOCKS—(Licht.)—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were in June, 1889 (including floating cargoes), 562,288 tons, against 850,329 tons in 1888: in United States, 102,000, against 194,958; Havana, 79,248, against 88,704; floating to North America, 55,110, against 32,446. Total stocks, 798,646, against 1,166,437.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landing, 26 weeks, 465,024 tons, against 497,532 same period last year; decrease 32,508. Deliveries 467,090, against 424,256; increase 42,834. Stocks, 149,654, against 258,501; deficiency 108,847.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Barbados, 25th June, fine rains throughout the Island: 8th July, good, showers generally throughout the Island. Demerara, July 6th, weather continues wet.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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[CIRCULAR No. 42.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

5th August, 1889.

SUGAR-CANE FROM SEED.—The Secretary of State sends the following reply (dated 10th July) to the two letters printed in last Circular on this important subject:—"The Chairman.—Sir, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 28th ultimo and 4th instant, respecting the experiments recently conducted in Barbados, in the cultivation of the Sugar-cane; and to inform you that an extract from your first letter and a copy of your second have been sent to the Governors of Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana; while a copy of the second has also been sent to the Governor of Barbados for his consideration. (Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT."

SUGAR-CANE DISEASE IN THE EAST.—The following letter was addressed to Secretary of State on 17 July, 1889:—"My Lord, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Robert Herbert's letter of the 10th July, written by your Lordships direction, informing us that extracts of our letter of the 28th June on the cultivation of the Sugar-cane and copies of our letter on the same subject dated 4th July have been sent to the Governors of Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, and Barbados. We have to thank your Lordship for the action which you have taken, and we now venture to trouble you upon another matter respecting which we would respectfully ask that you would be pleased to take similar action. From a recent visit to Java by Mr. Quintin Hogg, it is evident that a disease of the Sugar-cane is seriously affecting the crops of that country. This disease is called Sereh and is extremely infectious and threatens to ravage the whole Island. It is also reported, although we have at present no proof of it, that this disease exists in Mauritius. In many districts of Java every cane top has to be imported from Borneo and elsewhere and some estates visited by Mr. Hogg were spending £5,000 annually in this way. Even imported cane tops only yielded a single crop, all the tops and stools resulting therefrom requiring to be destroyed. The disease is so virulent that one or two diseased canes will infect and ruin the whole of the cane piece. When it is remembered that the coffee leaf disease destroyed the whole coffee industry of Ceylon, it is most desirable that a similar cane disease, having the same disastrous effect should be prevented from approaching the West Indies. I am therefore requested to ask your Lordship to be good enough, in connexion with this important matter, to communicate with the Governors of the Colonies so that the Botanical Gardens should not import for experiments or otherwise any canes coming from the East. A single diseased cane is sufficient to do irreparable mischief. The marks of the disease are as follows:—1. In young canes the stools throw up a number of useless and short shoots which come to nothing, and no cane is produced. 2. In older canes the white mark down the centre of the leaf is broken, and red spots appear in the cane itself, while rootlets appear at the joints. The following year the symptoms mentioned above take place, and absolutely no crop is obtained. Experts have not yet been able to settle satisfactorily whether the pest is of animal or vegetable growth. (Signed) N. LUNHOCK, Chairman." The above letter was acknowledged (July 24th, as follows:—"The Chairman.—SIR,—I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., respecting the disease which affects the sugar-cane in Java and the East, and to inform you that extracts have been sent to the Governors of all the West Indian Colonies.—(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."



**WEST INDIA MAILS.**—The following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State on the 15th July. "My Lord,—We had the honour on the 15th January last to address your Lordship in favour of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and trusting, for reasons therein stated, that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to grant to that Company a renewal of the contract for the carriage of the Mails between Great Britain and the West Indies and South America. As the views expressed in the above mentioned letter have been fully approved by the opinion entertained throughout the Colonies, we feel that we are justified in repeating the request therein contained. We beg to enclose a copy of the letter, and to respectfully convey again to your Lordship the great satisfaction felt generally in the West Indies with the manner in which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have carried on the Service, and the great disappointment which would be generally experienced if the Service should be placed in other hands, and especially if an arrangement were made, which would be in every sense open to the gravest objections; of transshipping the Mails at a Foreign Port and lengthening the course of post to all the most important Colonies.—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman." (For Letter of 15th January, see Circular No. 34). The following reply has been received, dated Colonial Office, 20th July:—"The Chairman—SIR,—I am directed by LORD KNUTSFORD to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15th inst. on the subject of the new contract for the West India Mail Service, and to inform you that a copy of your letter has been communicated to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.—(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

**TROOPS IN THE WEST INDIES.**—On the 15th July the Committee wrote to the Secretary of State expressing much anxiety at the apparent intention of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw the troops from British Guiana, Trinidad, and other Colonies, and requesting that, before making a formal application for an interview, the Secretary of State would be pleased to inform the Committee what was proposed should be the distribution of troops. A very important letter has been received in reply, stating that the troops will eventually be concentrated in Jamaica and St. Lucia, and giving reasons for that arrangement. The Committee propose to address a further letter, stating their views fully upon the subject. The full correspondence will be printed in the next circular.

**SUGAR BOUNTY BILL.**—Important letters have been addressed to LORD SALISBURY and Mr. GOSCHEN on this subject. The correspondence can be seen at this office. No discussion has yet taken place in Parliament upon the question of the withdrawal of the Bill.

**TRINIDAD RAILWAY.**—The attention of the Committee has been called to a statement made by SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON to a London newspaper to the effect that £300,000 is to be raised by loan for the purpose of carrying out extensions of light railways in the Island. The Committee propose to address an enquiry to LORD KNUTSFORD as to the present position of this matter, and asking for information as to the character of the country through which these extensions would be made, and to call particular attention to the excessive cost of construction proposed, viz., £10,000 per mile.

**SUGAR STOCKS IN LONDON.**—The Committee have received the following letter, dated 24th July, 1889:—"The Chairman, Sir,—There being a general opinion that the stock of West India Sugar as returned by the Docks and Wharfs in London, is in excess of the actual quantity in the warehouses, we shall be obliged if you will use your influence with the Dock Company to get them to ascertain by inspection the actual stock in their warehouses. (Signed) PAINES & REID, C. CZARNIKOW, (pp-FRED. PORTER), C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE, WILLIAM ANDERSON & CO., E. D. & F. MAX, C. & C. J. CBLES, ED. KYNASTON, CARRY & BROWNE, SCOTT, SIMPSON & WALLIS." In consequence of the above, the following letter has been addressed to the Joint Committee of the London and India Docks:—



"Gentlemen,—We have been requested by all the principal Brokers in London to call your attention to the Stock of West India Sugar as returned by the Docks and Wharfs in London; the same being believed to be in excess of the actual quantity in the warehouses, and we, therefore, desire to request that you will kindly consent to ascertain by inspection, the actual stock in the warehouses. (Signed), N. LUDBROCK, Chairman."

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA.—Extract from the proceedings of the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated Calcutta, March 20th, 1889:—AGRICULTURE.—*Resolution*—"1. For some years past the Government of India has been endeavouring to obtain accurate information regarding the sugar cultivation in India. In 1882, Local Governments and Administrations were asked to collect statistics on the subject, and they reported that the area under sugar-cane in India was 1,922,283 acres, but in addition to this 168,262 acres were stated to be under the date-palm, 14,100 acres under the palmyra-palm, and 2,930 acres under the cocoa-palm, all of which yielded sugar. The total annual production of sugar in British India was estimated at 2,000,000 tons, in addition to 150,000 tons, the produce of 168,262 acres of palm-trees. The information, though useful, was incomplete, and it was decided to call for supplementary reports. A large and valuable addition was made to the facts already collected on the subject of sugar cultivation and trade, and a note was prepared from the statistics supplied by Local Governments, which has been supplemented and verified by a further reference to Directors of Departments of Land Records and Agriculture,

"2. Their replies, an abstract of which is appended to this Resolution (*vide* Appendix A), now places the Government of India in possession of more trustworthy information regarding the cultivation and production of sugar in India than has hitherto been available. The area under sugar-plants is returned at 2,200,000 acres, and the out-turn of coarse sugar at 593.71 lakhs of maunds, or 2,100,000 tons. Allowing for the imperfection and incompleteness of these statistics, the area and out-turn of sugar-plants in India may be estimated as follows:—Area in acres, 2,500,000; out-turn of coarse sugar per acre, 20 cwt. or 1 ton; total out-turn in tons, 2,500,000. The following table, which has been compiled from the crop statements for 1886-87, professes to show the extent to which the cultivation of sugar-cane prevails in each province and in Mysore:—

|  | N. W. P. | Oudh. | Punjab. | Assam. | Mysore. | Bengal. | Central Provinces. | Bombay. | Madras. | Lower Burma. | Berar. |
|--|----------|-------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 1.—Area under cultivation in millions of acres ... ..        | 29.7     | 11.2  | 20.3    | 18.8   | 4.6     | 54.5    | 14.3               | 27.1    | 24.0    | 4.2          | 6.4    |
| 2.—Area under Sugar-cane in thousands of acres ... ..        | 870      | 190   | 354     | 20     | 34      | 257     | 50                 | 80      | 44      | 7            | 4      |
| 3.—Percentage of Sugar-cane area to total cultivation ... .. | 2.9      | 1.7   | 1.7     | 1.1    | .73     | .53     | .35                | .29     | .18     | .17          | .06    |

\* Taken from Appendix I (page 39) to Famine Commission's Report.

The low percentages under Bengal, Bombay, and Madras seem to indicate that the areas under sugar-cane for these Provinces have been returned below the mark. With the exception of the Punjab, the Central Provinces, and Berar, the area under sugar-plants in British India has increased during the last ten years. The area in the Punjab and the Central Provinces appears to have contracted in consequence of the extension of railway communication; that of Berar has remained stationary.



"3. With the information now before the Government of India, it may be said that the consumption of sugar in India has increased to a great extent during the last thirty or thirty-five years. Not only is more sugar produced now, but the imports are larger, in fact almost as large as the exports, which have now considerably diminished, used to be thirty-five years ago. The imports, which comprise chiefly Mauritius sugar (refined), are mostly taken by the Bombay Presidency, where it appears to supply a distinct demand for crystallised sugar, and whence a portion is dispatched inland. The present exports by sea consist chiefly of unrefined sugar, which is supplied almost exclusively by Madras. The trade of this Presidency is flourishing, and the same seems to be the case with regard to the industry of Bengal. The sugar, which in former years was sent away from Bengal in large quantities, is now said to be consumed in India.

"4. The Government of India considers that it may be said in general term that the sugar industry of India is at the present day in a thriving condition, and that it has not been affected to any appreciable extent, like other sugar-producing countries, by the system of sugar bounties prevailing in Continental Europe. In the despatch of May, 1882, the Government of India made the following remarks, which may be taken to apply equally to the present condition of the sugar industry in India — 'The increasing import and the decreasing export do not, we consider, indicate the decadence of the industry in India. The area under sugar-cane has largely increased in Upper India through the development of canal irrigation, and is reported to be extending from the same causes in Bombay. More sugar is produced in India than formerly; but the demand is much greater. Not only has the increasing prosperity of the people increased the average consumption, but sugar is now borne by rail into tracts where the cane is cultivated to a limited extent, and which were formerly very scantily supplied. The profitableness of the industry is seen in the high price which the Indian cultivator can obtain for his produce, and all the evidence before us leads to the belief that the capital invested in sugar cultivation in India is steadily increasing.'

**BET PROSPECTS.**—In Germany the beets were, at the beginning of last month, considerably in advance of the two preceding years, but required more rain. Since that time, however, the weather has been cooler and rain has fallen. Variable weather has been reported from Germany up to 25th July. In Austria they have had thunderstorms, and the rain has benefitted the beet fields, and subsequently warmth was required. In France rain has fallen and the state of the beet fields is satisfactory. Reports from France up to 31st July state that the rains so much required have benefitted the cultivation; the temperature has been lower. The same reports are issued as to Belgium and Holland. From Russia the accounts in regard to beets are somewhat better, rain having fallen. Upon the whole, the weather reported up to end of July on the Continent is considered favourable to the beet crops.

**BET CROPS.**—Mr. Licht's total estimate (20th July) is the same as reported in last Circular. The estimate for France is increased by 10,000 tons, and that for Russia reduced by 10,000 tons.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht)—The visible stocks of sugar in Europe were, in July, 1889 (including cargoes), 464,526 tons, against 748,638 tons in 1888; in United States, 101,000, against 171,311; Hanover, 53,848, against 72,136; floating to North America, 48,376, against 30,577. Total stocks, 667,750, against 1,022,662.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings, 30 weeks, 540,244 tons, against 589,930 same period last year; decrease 49,686. Deliveries, 550,176, against 499,272; increase 50,904. Stocks, 141,788, against 277,973; deficiency 136,185.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 12th July, moderate showers since last telegram; 1st August, weather showery and favourable for cultivation. Barbados, 5th August, fine rains generally throughout the island.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary.



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 43.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

2nd September, 1889.

WEST INDIA MAILS.—The following memorial has been addressed to the Treasury, 16th Aug. 1889—"My Lords,—We, the undersigned Proprietors, Merchants, Bankers, and others connected with the West India Colonies and British Guiana, and also largely representing the West India interest in the United Kingdom, desire to express to your Lordships our satisfaction at the manner in which, on the whole and especially of late years, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have conducted the service between the United Kingdom and those Colonies. With the proposed increase in speed, we believe the service would be equal to all requirements, and we venture respectfully to request that your Lordships would be pleased to grant the new Contract to the above mentioned Company, especially as the subsidy required in the competing Tenders is practically the same. We believe that the West India community, both here and in the Colonies, would regard with great disappointment and regret the dislocation and general inconvenience which would result from the granting of the Contract to a new Company whose ships (according to Lord Knutsford's despatch to the Colonial Governors of 26th June, 1889) have yet to be built. We would also ask permission strongly to protest, in the interest of the passengers, against the long journey of 14 hours from London to Queenstown, involving as it would (from any part of Great Britain) the disadvantage and discomforts attendant upon crossing the Irish channel.—We are, &c., (Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman of the West India Committee, Thomas Daniel and Co. (Limited), Charles Tennant, Sons & Co., Thomson Hankey & Co., Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., The Colonial Bank, C. W. Eves & Co., Joseph Marryat & Sons, D. Q. Henriquez & Co., Cotesworth & Powell, Charles R. J. Hoare, James Ewing & Co., Gregor Turnbull & Co., W. B. Burnley & Co. (Limited), John Lamont & Co., William Stirling." The receipt of the above Memorial has been acknowledged by the Treasury.

TROOPS IN THE WEST INDIES.—The following is the full correspondence alluded to in last Circular. "West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, 15th July, 1889. My Lord.—The West India Committee have observed with much anxiety the apparent intention of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw the troops from British Guiana, Trinidad, and other Colonies, including, as we understand, Barbados. The information that we possess, however, upon a subject that is of such grave importance to us, is so scanty that before asking your Lordship kindly to receive a deputation, we would respectfully request that you would be pleased to inform us what is proposed should be the distribution of troops in the future for the defence of the Colonies, and their protection against any internal disturbance of an exceptionally serious character. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK." "Colonial Office to West India Committee, 31st July, 1889. Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 15th instant, requesting information as to the future distribution of Her Majesty's troops in the West Indies, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to inform you that the troops will eventually be concentrated in Jamaica and St. Lucia. This decision was adopted after most careful consideration on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the defence of British Possessions abroad, and in deference to the best available military opinion. Troops concentrated



in this manner can be used with better effect, either in case of war, or in case of a dangerous local outbreak, and moreover their military efficiency, training and discipline seriously suffer by their being broken up in scattered detachments. The decision to concentrate the troops was communicated to the Colonial Governments so far back as June, 1885, in order to allow ample time for the improvement of their respective police forces, which are in Lord Knutsford's opinion the proper means of preserving internal order in ordinary cases. In the event of a serious outbreak, however, in any Colony, which his Lordship trusts is not probable, it will be easy to direct at once on the point threatened an overwhelming force, as the troops will be drawn from two stations only instead of having to be collected in small detachments from several quarters. The matter having been very carefully considered on these and strategic considerations, Lord Knutsford cannot hold out any hope of a reversal of the decision arrived at, and therefore, is disposed to think that no advantage would be gained by his receiving at present a deputation on the subject. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD. West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, August 17, 1889. —My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Wingfield's letter of the 31st July last, written by your Lordship's direction, informing the West India Committee that Her Majesty's Government had decided to concentrate the troops in the West Indies, in Jamaica and St. Lucia, and stating certain reasons for that decision. We beg most respectfully to express our deep regret at this decision of Her Majesty's Government and should it be, as Mr. Wingfield suggests, not susceptible of modification, we feel it to be our duty to place on record a serious and emphatic protest against it, as tending to bring about a condition of insecurity as regards life and property in the West Indies. But we humbly trust that the matter is still open for consideration. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the military authorities, in making arrangements consequent upon the report of the Royal Commission on the defence of British possessions abroad, have had in view rather the safety of coaling stations as a part of the system of Imperial Defence than the internal security of the Colonies in the case of disturbance beyond the power of the local authorities to control. We have no desire to underrate the strength and efficiency of the police force, or to depreciate in the slightest degree their capacity for ordinary duty, but they are not sufficient to cope with any extraordinary disturbances which may from time to time arise, and the character of the population is such, that whether there exists any grievance or not, a disturbance soon spreads unless it is promptly met by a show of force on the spot. The capability of the Government to quell a disturbance by the known presence of troops is the best security, we venture to submit, against the spread of rioting, and would prevent the bloodshed which would probably follow any delay in dealing with such rioting. Experience has proved that serious disturbances have arisen, not from any sense of actual grievance, but from some feeling such as was developed by unwise agitation among some classes of the people in Barbados in 1876, or from the bringing together of disorderly crowds such as those which have more than once given trouble in connection with the Carnival and the Tadjia in Trinidad, or from some accidental bringing into play of race prejudice such as that which caused the recent attack by a negro mob upon some Portuguese and their property in Georgetown. We venture humbly to repeat that we believe it is absolutely necessary the Government should be provided with a sufficient force to quell these disturbances at once, and so prevent loss of life and destruction of property for which the Government would be held responsible, and which events, when they happen, cast discredit, in the view of the public at home, upon the Colonies themselves. Knowing as we do practically the condition of the Colonies, we ask permission to say that we are convinced it is essential that some troops

should be stationed in British Guiana, Trinidad, and Barbados. During the few days that would elapse before any troops could be obtained from Jamaica or St. Lucia, a very serious state of things might be brought about which the mere presence of troops, regarded from a purely precautionary point of view, would have entirely obviated. The institution of Rifle Corps in the country districts, composed of Estates' Officials has been proposed. If at any time, however, the Managers and Overseers should be called away from an Estate by their duties in town, the property would be left defenceless against any local disturbance. Apart, therefore, from any inconvenience that would be caused by such an arrangement, it would be quite impossible that a body so constituted could be used to suppress any internal disorder, as such action would inevitably give rise to grave misconceptions, from which the employment of the regular forces of the Crown would be entirely free. Moreover, in the event of disturbance in town, it would be impossible to stop all the work of an Estate, especially in crop time, to allow Managers and Overseers to proceed to town. In justice, therefore, to the Colonies as a whole, and having regard to the safety of life and property, we would pray that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to reconsider their proposal to concentrate the troops in two places where they would be practically useless in securing the internal safety of the principal and most important Colonies in the West Indies. (Signed) N. LUMBOCK." "West India Association of Liverpool to Lord Knutsford, 20th August, 1889. My Lord,—I respectfully beg, on behalf of my Association, to endorse the views of the West India Committee upon the undesirability of denuding the principal Colonies in the West Indies of Imperial troops and concentrating them entirely at St. Lucia and Jamaica. As a member, until recently, of the Local Defence Committee appointed by His Excellency Viscount Gormanston in British Guiana, I had, and still retain, the strongest possible opinion that for internal dissension, or in case of conflagrations or riots, it is absolutely necessary to be able to call for the services of the trained white soldiers on the spot. Amateur soldiers (such as militia and volunteers), valuable as their services have sometimes proved, cannot in the tropics command the energy or leisure to attain the disciplined skill of regular troops, whilst both coloured troops and police become demoralised and useless upon important emergencies, to my personal knowledge. I hope that it may yet be possible to modify the conclusions hitherto arrived at by the responsible home authorities. (Signed) J. ERNEST TIXE, Chairman." "Colonial Office to West India Committee. 22nd August, 1889. The Chairman. Sir, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., and to state, for the information of the West India Committee, that the considerations which they urge against the concentration of Her Majesty's Troops in Jamaica and St. Lucia were well weighed before the decision was arrived at, and that his Lordship can only repeat that he can hold out no hope of its being reversed. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD." A similar acknowledgment was sent to the Liverpool Association.

SUGAR STOCKS IN LONDON.—In continuation of correspondence reported in last Circular, the following letter from the London and India Docks Joint Committee, dated 13th August, 1889, is printed. The correction has been duly made in the published returns of stock:—"N. LUMBOCK, Esq. Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 25th ult., I beg to inform you that the stock of West India sugar in the Docks of the Joint Committee has been carefully checked up to the 2nd inst., and I herewith send you the result, by which you will see that there are 1,616 tons to be written-off our published return. (Signed) H. W. WILLIAMS, Manager." The detailed figures are not printed.



TRINIDAD RAILWAY EXTENSION.—Lord Knutsford has stated to the Committee, in reply to enquiries, (see last Circular) that “he has informed the Governor of Trinidad that he would not be unwilling to consider a proposal for the construction by the Colonial Government of light Railways or Tramways for opening up communication with the interior of the Island, and for providing for the expense by means of a loan. Lord Knutsford has also authorised the making of surveys, which are now in progress, with the view to the preparation of a scheme for consideration, but no scheme has yet been formulated.” The Committee have asked their friends in Trinidad to carefully watch this matter, especially with regard to the cost of the proposed extensions, the prospects of their profitable working, and the appearance of the Government as a competitor for labour introduced into the Colony mainly at the expense of the planters.

EXPORT DUTIES IN TRINIDAD.—The abolition of these duties is now being discussed and will no doubt be carried into effect. The question is as to the means of providing for that portion of the expenses of immigration which has hitherto been borne by the export duties. Two methods have been proposed (1), an acreage tax as in British Guiana, and (2), an excise duty upon the sugar and other articles benefitting by immigration, to be collected by the wardens in the different districts. In either case produce should be free of duties at the port of shipment. Full particulars will be given in next Circular.

TRADE TREATIES IN AMERICA.—The Committee, observing that negotiations are still proceeding between the United States and various South American Republics and States for reciprocal trade relations, and being aware of the important bearing of these negotiations upon the interests of the British West Indian Colonies (these latter having no favoured nation rights in the United States) have requested the Foreign Office to obtain and communicate to the Committee information as to the position of such negotiations.

THE SUGAR BOUNTY QUESTION IN TRINIDAD.—“Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to Secretary, West India Committee. Port of Spain, 2nd August, 1889. Sir,—By instructions I send you herewith a copy of resolutions passed at a special general meeting convened by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce on the 31st July, to discuss the Sugar Convention Bill. Several prominent agriculturists and proprietors other than members attended, and the meeting was on the whole very successful. I am forwarding copies of the proceedings to the commercial bodies of other sugar-producing Colonies, in the hope that a general movement in favour of the Bill may be organised and carried out. (Signed) EDGAR TRIPP, Secretary.” “Resolved.—1. That this meeting of representative merchants, proprietors, planters and others, desires to express its hearty appreciation of the efforts made by the Imperial Government to abolish the system of foreign bounties on sugar—a system unjust and pernicious in itself, paralysing to the sugar industry of the Colonies, and inimical to the best interests of the home trade; and this meeting further earnestly hopes that Parliament, during the next session, will ratify the terms of the International Sugar Bounty Convention. 2. That this resolution be printed and forwarded through His Excellency the Administrator to their Lordships the Principal Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and the Colonies.” “Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, to N. Lubbock, Esq., Port of Spain, 2nd August, 1889.—Sir,—I am instructed to forward to you the enclosed resolutions passed at an influentially attended meeting held under the auspices of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce on the 31st July, and to state that at the same meeting the following motion was unanimously carried—‘That the thanks

of this meeting be forwarded to Mr. Neville Lubbock, Chairman of the West India Committee, for his continued efforts on behalf of the West Indies. Signed, EDGAR TRIPP, Secretary. The above communications have been duly acknowledged.

**BET PROSPECTS.**—The very variable weather in France has been reported unfavourable to the Beet, the development of which has been arrested. The *Journal des Fabricants*, of August 28th, describes the situation as bad for all but in Germany reports are better. Austrian Beet fields have made little progress. Mr. Goerz, of Berlin, estimates the European production at 2,381,000 tons against 2,592,000 tons. Mr. Licht gives the estimate of 2,915,000 tons against 2,735,000 last crop.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht)—The visible stocks in Europe were, in August 412,043 tons against 625,493; in United States, 141,000, against 148,669; in Havana, 30,330 against 52,812; floating to North America, 57,559, against 34,769. Total stocks, 640,933 tons, against 861,700 in 1888.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—British Guiana, September 2nd, weather favourable for cultivation. Barbados, September 2nd, good showers.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary.



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 44.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

30th September, 1889.

**TERMS OF RUM SALES IN LONDON.**—As some question has arisen with regard to this subject, it has been thought desirable to reprint the terms agreed upon by the importers and the trade in February, 1888:—“That the terms of selling Jamaica, Demerara and other Rum in London be with prompt of fourteen days and two-and-a-half per cent. discount, interest to be charged from day of sale to date of application for warrant at five per cent., and in the case of Jamaica Rums that a halfpenny price be made. That notice for delivery of warrants should not be given later than noon for delivery on the same day; that interest shall not commence to run until the day subsequent to date of sale, and that rent shall be at sellers' expense to date of prompt, buyers to have the benefit of any unexhausted time of storage remaining after prompt.”

**SUGAR CONVENTION.**—A public meeting has been held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Georgetown, British Guiana, when the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—(1) “That this meeting composed of the representatives of the various industries of this Colony, desires to express its hearty appreciation of the recent efforts of the Home Government to terminate the system of Foreign Sugar Bounties, and earnestly hopes that the Bill lately withdrawn may be re-introduced and carried to a successful issue in the next Session of Parliament, so that this system, which being alike contrary to the principles of Fair and Free Trade, and consequently injurious to the vitality of this Colony in its various interests, may be completely abolished.” (2) “That a copy of this resolution be printed and forwarded through his Excellency the Governor, to their Lordships, the principal Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and the Colonies.”—(Signed) A. BARR, President; HENRY G. WILLIAMS, Assistant Secretary.

**BRITISH GUIANA CONSTITUTION.**—The West India Committee have written to Lord Knutsford expressing their great anxiety in regard to certain proposed changes in the Constitution. This feeling was not associated with any desire to oppose a moderate and reasonable alteration, but the passing of measures, without the fullest and gravest consideration, the working of which measures might seriously affect the interests of the Colony, was to be deprecated. Lord Knutsford was accordingly requested, as there was no urgency for immediate action, to postpone any decision until the Committee had submitted to him their views, which they hoped to be able to do in a few weeks' time. In taking this action the Committee are in accord with the British Guiana Planters' Association, who at a meeting held on September 4th, passed resolutions which they requested the Governor to forward to the Secretary of State.

**BARBADOS COURT OF CHANCERY.**—A new Chancery Act has recently been passed; while recognising the value of the improvements brought about by the Act, some modifications have been suggested in Clause 34. This clause enacts that if any incumbrancer claims before the Master more than three years' interest as owing to him under his security, the Master shall give only three years the priority of the security under which it is claimed, the residue to be ranked immediately

preceding the unsecured debts. This change to a restricted period of three years is a sudden one, and while it is proper to prevent the accumulation of arrears of interest extending over a large number of years, it is thought that a five years' priority would be a reasonable time. Again, the clause seems to require that in the case of all claims now outstanding for more than three years' interest, the property must be at once put into Chancery, to which there are serious and obvious objections. A third point might also be made the basis of a suggestion. It would simplify future transactions relating to the transfer of landed property if any conveyance by the Master were generally recognised as a sufficient title on the sale and purchase of or other dealings with such property; in short, that the Master's conveyance once granted, should in all such transactions be the root of title, and no investigation of title prior to such a conveyance be necessary or allowable.

**THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REAL PROPERTY ORDINANCE.**—This law legalises the crop advance warrant, representing a contract made between the registered proprietor of lands brought under this ordinance, and a capitalist for the advance of moneys to provide the labour and supplies necessary for procuring a crop from the said lands for the season named therein, and to give the person advancing the capital a preferable security upon the crop produced by means of such advances. The ordinance also establishes a system of registration and certificates of title. Certificate to be conclusive evidence of title. Instruments are entitled to priority according to date of registration, and when registered to have the effect of a deed. The following are the fees payable for bringing properties under provisions of law, and for registering title acquired by will or intestacy of previous proprietor:—When the applicant is the original grantee, and the land has never been sold, mortgaged, encumbered or made the subject of settlement 5s. When the title is of any other description value exceeding £500, £2 10s.; exceeding £400 and not exceeding £500, £2; exceeding £300 and not exceeding £400, £1 10s.; exceeding £200 and not exceeding £300, £1; under £200, 10s.; under £100, 5s. Besides the above there is exacted a contribution to Land Assurance Fund of one halfpenny in the £. There are also certain other fees for registering transfers, leases, mortgages, &c., and a table of fees to barristers and solicitors for obtaining certificates of title, ranging from £1 1s. for land not exceeding £50 value, to £5 5s. for land between £300 and £500, and £7 7s. between £750 and £1,000. After first £1,000, £1 1s. for every £1,000 or part thereof. For taking out certificate of title subsequent to probate or intestacy the fees to barristers and solicitors range from £1 1s. for £100 value, £2 2s. up to £250, £3 3s. up to £1,000, and above £1,000, £5 5s. Further particulars as to this ordinance will be given in next Circular, also a summary of the contracts ordinance, a subject principally concerning cocoa cultivation, and some points of which have recently excited much interest and discussion.

**JAMAICA IMMIGRATION.**—West India Committee to Lord Knutsford. 12th September, 1889. "My Lord,—At a meeting of proprietors and merchants representing the sugar estates in various districts of Jamaica, held here yesterday, the serious want of labour on these estates was considered. Reports from the Colony were submitted to the meeting, and it is evident that the scarcity of labour is becoming more generally felt, and this scarcity is likely to be largely intensified by the railway works about to be commenced. (2) We have therefore again to put before your lordship the desirability, and indeed, the necessity, if sugar properties are to be kept in cultivation, of resuming Coolie immigration to a moderate extent. (3) A similar proposal was laid before your lordship last year, when the demand for labour, although strongly felt, was not so



urgent as it is now. I have the honour to refer especially to the letter dated August 2nd, 1888, a copy of which is enclosed, containing carefully considered calculations, by which the expense to employers was estimated at less than £15 per adult immigrant introduced. Your lordship will also notice that the Jamaica Law of 1879, settled the cost to employers also at that sum, viz. £15 per head. (4) We have further to ask your lordship to be good enough to refer to the message of Governor Sir H. Norman, addressed in consequence of your lordship's despatch of the 11th August, to the Legislative Council, on the 28th September, 1888, the result of which was the appointment of a Select Committee by the Council, to consider the matter. (5) The report of the Select Committee, signed by the Hon. Neale Porter, Colonial Secretary, the Hon. M. Solomon, the Hon. C. B. Mosse, and the Hon. W. B. Espeut, acknowledged that the supply of agricultural labour was inadequate for the maintenance of the agricultural industry of the Colony, and that from its special character, the cultivation of sugar properties was threatened with unavoidable diminution, and that it was probable that if the present difficulty of getting regular and continuous labour continued, the working of some estates would have to be given up altogether. The Select committee came to the conclusion (on the information before them a year ago) that a fair and just arrangement would be to charge applicants for East Indian Coolies £10 for each statute adult, imported for their service, and that considering the general benefit to the island, any remaining cost incidental to this mode of increasing the labouring population should be borne by the general revenue. (6) Upon this last point we would remark that it does not appear to us necessary to incur any (or but a very small) expense in addition to the present cost of establishments in the Colony rendered necessary for the protection of the Coolies already located there. The establishment now costs £1,330 to protect the interests of 1,002 indentured Coolies, 1858 Coolies who have not completed their 10 years' residence, and 10,206 Coolies who have completed their 10 years' residence. We cannot understand, therefore, how it is possible that the cost of staff consequent upon the introduction of 500 additional Coolies could amount to £17 6s. 8d. per head, as stated in the Auditor-General's report to the Colonial Secretary, forwarded to your Lordship in the Governor's despatch of the 18th December, 1888. We do not think that any additional cost in connection with establishments in the Colony need be incurred for a small resumption of the immigration as proposed. And so far as the general revenue is concerned, we would respectfully point out that a great saving is now accruing to the revenue by the cessation of the Bounty money paid to immigrants between 1884 and 1888 out of the public funds. (7) In resuming the recent history of the question we have next to state that the report of the Select Committee was not approved by Council, the voting being 6 to 8, and an amendment apparently throwing an undefined cost upon the employer was carried by the casting vote of the Governor. (8) What this charge was likely to be in the view of the Jamaica Government was stated in the Governor's despatch of 18th December, 1888, at no less than £40, a great portion of the difference between that amount and the cost of introduction and provision for return passage, which is estimated by us at £15, and by the Select Committee at £16, being for establishments in the Colony, assumed to be rendered necessary by the introduction of a few hundred Coolies a year, for two or three years in succession, until the absolute want of continuous and regular labour, now so strongly felt in various districts, is satisfied. (9.) We beg most respectfully and emphatically to dissent from the view of the Government of Jamaica as above understood. We believe that the estimate of cost, viz., £40, is entirely out of proportion to the actual cost. We would also respectfully point out that it is quite unnecessary to charge the employer with the expense of back passage for half the number of Coolies allotted to him. Experience has proved in



the Coolie receiving Colonies that a provision of return passage for ten per cent. of the Coolies introduced in any particular year is ample. Nor does it seem fair that the cost of return passage (the passage being demanded, possibly, only after many years) should be charged to the original employer, who has the training and acclimatising of the Coolie, and who is the means of fitting him to become a useful and valuable member of the community generally, increasing the products of the country by his industry, and contributing his full proportion to the general revenue. (10.) We would, therefore, pray that your lordship would be pleased to communicate with the Governor by the next mail so that the Legislative Council might be induced again to consider the matter on the basis of the report of the Select Committee. We would further request that as soon as the Council, during their session next month (October) have come to a decision, and assuming that decision to be in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Committee, that the charge to employers should be £16, the Immigration Department should be instructed to take immediate steps to obtain the necessary requisitions from planters, and forward the same, through his Excellency the Governor, to your lordship, in time for the due engagement of shipping for the conveyance of the number required during the present Emigration Season in India. (11) I have to add that the representatives of estates present at the meeting referred to in the first paragraph of this letter would forward to your lordship, if it would facilitate matters, a requisition for the introduction of at least 500 Coolie immigrants, on the basis of the report of the Select Committee.—I have &c. JAMES L. OHLSON, Secretary of the West India Committee."

**BEST PROSPECTS.**—Weather was changeable in Germany throughout September. During the first half of the month a small number of factories commenced working, but no general estimate of yield could be given. It will be noticed, however, that Mr. Licht sees grounds for considerably increasing his estimate, which now stands as follows:—

|                 | 1889-90.       | 1888-9.   | 1887-8.   |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany         | 1,100,000      | 900,000   | 959,160   |
| Austria         | 700,000        | 525,000   | 428,616   |
| France          | 550,000        | 470,000   | 392,824   |
| Russia          | 525,000        | 510,000   | 441,342   |
| Belgium         | 180,000        | 140,000   | 140,742   |
| Holland         | 55,000         | 45,000    | 39,280    |
| Other Countries | 60,000         | 55,000    | 49,980    |
|                 | Tons 3,170,000 | 2,735,000 | 2,451,950 |

The above figures are not approved by all the best authorities. Mr. J. Georz, of Berlin puts forward the following estimate of the crop, viz., 2,788,000 tons in 1889-90, against 2,602,500 in 1888-9, showing an excess of only 185,500 tons.

**GENERAL STOCKS.**—(Licht)—The visible stocks in Europe were, in September, 346,813 tons against 455,441 same time last year; United States, 112,000, against 104,956; Havana, 22,352, against 24,020; floating to North America, 37,128, against 23,264. Total stocks, 518,293 tons, against 607,681.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings 38 weeks, 657,161 tons against 688,318. Deliveries 660,805 against 679,585. Stocks 146,876 against 196,048.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 12th September, Dry. Barbados, 30th September, Fine rains generally.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary.



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

[CIRCULAR No. 45.]

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E. C.

28th October, 1889.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Several important questions have been under the consideration of the proprietors. Among these is the proposed change in the British Guiana Constitution. The action agreed upon here is that a representation should be made to the Secretary of State to the effect that the proprietors do not desire to oppose any moderate alteration, and expressing approval in general terms of certain proposals which have been submitted to Lord Knutsford by a recent member of the Court of Policy, who is now in this country. Full particulars and copy of correspondence will be ready for next Circular. An official communication has been issued by the British Guiana Government on the question of providing medical attendance for the general population of the rural districts of the Colony, and it has been proposed to secure the attendance of the Government medical officers at certain appointed stations, at stated intervals and at fixed hours. A list of stations has been drawn up and proprietors of the estates in the list have been asked whether they will allow the hospitals to be used as stations. No general resolution has been come to by proprietors here, the matter being apparently left to individual action. The Planters' Association, as a body, have the matter in hand. The announcement of the death of Mr. F. E. H. Francis, the able Government Chemist of British Guiana, has occasioned much regret.

**TRINIDAD, MR. WARNER.**—The death in London of Mr. Frederick Warner, C.M.G. is deeply lamented by all who are concerned in Trinidad. His services as a member of the Legislative Council for many years past have been of great advantage to the best interests of the Colony. The funeral was attended by His Excellency Sir William Robinson, and a considerable number of those in this country who are connected with the island.

**TRINIDAD.**—Considerable anxiety is still felt in consequence of the removal of the troops, the Government having decided to retain troops only at coaling stations. There is a feeling in favour of another effort being made to induce the Government to reconsider this decision. In the meantime while a strong objection is taken to the organisation of any force composed of officials and others connected with Estates, it has been decided to suggest the formation of a mounted corps of 50 men, to act as a nucleus and support to the police and volunteer forces, the question of the expense, whether to be wholly or partly paid by the Colonial Revenue, being of course a matter for the decision of the authorities. The System of light railways for opening up the interior of the island, and encouraging the cultivation of cocoa and fruit, is engaging attention. As this matter, however, has not yet been before the Council, except in reports of survey, no further representation has been made to the Secretary of State. Very strong objection is entertained to the proposed heavy cost per mile. An uneasy feeling exists in regard to the effect of some recent judicial proceedings, especially as effecting the validity of contracts. The matter will continue to receive attention.



**SUGAR BOUNTY BILL.**—This subject having been raised by Mr. Gladstone in connection with the Brighton Election, valuable letters were written by Mr. Ritchie and the Baron de Worms, and widely distributed. It is confidently expected that Her Majesty's Government, in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, and in carrying out the statements made by Ministers in withdrawing the Bill last Session, will reintroduce it early next Session.

**SALE OF RUM TERMS.**—A letter has been received from Mr. Arthur H. Robinson, on behalf of the Rum Trade in London, stating that the trade did not agree to the terms as reprinted in last Circular, and that those terms are not now generally adhered to. The Secretary will be glad to receive any communications from importers, and a meeting will be called if desired.

**MAILS.**—It is publicly announced that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have received the contract, the terms of which, however, are not yet known. It is understood that St. Lucia might be selected as the port of arrival, if so required by the Imperial Government, and it may be assumed that the Government, as in the previous contract, reserve the right to change the port of departure (say to Plymouth) if they find it advisable to do so. It is possible that in the matter of speed there will be some improvement even upon the present excellent service, and this may necessitate the alteration of the day of departure, probably from Thursday to Wednesday. The contract will be printed in this Circular as soon as it is issued as a Parliamentary paper.

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO—AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTS.**—Ordinance No. 9 of 1889 enacts that agricultural contracts shall be good and valid, but they are not to be deemed contracts of service. Contract shall be signed in duplicate before any stipendiary justice, or warden, or assistant-warden, or any public officer appointed by the Governor. The person before whom it is signed shall cause the terms and conditions to be explained to the parties, and the contract shall be registered and open to inspection. Existing contracts may be submitted to the Justice to be certified. Contractor with the consent of the owner may assign his contract, the assignee having the same rights and being subject to the same liabilities as the assignor had and was subject to. If in any contract there shall be any provision directly or indirectly respecting the place where, or the manner in which, or the person or persons with whom, the whole or any part of the earnings due or to become due to any contractor, shall be laid out or expended, such provision shall be and is hereby declared illegal, null and void: Providing always that this Section shall not apply to monies advanced by the owner to the contractor to be expended upon the cultivation of the land under contract. Earnings payable by owner to contractor shall be a first charge upon the land subject to the contract, without prejudice to debts due to the Crown, or to any charges of mortgage or otherwise on the security of the said land, if such be existing and legally perfected when contract is registered. Contractor to have lieu on land for monies due to him, but not as against previous mortgage. Rates and taxes in all cases to be paid by owner. In case of contractor dying intestate and without next of kin, owner to have contract valued and deposit any monies due to contractor in savings bank. Such payment "pro tanto" to discharge owner. Mode of drawing out monies deposited specified. Lands and any trees or plants to be delivered up to owner at termination of contract to be his property during continuance of contract and occupation of contractor, but subject to contractor's lien. Owner may impound animals negligently allowed to stray by contractor. Penalty of £5 on contractor for preventing inspection of land under contract by authorised persons. Upon determination of contract or upon certain defaults of contractor, owner may sue for possession of land, or for compensation before



the justice. Various provisions as to proceeding of justice and officers of court. Contractor may have reasonable time allowed for reaping provisions belonging to him, or putting his contract in good order. Appeal to Supreme Court allowed on certain conditions. Contractor may erect buildings with owner's consent. A list of fees is attached to Ordinance.

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—Mr. Licht reports (Oct. 19): September was mostly dry, with changeable temperature. Subsequent rains improved the soil, and the weather in October was, on the whole, agreeable to farmers, and yields were improved. In view of the above and of the increased sowings, Mr. Licht thinks his estimate of 1,100,000 tons for Germany may be rather too low. The crop, however, may be subject to sharp frosts or other unfavourable circumstances, or the beets on the fields or in the pits may suffer an extraordinary decomposition: in such cases, estimates will have to be reduced. In Austria, the heavy rains have improved matters; and the accounts from France are generally very good. In Belgium, the crop is likely to reach estimate; and in Holland it may be called favourable. Russian estimates appear to be doubtful. The estimates of the European Beet Sugar Production (that for 1889 and 1890 not being binding) are as follows:

|                     | 1889-90.  | 1888-89.  | 1887-88.  |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany ...         | 1,100,000 | 990,004   | 959,100   |
| Austria ...         | 700,000   | 523,242   | 428,516   |
| France ...          | 550,000   | 466,767   | 392,824   |
| Russia ...          | 525,000   | 537,000   | 443,312   |
| Belgium ...         | 180,000   | 145,804   | 140,712   |
| Holland ...         | 55,000    | 46,040    | 30,280    |
| Other Countries ... | 60,000    | 55,000    | 40,980    |
| Together ...        | 3,170,000 | 2,764,457 | 2,451,050 |

The above estimates of Mr. Licht are not concurred in by other good authorities in France and Germany.

**VISIBLE STOCKS AND FLOATING CARGOES.—(Licht)**

|                            | 1889.   | 1888.   | 1887.   |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Europe, tons ...           | 376,539 | 336,238 | 471,571 |
| United States „ ...        | 90,000  | 82,724  | 120,903 |
| Havana „ ...               | 16,256  | 15,240  | 25,400  |
| Floating to N. America     | 26,027  | 11,741  | 9,265   |
| Total visible supply, Oct. | 508,822 | 445,943 | 627,229 |

**SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**—42 weeks—Landings, 1889, 736,670; 1888, 727,025. Deliveries, 1889, 729,791; 1888, 758,439. Stocks, 1889, 157,499; 1888, 156,502.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Barbados, Weather, dry; good rains on 27th.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary.

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 48.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

25th November, 1889.

BRITISH GUIANA CONSTITUTION. —Important meetings of proprietors have been held, at which the present position of this question was fully discussed. It was resolved to express to the Secretary of State a general approval of the representations which had been made to his Lordship by Mr. Davson. It was also decided to communicate to the Chairman of the British Guiana Planters' Association, the Hon. Alexander Barr, the views entertained by the West India Committee and by the West India Association of Liverpool, the latter being in one or two respects different from those expressed by Mr. Davson. Authority has not yet been given to print the full correspondence in this Circular, and such a course may be considered premature. It may be stated, however, that Mr. Wingfield has informed the Committee "that the Governor of the Colony has been instructed to submit a definite scheme after he has had sufficient time to enable him to collect the necessary information for this purpose. His Lordship desires me to add that your views on this subject will receive due consideration."

TRINIDAD. —The Committee have suggested to the Secretary of State, in view of the withdrawal of troops from Trinidad, that the police force should be supplemented by a small but thoroughly effective force, say of fifty men, to be specially selected, for the purpose of increasing the security of law and order in the Colony.

TRINIDAD. —Proprietors connected with this Colony are understood to be willing to support the candidature of Dr. Urich for the post of Government Analytical Chemist rendered vacant by the death of Mr. McCarthy. Dr. Urich has been nominated by the Administrator to the acting appointment.

JAMAICA EXHIBITION, 1890. —At the meeting of the West India Committee, held on the 18th November, the Chairman submitted a letter from the Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, now being formed in the United Kingdom, requesting that the West India Committee should nominate a representative upon the Exhibition Committee. It was resolved that Mr. Lubbock be requested to act as such representative.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION INTO JAMAICA. —Up to the 21st November the Colonial Office had received no despatch from the Governor of Jamaica in reference to the letter of the West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, of the 12th September last, recommending the resumption of Coolie Immigration into Jamaica, upon certain terms.

THE PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS. —Colonial Office to West India Committee, November 2nd, 1889. The Secretary — "SIR, —I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th September, inquiring whether any steps have been taken to secure the representation of the West Indian Colonies at the Conference of American States, which has just met at Washington to consider various matters which concern the commercial relations of those States. The Conference is one which was called under a special Act of Congress, which authorised the invitation exclusively of the independent American States. The initiative rested entirely with the Government of the United States of America, a proposal made in the House of Representatives to include the Canadian Dominion in the invitation fell through; and no overtures were



made to Her Majesty's Government by the Government of the United States of America, so that no steps have been taken for the representation of the West Indian Colonies at the Conference. At the same time I am to point out that it is very doubtful how far the interests which may be pressed forward at the Conference are identical with those of Her Majesty's West Indian Colonies. Lord Knutsford also desires me to observe that there is no certainty that the Conference will lead to any result, but that he will move the Marquis of Salisbury, to request Her Majesty's representative at Washington, to watch the proceedings of the Conference very closely in the interest of Her Majesty's Colonies. I am, &c., (signed) R. H. Meade. In acknowledging the above letter, the great importance to the British Colonies of any exclusive trade arrangement between the countries now in Conference was again pointed out, and the Secretary of State was requested, with a view to the Committee making further representations to his lordship, to keep them informed of the proceedings of the Conference.

**SUGAR CANE DISEASE.**—Extract of letter from D. Morris, Esq. M.A., Royal Gardens, Kew, to N. Lubbock, Esq., 7th Nov., 1889: "According to the researches of Dr. Soltwedie at Java, the Serch disease in sugar cane in that island is due to Nematode. The exact determination is not given. It appears that the parasite is readily carried from place to place in soil, or in cane cuttings with roots attached. The further history of this pest is likely to be forthcoming, but, in the meantime, nothing should be done to introduce sugar canes from any part of the East Indies to the West Indies."

**BETTER PROSPECTS.**—Notwithstanding the heat and moisture decreasing yield during a portion of the last month, Light estimates the crop of Germany for 1889-90 at 1,175,000. Austrian prospects and weather conditions are practically the same as German, the crop being estimated at 780,000 tons. French accounts are satisfactory, causing the estimate to be raised to 650,000. Russia is reduced to 490,000. The total European beet crop is estimated at 3,300,000, or upwards of half a million tons larger than 1888-9, a state of things pointing to weaker prices unless (and this is not improbable) the more moderate prices now ruling in comparison with those in the earlier part of the year, stimulates consumption to the extent of the increased supply. M. Georzi, of Berlin, estimates the crops as follows, 1889-90, 2,943,000 tons against 2,620,500.

**VISIBLE STOCKS AND FLOATING CARGONS. (Light)**

|                            | 1889.   | 1888.   | 1887.   |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Europe, tons               | 626,793 | 403,156 | 739,519 |
| United States ..           | 71,000  | 68,873  | 96,104  |
| Havana                     | 10,100  | 19,100  | 15,240  |
| Floating to N. America     | 44,372  | 37,869  | 27,535  |
| Total visible supply, Nov. | 750,325 | 580,058 | 878,398 |

**SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**—40 weeks—Landings, 1889, 838,072; 1888, 794,387 Deliveries, 1889, 811,953; 1888, 830,422. Stocks, 1889, 176,739; 1888, 151,280.

**GENERAL CROPS.**—A statement of Beet and Cane Crops will be given as fully as possible next Circular.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 21st November, rainy season appears to have set in. Barbados, 25th November, fine rains generally.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.]

[CIRCULAR No. 47.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

23rd December, 1889.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Sub-Committee appointed by the General Meeting of the West India Committee held on the 18th November last has had several sittings. The management of the affairs of the Committee and its financial position have been fully considered. It was ascertained that a certain sum would be required to defray all expenses to the end of the year, in addition to the ordinary subscriptions already collected. For this purpose it was resolved that a Special Subscription should be made, as a purely exceptional proceeding. The necessary amount has practically been already subscribed. With regard to the financial support of the organisation in future, the requisite proposals will be laid before a General Meeting to be held early in January. Accompanying the notice calling the meeting will be a printed report summarising the important action which has been taken by the Committee during the past year upon matters affecting the general interests of the West India Colonies. A Statement of Accounts, with a detailed list of the Ordinary and Special Subscriptions will also be sent to each Member. The records of the West India body cover 150 years. Its policy has always been to obtain the greatest amount of good for the Colonies in the inevitable changes occurring during that long period of time, and its influence upon the fiscal legislation of the Mother Country has specially been most marked. In the circumstances of the present time an opportunity for enlarged influence and usefulness presents itself. Detailed proposals will as soon as possible be submitted to Members.

BRITISH GUIANA.—There are no further particulars to state in this Circular as to the Constitutional question of this Colony, which is now in the hands of the Governor; a full report in due course will be issued of all correspondence.

A NEW GRASS IN TRINIDAD.—The following particulars have been received by a London House from a correspondent in Trinidad, dated 8th November, 1889:—"Quite recently a new grass has made its appearance in some parts. I have never seen it before in the 21 years I have known the Colony, nor do any of the neighbouring planters recognise it. The first appearance of it was on the boundary next to the Coolie settlement of "Caratal" about April last. It spread with extraordinary rapidity. In the abandoned patches and in some 30 acres of land I had cleared to plant, it grew so thickly that a horse could barely force his way through it, and at its full growth attained a height of 13 to 15 ft., growing straight upwards. Enquiries elicited the information that it had been first seen about this district last year in the Gasparillo lands, and that some of the small farmers growing canes for an estate had this year been driven to abandon their cultivation. Mr. Rostant, of Harmony Hall, tells me he thinks the seed was brought from the main land (of Venezuela) by the immense flocks of small birds that



were seen here two years ago, and which roosted in the evenings during their stay of a few weeks in the woods of Caratal and Gasparillo. However it came here, this grass is likely to prove a dangerous pest on the estates. I have done everything I could to stamp it out. At first digging it out was attempted, but its spread was too rapid for this, so I put out a gang of cutlassers, and am trying to get all out before the seed, which is now full, ripens. Mr. Hart, the Government botanist, came at my invitation to see it. He did not express an opinion, but on his return home sent me the enclosed letter. So far as my short experience of it teaches me, I do not think it will spring from the roots if cut close to the ground, but it seeds most rapidly and profusely, and it should be at once cut down wherever seen. If once allowed to get a good hold on the estate it will be found a worse pest than Para grass. The Government Botanist says under date 26 October: "The grass is known as *Rottbøllia exaltata* it having been recorded by Swartz from Jamaica; and Cruger from Trinidad. It is also known under the name of *Tripsacum*. It belongs to the subtribe, to which belongs sorghum and sugar-cane. It is known from the United States to Brazil. It is reported in the flora of the West Indies as being a perennial plant. Cut and burn must be the régime."

COOLIE IMMIGRATION, JAMAICA.—West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, 5 December, 1889:—"My Lord,—I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Wingfield's letter of the 21st November last, written by your Lordship's direction, on the subject of Coolie Immigration into Jamaica, has been submitted to a meeting of Proprietors and Merchants representing a large interest in that Colony. I am requested respectfully to express the disappointment which is felt at the prospect of not obtaining any additional labour from India during the present emigration season, as it was expected that the question would have been considered during the recent Session of the Jamaica Legislative Council upon a message from the Governor. Communications from different parts of the Island continue to press more urgently the necessity of Coolie Labour, if the Sugar Estates, which have for many years past produced the most valuable staple of the Island are to be maintained in cultivation. Managers of Estates in important sugar districts of the Island report that great difficulty is experienced in regard to labour, and that it is impossible to obtain cane cutters. One report, dated November 5th, states, "I had not a cane cutter yesterday. During the present time regular daily work is essential. But for the Coolies already in the Island the ordinary operations of many Estates could not be carried on. The experience since the beginning of the year has been particularly unsatisfactory owing to the difficulty in obtaining labourers to cut or clean canes. The extension of the fruits cultivation cannot of course be deprecated, but the services of the native labourers are so largely attracted to this industry that the proprietors engaged in sugar cultivation feel that they are justified in obtaining labour through the well-recognised system of Coolie Immigration, and on terms not much more onerous than those existing in other colonies. It is even reported that in Portland, where there are no sugar estates, a fruit grower is anxious to obtain a number of coolies, the native labour being insufficient." The railway works about to be commenced will render this question still more urgent by taking away the labour, inadequate as it is, at present engaged on the sugar estates. It is impossible to say how the crops now growing on a number of estates are to be taken off; injury has been already done by the young canes getting choked with grass. A gentleman having responsible charge of a number of estates, writes that not only in Westmoreland but in other districts "the want of labour threatens the abandonment of the estates." We have therefore respectfully to ask your Lordship to again



draw the attention of His Excellency the Governor to the serious importance of this matter, with the view of the favourable consideration at the earliest opportunity by the Legislative Council of the proposals contained in the letter we had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 12th September last. I have, &c. (Signed) QUINTIN HOGG, Deputy Chairman." Colonial office to West India Committee, 11th December, 1889:—"The Deputy Chairman.—Sir, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., further on the question of the renewal of Coolie Immigration to Jamaica: Lord Knutsford has not yet received any reply to his despatch to the Governor enclosing a copy of your letter of the 12th September last, but he has caused a copy of your letter now under acknowledgment to be sent to Sir Henry Blake for his consideration: Lord Knutsford would call your attention to the reports of the proceedings of the Legislative Council of Jamaica, which appear in the *Colonial Standard* of the 12th and 17th of October last relative to this question, which constitute at present the only information in the possession of this department. I am to add that it would have been too late to obtain a supply of Coolies during the current season of emigration from India to the West Indies. I am, &c. Signed, EDWARD WINGFIELD." (Note: The Secretary will be glad to receive from members the latest information which has arrived from Jamaica on this Labour question with the view of obtaining the resumption of Coolie Immigration next season.)

SUGAR BOUNTY QUESTION.—A review of this question will be given in next Circular up to that date, together with a statement of the Parliamentary position and prospects:

A SUGAR BANK.—The project of an International Bank, so long discussed in Germany appears to have been abandoned in favour of a scheme of a Commission Bank exclusively for Germany. The principal promoter, M. Markvort, has recently expressed his views to a meeting of Fabricants. The object of the Bank is to create an intimate connection between producers of German sugar, so as to resist speculation, and secure the sale of sugars under the most advantageous conditions. The Bank will undertake the formalities of sale, and have knowledge of all operations, transmitting each day to its adherents the list of prices realised and quantities sold. The scheme appears to find favour with many Fabricants in different parts of Germany.

SUGAR.—Mr. Light's Circular for December is not yet issued. Messrs. H. C. and Co.'s Monthly Report, December 7, states that the expected inquiry from America had at length appeared, and that stocks had fallen to 30,000 tons against 70,000 tons last year. The European Beet crops are estimated at 560,000 tons over last year. The cane-crops are generally regarded as good, although visible supplies continue comparatively moderate; consumption will probably improve. The total estimate of cane sugar is estimated at 2,278,000 and Beet 3,330,000, making a total of 5,608,000. The *Journal de Commerce de Sucre*, December 18, reports weather very variable, but reasonable and favourable to the keeping of the roots remaining to work. The production in France is still uncertain, depending largely upon weather. Weather had been equally favourable in Germany and Austria for the preservation of the roots. In Cuba the weather has been dry, and prevented the development of the cane, rendering climate difficult.

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—250 weeks.—Landings, at four principal Ports, 118,500 tons against 86,342 in 1888: Deliveries, 893,051 against 903,851: Stocks, 176,078 against 132,806.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, December 14th. Weather changeable. Barbados, 10th, Heavy rains generally.



SUGAR SEASON, 1ST JULY, 1889, TO 30TH JUNE, 1890.

| Estimated Supplies in Tons, for 12 Months. |     |     |     | Estimated Consumption. |           |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| European Stocks, 1st July, 1889            | ... | ... | ... | 476,625                |           |
| United States Stocks                       | ..  | ... | ... | 98,044                 |           |
| Afloat for Europe                          | ..  | ... | ... | 56,095                 |           |
| .. United States                           | ..  | ... | ... | 41,971                 |           |
| Cuba Stocks                                | ..  | ... | ... | 73,815                 |           |
|  |     |     |     | 716,550                |           |
| Germany                                    | ... | ... | ... | 1,200,000              | 380,000   |
| Austria                                    | ... | ... | ... | 700,000                | 250,000   |
| France                                     | ... | ... | ... | 675,000                | 400,000   |
| Russia                                     | ... | ... | ... | 475,000                | 300,000   |
| Belgium                                    | ... | ... | ... | 180,000                | 55,000    |
| Holland                                    | ... | ... | ... | 115,000                | 55,000    |
| United Kingdom                             | ... | ... | ... | ...                    | 1,360,000 |
| Spain                                      | ... | ... | ... | ...                    | 60,000    |
| Cuba                                       | ... | ... | ... | 700,000                | 60,000    |
| Java                                       | ... | ... | ... | 300,000                | 40,000    |
| United States                              | ... | ... | ... | 125,000                | 1,500,000 |
| Sandwich Islands                           | ... | ... | ... | 115,000                |           |
| Fiji                                       | ... | ... | ... | 30,000                 |           |
| Australia                                  | ... | ... | ... | 60,000                 | 150,000   |
| New Zealand                                | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 30,000    |
| Canada                                     | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 100,000   |
| Peru and Chili                             | ... | ... | ... | 30,000                 | 50,000    |
| Brazil                                     | ... | ... | ... | 170,000                | 40,000    |
| Mauritius and Reunion                      | ... | ... | ... | 155,000                | 5,000     |
| Manilla                                    | ... | ... | ... | 180,000                | 10,000    |
| Egypt                                      | ... | ... | ... | 35,000                 | 20,000    |
| Demerara                                   | ... | ... | ... | 120,000                | 5,000     |
| British West Indies                        | ... | ... | ... | 173,000                | 20,000    |
| Martinique and Guadeloupe                  | ... | ... | ... | 90,000                 | 5,000     |
| Porto Rico                                 | ... | ... | ... | 70,000                 | 5,000     |
| Mexico                                     | ... | ... | ... | 30,000                 | 20,000    |
| Honduras                                   | ... | ... | ... | 20,000                 | 15,000    |
| Argentine                                  | ... | ... | ... | 30,000                 | 100,000   |
| Morocco, Natal                             | ... | ... | ... | 50,000                 | 60,000    |
| Turkey                                     | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 70,000    |
| Denmark                                    | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 65,000    |
| Norway and Sweden                          | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 45,000    |
| Switzerland                                | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 25,000    |
| Portugal                                   | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 40,000    |
| Greece                                     | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 10,000    |
| Italy                                      | ... | ... | ... | nil                    | 110,000   |
|  |     |     |     | 3,345,000              |           |
|  |     |     |     | 2,483,000              |           |
| Total Supplies for 12 Months               |     |     |     | 6,574,550              | 5,460,000 |
| Deduct Consumption                         |     |     |     | 5,460,000              |           |
| Probable visible Supply 1st July, 1890     |     |     |     | 1,114,550 tons.        |           |

N.B.—The crops and consumption of India and China are not taken into account, but are probably over 2,500,000 tons. Mr. Licht's estimate of the beetroot sugar crops exceeds those of others by about 500,000 tons.

The above consumption is taken at previous figures.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary, for filing at the office.



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[CIRCULAR No 62.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

19th January, 1891.

THE MCKINLEY TARIFF ACT.—With regard to the marking of goods, the following letter from the Treasury Department of Washington has been kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Colonial Company, Limited, to whose correspondents in New York it was addressed. "Treasury Department, Washington, 27th December, 1890.—Gentlemen, in reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, you are informed that, in the opinion of the Department, the provisions of Section 6 of the Act of October 1st, 1890, will be substantially complied with, if packages containing sugar and molasses are 'marked, stamped, branded, or labelled,' with the names British Guiana, British West Indies, French West Indies and Spanish West Indies, when imported from those countries. The name of the particular island need not necessarily appear. By a careful reading of said section, you will see that on and after March 1st, 1891, *all packages* containing any imported articles, whether free or dutiable, must be marked, stamped, branded, or labelled, in order to entitle the merchandise to entry at the Custom-house. The fact that raw Sugars imported from any of the countries named, are, a few hours after entry, melted at the refinery, cannot operate to do away with the marking of the packages containing the same. In reply to your suggestion that the marks on bags of Sugar are liable to become obliterated by drainage, &c., I have to state that as the law absolutely requires such marking, you must see to it that the marking is done in some indelible manner, else the entry of the merchandise at the Custom-house might be jeopardised.—(Signed) O. Z. SPAULDING, Assistant Secretary."

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—At the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee, the date of the Annual Meeting of the West India Committee was fixed for February 5th. At the same meeting a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Wallwyn Poyer B. Shephard for his exposition of and commentary upon the McKinley Tariff Act, printed in Circular No. 60. The vote having been officially communicated to Mr. Shephard, was duly acknowledged by him.

EUROPEAN RUM.—In continuation of previous correspondence, the following letter, dated 22nd December, 1890, has been received from the Customs. "The Chairman: Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by the Board of Customs to acquaint you that entries for importations of Spirits under the designation of Rum continue to be accepted by the department from whatever country the importation may have come, but that the Board are awaiting from the Treasury directions on a recommendation which was made to their Lordships by the Board, when the question was previously under notice, that importations of Rum might be classified as follows on entry with the Customs, viz.: (a) Rum imported from ports in Sugar-cane producing countries; (b) Imitation Rum from ports in countries in which the Sugar-cane is not produced, with provision for verification by documents of any Rum, which having really been produced in places covered by class a, may find its way into the United Kingdom from places covered by Class b. (Signed) JOHN COURROUX." (NOTE.—In reference to the above letter, the objection to the use of the word "Rum" in connection with imports from Europe still remains. Such imports should be classed as "Mixed Spirits.")



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IMPERIAL TREATIES. The following letter has been addressed to the Trade and Treaties Committee:—"January 15, 1891.—The Secretary: Sir,—As the result of correspondence with the Colonial Office, we have been advised to communicate to you our request that the Trade and Treaties Committee would be pleased to accept our views, as representing the proprietary and mercantile interests of the British West India Colonies, regarding the future bearing of imperial treaties upon the interests of those colonies. We shall be glad to receive an intimation from you as to the probable date upon which the Committee would consent to hear a witness on our behalf, so that any preliminary statement of the points we wish to raise may be in the hands of the Committee in due time.—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.—The following are the proposals submitted by the Hon. George E. Foster, the Finance Minister of Canada, to the West Indian Governments upon his recent visit:—"The Government of the Dominion of Canada, with a view to a mutually beneficial extension of trade between that country and the British West India Islands has authorised me to make the following proposals to your Government:—1st. The Government of Canada will ask such legislation as will permit the introduction of all Sugars, being the product of the British West India Islands, to be used for refining purposes, at a reduction from the present duty of about 25 per cent. and of fruits, being the product of the said Islands, at a reduced differential duty to be agreed upon. 2nd. In return for this differential treatment of Sugars and Fruits, the British West India Islands are asked to accord an equivalent differential treatment to the products of imported into their territory comprised under the following heads:—(a) The products of the Forest. (b) The products of the Sea. (c) Agricultural products of all kinds. (d) Animals and their products. (e) Coal. (f) Such manufactured articles as may be agreed upon. As an earnest of its desire to enlarge its trade relations with the British West Indies, the Government of Canada has already made arrangements to establish two important lines of regular steam communication—one to make sixteen trips per year between St. John and Demerara, touching at all the principal Leeward and Windward Islands and one to make twelve trips per year between Halifax and Jamaica—the cost of which to Canada will amount to about 88,000 dollars per year. In return for these services, which are of equal benefit to both countries, the Government of Canada confidently expects the co-operation of your Government in the way of reasonable concessions to the lines established and compensating liberal differentials upon the Canadian products above mentioned. If the principle of this proposal is accepted by your Government, the details can be arranged either by correspondence or by a deputation from the British West Indies to the Canadian Government at Ottawa. May I ask your earnest and prompt consideration of this proposal and the favour of an answer thereto at your earliest convenience.—(Signed) GEORGE E. FOSTER, Minister of Finance, Canada." The above proposals have excited much interest among all connected with the West India Colonies in the United Kingdom. The letter of the Chairman of the West India Committee, printed in the *Times* of the 9th January, will have been noticed and upon the 15th January the following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State:—"My Lord,—As your Lordship has now probably under consideration official despatches from the West India Colonies containing the proposals made by the Hon. G. E. Foster, the Finance Minister of Canada, for a reciprocal Trade arrangement between those Colonies and the Dominion, we beg respectfully to express the following views in regard to those proposals. While cordially desiring to see



and to aid the development of commercial intercourse between the West Indies and Canada, we think the present scheme is impracticable, for reasons stated below:—

1. The reduction of twenty-five per cent. proposed upon West Indian Sugar and other products when imported into Canada, would no doubt be an advantage if Canada could take the whole of the West Indian Sugar crop and if the benefit thereby gained would be at all equivalent to the considerable surrender of revenue which would have to be made by the West India Colonies.
2. The Dominion, however, could only take one-third of the West Indian Sugar crop, or 110,000 to 120,000 tons annually, and it would be many years before 300,000 tons, the present crop of the West Indies, including British Guiana, could find a market in Canada.
3. The United States, on the other hand, propose to admit duty free all Sugars up to number sixteen Dutch standard; that is to say, all such Sugars as are produced in the West Indian Colonies. The growing population, and the cheapening of Sugar in the United States must result in a rapid increase of consumption, and make that market a still more favourable one for West Indian produce. Nor do the United States require any reciprocal Tariff legislation of an onerous or exclusive character.
4. But if any formal arrangement, such as that proposed by Mr. Foster, should be made with Canada there could be no doubt that a prohibitory duty would at once be placed in the United States upon West Indian Sugar.
5. The position of the Colonies would therefore be that while they could send a third of their crop to Canada, the principal market for the disposal of the remainder, namely, the United States, would be closed against them.
6. The West India Colonies have in recent years sent increasing quantities of Sugar to the United States—such tendency being largely caused by the unequal competition with Bounty-aided Sugar in the English Market. The Bounty system still exists, and the English Market must therefore continue to remain—except perhaps occasionally and from special causes—unfavourable to British Colonial Sugar. In these circumstances it would be impossible to risk, in any shape or form, the free and equal admission of West Indian Sugar into the United States. While desirous, as stated above, of witnessing the natural and legitimate growth of trade between the West Indies and Canada, we beg humbly to pray that your Lordship would be pleased to disapprove of the particular proposals now submitted by Mr. Foster.—(Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman."

**BRITISH GUIANA LAW OF INHERITANCE.**—A copy of Counsel's opinion as to the probable result of an appeal to a Higher Court, from the ruling of the Local Courts, can be seen at this office. The opinion is unfavourable to such an appeal. The rights arising out of the community of goods between spouses, which form such an important feature in the Roman Dutch Law in force in British Guiana, must exist wherever the community is not clearly excluded by antenuptial contract. Marriage settlements should be drawn so as to preclude any doubt arising on the question of exclusion of community of goods. The question now appears to be confined to legislation, and upon this point it is understood that the British Guiana Planters' Association are in communication with the Colonial Government.

**TRINIDAD.**—A great deal of information, in copies of official and other papers, has been received from Trinidad. A request has been submitted to Lord Knutsford to receive a deputation upon some of the more important points, and it is hoped that the interview will take place before next mail.

**COLONIAL BANK.**—The following is an extract from the report of the Colonial Bank, submitted to the proprietors on 8th January, 1891:—"During the past Half-year the progress of



the Bank's business has been satisfactory; prices of Sugar have been moderate, but the West Indies generally, with the exception of Trinidad, show signs of increasing prosperity. The seasons so far have not been favourable for the coming crop, which, it is anticipated, will fall short of that just reaped; but it is hoped that the McKinley Tariff will operate greatly to the advantage of the growers of West India Sugar.

**DISTRESS IN ANGUILLA.**—The following letter has been received from Lord Knutsford. The Chairman is taking steps to put forward the appeal suggested by his lordship. "Downing Street, 13th January, 1891; Sir,—I am directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you, to be laid before the West India Committee, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of the Leeward Islands, reporting that a serious famine exists in the Island of Anguilla in consequence of the total failure of the provision crops from long-continued drought. Lord Knutsford is not prepared to recommend an application to Parliament for a grant-in-aid, but it has occurred to him that the West India Committee might be disposed to set on foot an appeal for subscriptions to a fund in aid of the sufferers by the famine.—(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

**FRENCH SUGAR LEGISLATION.**—The *Bulletin des Halles*, of 20th December, 1890, gives the following as the new law proposed by the French Government in regard to sugar of crop 1890-91. Art. 1.—Those fabricants who elect to surrender their right to the advantage arising from the legal *prise en charge*, shall have an allowance made of 20 per cent on their total production of sugar in crop 1890-91. As in the case of the surplus production, the Sugar comprised in such allowance of 20 per cent. shall pay the tax of 30 francs per 100 kilos. Art. 2.—On and after 1st September, 1891, the legal *prise en charge* shall be fixed at 7.75 per cent. of refined sugar per 100 kilos of beets. But according to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, of 17th December, 1890 the French Minister of Agriculture does not support that proposed system. He is in favour of a scheme for reducing the *prise en charge* as follows, such reduction not to apply in those cases where the yield reaches 10.50 per cent. or more; in such cases he would let the *prise en charge* remain 7.75 per cent. as at present. To fabricants having a yield of 9 to 10 per cent., he would reduce the *prise en charge* to 7.25 per cent.; and to those with a yield of less than 9 per cent. he would fix the *prise en charge* at 7 per cent. It seems probable that the proposals of the Government will be adopted rather than those of the Minister of Agriculture.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—Licht's Monthly Circular for January is not yet to hand. The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,209,951 tons against 1,287,500; United States, 55,000, against 19,561; Havana, 44,000, against 12,000. Total 1,308,951, against 1,319,061 tons, same time last year.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First two weeks' landings of raw Sugar at four principal ports:—18,655, against 25,256 last year. Deliveries, 17,702, against 26,253. Stocks, 116,869, against 176,631.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, January 1st, weather showery and favourable for cultivation; 17th, heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation. Trinidad, January 15th, weather too dry. Barbados, 6th, showery. Antigua, December 27th, good showers have fallen generally since mail, December 3rd, to the extent of one-and-a-half to three inches.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c. relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. These Circulars are marked "Confidential" to prevent correspondence and proceedings being forwarded to the public press without previous consent being given.



CONFIDENTIAL]

[CIRCULAR No 63.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

16th February, 1891.

**TRADE AND TREATIES COMMITTEE.**—The Chairman and Secretary attended at the Board of Trade on the 6th February, to represent the views of the West India Committee in regard to the bearing of Imperial Treaties upon the interests of the West India Colonies. There were present:—the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., in the Chair; Sir William Ewart, Sir Joseph Lee, Colonel E. S. Hall, C.B., M.P.; Mr. C. M. Kennedy, C.B.; Mr. C. E. Bousfield, Mr. Frederick Brittain, Mr. R. Giffen, and Mr. A. E. Bateman (Secretary), and Mr. Bence-Jones (Assistant Secretary). The following statement was submitted by Mr. Lubbock, and the several points were supported at length by him after the statement had been read:—"The West India Committee consists of proprietors, merchants, bankers, and others connected with the British West Indies and British Guiana. They represent the whole of the West India interest in the United Kingdom, and also the views of the proprietary and mercantile interests in those Colonies. The following points are submitted for the consideration of the Trade and Treaties Committee: That in future Commercial Treaties between Great Britain and Foreign Powers, whether consisting simply of Favoured Nation Clauses, or stipulating for specific Tariff rates, provision should be made by which the West India Colonies should be consulted, or should have power to make independently of those treaties, trade arrangements of their own in the same way as Canada has done, and as it is now proposed that all the self-governing Colonies should do, provided that no advantage be given to foreign countries, which is not at the same time extended to Great Britain and all British possessions. The effect of the present system is to give to foreign powers having no trade with these Colonies, and no interest in them, the power of preventing trade arrangements with the United States, which would be of great advantage to those Colonies. The United States construing the Favoured Nation treatment, not in the rigid European sense, but simply as granting the right to Most Favoured Nation treatment under like conditions; *i.e.*, that special favour conferred on one country for special consideration is only to be allowed to another country, under the Favoured Nation Clause, for a similar consideration. For instance, in 1884, negotiations took place (*see* Commercial, No. 4, 1885) between the United States and the West Indies to regulate the large trade between the two countries and to provide for a mutual remission of duties upon the goods exchanged. At that time, such a Treaty would have been of enormous advantage to the Colonies, as it would have given to their Sugar a beneficial market in the United States. One strong argument for such Treaty was, that in the Treaty between Great Britain and the United States in 1815, the West Indies were expressly excluded from the operation of the Favoured Nation Clause: and as the United States in 1884 were making reciprocal arrangements with other American countries, the West Indies, being without the right of Favoured Nation treatment, would have been placed at a great disadvantage in their trade with the United States. Article XIII. provided that the privileges of the Treaty should not extend to other countries under Favoured Nation Clauses, unless those other countries gave an equivalent consideration; but if such claim should be made by any other country, and should be allowed, then the Treaty might be terminated. The British Government, however, objected to the



the Committee, as to representations to Her Majesty's Government. In the meantime, the following letter has been addressed to Lord Knutsford: "11th February, 1891. My Lord,—Having seen the announcement that Brazil has entered into a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America—and also that the Government of Spain have consented to a similar Treaty being negotiated between Cuba and the United States, I have the honour to request, having regard to the extremely important bearing of such Treaties upon the commercial relations of the British West Indies with the United States—that your Lordship would be pleased to move the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to obtain the earliest information respecting such Treaties; and I have further humbly to ask that you would be pleased to favour the West India Committee with the information so obtained, as it might involve consequences of the most urgent importance to the productive and commercial interests of the West India Colonies. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

**EUROPEAN OR IMITATION RUM.**—With reference to the letter from the Customs printed in last Circular (No. 62), a letter was sent to the Board on the 5th February as follows:—"Sirs,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd December, a copy of which we enclose. May we now respectfully ask what is the decision of the Treasury upon the recommendation of your Honourable Board as to the distinction between Rum from sugar cane producing countries and imitation Rum from non-sugar cane producing countries. We beg to repeat our suggestion that in the latter case the article should not be denominated "Rum," but should be accepted by the Customs on importation as "mixed spirits." (Signed) J. L. OHLSON, Secretary." The following reply has been received, dated Custom House, 12th February, 1891. "I am directed by the Board of Customs to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 5th instant, and to acquaint you that, with reference to that part of the letter from the Board of the 22nd December last, on your previous application, in which you were informed that the subject was under the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, and as the matter still remains in that position, the Board have sent a copy of the present application to their Lordships for directions. (Signed) R. T. PROWSE."

SUGAR IMPORTS, UNITED KINGDOM.—(BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.)

|   | 1889.            | 1890.            |
|---|------------------|------------------|
|   | Tons.            | Tons.            |
| Total Imports of Refined Sugar              | 451,196          | 498,878          |
| Ditto Unrefined ditto                       | 877,178          | 785,874          |
|   | <u>1,328,374</u> | <u>1,284,752</u> |
| The imports of Refined and Unrefined were:— | 1889.            | 1890.            |
| Beet Countries                              | 855,769          | 984,904          |
| United States                               | 510              | 14,644           |
| British Cane                                | 195,452          | 114,926          |
| Foreign Cane                                | 276,643          | 170,278          |
|   | <u>1,328,374</u> | <u>1,284,752</u> |

BEET CROPS.—The following are Mr. Licht's latest figures:—

|                     | 1890-91.  | 1889-90.  | 1888-89.  |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany             | 1,325,000 | 1,264,607 | 990,604   |
| Austria ...         | 760,000   | 753,078   | 523,242   |
| France ...          | 750,000   | 787,989   | 466,767   |
| Russia ...          | 530,000   | 456,711   | 526,387   |
| Belgium             | 200,000   | 221,480   | 145,804   |
| Holland             | 50,000    | 55,813    | 46,040    |
| Other Countries ... | 75,000    | 80,000    | 87,000    |
| Total               | 3,690,000 | 3,619,678 | 2,785,844 |
| Cane (Clark)        | 2,332,000 | 2,157,000 | 2,275,000 |

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—(H. Clark & Co., 7th February)—“The frozen condition of the German rivers has prevented the arrival in the United Kingdom of the customary Beet supplies. Meanwhile America having quietly made some important purchases of Beet, an unexpected demand from this quarter has arisen for this description, and has imparted strength to the market in every department. The future of prices hinges on the requirements of America in anticipation of the abolition of the Customs' duties, say 1d. per lb. on all qualities up to No. 16 standard, which comes into operation on the 1st of April. Until the last few days public opinion has been divided as to the effect on values which this change may bring about.”

SUGAR CROPS.—The temperature in Beet countries has been low and dry. The fabrication in France approaches rapidly to its close. The deficit in the French crop is provisionally confirmed. There is great uncertainty in France, owing to possible effect of fiscal changes. With regard to Cane and Beet, a stationary, if not a decreased production, is expected; and with a larger demand in the United States, there is apparently on all sides an anticipation of firm prices.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate: Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,414,635 tons, against 1,424,108; United States, 59,000, against 15,529; Havana, 64,000, against 31,000; total, 1,537,635, against 1,470,637 tons same time last year.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First six weeks' landings of raw Sugar at four principal ports:—84,684 against 74,543 last year. Deliveries, 89,627 against 90,761. Stocks, 110,983 against 161,846.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, February 3rd, weather showery. Trinidad, January 23rd, weather too dry; 27th, weather too dry; 29th, weather too dry; February 4th, weather too dry; 5th, weather fine for harvesting; 11th, weather too dry. Barbados, January 10th, showery; Feb. 16th, showery.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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**CIRCULAR No 64.**

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE**

**BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.**

16TH MARCH, 1891

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—The Annual Meeting was held on 18th February, Mr. Lubbock, the Chairman, presiding. The adoption of the Report upon the proceedings of the year 1890, was moved by the Chairman, duly seconded and carried unanimously. The Report had already been circulated to Members. The Secretary submitted a proof of the Accounts for 1890, which was approved, ordered to be submitted to Auditor, and supplied to Members on application. The Chairman announced that Mr. Gaviller, on account of ill health, retired from the General Purposes Committee. Mr. John F. Daniel and Mr. T. C. Edwards Moss, M.P., were elected Members of the General Purposes Committee. Sir Thomas Thornhill, Bart., moved, and it was duly seconded and carried unanimously, that the best thanks of the West India Committee be presented to the Chairman. Mr. Lubbock having acknowledged the vote, the meeting closed.

**EUROPEAN RUM.**—Mr. Lubbock gave evidence on the 10th February before the House of Commons Committee on British and Foreign Spirits. The matter was fully explained, and it is probable that the Committee will report in favour of the proposal of the Customs, that a distinction should be drawn between Rum imported from cane-producing countries and from non-cane-producing countries, with a system of certificates in the case of Rum transhipped from the latter class of countries, so as to identify it according to its origin. It was explained to the Select Committee that this would be a partial remedy, although it would be desirable not to use the word Rum at all in connection with the Continental mixture.

**RUM SURTAX.**—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has intimated to the West India Committee that he cannot hold out any prospect at present of a readjustment of this duty. The point was also submitted by Mr. Lubbock to the Select Committee above mentioned, as an instance of considerable protection in favour of home-made Whisky and Gin, and therefore as a grave injustice to Colonial produce.

**THE MCKINLEY TARIFF ACT.**—The conclusion of a reciprocity treaty between Brazil and the United States is a fact that must not be overlooked by the West India Colonies in considering the desirability of opening negotiations with the United States upon tariff questions. It is understood that the British Government will take, at present at least, no action in regard to any changes that might be proposed. The West India tariffs are so reasonable and equal in their operation that it is not expected any alterations will be necessary. At the same time, the matter is one of such importance as to demand the closest attention of the Colonies. It is not unlikely that the proposals for a trade arrangement between the West Indies and Canada will be still further pressed by the latter country upon the Home Government. It is essential that the West India Colonies should take up a most decided position with regard to this matter, as the proposed trade arrangement in present circumstances would be clearly detrimental to the interests of these Colonies.

Members are requested to inform the Secretary, Members are requested to inform the Secretary, and not desist from returning them to the Secretary by long at the office.



**THE CANE SUGAR UNION** was, we are informed, constituted under a Deed of Trust of the 28th February, 1890. The Trustees are Audley C. Miles, Spencer H. Curtis, J. Strachan Bridges, R. Rutherford, T. J. Wilkinson, Stewart Gardner, W. P. B. Shephard, F. M. Alleyne, John F. Daniel, and A. J. McConnell, Esquires. The objects of the Union are to promote, without interference with ordinary and customary arrangements of trade, the public demand and inquiry for Cane Sugars by advertising, travellers and other means, and to safeguard the consumers by means of a trade mark, and the prosecution of vendors, who sell as Cane Sugar, imitations made from Beet Sugar. The funds of the Union are raised by a trade rate on all Sugars imported by the companies and firms joining the Union. This rate must not exceed one halfpenny per cwt. Among the importers who have joined the Union are Messrs. Thomas Daniel & Co. (Ld.), Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., Messrs. John McConnell & Co., Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavillet, and Stewart Gardner, Esq., and their various correspondents. The accounts of the Union have to be certified annually by a firm of chartered accountants, and all decisions of the trustees must be come to by two-thirds of their whole number. An organising agent has been appointed to visit and bring the objects of the Union to the notice of the leading retail houses in London and the provinces, with a view to their co-operation and support. The action of the Union is thus directed to strengthen the position of Cane Sugar on the market of the United Kingdom, and thereby on the markets of the West Indies and British Guiana. (At the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee a resolution was passed approving of the scope and objects of the Cane Sugar Union.)

**SUGAR TAXATION IN FRANCE.**—Translated from *Die Drahm* 2d. 1891. Berlin, dated 6th March, 1891. The first three articles of the Sugar Tax Bill brought in by the Government, and recommended by the Budget Committee, were agreed to by the Chamber of Deputies on the 30th inst., and at the same time, on the motion of Deputy GRAUX, another article (Article 4), was also agreed to, according to which no alteration of the law as to the rate of the *prime d'exportation* and abatement shall be taken in hand for at least one year after the new law shall have come into force. This is evidently intended to give French Sugar Tax legislation some stability, a matter on which the Government laid great stress in introducing their Bill. The advantage in regard to taxation which will be afforded to French Sugar production can best be seen if we take a yield of 15.50 per cent. in Refined Sugar, a yield which it may safely be assumed will be got by the great majority of the factories. The fabricants' surplus may then be calculated thus: 10.50 per cent. less 7.75 = 2.75 per cent., so that, as the Sugar obtained in excess of 7.75 per cent.

enjoys a reduction of 30fr. per 100 kilos  $\frac{30 \times 27.50}{100} = 8.25$  fr. per 100 kilos, or 7fr. 85c. per 100 kilos Refined Sugar, or 7fr. 76c. per 100 kilos *Rau* sugar. The difference between this and the premium obtainable in Germany is striking. The discussion of the Bill is to be resumed on the 14th inst.

**GERMAN SUGAR TAXATION.**—Further proceedings with regard to this measure have been postponed until after Easter.

**BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION.**—The application to the Government to accede to the full requisition for immigrants (6085) for the coming season, has been declined. From a letter addressed by the Government to the Planters' Association, it appears that the reason given for the refusal is because of the increased amount that would have to be contributed by the



Colony. The Planters' Association, in acknowledging this letter, express their great disappointment at the Governor's decision, which they regard as inimical to the interests of the Colony. The Chamber of Commerce have passed the following resolution on the subject.—“That this Chamber recognising the close affinity between the agricultural and commercial prosperity of the Colony, deploras the action of the Government in not granting the application made to the Court of Policy by the Sugar plantations for an increased number of immigrants from Calcutta, thus retarding, in the opinion of this Chamber, the progress and welfare of the Colony.” (This matter is now ripe for any action which the proprietors in this country may decide to take in support of the proposal made to the Colonial Government.)

**BEEET PROSPECTS.**—Upon the whole the weather in France has been propitious for work in the fields. The long frost, however, did considerable harm, and roots have been lost over large areas. As the yield is thus likely to be affected, the demand for the new law has become stronger. Different opinions are, however, still expressed as to the actual crop. In Germany the weather up to 6th March was variable but mild. In Austria-Hungary the weather had not been so favourable, and in important districts the fabricants and cultivators were uncertain as to the final result. The following are Mr. Licht's latest estimates of the European Beet Sugar production:—

|                 | 1890-1.   | 1889-90.  | 1888-9.   |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                 | Tons.     | Tons.     | Tons.     |
| Germany         | 1,325,000 | 1,264,607 | 990,604   |
| Austria         | 760,000   | 753,078   | 523,242   |
| France          | 700,000   | 787,989   | 466,767   |
| Russia          | 530,000   | 456,711   | 526,387   |
| Belgium         | 200,000   | 221,480   | 145,804   |
| Holland         | 65,000    | 55,813    | 46,040    |
| Other countries | 80,000    | 80,000    | 87,000    |
|                 | 3,660,000 | 3,619,678 | 2,785,844 |

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate, March 12th:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,416,310 tons, against 1,384,723 last year; United States, 79,000 against 45,412; Havana, 106,000 against 76,000. Total, 1,601,310, against 1,506,135 in 1890. Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 7th March, estimate as follows:—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe, 1,447,000, against 1,470,000; United States, 90,000 against 35,000; Havana, 75,000 against 48,000. Total, 1,612,000 against 1,553,000.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First ten weeks' landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, —158,004 against 139,421 last year. Deliveries, 164,720 against 164,650. Stocks, 109,210 against 152,399.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, February 24th, wet weather continues; 24th, finer weather since last message, generally acceptable; March 2nd, wet weather continues; 13th, weather too wet. Trinidad, February 16th, weather too dry; 18th, weather fine for harvesting; 20th, weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily; 24th, weather too dry; March 2nd, weather too dry; 4th, weather fine for harvesting; 10th, weather too dry. Barbados, 16th, slow reaping weather caused by light winds.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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**CIRCULAR No 65.**

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE**

**BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.**

**13TH APRIL, 1891**

**THE COLONIES AND IMPERIAL TREATIES.**—In discussing a motion by Colonel Howard Vincent, in the House of Commons, on March 23, Sir M. Hicks-Beach said:—"His hon. friend considered that the project of promoting a closer commercial union between ourselves and the Colonies was seriously interfered with by the provisions of the Zollverein and Belgian Treaties to which he had referred. But what was interfered with by the provisions of those treaties was the particular proposal which the hon. member made to the House a short time ago for an arrangement between this country and the Colonies of a preferential kind against foreign countries. That was the proposal which his hon. friend made, but for which he had not yet obtained the sanction of Parliament. The hon. gentleman himself admitted that, so far as any arrangements of the kind he desired between the Colonies themselves, or between the Colonies and the mother country were concerned, the clause in the Belgian and Zollverein Treaties did not prevent them. The hon. member was aware that when these treaties were entered into, a reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States was in existence, and since then had been passed an Act of 1873, which enabled reciprocity arrangements of that sort to be made between our Australasian Colonies, and arrangements had been made in the last two or three years between our South African Colonies and the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. So it was perfectly clear that this clause did not prevent arrangements of that kind between our Colonies or between the Colonies and foreign States."

**GOVERNORS.**—Sir Walter Sendall, Governor of Barbados, and Lord Gormanston, Governor of British Guiana, are in England on leave. Brigade-Surgeon Valentine Skipton Gouldsbury, late of the Gambia, has been gazetted Administrator of St. Lucia.

**JAMAICA COOLIE IMMIGRATION.**—The first of two ships during the present season, the *Erne*, arrived at Jamaica on the 1st April, all well.

**SUGAR NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES.**—As the result of a correspondence between the West India Committee and Dalziel's Telegraphic Agency, the information as to the state of the Sugar Market in the United States has been considerably and usefully extended. The thanks of the Committee are due to Messrs. Dalziel for their courtesy and attention.

**THE MCKINLEY ACT.**—References have been made in the Legislatures of British Guiana, Barbados, and other colonies, to the possible operation of the Reciprocity Clause of the McKinley Tariff Act. Sir Walter Sendall, in his address on the opening of the Legislative Session



in Barbados, 1891-2, says "I have ventured in addressing the Secretary of State, to suggest that a copy of our Customs Tariff should be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, with the view of eliciting, if possible, some information as to whether it is likely to bring us within the scope of the penal provisions of the section referred to." With regard to British Guiana, it is reported that a copy of the Tariff has been forwarded to Washington with a communication from the Colonial Office. The West India Committee have up to the present taken no part in promoting these negotiations. (Since the above was in type, it has been ascertained that no communication on Tariff questions has taken place with the United States.)

**BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION**—The following letter has been addressed to Lord Knutsford, 20th March:—"MY LORD,—I have the honour to call your Lordship's attention to a matter which concerns the Sugar industry in British Guiana. So urgent was the demand for labour, that a requisition was sent into the Colonial Government for 6,085 immigrants to be introduced during the coming season from India. It became known that instead of complying with this requisition, the Government restricted the number of immigrants to be introduced to 5,000. The reasons advanced by the Government for this course were connected with the Indenture Fee, and other financial arrangements; but so far as the Indenture Fee is concerned, a moderate increase such as that proposed by the Immigration Agent-General in his letter to the Planters' Association of the 16th February, 1891, would not perhaps be a ground of objection. But with every increase to the labour supply of the Colony, we think that the consequent increase of expenditure should be shared by the acreage tax, which was intended to keep at a reasonable level the indenture fees on Coolies allotted. As to the extra supervision required, we do not think the Departmental expenses need be increased. In dealing with the large East Indian population in the Colony, and the considerable arrivals every year, such an addition as the arrival of an extra thousand people in one year could make no appreciable difference in such expenses. In some previous years the following number of immigrants have been introduced, viz.:—1873-4, 7,056 adults; 1877-8, 6,903 adults; 1878-9, 5,905 adults; 1884-5, 5,647 adults—without requiring a larger Departmental Staff than at present. Since 1884-5, owing to various causes, the immigration has been kept at a reduced rate, necessitating the larger number which has been the basis of application for the coming season. It should also be mentioned, in connection with the Departmental expenses, that the total number of immigrants now under indenture is not more than half the number under indenture during the years 1870 to 1874. In January, 1890, the British Guiana Planters' Association informed the Government that scarcity of labour was experienced on the Sugar estates during the season then closing—that on every side there were reports of arrears of tillage which could not be overtaken—that gold-digging, timber-cutting, public works, and other means of employment were absorbing the Creole labour, and that the unindentured immigrants were becoming more engaged in trade and other occupations. Since the beginning of the year 1890 the scarcity of labour for the Sugar Estates has become more marked, and a requisition for 6,085 immigrants, which is not beyond the actual requirements of the Estates, has been sent in for the season 1891-2. The Government, however, have apparently decided that no more than 5,000 should be introduced, the ground of objection to the larger number being narrowed to the single point that the larger number would necessitate the increase of the Colony's contribution beyond 200,000 dols. We beg respectfully to say we fail to see why, in a matter which so vitally concerns the prosperity of the Colony, any arbitrary line should be



rawn in regard to the contribution from the general Revenue, especially as the Revenue is largely benefitted, and more than recouped any such expense, by the introduction of immigrants. We venture to express our concurrence with the opinion expressed by the Planters' Association in their letter to the Government, dated 23rd February, 1891, that the decision to restrict immigration below actual requirements is inimical to the progress of the Colony; and in order to show that this view is entertained by the commercial community of British Guiana, and represents, indeed, the general feeling in the matter, we would ask your Lordship's attention to the following resolution passed by the British Guiana Chamber of Commerce, at their meeting last month:—"That this Chamber, recognising the close affinity between the agricultural and commercial prosperity of the Colony, deploras the action of the Government in not granting the application made to the Court of Policy by the Sugar Plantations, for an increased number of immigrants from Calcutta, thus retarding, in the opinion of this Chamber, the progress and welfare of the Colony." We beg, therefore, humbly to pray that your Lordship would be pleased to communicate with his Excellency the Governor, with a view to a further consideration of the decision to restrict the labour supply, and if the additional expense to the Revenue is still urged as a reason for that policy, we would pray that expenditure should be reduced in connection with other and unproductive objects, for the purpose of simply maintaining that industry upon which the whole prosperity of the country and its population entirely depends.—(Signed), N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

**COOLIE IMMIGRATION.**—Dr. Comins, the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, is in London on his way to inspect the Coolie Receiving Colonies in the West Indies.

**THE CAPITAL INVESTED IN THE GERMAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.**—"In the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of the 8th inst., there appeared a review, signed by Mr. Georges Dureau, of an article published by Mr. Ernest Glanz, in the *Neue Zeitschrift fur Rubenzucker Industrie*, edited by Professor Dr. C. Scheibler, the object of which was to ascertain what is the amount of capital invested in the cultivation and manufacture of Sugar in Germany, and whether the capital so invested is remuneratively employed. The following particulars, taken from the review by Mr. Georges Dureau, show the conclusions at which the author arrived: N.B.—Raw sugar factories, &c., only are dealt with; no particulars of the refining industry are given.

|   |     |     |     |     |           |            |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------------|
| Number of factories engaged in the production of raw Sugar in Germany 1888-9                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 396        |
| Quantity of roots used  | ... | ... | ... | ... | tons      | 7,896,183  |
| Acreage under beet cultivation  | ... | ... | ... | ... | acres     | 691,918    |
| Acreage capable of growing beet (rotation of crops)   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 2,421,207  |
| Area suitable for growing Beet represents 3.56 per cent. of the total arable land in Germany. |     |     |     |     |           |            |
| Capital invested in Beet lands  | ... | ... | ... | ... | £         | 50,000,000 |
| Capital invested in Factories   | ... | ... | ... | ... | £         | 21,250,000 |
| Cost of cultivation of roots per ton  | ... | ... | ... | ... | shillings | 18-        |
| Cost of manufacture of roots per ton  | ... | ... | ... | ... | "         | 13/6       |
| Quantity of raw Sugar manufactured  | ... | ... | ... | ... | tons      | 944,500    |
| Quantity of Molasses resulting  | ... | ... | ... | ... | tons      | 201,189    |





VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate, April 9th:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe. 1,438,212 tons against 1,367,995; United States 57,000 against 53,392; Havana 147,000 against 121,000; total 1,642,212 against 1,542,387 tons. Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 8th April, estimate as follows:—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe, 1,439,000 against 1,369,000; United States, 65,000 against 44,000; Havana, 132,000 against 100,000; total, 1,636,000 against 1,513,000.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First fourteen weeks' landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, 231,585 against 203,172 last year. Deliveries, 227,432 against 232,481. Stocks, 120,079 against 148,319.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, March 21st, weather favourable for cultivation, but rain continues in Berbice; April 8th, weather dry but favourable; 8th, weather dry, some showers would be acceptable. Trinidad, March 17th, weather too dry; 18th, weather fine for harvesting; 24th, weather too dry; 30th, weather too dry; April 1st, weather fine for harvesting; 7th, weather too dry. Barbados, April 13th, good reaping weather, very dry, rain much wanted over the island.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR No 66.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

11TH MAY, 1891.

**MERCHANDISE MARKS' BILL.**—This Bill, to amend the Act of 1887, has just passed the House of Lords. It provides that the Customs Entry relating to imported goods shall for the purposes of the Act be deemed to be a trade description applied to the goods. Under certain conditions the prosecution of offences shall be undertaken by the Board of Trade, out of moneys provided by Parliament, without affecting the power of any person or authority otherwise to undertake prosecutions.

**IMITATION RUM.**—The following is an extract from the report of the British and Foreign Spirits Committee, just presented to Parliament :—" In the case of Rum, that name was long applied to the spirits coming from Cane-growing countries. A cheap imitation of it is now made on the Continent, and it would be easy to label it as an imitation in the bonded warehouses, though it would be very difficult to follow the imitation when it passed to the consumers. Your committee think that it is a reasonable desire on the part of the Cane-growing countries that their spirits should continue to be called " Rum," and that imitations of it should be labelled as imitations. In the bonded warehouse Rum may be vatted or diluted to suit the consumer. The operations are unobjectionable ; but the rum importers complain that Hamburg imitation rum is blended with the true Rum, and they desire to prevent the mixture in bond. Such a mixture is now labelled "mixed Rum, E. and C.," indicating that it is a mixture of European and Colonial Rum. The amount of Rum imported from our colonies is between three and four million gallons, while the imitation Rum from Germany amounts only to 278,000. Your committee are of opinion that facilities should not be afforded by the Customs for making this mixture in bond, but that Rum should be entered under that name when it comes from cane-growing countries, and that it should not be mixed with imitation Rums in bond. But it would be impracticable to protect it from admixture, when out of bond, either by the wholesale vendors, or by the publican, as there are no certain means of identifying such mixtures. It is easier, in the case of foreign Spirits, to determine whether, for instance, a Rum comes from a cane-growing country, such as Jamaica or Trinidad, or whether it is an imitation Rum made on the Continent from plain spirits flavoured with fragrant essences. But a standard of purity would be difficult of application, as the true Rums differ so much among themselves, the Jamaica Rum containing twice as much of the ethers as that from Demerara. In the case of Brandies the bye-products are so similar in character and quantity to the whiskies that it would be impossible to lay down a safe standard. A standard of purity has been enacted in Switzerland for the sale of Spirits, but it is not applicable to Spirits made in this country." In reply to an inquiry, the Board of Customs inform the West India Committee, 8th May, that the Board are now in communication with the Treasury as to carrying out the above recommendations of the Select Committee.

perfected, that the world's market might in a very short time assume an entirely changed aspect. In these circumstances, to seriously interfere with the export of Sugar for the sake of a new law, may well seem a dangerous experiment, and we can easily understand why it has not yet been possible to come to any compromise of the Bill. Such a compromise is, we think, not at all likely to be realised in the second reading, and, in any case, there is very little ground for the Secretary of State's expectation that some understanding may be possibly come to between the second and third reading. It is much more probable that the debate now about to be continued will lead to no result. When France, in 1889-90, paid no less a sum than eighty-two million marks in export bounties for an industry that exports 200,000 to 300,000 tons, we think that until more is known as to the future development of this world's industry, over twenty-five to thirty million marks in export bounties for 600,000 to 700,000 tons of exported Raw Sugar will still be borne by us." The *Magdeburg Gazette* contains the following, sent from Berlin, under date 30th April:—"Imperial Chancellor von Caprivi went to the Reichstag to-day in order to have long consultation in his room there with various members of the House, chiefly, it is assumed, in connection with the Sugar Tax question. Negotiations for an agreement are being actively carried on between the parties. As things stand, Mr. Orteris's motion has the best prospect of obtaining a majority, viz., the Grant Bounties of M 1.25 for three years, and of M 1 for two years. No step in the third reading will take place until there is a sure prospect of an understanding being probable."

BEET CROP.—Mr. Licht's figures are the same as in last CIRCULAR.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate, May 7th:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,246,199 tons against 1,146,377; United States 97,000 against 68,711; Havana 167,000 against 156,000; total 1,510,199 against 1,371,088 tons. Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 8th May, estimate as follows:— Europe and afloat from the East for Europe, 1,249,000 against 1,162,000; United States, 88,000 against 53,000; Havana, 158,000 against 156,000; total, 1,495,000 against 1,371,000.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First eighteen weeks' landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, 297,369 against 259,491 last year. Deliveries, 299,886 against 297,762. Stocks, 113,409 against 139,397.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, <sup>April</sup> ~~March~~ 21st, weather showery; May 5th, weather dry, with occasional showers, but more would be acceptable. Trinidad, April 14th, weather fine for harvesting; 14th, weather too dry; 21st, weather middling; 28th, weather too dry; May 5th, weather middling, looks as if there would be a change. Barbados, May 11th, light partial showers.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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THE MCKINLEY TARIFF ACT.—A memorial has been addressed to Lord Knutsford, signed by West India proprietors, bankers, and merchants, with regard to the possible operation of Section 3 of the above Act. The memorial states, among other reasons, that the Tariffs of the British West India Colonies, being raised for Revenue purposes only, are equal and reasonable in their character, and such as may fairly be accepted by the Government of the United States, as fulfilling the requirements of Section 3 of the Act above mentioned. The following is the Prayer :—“Your memorialists would therefore humbly pray, that your Lordship will be pleased to take steps to place the Tariffs of British Guiana and the West India Islands before the Government of the United States, with the view of obtaining from that Government a recognition of the equal and reasonable character of the said Tariffs, and of their being in accordance with the section of the Act above referred to.”

COOLIES IN THE WEST INDIES.—Surgeon-Major Deane Comins, India Medical Service, Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, proceeded by last Royal Mail steamer on a visit of inspection in the Coolie-receiving Colonies. The West India Committee feel that great benefit will result from his inquiries, in the conduct of which it is hoped that he will receive on all hands the utmost facilities and assistance.

GERMAN SUGAR LEGISLATION.—The following is an extract from the *Deutsche Zucker-Industrie* of 1st May :—“The following remarks of the *Exchange Gazette* of Berlin, on the Sugar Tax question, written at the beginning of the second debate, are very much to the point : ‘The Sugar Tax Bill was brought in with the peremptory reference to the position of the Imperial finances, which will not admit of the Beet Tax being any further reduced, the Empire being unable to dispense with even one million marks of the revenue. Now, however, that the figures of the indirect Imperial revenue for 1890-91 have just been officially published, this financial consideration is of considerably less importance. The Empire has a surplus revenue of seventy million marks from sources that make this amount assignable to the service of the individual States, and 115 million marks of surplus revenue from sources that make them directly available for Imperial purposes. The Secretary of State may have foreseen this comparatively favourable state of things when, during the first reading of the Bill, he surprised everyone by formally abandoning the financial part of the grounds put forward. The chief reason for the Bill was contained in the alleged fact that the industry was gradually becoming able to hold its own in the world’s market without the bounty received in the drawback. Whether this is in accordance with fact still remains a matter of lively dispute. We are indebted to Professor Paaschi’s book, just published, for more precise information on this point, and it is to be hoped that it has been closely studied by our law makers. It shows, on the one hand, very strikingly that France, as regards production of Sugar, is still capable of immense development, as soon as the close connection between Beet farmers and Beet Sugar factories is brought about there, as in Germany. On the other hand, it shows just as clearly that the Cane Sugar competition is able to become downright fatal to the whole Beet Sugar industry ; and not only to that of Germany, as soon as it is possible for the Cane-growing countries to get full supplies of cheap coals at a low freight, for the cost of production of Cane Sugar will then be able to be kept down so low, and scientific methods of manufacture will be so greatly

perfected, that the world's market might in a very short time assume an entirely changed aspect. In these circumstances, to seriously interfere with the export of Sugar for the sake of a new law, may well seem a dangerous experiment, and we can easily understand why it has not yet been possible to come to any compromise of the Bill. Such a compromise is, we think, not at all likely to be realised in the second reading, and, in any case, there is very little ground for the Secretary of State's expectation that some understanding may be possibly come to between the second and third reading. It is much more probable that the debate now about to be continued will lead to no result. When France, in 1889-90, paid no less a sum than eighty-two million marks in export bounties for an industry that exports 200,000 to 300,000 tons, we think that until more is known as to the future development of this world's industry, over twenty-five to thirty million marks in export bounties for 600,000 to 700,000 tons of exported Raw Sugar will still be borne by us.' The *Magdeburg Gazette* contains the following, sent from Berlin, under date 30th April:—"Imperial Chancellor von Caprivi went to the Reichstag to-day in order to have long consultation in his room there with various members of the House, chiefly, it is assumed, in connection with the Sugar Tax question. Negotiations for an agreement are being actively carried on between the parties. As things stand, Mr. Orteris's motion has the best prospect of obtaining a majority, viz., the Grant Bounties of M 1.25 for three years, and of M 1 for two years. No step in the third reading will take place until there is a sure prospect of an understanding being probable."

BEET CROP.—Mr. Licht's figures are the same as in last CIRCULAR.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate, May 7th:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,246,199 tons against 1,146,377; United States 97,000 against 68,711; Havana 167,000 against 156,000; total 1,510,199 against 1,371,088 tons. Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 8th May, estimate as follows:—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe, 1,249,000 against 1,162,000; United States, 88,000 against 53,000; Havana, 158,000 against 156,000; total, 1,495,000 against 1,371,000.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First eighteen weeks' landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, 297,369 against 259,491 last year. Deliveries, 299,886 against 297,762. Stocks, 113,409 against 139,397.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, <sup>April</sup> ~~March~~ 21st, weather showery; May 5th, weather dry, with occasional showers, but more would be acceptable. Trinidad, April 14th, weather fine for harvesting; 14th, weather too dry; 21st, weather middling; 28th, weather too dry; May 5th, weather middling, looks as if there would be a change. Barbados, May 11th, light partial showers.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

25TH MAY, 1891.

THE MCKINLEY TARIFF ACT.—It has been considered desirable to issue a Circular for this mail, to bring to the attention of the West India body generally the increasing urgency of this question. It is believed that no formal steps have yet been taken by the British Government to communicate with the United States Government respecting the position of the West India Colonies under Section 3 (commonly known as the Reciprocity Clause) of the above Act. But certain despatches from Governors have reached the Secretary of State, and although these despatches might in the first instance have been considered premature, a situation has been brought about which demands the most anxious consideration. The memorial, the full text of which is printed below, was intended to move the Secretary of State to action, especially as there seemed throughout the West Indies a strong desire that some proceedings should be taken, with judiciousness and discretion, to obtain the approval of the United States Government of the tariffs of the respective Colonies. It is not desirable that action should be taken on its own behalf by any particular Colony. All the Sugar colonies of the West Indies are interested, and it is most desirable that they should act in accord. Moreover, there is no doubt that the British Ambassador in Washington would act for the Colonies as a whole. Any individual action on the part of one Colony would weaken the position. The West India Committee, in conjunction with the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow, represent the whole of the West Indian interest in the United Kingdom, and they are in cordial accord with representative bodies in the Colonies. It has naturally, therefore, been a subject of discussion recently among the members of the Committee in London as to the course to be pursued. The general feeling seems to be that the West India Committee should ask the Secretary of State to allow them to nominate a gentleman in whom they would have the fullest confidence, to proceed to Washington and render all the necessary information to the Ambassador as to the Tariffs of the West Indies. Representing all the Colonies, such a mission, provided with the fullest information upon every point, would be a great assistance to the Minister in Washington. In short, it seems desirable that the precedent of 1884 should be acted upon with, of course, the full previous approval of the Colonies. The Convention of that year, provisionally agreed to by the United States Government, was not accepted by Lord Granville because it seemed to interfere with a Treaty with Belgium, a country, of course, possessing not the remotest interest in West India trade. The whole matter of the Colonial Trade relations with the United States has been carefully watched since then, and all the facts, statistics, and special information, which were found so necessary in 1884 are still available, and can still be used for the purpose of keeping open, on equal terms with other countries, the market of the United States for West India Sugar. As soon as possible, a General Meeting of the West India Committee will be called to consider this question. In the meantime, there seems an opinion in London that some such step should be taken as indicated above.

The following is the full text of the Memorial forwarded to Lord Knutsford on May 9th:—  
 The Humble Memorial of the undersigned proprietors, merchants, bankers, and others connected with British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, and the Windward and Leeward Islands, respectfully sheweth that your Memorialists are interested in the Sugar Industry of these Colonies, and that the profitable sale of their produce in favourable markets is a matter of extreme and vital importance, not only to all directly concerned in the Industry, but to the Governments, revenues, and institutions of the Colonies in which it is carried on. That by virtue of the Act (Public No. 330) passed by the Congress of the United States of America in the year 1890, and commonly known as the McKinley Tariff Act, the Sugar of your Memorialists is admitted duty free equally with the like produce of other sugar-producing countries into the markets of the United States. That also under the provisions of the said Act, power is given (Section 3) to the President of the United States, with a view to secure reciprocal trade, to reimpose duties after January 1st, 1892, upon Sugar imported from countries whose respective Tariffs may be, in the opinion of the President, of an unequal or unreasonable character, as bearing upon the imports into such countries of American products and manufactures. That your Memorialists have noticed that, in anticipation of the possible operation of the above-mentioned Section (No. 3) of the United States Tariff Act, the Governments of some of the most important Cane Sugar-producing countries are now discussing arrangements with the Government of the United States, in order to secure that the present free admission of their Sugar shall not be endangered. That it is a question of the most urgent importance, that Sugar—the produce of the British West India Colonies—should not be made subject to duties, while Sugar, the produce of other countries, continued to be admitted duty free. That the Tariffs of the British West India Colonies, being raised for revenue purposes only, are equal and reasonable in their character, and such as may fairly be accepted by the Government of the United States as fulfilling the requirements of Section 3 of the Act above mentioned. Your Memorialists would therefore humbly pray that your Lordship would be pleased to take steps to place the Tariffs of British Guiana and the West India Islands before the Government of the United States, with the view of obtaining from that Government a recognition of the equal and reasonable character of the said Tariffs, and of their being in accordance with the section of the Act above referred to. And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will every pray.

**SUGAR LEGISLATION IN GERMANY.**—A Bill has passed the Lower House of Parliament in Germany which is expected to become law shortly. It provides that,—

|  |         |        |
|--|---------|--------|
| 1st. For the year 1891-2, shall remain unchanged,— |         |        |
| a. The tax on roots                                | per ton | £0 5 0 |
| b. The consumption tax on Sugar                    | „       | 6 0 0  |
| c. The import tax on Syrup and Molasses            | „       | 7 10 0 |
| d. „ „ „ all Sugars ...                            | „       | 15 0 0 |
| The drawback shall also remain the same            |         |        |
| 2nd. For the years 1892-3, 1893-4, and 1894-5,—    |         |        |
| The export bounty on raw Sugar shall be            | per ton | 0 12 6 |
| „ „ „ refined No. 2                                | „       | 0 16 6 |
| „ „ „ No. 1  | „       | 1 0 0  |



3rd. For the years 1895-6 and 1896-7,—

|   |     |         |         |
|---|-----|---------|---------|
| The export bounty on raw Sugar shall be | ... | per ton | £0 10 0 |
| "    "    refined No. 2                 | ... | "       | 0 14 0  |
| "    "    "    No. 1                    | ... | "       | 0 17 6  |

4th. For the years 1892-3, 1893-4, 1894-5, 1895 6, 1896-7,—

|   |     |         |        |
|---|-----|---------|--------|
| The tax on roots shall be abolished.                      |     |         |        |
| The consumption tax shall be on Sugar                     | ... | per ton | 9 0 0  |
| The import duty on Foreign Sugar, Syrup, and Molasses ... |     | "       | 18 0 0 |

In discussing this Bill in the Lower House, the State Secretary of the Treasury (v. Maltzahn) expressed the desire of the Government to ultimately get rid of the Bounty, and alluded to the period dealt with (1892-3 to 1895-7) as a period of transition, during which the Government and Parliament would be able to see how far other countries would follow Germany in reducing their Bounties, and at the termination of which they could, from experience, decide what course it would behove Germany to follow.

**BEET CROPS.**—Mr. Licht, under date of 16th May, repeats his estimates as quoted in this Circular, No. 65. The totals may be given again :—1890-91, 3,670,000 tons; 1889-90, 3,619,678; 1888-9, 2,785,844 tons. Mr. Licht, in his reference to this year's cultivation, still thinks there will be an advance of five per cent., but weather conditions are so uncertain that no figures are put forward as an estimate for 1891-2. In Austria, as well as in Germany, the weather has been favourable for agricultural work, and it is said that in the main the Beet planting is finished. In France the thunder showers of the early part of May promoted the sprouting of the Beet-seed and the development of the young plants. "In Belgium," Mr. Licht says, "The Beet kernels have sprouted well, and it is acknowledged everywhere that the area planted in Beets probably will be fifteen per cent. larger than it was last year. The reports from Holland and Russia are still more or less at variance, yet, notwithstanding this, the increase of Beet growing in Europe this year may be estimated at about seven per cent."

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR.**—(Licht Circular of 16th May, 1891). Stocks in Europe 1,037,600 tons against 957,749 in 1890; United States, 107,000 against 91,651; Havana, 172,720 against 165,608; floating to North America, 39,059 against 22,473; total, 1,356,389 against 1,237,481. The following is Mr. Czarnikow's estimate, May 21st:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,034,893 tons against 944,878; United States, 114,000 against 103,584; Havana, 183,000 against 164,000; total, 1,331,893 against 1,212,462 tons.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First twenty weeks' landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, 335,615 against 291,417 last year. Deliveries, 330,978 against 327,366. Stocks, 120,563 against 141,679.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, May 21st, weather favourable for cultivation, heavy showers alternately with hot sunshine. Trinidad, May 11th, weather too dry; 22nd, crop finished; weather too dry. Barbados, May 25th, weather very dry over all Island, crop not suffering much.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

22ND JUNE, 1891.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE MCKINLEY ACT.—A Meeting of the West India Committee was held on the 15th June, when the present position of this question was considered. The purport of the information received was that the Reciprocity Clause might be made effective, although to what extent and in what way was not known. The opinion of the Meeting was in favour of urging the Government to take immediate steps to comply with the Memorial, and communicate the Tariffs to the United States Government. Tabulated information as to the Tariffs was also directed to be prepared for the use of the Colonial office. The feeling was general that, should it be considered necessary, a Special Mission should be sent to Washington, according to the precedent of 1884, on behalf of all the West India Colonies. This policy is approved by the West India body generally, in the United Kingdom. So far as information from the Colonies has yet been received, there is no doubt that the proposal will be likewise approved there.

SUGAR BOUNTIES CONVENTION.—The following correspondence has taken place with the Foreign Office. West India Committee, 5th June, 1891. To the Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury. "My Lord Marquis,—I have the honour to recall your Lordships attention to the many representations which have been made to you in support of the Bill introduced into the House of Commons, in the Session of 1889, to comply with the provisions, so far as they relate to the engagements of Her Majesty's Government in respect of the Convention entered into with Foreign Sugar-producing countries in the year 1888. Article 1 of the Convention, provided that the high contracting parties engaged to take such measures as shall constitute an absolute guarantee that no open or disguised bounty shall be granted on the manufacture or exportation of Sugar. Various details as to proposed Legislation to carry out this engagement were further contained in the Convention, which also provided for the establishment of a permanent International Commission, charged with the duty of watching the execution of the provisions of the Convention. Since the date of the Convention, which was signed by your Lordship and Baron Henry de Worms, as the British Plenipotentiaries on the 30th August, 1888, changes have been made in the Sugar Laws of the contracting countries, but nevertheless maintaining the bounty system. It will be within your Lordship's recollection that one of the principal objections to the Convention put forward in this country was, that if France did not finally agree to it, that country would, in connection with general Commercial Treaty negotiations with this country, seek means to retaliate by hostile provisions in her tariff against British manufactures. Irrespective, however, of the Sugar Convention, France has apparently determined upon the most hostile treatment of British manufactures. This is clearly shown by the third Report of the Trade and Treaties Committee, in the first paragraph of which it is stated "From the representations already made to us, we were convinced that the proposed



minimum tariff presented important increases of duty on most of the chief articles of British manufacture exported to France, and must therefore be injurious to British trade with that country. The second paragraph is as follows:—"During the passage of the Tariff Bill through the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies the rates of duty which were provided for by the Government measure have been materially increased in many instances, and the classification of articles in the Tariff have been made still more complicated, with the view of protecting every interest in France except the consumer." And it is further stated in paragraph three "whatever may be the expressed intention or pretexts for these arrangements, they will constitute, if carried out, an act of commercial hostility to neighbouring countries." It is evident, therefore, that the non-ratification of the Sugar Convention in the supposed interest of France, has had no effect in preventing that country from adopting a hostile policy in regard to British manufactures, but on the contrary has been followed by an attitude of increased hostility towards all the great manufacturing industries of the United Kingdom. The effect of the continuance of the bounty system is not advantageous to the English consumer, who is becoming more and more exclusively dependent upon one, and that an inferior source of supply. Bounty fed Beet Sugar has almost entirely dislodged Cane Sugar in the United Kingdom, as the following figures will show:—

IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

|  | 1886.   | 1887.   | 1888.   | 1889.   | 1890.   |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Beet Sugar—Tons :—                       | 584,980 | 767,356 | 659,177 | 855,769 | 984,904 |
| Cane Sugar (British and Foreign) Tons :— | 540,422 | 480,943 | 577,833 | 472,605 | 299,848 |

The Convention aimed at removing all artificial advantages enjoyed by one country over another in sending its Sugar into the United Kingdom, and thus restoring free trade upon the British Market. Its ratification has been delayed out of regard to the susceptibilities of France. That country responds by at once beginning a commercial war against all the principal English Industries, and any reason for further delay in carrying out the Convention has entirely disappeared. I have therefore humbly to ask whether your Lordship would be pleased to re-open negotiations with Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the other powers who agreed to the Convention, so that its ratification may now be proceeded with in due course. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman." Foreign Office to West India Committee. "Foreign Office, June 11th, 1891. The Chairman, Sir, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., in which you suggest that having regard to the action of France in imposing hostile tariffs against British goods, negotiations should be re-opened with the countries who agreed to the Sugar Convention of 1888, with a view to its ratification. In reply, I am to inform you that your letter shall receive attention. I am, &c. (Signed) JAMES FERGUSSON."

TRINIDAD.—The following letter has been addressed to Lord Knutsford, dated 5th June, 1891. "My Lord.—I have the honour respectfully to remind your Lordship that in the early part of the present year a deputation waited upon you to bring to your attention certain points relating to the financial condition of Trinidad, and the general policy of the Government of that colony. One of the suggestions made was in favour of a rigorous reduction of the Public Expenditure,

especially in regard to unproductive public works and the cost of Departments. Statistics and other information were placed before your Lordship, and you were good enough to assure the Deputation that the subject would receive your consideration. Since that time, those who are largely interested in the production and trade of the Colony, have been anxiously observing the course of events, and it is with much regret that I have to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that since the time when the Deputation had the honour of meeting your Lordship, the unsatisfactory financial position of the Colony has become intensified in consequence of the highly unfavourable seasons, which have caused a great, if not unprecedented reduction in the Sugar crop, and are likely to be also injurious to the Cocoa crop. In these circumstances we have thought it our duty to again call your Lordship's attention to the serious financial position in which Trinidad is temporarily placed. We have so clearly explained to your Lordship our view in regard to the causes which have brought about this unfortunate state of affairs, that we need not further allude to them. That a strong guiding hand is now required in the Colony, economical administration, and a cessation of experimental expenditure of every kind, is, we think, beyond question, and is the more necessary, from the fact that neither of the large Industries is in a position to bear any increased taxation at a time when they both have been so seriously affected by the extraordinary character of the seasons.—(Signed), N. LUMMOCK, Chairman.

**COOLIE EMIGRATION TO JAMAICA.**—The second ship for this season, the "Moy," arrived at Jamaica on the 4th of June.

**BET PROSPECTS.**—Weather in France remained dry, and the temperature low for the season, and vegetation is not so advanced as at same period last year. The cultural yields will leave much to be desired in a number of localities. From Germany and Austria better reports have been received, the crops being more advanced, and prospects of satisfactory results greater than in France. In Russia, the desired rains have fallen. The area sown this season in Europe is estimated at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. over previous crop. The growing crop will certainly be a late one, and present advices may be considered generally unfavourable. Mr. Licht, (20 June), referring to estimate of an increase of 6 per cent. in the Beet area planted says, "this would not necessarily imply a corresponding increase in the production of Sugar in Europe. The crop yield of the last two years, as we took occasion to point out repeatedly, was considerably above the average, thus it would not be correct to make at present already the result of the last two years a basis for the calculation of the coming crop, depending still entirely upon the further state of the weather."

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—Mr. Czarnikow estimates, June 18th, as follows:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe. 855,850 tons, against 773,528, same time last year; United States, 187,000, against 119,236; Havana, 201,000, against 154,000; total, 1,243,850, against 1,046,764 tons.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First twenty-four weeks' landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, 396,525 against 356,963 last year. Deliveries, 395,577 against 393,648. Stocks, 116,874 against 140,943.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, June 3rd, weather favourable for cultivation, heavy showers daily. Trinidad, May 25th, weather has been too dry, but is now favourable. Barbados, June 8th, fine rains generally throughout the Island, 22nd, heavy rains generally.

JAMES L. OLISON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR No 69.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,**  
BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

20TH JULY, 1891.

**THE WEST INDIA DINNER.**—The Circular issued respecting the proposed Dinner on Thursday, 28th July (instant), at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, at seven o'clock, has met with a good response, and a considerable and very representative gathering is anticipated. Lord Knutsford, Lord Gormanston, Sir Henry Blake, and Sir Walter Sendall have accepted invitations. It is desirable that any further applications for Tickets should be made at once.

**THE MISSION TO WASHINGTON.**—Since the last Circular, further progress has been made in this matter. Important communications, principally of a confidential character, have taken place with the Departments of Government having charge of the question, and there is now little doubt that Mr. Lubbock will receive the necessary authority, with the assent of the Colonies, to place himself in communication with Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, upon the Subject of the Reciprocity Clause of the McKinley Tariff Act, and its bearing upon West Indian imports into the United States. Matters have not been quite ripe for a General Meeting of the West India Committee to be called, but one will be held as soon as possible, when full information of all proceedings will be given, and the main points and objects of the Mission submitted for approval. It is very desirable that Resolutions of Legislative Bodies should be forwarded at once.

**DEFINITION OF GENUINE AND SPURIOUS RUM.**—The evidence given before the Select Committee on British and Foreign Spirits, has been followed by communication with the Customs' authorities, who have been strongly urged to omit the word "Rum," in describing officially the Beet spirit imported from the Continent. The Customs do not seem willing to adopt this suggestion, but think that sufficient protection will be given to genuine Rum, by its being entered as coming from cane countries, and the Beet mixture, as imitation Rum, from Europe. This, no doubt, will be an improvement, but it is not sufficient to satisfy the Rum importers and the trade. It is satisfactory to know that the mixing of genuine with spurious Rum will not be allowed in future to take place in bond.

**FOREIGN SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—The following is in continuation of correspondence printed in last circular (No. 68). Foreign Office to West India Committee, 23rd, June, 1891. The Chairman, Sir, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have given careful attention to your letter of the 5th instant, respecting the question of Foreign Bounties on Sugar and the Sugar Convention, signed in 1888, which has not been ratified by the signatory Powers. Your letter draws attention to the fact, that since the International Conferences of 1887—1888 were held, the supply of Sugar to the United Kingdom has become more and more one of beetroot sugar from the bounty giving countries of Europe, to the exclusion of cane sugar. This is no doubt true, and the figures quoted are substantially correct, the main reason for the larger imports of beet sugar being the increased production of such sugar in the chief European Countries, as shown in the annexed statement. On



the other hand there is no reason to believe that there has been any substantial increase in the production of Cane Sugar. As regards the bounties given in European Countries, reductions have been made since the meeting of the Conference. In France, the Bill lately passed by the Chamber of Deputies, and with a slight amendment by the Senate, reduces considerably the gains made by the manufacturer on beet, rich in sugar, while it establishes an alternative *regime* which is likely to be largely adopted. Under the *regime* an unvarying bounty of about one shilling and tenpence a cwt. will be secured by the manufacturer, whether the Beet be rich or poor. This rate is only about one-third of the bounty paid by France at the time of the recent Sugar Conference. In Germany a Bill has passed the Imperial Parliament, which abolishes the indirect or concealed bounty, and gives a direct bounty on export *until 1897* of from sixpence to one shilling per cwt. In Russia the direct bounty on Sugar exported across the Asiatic frontier, which was stated to be the only bounty given by the Russian Government, has this year ceased. Your letter urges that although French bounty fed Sugar has not been prohibited in the United Kingdom, France has nevertheless shown especial hostility to this country in the proposed Customs' Tariffs; and you quote passages from the Third Report of the Trade and Treaties Committee in support of this view. The passages in question appear, however, to Her Majesty's Government to refer to the protectionist character of the Customs Bill in regard to competing countries, and to have no reference to political motives nor to the Sugar bounties question at all. As regards the bounty question, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by re-opening the question in all its complications at the present time, especially in view of the fact, which has been stated above, that the bounties in the chief European countries have been and are still being reduced without international effort. (Signed) JAMES FERGUSSON. (Note.—The statement referred to above is not printed, being an extract from Licht's Circular, showing European Beet crops for the last three years.)

**NEW GOVERNORS.**—It is officially announced that Sir William Robinson has been appointed to Hong Kong, and that Sir F. Napier Broome, late Governor of Western Australia, will succeed him in the Government of Trinidad.

**JAVA EMIGRATION.**—The British Guiana Planters' Association have forwarded to the Government copies of some papers bearing on the question of obtaining emigrants from Java, which their chairman, the Hon. B Howel Jones, had lately received from a gentleman who had recently visited that country. The Government were asked if they had received any information as to Java being a likely field for recruiting operations. This question was discussed by the West India Committee some years ago. The papers above referred to, contain an interesting account of Java, its people, labour conditions, and sugar cultivation. Some extracts may be given in future circulars. In the meantime, it is important to notice that Javanese coolies have been sent to Penang (British). The Honolulu planters are also endeavouring to obtain some of this labour, and Javanese are to be found working in Surinam. Probably the most practical means of bringing the question to a point, would be for the British Guiana Government to send an agent to inquire and report and communicate directly with the authorities of Java. This suggestion is, however, unofficial and has not yet been considered by the West India Committee. The result of the correspondence between the Planters' Association and their Government will be awaited with interest.



BRITISH GUIANA.—A special session of the Combined Court has been held to make financial provision for the scheme of defence consequent upon the withdrawal of the Imperial troops.

TRINIDAD.—Dr. Comins has finished his work in this colony, and expected to leave for Demerara on the 5th July. It is believed that his opinion of this colony as affording opportunities for the advancement and prosperity of the Coolie is very satisfactory. The question of an assisted back-passage, instead of the present practice of an entirely free one, will probably be further discussed in the Coolie receiving colonies. The proposed Poor Relief scheme, of a very expensive and elaborate character, will be carefully watched. Without a Vagrancy Act it will tend still further to demoralise the labouring classes. The question of the continued shallowing of Port of Spain Harbour, combined with the increasing difficulties of the disposal of the sewage, has become so serious as to require a practical remedy without loss of time. Complaints continue to be received as to the defective water supply of Port of Spain. The matter has been mentioned in the Imperial Parliament, and the Governor has been asked by the Secretary of State for a report. A recent judgment in Trinidad appears to throw doubts upon the rights of the Crown with regard to the Pitch Lake. How far this will affect the concession is not known, but serious complications have arisen, and the development of the matter will be awaited with much interest. At the time of the Mail leaving (July 2) there were indications of continued rain.

LABOURERS ON TRINIDAD ESTATES.—The following return is taken from the report for 1890 of the Protector of Immigrants:—

|   |             |              |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Immigrants under original indenture                           | 6,827 men.  | 2,708 women. |
| Immigrants under bounty...                                    | 425 "       | "            |
| Immigrants unindentured on estates                            | 5,160 "     | 2,718 "      |
| " " non-resident  | 4,686 "     | 2,289 "      |
| Resident Creole labourers                                     | 1,708 "     | 826 "        |
| Non-resident Creole labourers                                 | 1,963 "     | 829 "        |
|   | 20,769      | 9,370        |
| Children of indentured and unindentured immigrants on estates | 2,566 boys. | 1,979 girls. |
| Total   | 23,335      | 11,349       |

SUGAR DUTIES.—It has been reported that Sugar Duties will be abolished in Canada up to No. 14, Dutch Standard, the higher qualities being chargeable with 1s. 6d. per cwt. to protect Canadian refined.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—Total imports of Sugar, refined and unrefined, into United Kingdom for six months were 14,187,463 cwts., thus distributed:—Beet, 9,964,333; British Cane, 1,238,862; Foreign Cane, 2,984,268 cwts.

**BEET CROPS.**—The weather appears to be generally favourable for the growing crops. In France the degree of the development of the Sugar plant varies according to localities. It is thought the retardation in some quarters will not be so great as was expected. Insects are again a source of trouble in some parts of France, and a certain importance may be attached to their depredations, as there are two generations of "larves" in the year. Reports from Germany and Austria are good, though the crop is less advanced than in a normal year. The same may be said of Belgium and Holland, and in Russia the crop shows well.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—Mr. Czarnikow estimates as follows:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 711,440 tons, against 634,842 tons same time last year. United States, 167,000, against 141,081. Havana, 174,000, against 123,000. Total, 1,052,440, against 898,923.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First twenty-eight week's landings of raw sugar at four principal ports, 464,627, against 415,171 last year. Deliveries, 459,107, against 454,705. Stocks, 111,946, against 138,094.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, July 9th. Rainy weather for the past week. Barbados, July 20th. Good showers generally throughout the Island.

**JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.**

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE  
(SUPPLEMENTARY) CIRCULAR No 69

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

29TH JULY, 1891.

RUM AND IMITATION RUM.—It has been considered desirable to communicate at once to members the following letter from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:—"28th July, 1891. The Secretary, Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 5th March last, and to the recent report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons upon British and Foreign Spirits, the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had under consideration the proposals made in the memorial of the principal importers of Rum that the Customs should so alter their regulations as to discriminate between Rum and a mixture which contains only a small proportion of Rum, or possibly no Rum at all, and to ensure that such a mixture should not be entered at the Customs, or sold to the consumer as Rum, but under a denomination showing its real character and composition. With regard to the sale to the consumer, I am to point out that the Select Committee are of opinion that it would be impracticable to protect genuine Rum from admixture out of bond, and my Lords see no reason to differ from them in this opinion. They also agree with the Committee that the Customs and Inland Revenue should support the operation of the Merchandize Marks Act by taking such precautions as they are reasonably able to adopt to ensure that spirits are not falsely described within their knowledge, either as to their character or country of origin while they are in bond or on delivery from bond. Their Lordships are therefore willing to meet as far as possible the wishes of the Trade, which are supported by the opinion of the Select Committee, with regard to the classification of imitation Rum; and with this view they will sanction the alteration of the import list in such a manner as will, under the existing regulations of the Customs and Inland Revenue, prevent the vatting in bond of spurious or imitation Rum with genuine Rum. When the import list is so altered the heading "Rum" will be divided into (A) Rum imported from ports in sugar-cane producing countries—(B) imitation Rum from ports in countries in which the sugar-cane is not produced. My Lords understand that the regulations of the Revenue Boards will not allow the vatting in bond of two kinds of Rum entered respectively under A and B, as they would no longer be "of the same sort," and the imitation Rum entered under (B) will in future, so far as the Customs are concerned, have to be placed on the Market on its own merits. If Rum which is stated to be genuine Rum should be imported from a port in a country in which the sugar-cane is not produced, the Customs will require proof as to its origin. My Lords hope that these arrangements will prove satisfactory to the trade. Signed, R. E. WELBY."

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

17TH, AUGUST 1891.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE DINNER.—This took place on July 28th at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, and was in every way successful. The gathering was thoroughly representative, gentlemen connected with the interests of all the Colonies being present. Mr. Nevile Lubbock, the chairman of the West India Committee, presided, supported on his right by Lord Knutsford, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Henry A. Blake, Governor of Jamaica; and Mr. Quintin Hogg, Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee; and on his left by Viscount Gormanston, Governor of British Guiana, Sir Walter Sendall, Governor of Barbados, and Sir Robert G. W. Herbert, Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. A full report of the speeches and list of names will be forwarded to Members applying for same.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND UNITED STATES.—The result of personal communications between Lord Knutsford, Lord Salisbury, and the Chairman, is that the following letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—My Lord, I have the honour to enclose a copy of the Tariffs of the British West India Colonies, and to request that your Lordship would be pleased to communicate it to the Marquis of Salisbury, in order that it may be placed at as early a date as possible in the hands of Sir Julian Paunceforte for submission to the Government of the United States of America. It is not necessary for us to give any detailed explanation, as these Tariffs speak for themselves, and we may venture to express a confident belief that they will be recognised by the President of the United States as not coming within the terms of Section Three of the United States Tariff Act as "reciprocally unequal and unreasonable." There are certain main points, however, to which the attention of Sir Julian Paunceforte might usefully be drawn:—1st. That under the operation of the present Tariffs, a very large Trade has been developed between the United States and the British West Indies. 2nd. That this Trade, in regard to Imports into the West Indies of some articles of general consumption, such as food stuffs, Kerosene Oil, &c., is now almost exclusively with the United States. 3rd. That no reduction of duties would give to the United States a greater monopoly than they at present possess in regard to their imports into the West Indies. 4th. That the amount of duty charged upon products coming from the United States is the same as that charged upon similar products coming from the Mother Country and its Dependencies. That, for instance, Flour and Lumber coming from the United States pay only the same rate of duty as Flour and Lumber coming from Canada. 5th. That the duties are only imposed for Revenue purposes, as shown by the Public Accounts, and are only available for the general Revenues of the Colonies. 6th. That contiguity and other natural advantages, if permitted free operation, will bring about a large increase in the Trade between the United States and the British West Indies, which it is to the interest of both, should be promoted. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.



TREATY BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.—The following letter has been received from the Board of Trade, 13th August, 1891.—The Secretary; Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Board of Trade to forward to you, for the use of the West India Committee, the accompanying extract from the *Gaceta de Madrid* of the 1st instant, containing a decree of the Spanish Government, giving effect to the arrangement recently agreed upon between Spain and the United States in regard to the trade between the United States and the Spanish West Indies. The Board hope to publish a translation of this document or of extracts therefrom in their monthly journal for September next. (Signed) GEORGE J. SWANSTON. (NOTE.—There has been no time to effect a translation of the above-mentioned Decree and Treaty, but the original as forwarded by the Board of Trade can be seen at this Office.) In the meantime the following extract from the *New York Herald* of August 1st, forwarded by Messrs. Gillespie Brothers and Co., will be interesting:—

“The merchants of the United States will begin on September 1 to enjoy a part of the advantages of the reciprocity arrangement with Spain regarding trade with Cuba and Porto Rico. Just what these advantages are is set forth fully in a proclamation of the President to-day, revealing the terms of the new arrangement. A portion of it, as has been already announced in the *Herald*, will not take effect until July 1, 1892, when the notice required of Spain for the abrogation of her old treaties will have been sufficient. The arrangement is very simple on the part the United States, for it follows the mandate of the third section of the McKinley Tariff Bill, making free of duty Sugar, Hides, Tea, and Coffee. The United States could make no further concessions without new legislation. The Spanish Government pleaded for a modification of the onerous Tobacco duties of the McKinley Tariff Bill, but Secretary Blaine would give no stronger assurance than that the subject should have the careful consideration of the President and be made the subject of a separate communication. The advantages gained by this country on September 1 are limited, for the most part to raw materials and products partially advanced in manufacture rather than to manufactured goods.

The leading articles which go at once upon the free list when exported from the United States Cuba and Porto Rico are salted meats, lard, woods in natural state, and partly manufactured, waggons and carts, raw petroleum and coal. The United States is already the leader in the exports of most of these articles to the Spanish West Indies. Bacon to the amount of 4,388,370 pounds was exported to Cuba during the fiscal year 1890; hams were exported to the amount of 2,027,956 pounds, and lard to the amount of 33,142,436 pounds, the latter representing a value of 2,233,821 dols. This trade is likely to be somewhat increased by the remission of existing duties, although there are few importations at present from any other country than the United States. The United States has sent nearly all the manufactures of wood into Cuba during recent years, the shipments of boards reaching a value in 1890 of 433,382 dols., and of hogsheads and barrels of 316,186 dols. The duties on woods have not been heavy, and placing them on the free list will probably not much increase the volume of trade. The duties on waggons and carts have, however, been higher, and their abrogation is likely to help our manufacturers. The abolition of the duty on crude petroleum will probably mean a great deal to the Standard Oil Company and kindred organisations. Cuba took 4,913,330 gallons of crude mineral oil from this country in 1890, and the quantity will probably considerably increase under the policy of free oil. Our exports of bituminous coal last year reached the value of 631,183 dols., and are likely to increase with an abolition of the duty. These changes in the aggregate are not likely to benefit our merchants greatly, for they already have the practical monopoly of nearly all these branches of the export trade. The essential advantage of the treaty is the reduction which goes into effect on January 1 to 1 dol. per 100 kilogrammes on wheat flour. This duty has been 4.09 pesos or about 4 dols. 50 cents per 100 kilogrammes, and the reduction means that we shall at least acquire most of the trade of Spain, which amounted in 1887 to 987,913 dols. The exports from this country were 1,846,419 dols. in 1889, but under the discriminating policy of the Spanish Court they were reduced last year to 1,164,538. The change of duty gives us an opportunity to win back this lost trade. A reduction of twenty-five per cent. in the rate of duty takes effect at once upon butter and cheese,



refined petroleum and boots and shoes. This may enable our manufacturers to wrest from Spain a portion of her export trade to Cuba of 2,502,153 in manufactures of leather. The present duties on boots and shoes run from about fifty cents to 1 dol. per pair, and the reduction of twenty-five per cent. ought to make a considerable difference in the margin of profit. The permanent schedule to take effect after Spain has terminated her other treaties on July 1, 1892, adds numerous minor articles to the free list, but the principal articles of importance are iron and steel, and many of their manufactures. In these, the United States has had a powerful competitor in Great Britain, who in 1887 had a larger trade than the United States. The present duty on steel plates and bars is about 4 dols. per 100 kilogrammes, and on pig-iron about 25 cents per 100 kilogrammes. The duty on agricultural tools is a trifle more than 2 dols. per 100 kilogrammes. The duty on flour is not different in the permanent schedule from the temporary one. Carriages, cars, and other vehicles are to pay only one per cent in place of the duties, running as high as 185 dols. each, which now prevail. Reductions of 50 per cent. and 25 per cent. on linen manufactures offer an opportunity to our merchants to make headway against their British, French, and Belgian competitors, which they will be able in some cases to take advantage of. The reduction of 25 per cent. on manufactures of cotton means a discrimination in our favour of 3 dols. 50 cents., where the duties are 14 dols. per 100 kilogrammes, and considerably more where the duties are higher, as on the finer grades. The Treaty has two features—the free list of raw products, and the reduction of duties on manufactures. The free list may increase our volume of trade slightly, but we are already masters in those fields and the Treaty can't help us greatly. The concessions in regard to manufactured goods are numerous and favourable because of the skill and persistence of ex-Minister Foster at Madrid, but practical experience only can demonstrate whether the concessions of twenty-five per cent. and fifty per cent. on different articles are sufficient to enable our manufacturers to compete with European conditions of labour and production, when they are burdened in most cases by high duties on their raw materials and the uneconomical methods, which are fostered by class legislation. The President, according to the terms of the Treaty, issued a proclamation yesterday, setting forth in detail the articles that are to be admitted into Cuba and Porto Rico free of duty or at reduced customs charges, and a similar proclamation was probably made by the Spanish Government. With the proclamation, there was made public the correspondence relating to the Treaty between Secretary of State Blaine and Señor Suarez Guanés, Spanish Minister to the United States. The correspondence was opened by Secretary Blaine in January last, when he called Señor Guanés' attention to the provisions of the McKinley Bill in relation to Reciprocity Treaties, and suggested that some arrangement be made with regard to the trade relations between the United States and the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. The greater part of the correspondence was conducted during the month of June, and shows throughout that the Governments of Spain and the United States were equally anxious to conclude a Treaty which should be advantageous to both."

SPANISH DUTIES ON SUGAR.—At the request of Members of the Committee, the Secretary asked the Board of Trade what were the duties leviable on Sugar imported into Spain. The Board kindly furnished a return, which there is no room to print now. It will be given in next circular. There are two categories, one for Spanish Colonial Sugar, with one for Foreign Sugar, the latter apparently prohibitive as compared with Spanish Colonial Sugar. The return can be seen at this Office.

BRITISH GUIANA.—An Ordinance has been passed (No. 25, of 1891), to "Consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Asiatic Immigrants." The Ordinance is a Consolidation one, bringing up the Immigration legislation to the present time. Certain amendments were proposed by the Planters' Association and embodied. A copy of the Bill has been received, but the Ordinance as passed will not be forthcoming until the next mail. A Bill has been introduced to extend the time for the coming into operation of the Spirits Ordinance until 1st April, 1892. The



Report of the Immigration Agent-General for 1890, has been received. The same will be noticed in next Circular. Dr. Comins is visiting the Estates. The Attorney-General, Dr. Carrington, C.M.G., is now in England. Mr. Kingdon is acting.

**BEET CROPS**—Reports are still being published that the crops will be late, although the yield in juice is likely to be better than the past two years. Better weather is still desired. This prospect of late crops is reported from all the principal Beet countries. But the general result is likely to be satisfactory. What is now wanted is a dry heat, which September is expected to bring.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—Mr. Czarnikow estimates as follows:—Europe and cargoes float to Europe, 589,226 tons against 473,447; United States, 178,000 against 131,754. Havana, 111,000 against 112,000. Total, 911,226 against 717,201.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First thirty-two week's landing of raw Sugar at four principal ports, 526,673 tons against 466,077 last year. Deliveries, 524,461 against 317,007. Stocks, 108,638 against 114,238.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, August 12, weather dry, with occasional showers, but more would be acceptable. Barbados, August 4th, seasonable weather; 17th, seasonable weather.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office.

CIRCULAR No 71.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,**

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

14TH SEPTEMBER, 1891.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE McKINLEY ACT,—A letter was printed in last Circular which had been on August 8th addressed to Lord Knutsford, enclosing an official copy of the West Indian Tariffs with the request that it might be communicated, through the Foreign Office, to Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Minister at Washington. This communication was duly forwarded by the Colonial Office to the Foreign Office; on 26th August the papers were forwarded to Washington with a despatch from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In the ordinary course of events, therefore, an important despatch should arrive from Washington at the end of the present month (September). The position it is hoped will by that time be made quite clear. The following is an extract from the *Trinidad Royal Gazette*, of June 17th, 1891, containing the proceedings of the Legislative Council, on June 15th :—"By leave of the Council Dr. de Verteuil moved without previous notice, referring to the Resolution moved in Council on the 6th April last, that this Council respectfully requests His Excellency the Governor to ask Her Majesty's Government to authorise the appointment of a Delegate, on behalf of this Colony, to proceed to Washington, with the object of obtaining the information desired in the Resolution referred to; also for the purpose of discussing any questions that may arise respecting the Tariff of this Colony and the Act known as the McKinley Tariff Bill; and of negotiating, as far as may be practicable, any arrangements that would be for the mutual benefit of both Countries." Seconded by Mr. Leotaud, and agreed to. In the discussion of this Motion (according to the newspaper reports) the Governor expressed his intention of suggesting to the Secretary of State that they would willingly agree if Mr. Lubbock were chosen to represent Trinidad and the other West Indian Colonies at Washington.

Representations having been made to the Government of British Guiana by the Planter's Association and Chamber of Commerce of that Colony, the subject was discussed in the Court of Policy on the 18th August, 1891, when the following resolution, proposed by the Hon. B. H. Jones, and seconded by the Hon. J. J. Dare, was carried :—"Whereas it is deemed expedient that this Colony should send a special representative to the United States to confer with the British Minister at Washington in any negotiations which may take place with the United States Government in connection with our Customs Tariff and the reciprocity clause of the McKinley Bill. Be it resolved that Her Imperial Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies be respectfully and earnestly asked to nominate and appoint Mr. Neville Lubbock to act on behalf of this Colony with the British Minister at Washington in any such negotiations."

From Jamaica, Barbados, the Windward and Leeward Islands, no formal expression of opinion has yet been received. A letter has, however, been addressed by the Secretary to the Hon. Michael Solomon, C.M.G., of Jamaica, the Hon. Thomas D. Foote, C.M.G. and the Hon H. Ogilvie Bennett, of Antigua, also to the Chairman of the Commercial Hall in Barbados, requesting them to inform the West India Committee of the views of their respective Legislatures with regard to



the proposed mission to Washington. Members of the Committee who are connected with the above Colonies, are desired to draw the attention of their correspondents, by present Mail, to this important matter.

Information has been received, in reply to inquiries addressed by the Secretary to members of the Committee, upon which has been founded a draft Memorandum "as to the effect which would be produced on the Sugar Industry of the West Indies and British Guiana, in the event of the President of the United States exercising his powers to re-impose duties upon their Sugar after the 1st January next." The Memorandum will probably be at once forwarded to the Government. A copy can be seen at this Office.

On the 1st August, 1891, a Proclamation on the San Domingo Treaty was issued by the President of the United States as follows:—Whereas, pursuant to Section 3 of the Act of Congress approved the 1st October, 1890, entitled, "An Act to reduce the Revenue and equalise Duties on Imports and for other purposes," the Secretary of State of the United States of America communicated to the Government of the Dominican Republic the action of the Congress of the United States of America, with a view to secure Reciprocal Trade in declaring the articles enumerated in said Section 3 to wit, Sugars, Molasses, Coffee, and Hides, to be exempt from duty upon their importation into the United States of America. And whereas the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic at Washington has communicated to the Special Plenipotentiary of the United States the fact that, in reciprocity and compensation for the admission into the United States of America free of all duty of the articles enumerated in Section 3 of said Act, the Government of the Dominican Republic will, by due legal enactment, admit from and after the 1st September, 1891, into all the established ports of entry of the Dominican Republic, the articles or merchandise named in the following Schedules, on the terms stated therein, provided that the same be the product or manufacture of the United States, and proceed directly from the ports of said States. The following are some of the articles to be admitted free of duty into the Dominican Republic:—Meats of all kinds, salted or in brine, but not smoked; corn or maize, or meal and starch; oats, barley, rye, and buckwheat, and flour of these cereals. Resin, tar, pitch, and turpentine; manures, natural and artificial; machines; material for the equipment and construction of railroads; iron, cast and wrought, and steel, zinc, galvanized and corrugated iron, tin, and lead; bricks, firebricks, cement, lime, artificial stone, paving tiles, marble, and building materials; windmills; wire, plain or barbed, for fences; wood and lumber of all kinds for building in logs or pieces, beams, rafters, planks, boards, shingles, flooring joists, wooden houses, mounted, or unmounted, and accessory parts of buildings; cooperage of all kinds, including staves, headings, and hoops, barrels, and boxes, mounted, or unmounted; sacks, empty, for packing Sugar; gold and silver coin and bullion. Schedule B.—Articles to be admitted into the Dominican Republic, at a reduction of duty of 25 per cent.; meats not included in Schedule A, and meat products of all kinds except lard; butter, cheese, and condensed or canned milk; fish, and shell fish, salted, dried, smoked, pickled, or preserved in cans; manufactures of iron and steel, single, or mixed, not included in Schedule A; cotton manufactured, spun, or twisted, and in fabrics of all kinds, woven, or knit, and the same fabrics, mixed with other vegetable or animal fibres in which cotton is the equal or greater component part; boots and shoes in whole, or in part of leather or skins; Tin.

plate and tin-ware for arts, industries, and domestic uses. Manufactures of wood of all kinds not embraced in schedule A, including wooden ware, implements for household use, and furniture in whole or in part of wood. And whereas the Special Plenipotentiary of the United States has, by my direction, given assurance to the Envoy Extraordinary, and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic at Washington, that this action of the Government of the Dominican Republic in granting exemption of duties to the products and manufactures of the United States of America on their importation into the Dominican Republic, is accepted as a due reciprocity for the action of Congress, as set forth in section 3 of said Act. Now therefore, be it known, that I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, have caused the above stated modification of the Tariff Laws of the Dominican Republic to be made public for the information of the citizens of the United States of America.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION INTO JAMAICA.—The ss. *Belgravia*, of Messrs. Henderson Brothers, Anchor Line, has been chartered by the Crown Agents for the conveyance of Coolies from Calcutta to Jamaica at £12 per statute adult for 800, or £11 10s. for a full complement. The vessel sailed from Calcutta on the 1st September with a complement, as is understood, of 979, which will be at the lower rate, and as she proceeds via the Suez Canal, she may be expected to arrive at Jamaica about the end of October.

GRENADA TONNAGE DUES.—The following letter has been addressed to the Colonial Office, 9th September, 1891:—"My Lord,—I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it is understood that the Island of Grenada has been declared a Free Port sufficiently to justify an application to the United States Government for reciprocal arrangements with regard to Shipping, as in the case of Trinidad. The matter has been recently brought before the United States Government by Mr. George Christall, a gentleman largely concerned with steam communication between the United States and the British West Indies. He submitted a certificate from the Government of the Island of Grenada that 'no tonnage duty is leviable on any vessel entering the Harbour of St. George's,' and he requested that a similar concession should be granted in United States ports to vessels arriving from that island. In reply, the Acting Secretary of the Department of State at Washington writes under date 26th May, 1891:—'The Statute under which exemption from tonnage dues is conceded in ports of the United States is the Act of Congress of June 19th, 1886. The 11th section of this Act authorises the reciprocal suspension of the collection of so much of the duty herein imposed on vessels entered from any foreign port, as may be in excess of the tonnage and lighthouse dues, or other equivalent tax or taxes imposed in said port on American vessels by the Government of the Foreign Country in which such port is situated.' The Certificate above mentioned by the Government of Grenada apparently did not exhibit the conditions under which the Act above quoted authorised a suspension of the Collection of Tonnage Dues in the United States. As the Secretary of the State Department points out, 'the Act makes no discrimination as between a particular class of vessels or a particular line, and does not authorise a suspension of the collection of tonnage dues on that basis—the exemption from tonnage dues being general. The United States Act contemplates not only the suspension of the collection of the tonnage dues, but also lighthouse dues, or other equivalent tax or taxes. I have the honour, therefore, to ask whether your Lordship would



be pleased to inquire what is the actual state of the Law in Grenada upon the matter as above explained. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

ST. KITTS.—A Letter was addressed to Lord Knutsford on the 3rd September, calling His Lordship's attention to a Letter which had been addressed to Governor Haynes Smith, protesting against increased expenditure and new loan burdens in St. Kitts, signed by influential Colonists. The following is the Reply:—"The Chairman, West India Committee, 9th, September, Sir, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and to inform you that he has received, through the Governor of the Leeward Islands, a copy of the letter of the 18th of July from certain of the inhabitants of the Island of St. Kitt's, protesting against increased expenditure on public works, and has given it his careful consideration. The Ordinance, authorising the loan, of which that letter complains, was introduced with Lord Knutsford's sanction, given after Sir W. Haynes Smith had satisfied him of the importance to the interests of the people of St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla, of the public works for which the loan is applicable, and of the capacity of the Presidency to bear the burden of the interest and sinking fund of the loan, and the Governor has reported that the Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council with only one dissentient voice. In these circumstances, while Lord Knutsford regrets to find that the signers of the letter entertain a much less favourable view of the financial position of the Presidency than the Governor and the Legislative Council, his lordship does not find in their protest sufficient reason for refusing to sanction the loan, and he has requested the Governor so to inform them. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

BEET CROPS.—Messrs. H. Clark & Co. say that Russian and Austrian crops may show a good average yield. The ripening of the German crop has been delayed by cold and wet. The prospects in France, Belgium, and Holland are less promising, and fine weather is much needed. The aggregate crop may exceed the last one, but unless the weather becomes very propitious the excess is not likely to be large. The above is confirmed by Sugar reports from the Continent, the present fine weather being of course favourable.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—Messrs. H. Clark & Co., give the following figures (Monthly Report, 8th September).—Stocks in Europe, and afloat from the East to Europe, 489,000 tons, against 402,000 last year; United States, 143,000, against 95,000; Havana, 135,000, against 97,000. Total, 767,000, against 594,000. Mr. Czarnikow's estimate is as follows (Circular, September 10th): Europe, and afloat, to Europe, 464,857, against 385,107; United States, 131,000, against 82,887; Havana, 119,000, against 86,000. Total, 714,857, against 553,994.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First thirty-six weeks' landing of raw Sugar at four principal ports, 584,539 tons, against 519,973 last year. Deliveries, 591,052 against 582,839. Stocks, 99,913 against 102,162.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, August 28th, weather too dry; Berbice, East Coast, and Mahaica, favourable elsewhere; September 7th, weather favourable for cultivation and grinding.—Barbados, September 14th, seasonable weather.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

12TH OCTOBER, 1891.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE MCKINLEY ACT.—In continuation of the information given in last Circular, it may now be stated that Lord Salisbury, who has himself taken charge of the question, has received a preliminary report from Sir Julian Pauncefote, and his Lordship is now in consultation with Lord Knutsford as to further instructions to the Ambassador. The view of the United States Government is that the attention of the British Government was called to Section 3 (the Reciprocity Clause) by Mr. Blaine's despatch to the American Consuls in the West India Colonies some months ago, and the present attitude of the United States Government is simply one of expecting the proposals of the British Government. These proposals are founded upon an acceptance of the present Tariffs of the West India Colonies as meeting the requirements of Section 3. It is understood that the Foreign Office, after consultation with the Colonial Office, have sent a further telegram to Sir J. Pauncefote, and there is no doubt that important information will be received in a few days as to the possible intentions of the United States Government, and the question will have to be practically considered as to the proposed Mission to Washington. It is possible, of course, that the President will exercise his powers on the 1st January. The clause is not simply permissive, but mandatory. On the other hand it is not in the slightest degree probable that any duties will be imposed on West India Sugar while negotiations are pending, and it is hoped that the present action of Sir J. Pauncefote will bring the matter within a prospect of satisfactory settlement, so as to avoid any restriction or disorganisation of the Sugar trade, in the latter weeks of this year, between the West Indies and British Guiana and the United States. In the meantime no advices have been received from Jamaica, Barbados, and other Islands as to their co-operation in the proposed mission to Washington. These advices are confidently expected by next mail. Both British Guiana and Trinidad have acted with the utmost promptitude in the matter. The following is a copy of a Memorandum which has been communicated to the English Government as to the effect which would be produced on the Sugar industry of the British West Indies and British Guiana in the event of the President of the United States of America exercising his powers under the Tariff Act to re-impose duties upon the Sugars of these Colonies after the 1st of January, 1892. On and after the 1st of January, 1892, "whenever, and so often as the President shall be satisfied that the Government of any country producing and exporting sugars, molasses, coffee, tea and hides . . . imposes duties or other exactions upon the agricultural or other products of the United States which, in view of the free introduction of such sugar . . . he may deem to be reciprocally unequal and unreasonable, he shall have the power, and it shall be his duty to suspend, by proclamation to that effect, the provisions of this Act relating to the free introduction of such Sugar . . . the production of such Country, for such time as he shall deem just, and in such case, and during such suspension, duties shall be levied . . . upon Sugar . . . the product of or exported from such designated Country as follows."—The Act then recites the duties to be so imposed. The United States have already made Treaties, or Commercial arrangements, with



Spain on behalf of Cuba and Porto Rico, with Brazil and San Domingo, but so far it is not known whether Treaties have been made with any other Country. Should the Sugars from Cuba, Porto Rico, Brazil, and San Domingo, be the only ones to be admitted duty free, they will not be nearly sufficient to supply the requirements of the United States, and the effect of these Sugars being admitted duty free, while other Sugars are excluded, would obviously be that they would practically be receiving a bounty from the consumers of the United States equivalent to the amount of duty levied on other Sugars, a bounty which may be roughly put at £5 per ton. This bounty would, without doubt, largely stimulate the production of those Countries, to the detriment naturally of other Countries which would have no such bounty. But we do not think it likely that the admission of free Sugars will eventually be limited to the Countries having Treaties. It is more probable that a sufficient amount of Sugar will be admitted to provide amply for the United States consumption. For the purpose of this Memorandum it is sufficient to consider what will be the effect upon the West Indies, if duties are re-imposed in the United States upon West India Sugars in the circumstances above mentioned. Theoretically, no doubt, it would be still open to them to obtain what might be called the "Price of the World," which in other words would mean the price obtainable in the United Kingdom, as there is no other Market open to them large enough to absorb the whole of their production. And to anyone not conversant with the Sugar Industry, it may, perhaps, appear that the price of Sugar in the United Kingdom must rule on a parity with that in the United States. As a matter of fact, however, this is not the case. During the last five or six years, the West Indies have realised for their Sugars, which they have sent to the United States, fully 30s (thirty shillings) per ton more than they would have realised, had these same Sugars been sent to the Markets of the United Kingdom. It is, perhaps, rather for theoretical economists than for practical Merchants to seek out the economical reason for this fact, but we are in a position to give ample evidence that the relative prices in the Markets of the United Kingdom and United States have been, and still are as stated, and in view of the abolition of the Sugar duties in the United States, the difference in values is likely to be enhanced rather than diminished in the future. Several reasons have been suggested to us in explanation. One is the proximity of the English Markets to the enormous producing area of Europe with the large bounties granted by European countries. Another is, that the United States Refiners distinctly recognise the superiority of Cane Sugar over Beet. Of these thirty shillings, we may point out, however, that about 10s. is due to the fact that freights and insurance from the West Indies to the United States are about this much lower than between the West Indies and the United Kingdom. If, therefore, the President were to re-impose the Sugar Duties upon West India Sugars, it is highly probable that the West Indies would in the future have to accept something like 30s. per ton less for their Sugars than they would obtain if they continued to have access to the United States Markets. We need hardly point out that in view of the very small margin, which exists between profit and loss, the reduction in the value of their produce to the extent of 30s. per ton (which means roughly to the British West Indies about £450,000 per annum) would be another serious blow to these Colonies. As a matter of fact, the Markets of the United Kingdom are becoming exceedingly limited for such Sugars as are produced in the West Indies. Under the operation of the Bounty System on the Continent, the British Refining Industry is gradually dwindling, and the importation of Refined Sugar shows a steady increase—an increase, which is, in reality, larger than that indicated by the Board of Trade Returns, inasmuch



as a considerable quantity of Beetroot Sugar comes here in a form which is practically refined and suitable for direct consumption, but which is placed in the Board of Trade Returns under the heading of Raw Sugar. This applies to almost the whole of the import from France. In a word it may be said that the English Markets have been closed to British Colonies by the Bounty System on the Continent, and that the United States Markets are the only markets upon which the West Indian Colonies have in future to rely."

**RUM DENOMINATION.**—The following are copies of two General Orders issued by the Customs —8th September, 1891. The Lords of the Treasury have directed that the Official Import List be altered so that the sub-heading "Rum," of the general heading "Spirits and Strong Waters," be divided as follows:—Rum (imported from ports in Sugar-Cane producing countries); Imitation Rum (imported from ports in countries in which the Sugar-Cane is not produced). (2) Officers are accordingly directed to see that all importations of Spirits of the kinds under notice, which may be entered on or after the 1st October next, be thus described. (3) In the case of such Spirits coming from ports in countries in which the Sugar-Cane is not produced, but which may be claimed for entry as "Rum" under the first of the new sub-headings, before the entry be finally accepted and acted upon, the importers are to be required to apply to the Board, in each instance, for its admission as "Rum," annexing to their application the Bill of Lading from the original Port of Shipment, and Certificates of Landing at, and exportation from, the Port of Transshipment or Exchange, such Certificate must be signed by the proper officer of Customs, whose signature (in the case of a foreign port), must be verified by the British Consular authority. These applications, with the accompanying documents, are to be forwarded through the Surveyor at the place of importation, with his observations, in the usual manner to the Board, who will then decide as to whether the claim can be admitted. (4.) In deciding how far entries tendered under the former of the two new sub-headings may be accepted, with reference to the country from which the importing ship has come, officers will be guided by their general knowledge and intelligence on the subject, referring in cases of doubt or difficulty to their superior officers, who, in turn, if not able to decide, will refer the question to the Board. Spirits imported from the West Indian Islands, Mauritius, Brazil, Guiana, and other tropical and sub-tropical countries in which the sugar-cane is usually cultivated, and entered under the sub-heading of "Rum," may ordinarily be accepted as such, whilst spirits imported from other countries, particularly ports in Europe and the Northern ports of the United States of America, will not be admissible otherwise than under the sub-heading of "Imitation Rum," in the absence of compliance with the directions of Paragraph 3 of this Order. (5) The treatment in bond of spirits imported and admitted to entry under this decision of the Treasury will form the subject of a further General Order. The alteration of the Official Import List is to be noted in all copies now in use.—By order of the Board, R. T. PROWSE.

September 12th, 1891. *Amendments of Code Paragraphs, etc., consequent on issue of General Order, 62, 1891.*—In consequence of the decision of the Lords of the Treasury, as already set forth in General Order 62, 1891, on the subject of the entry of importations of spirits under the denomination of rum, the effect of which will be that such importations will, for purposes of official account,



be classified as two distinct kinds of spirits. (1). Officers are to note for their guidance that so soon as this decision is brought into effect on 1st October next, Paragraphs 335 (6), and 354, 355, and 356 of the Code will prevent spirit admitted to entry as "Rum," and spirit entered as "Imitation Rum," from being blended or vatted together for Home use; and that should these two kinds of spirits be mixed for exportation, under paragraph 354, they must, under paragraphs 354 and 358, be described in all official books and documents as spirits (Foreign), mixed in Bond. (2). In all extant copies of the Code, and of General Order 19, 1882, manuscript alterations are to be made as follows:—In Code, paragraph 84, "sub-division b" should now read as follows:—Rum (imported from Ports in Sugar-Cane producing countries). Imitation Rum (from Ports in countries in which the Sugar-Cane is not produced). Paragraph 358, after the word "Rum" insert "or Imitation Rum." Paragraph 367, after the word "Rum" insert "or Imitation Rum." Paragraph 384, after the word "Rum" insert "and Imitation Rum." Paragraph 385, after the word "Rum" insert "Imitation Rum." Paragraph 435, after the word "Rum" insert "or Imitation Rum." Paragraph 436, line 5, delete "or," and after "Rum" insert "or Imitation Rum." Paragraph 438, line 1, delete "or," and after "Rum" insert "or Imitation Rum." Paragraph 514, after the word "Rums" insert "Imitation Rums." Paragraph 551, after the word "Rum" insert "or Imitation Rum." In General Order 19, 1882, page 32, paragraph 3 (revised by General Order 62, 1882), lines 7 and 9, after "Rums" insert "or Imitation Rums," and on page 33, paragraph 11, line 2, delete "and," and, after "Rum," insert and "Imitation Rum." (3.) General Orders 6 and 13, 1890, are hereby cancelled, as to all importations of Rum, or of Imitation Rum, admitted to entry on or after the 1st October next. The Board of Inland Revenue have expressed their concurrence in these directions.—By Order of the Board, R. T. PROWSE.

**BEET CROPS.**—Favourable weather from the beginning of October has improved prospects of Beet. A fair average yield is expected, although a report has been issued that the saccharine is not proportionate to the size of the root. In the meantime, prices have somewhat strengthened, owing to sufficient supplies not being immediately available. Mr. Licht's latest analysis of roots shows a decrease in the percentage of Sugar as compared with four preceding years. No formal estimates of crop have yet been issued. The French journal reports that the weather has not actively promoted growth, but has improved quality with a diminished weight of roots. If the weather remains dry the yield will be very inferior to that of last year. At the moment the yield undoubtedly shows a great deficit upon the preceding. The same news is reported from Germany and Austria, with good quality. The actual state of the European Crop, is that the root must be considered small, but of good quality. Crop figures are hardly likely to reach those of last year.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR.**—(H. Clark & Co., 8th October), Europe, and afloat for Europe from East, 337,000 tons, against 275,000 last year; United States, 82,000, against 65,000; Havana, 110,000, against 74,000. Total, 529,000, against 414,000. (C. Czarnikow, 8th October), Europe, and cargoes afloat to Europe, 317,447, against 252,905; United States, 75,000, against 58,378; Havana, 86,000, against 57,000. Total, 478,447, against 368,283.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First forty weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 637,278 tons, against 556,838 last year. Deliveries, 658,363 against 638,152. Stocks, 85,341 against 84,714.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, October 5th, weather dry; Trinidad, September 22nd, weather too dry, October 1st, weather too dry; Barbados, September 28th, dry over windward, showers over leeward, October 12th, good showers but partial.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR No. 73.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

4TH JANUARY, 1892.

THE UNITED STATES AND WEST INDIES.—The Chairman of the West India Committee was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to proceed to Washington to advise the British Ambassador in regard to negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States, respecting the arrangement to be made between the West India Colonies and the United States, under the Reciprocity Clause of the McKinley Act.

Mr. Neville Lubbock accordingly proceeded to Washington. He arrived there on the 8th November (accompanied by the Secretary), and at once placed himself in communication with Sir Julian Pauncefote, who gave every possible assistance, and by whom, of course, the diplomatic form of the arrangement remained to be made.

An Attaché of the Embassy was present at all the interviews during the negotiation. The points raised by the United States Government were (1), that due notice had been given to the British Government respecting the Reciprocity Clause of the McKinley Act; (2), that heavier duties were placed upon imports from the United States than upon imports from the United Kingdom and other countries; (3), that the Reciprocity Clause would certainly be carried into effect on the 1st January, 1892, with all countries not having made trade arrangements under that Clause; (4), that Mr. West's letter of the 7th November, 1884, should be taken as the basis of all present negotiations.

It was ascertained that communications had already taken place between Sir Julian Pauncefote and the United States Government.

Negotiations proceeded daily, and an arrangement was finally come to that reductions of duties upon goods principally imported from America should be made to the extent of

|                 |     |     |     |     |     |         |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| British Guiana  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £29,000 |
| Trinidad        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14,000  |
| Leeward Islands | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,500   |
| St. Lucia       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,500   |
| St. Vincent     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,000   |
|                 |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>   |
|                 |     |     |     |     |     | £55,000 |

The above represents the amount of Revenue likely to be surrendered upon Import Duties under this arrangement, assuming no increased consumption takes place.



Three Schedules were agreed upon. (1) A free list. (2) A reduction of duty upon certain articles to the extent of fifty per cent. of the present rates of duty. (3) A reduction of twenty-five per cent. upon certain other articles imported from the United States; this latter Schedule including flour and petroleum.

A full copy of the Schedules will be given in next CIRCULAR.

After Mr. Lubbock had been in Washington for three weeks, the Barbados delegates arrived. Every information was given to Messrs. Chandler and Grannum, and the most cordial co-operation took place with those delegates. It is understood that the amount of duty agreed to be given up by Barbados was £12,000. The Jamaica delegates arrived just before Mr. Lubbock left Washington, and it has since been reported that those delegates have agreed to a reduction of £24,000 upon the basis already established.

The negotiations were conducted upon the basis of equal treatment, so far as the West Indies were concerned, of all countries. The first stipulation agreed to was that the new arrangement should not come into force before the 1st of February, 1892. A later date was pressed upon the United States Government in connection with British Guiana, owing to the new constitutional arrangements in that Colony. This matter was left in the hands of Sir Julian Pancefote.

With regard to Trinidad it may be mentioned that the duty on flour was proposed to be left as at present, viz., seventy-five cents. per barrel, being the same duty as will be imposed in British Guiana, Barbados, and other Colonies, under the new arrangement.

By special agreement, the Island of Grenada, having no Sugar Exports to the United States, was excluded from this arrangement. The new terms will come into force upon due diplomatic formalities being exchanged between the Government of the United Kingdom and that of the United States. The arrangement will be subject to termination either by the United States deciding to alter their tariff, or by the Legislatures of the West India Colonies, at any time they may have grounds for doing so, with the assent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The consent of the Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad, and other Colonies, was obtained in Washington by telegram.

A full record of the points raised during the negotiations will be given in a further CIRCULAR.

**BEET SUGAR.**—The following is Mr. Licht's latest estimate:—

|                      | 1891-2    | 1890-1    | 1889-90   | 1888-9    |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | Tons.     | Tons.     | Tons.     | Tons.     |
| Germany .....        | 1,170,000 | 1,331,965 | 1,264,607 | 990,604   |
| Austria .....        | 850,000   | 778,473   | 753,078   | 523,242   |
| France .....         | 675,000   | 694,037   | 787,989   | 466,767   |
| Russia .....         | 515,000   | 544,162   | 456,711   | 526,387   |
| Belgium .....        | 195,000   | 205,623   | 221,480   | 145,804   |
| Holland .....        | 50,000    | 61,307    | 55,813    | 46,040    |
| Other Countries..... | 75,000    | 80,000    | 80,000    | 87,000    |
|                      | 3,530,000 | 3,695,567 | 3,619,678 | 2,785,844 |

The total production of sugar for 1891-2 is estimated by Mr. Licht as follows:—Beet, 3,530,000 tons; Cane, 2,630,000 tons; total, 6,160,000; against 6,223,000 in 1890-1, and 5,669,000 in 1889-90.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR.—Mr. Licht's December estimate is as follows:—Europe and floating cargoes to Europe, 1,021,905 tons, against 936,595 same date 1890; United States, 61,000, against 54,694; Havana, 29,464, against 39,624; floating to North America, 30,638, against 26,059. Total, 1,143,007, against 1,056,972. Mr. Cznarikow, 31st December, estimates as follows:—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,049,818 tons against 946,752; United States, 71,000, against 22,797; Havana, 23,000, against 39,000. Total, 1,143,818 tons against 1,008,549.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First fifty-two weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 845,513 tons, against 786,839 last year. Deliveries, 849,761, against 836,669. Stocks, 102,178, against 115,916.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, November 28th, a few light showers have fallen, but more rain wanted; December 12th, rain is now pouring down in good earnest; 14th, rain continues to fall heavily; 29th, moderate rains generally; Barbados, December 7th, good showers generally throughout the island; 22nd, good showers generally throughout the island; 4th January, light partial showers over windward parishes.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

1ST FEBRUARY, 1892.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—A meeting will be held on Thursday, the 4th February, at Three o'clock, to receive a statement from the Chairman respecting the recent negotiations with the United States.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.—Mr. Lubbock has received, and duly acknowledged a letter from the Secretary of State, of which the following is an extract: "Downing Street, 26th January, 1892. Nevile Lubbock, Esq.:—Sir, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th of December, reporting the result of your mission to Washington, in connection with the negotiations for a reciprocal trade arrangement between certain of Her Majesty's West Indian Colonies and the Government of the United States of America. His Lordship has now received copies of the notes in which that provisional arrangement has been embodied by Her Majesty's Minister and the Secretary of State at Washington; and he desires me to express his sense of the services which you have rendered to the West Indian Colonies which you represented, by the ready and able assistance which you afforded to Her Majesty's Minister in his conduct of these negotiations. (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON."

THE UNITED STATES AND WEST INDIES.—The following is Lord Knutsford's despatch to West Indian Governors of 22nd December, 1891, forwarding the Schedules—"The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the pressing application of the Government of the United States has authorised Her Majesty's Minister to embody in a Note to the Government of the Republic, the understanding arrived at with the Delegates of the various West Indian Colonies, and to stipulate that in the event of the ratification of the arrangement by the Colonial Governments concerned, the necessary legislation should be carried out in British Guiana before the 1st of April, and in the other Colonies before the 1st of February next; and in default of such legislation the President of the United States of America should be at liberty to impose the duties allowed under the McKinley Act."

Sir Julian Pauncefoot in his despatch to the Marquis of Salisbury of December 4th, 1891, says, "One important and satisfactory feature in the arrangement is that no differential treatment has been accorded in favour of American products."

A copy of Schedule A containing articles to be admitted free can be seen at this office. The following are the other Schedules. B. Fifty per cent. reduction. 1. Bacon and Bacon Ham. 2. Boots and Shoes made wholly or in part of leather. 3. Bread and biscuit. 4. Cheese. 5. Lard and its compounds. 6. Mules. 7. Oleomargarine. 8. Shooks and staves. C. Twenty-five per cent. reduction. 1. Beef salted or pickled. 2. Corn or maize. 3. Corn meal. 4. Flour of wheat. 5. Lumber of Pitch Pine in rough or prepared for buildings. 6. Petroleum and its products crude or refined. 7. Pork salted or pickled. 8. Wheat. (Note.—In the case of Trinidad the existing duty of 75 cents. per barrel is retained.)

BRITISH GUIANA.—The elections to the new Court of Policy and Combined Court were taking place, according to news by mail. Copy of the addresses of the respective candidates can be seen at this office. The weather continued wet, with alternate dry days very favourable for the estates.

TRINIDAD—The Governor has issued a Minute upon the financial position of the Colony. He explains the insufficiency of the current revenue of the Colony to meet the current expenditure, and the need of providing for the interest and sinking fund of a further Public Works Loan, if such a loan is to be raised. No such loan will be sanctioned by the Secretary of State, until the finances show the prospect of a margin sufficient to bear the annual charge. His Excellency hopes that the poorer classes will derive some benefit from the reductions of duty on imports of food and other products which they consume. The surplus funds are practically exhausted by the deficits of the last four years. £44,000 is required to be raised by new taxation, including the readjustment of the Import duties, rendered necessary by the recent arrangement with the United States. This has been done by the raising of the Excise duty on Rum from 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. the proof gallon; by the increase of the Tobacco, Opium, Wine and Malt Liquor Customs' duties; by the imposition of duties of 2s per ton on Coal and Patent Fuel, and of 10s. each on Oxen and Cows, and by the increase of the *ad valorem* duties from four to six per cent.; also certain stamp and trade license duties were fixed. The schedules under the arrangement with the United States were agreed to. The Secretary of State is prepared to give instructions, when provision has been made by ordinance for the expense, for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the charge against the first Puisne Judge and into the administration of justice. The Immigration estimates are based upon the introduction of 2,500 Coolies in the coming season. The police and military arrangements, consequent upon the withdrawal of the troops, were being anxiously discussed. The Imperial scheme of defence includes the construction of batteries of artillery. The question is how are these to be manned? The batteries will probably cost more than £10,000. It is proposed that the police shall be transformed into an armed constabulary. General Newdigate-Newdigate, the Governor of Bermuda, has visited the Colony and reported upon the military proposals. Mail news reports weather fine and crop work general.

EXPORT DUTIES.—In order to clear away certain misconceptions upon this question, the Chairman addressed the following letter to Lord Gormanston, dated Washington, 28th November,



1891:—"My Lord,—In a report of the proceedings of the Combined Court of the 12th instant, which appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* of the 13th instant, Sir Charles Bruce, in his speech proposing the resolutions in connection with the reciprocity clauses of the McKinlay Tariff Act, is reported to have said, after quoting the fourth article of the draft Convention of 1884 allowing an export duty within certain limits:—"no objection was made by Mr. Lubbock, who acted as the adviser of Her Majesty's representative in Washington in the negotiation of the time to this article of the Treaty, and it throws an important light on the arrangement by which it must have been contemplated at the time to meet the anticipated loss of revenue under the terms of the convention."

The history of the Clause in the proposed Treaty of 1884, is as follows:—During the discussions which took place between myself and the United States authorities previous to the proposition of a Treaty, it appeared that the United States Government were under the impression that export duties imposed in the West Indies would fall on the consumers of the products upon which the export duties were levied. They therefore wished to stipulate that no export duties at all should be levied. At that time however, in some of the Colonies part of the cost of the Immigration Expenditure was assessed upon the planters in proportion to the amount of sugar and cocoa exported, and this assessment was, erroneously as I think, but at any rate officially described as an export duty. In Trinidad, if I recollect right, the amount of this so-called duty was 7s. 6d. per ton. I thought it was highly probable that the Colonies which had adopted this method of raising a portion of the Immigration Fund might wish to continue it, and that some margin in regard to the amount was desirable. My explanation of the so-called export duties went far to remove the objection of the United States Government, but they insisted upon a limit in amount, which in the case of Sugar was agreed at £1 per ton. There was certainly no idea in my mind that any portion of the General Revenue of the Colonies was to be raised by means of Export Duties. I may add, however, that if the Treaty had been carried out, there might have been a fair ground of justification for them which certainly will not now exist, even with the continuance of the free admission of West India Sugar into the United States. In 1884 we had an assurance from the United States Government that they had no intention of according the free admission of Sugar either to Europe or to European Colonies in the East. That is to say, two-thirds of the production of the world would have been deprived of an advantage of £10 per ton proposed to be accorded to West India Sugars in United States Markets. The case is very different now. British Guiana has to face a competition, assisted in the case of European Sugars and Sugars produced in the United States by State subsidies, and the possible margin of profit must be small. It can hardly be a wise policy to increase the difficulties which the main industry of the Colony has before it by adding to its burdens. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK.

**BEEF SUGAR.**—The weather of the last month seems to point to a decrease in the yield in some countries. Mr. Licht, however, keeps for the time his estimate for Germany unchanged. The probable French crop is a matter of doubt. The total Beet production for 1891-92, according to Mr. Licht, remains unchanged (16th January).

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR.—Mr. Licht's January estimate is as follows:—Europe and floating cargoes to Europe, 1,368,671 tons, against 1,344,618 same date 1891; United States, 78,000, against 55,146; Havana, 30,480, against 44,704; floating to North America, 30,949, against 29,467; total, 1,508,100, against 1,473,935. According to Mr. Czarnikow, January 28th:—Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,349,038, against 1,324,429; United States, 83,000, against 48,377; Havana, 31,000, against 64,000; total, 1,463,038, against 1,436,806.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First three weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 49,032 tons, against 40,914 last year. Deliveries, 37,162, against 45,672. Stocks, 125,556, against 111,158.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Trinidad, January 7th, fine with occasional light showers; 21st, fine, with occasional light showers; Barbados, January 18th, weather dry; February 1st, dry.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this office.



CIRCULAR No. 75.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

15TH FEBRUARY, 1892.

THE UNITED STATES AND WEST INDIES.—The following telegram appeared in the *Times* of 6th February.—“New York, 5th February.—A proclamation by President Harrison is published to-day, promulgating the Reciprocity Treaty concluded between the United States and the British West Indies.”

Mr. Lubbock's report to Lord Knutsford upon the Washington mission will be printed in next Circular.

The Secretary of State has favoured the West India Committee with copies of the notes exchanged by Sir Julian Pauncefote and Mr. Blaine. The following is the despatch from the British Minister to Mr. Blaine, dated Washington, December 24th, 1891:—Sir, referring to the notes which we have recently exchanged relative to the reciprocity section of the General Tariff Law of the United States so far as the same bears on the British West Indian Colonies and the Colony of British Guiana, I beg to state that I have given the subject the careful consideration which it demands, and have been assisted therein by the gentlemen designated by the several Colonies to aid in the negotiation of an arrangement. With the help of these gentlemen certain schedules have been drawn up of remissions and alterations of duties, which I have reason to believe will prove satisfactory to your Government, and which are as follows:—As regards the following Colonies, that is to say:

- British Guiana
- Trinidad (which includes the Island of Tobago).
- Barbados.
- The Leeward Islands (consisting of the several Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, St. Christopher, Nevis, Dominica, with their respective Dependencies and the Virgin Islands).
- The Windward Islands (consisting of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada and their dependencies), but exclusive of Grenada and its dependencies.

It is proposed that the remissions and alterations of duty shall be made which are contained in Annex 1 to this note. In the case of the colony of Jamaica, it is proposed that the remissions and alterations of duty shall be made which are contained in Annex 2. Should the arrangement herein proposed be accepted by the Government of the United States, it shall be understood and agreed that every article named in Annex 1, which is now on the Free List of the Tariff of any of the above mentioned Colonies shall be continued on said Free List during the existence of the proposed arrangement. I have received instructions from Her Majesty's Government to submit to you the proposition that if the remissions and deductions before enumerated appear satisfactory



to your Government, the President should agree to forbear up to the 1st February next to put in force, as against all those Colonies except British Guiana, and in the case of that Colony up to the 31st day of March next, the powers conferred upon him by Section 3 of said Tariff Law, with the understanding that it will be for the Governments of the several Colonies named to pass the necessary legislation within the periods above mentioned, so that Her Majesty's Government may be in a position to announce to you before the expiration of the said periods respectively that the necessary steps have been taken to give the force of law to the changes in question. If the above alterations in the Tariffs of the Colonies named are accepted by your Government as satisfactory, the President may be assured that they will be carried out with the utmost promptitude consistent with the circumstances in each Colony, and that the fullest and fairest interpretation will be given to them. It will be understood that the arrangement shall remain in force so long as it shall not be modified by the mutual agreement of the Executive Power of the two Governments or by the legislative action of the Government of the United States, or of the said Colonies or with the approval of the British Government. Annex 1. Applicable to British Guiana, Trinidad, and Tobago, Barbados, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands, excepting the Island of Grenada. Here follows Schedule (A.) Articles to be admitted free of all Customs Duty and any other National, Colonial or Municipal charges. (It is not necessary to print the Free List here). The reduction Schedules B and C were printed in last Circular, for all the Colonies except Jamaica. There are special Schedules for this latter Colony, the Free List extending to sixty-three items. The following is the Jamaica fifty per cent. reduction Schedule:—1. Bacon and Bacon Hams. 2. Bread and Biscuit. 3. Butter. 4. Cheese. 5. Lard and its compounds. 6. Lumber of Pitch Pine, in rough or prepared, for buildings, to be reduced to 9s. per 1,000 feet. The following is the Jamaica twenty-five per cent. reduction Schedule:—1. Beef, salted or pickled. 2. Corn and Maize. 3. Corn Meal. 4. Oats. 5. Petroleum and its products, crude or refined. 6. Pork, salted or pickled. 7. Wheat. (It will be noticed that in this case there is no reduction on Flour). The following is Mr. Blaine's despatch to Sir Julian Pauncefote, dated Department of State, Washington, December 29th, 1891:—Sir, I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your note of the 24th inst., in which you inform me that, in view of the Reciprocity Section 3 of the Tariff Law of the Congress of the United States, approved on the 1st October, 1890, Her Majesty's Government has decided and authorised you to propose the remissions and alterations of duties set forth in your note in the British Colonies of Trinidad, Barbados, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands (except Grenada), and Jamaica, to take effect not later than the 1st February, 1892, and in British Guiana, to take effect not later than the 31st March, 1892, which remissions and alterations of duties you express the belief will prove satisfactory to the Government of the United States. I am directed by the President to state to you that he accepts this action of Her Majesty's Government in agreeing to grant remissions and alterations of duties in the British Colonies above mentioned, to the articles enumerated in the schedules attached to your note, and in the terms stated therein, as a due reciprocity for the action of the Congress of the United States, as set forth in Section 3 of the Tariff Act of the 1st October, 1890. As soon as I shall be advised that the legislation proposed has been enacted in the several Colonies, the President will make public announcement of this commercial arrangement, which it is understood shall remain in force so long as it shall not be modified by



the mutual agreement of the Executive Powers of the two Governments, or by the legislative action of the Government of the United States or of said Colonies, with the approval of the British Government.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association, held on Tuesday, 26th January, 1892, B. Howell Jones, Esq., in the chair. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Hon. A. Barr, and carried unanimously:—"That this Association tenders to Mr. Nevile Lubbock its thanks for the services rendered by him on the mission undertaken—partly on behalf of this Colony—in connection with the arrangement of matters in Washington in December, 1891, on the subject of reciprocity under the McKinley Tariff Act; and that the Secretary is hereby instructed to forward to Mr. Lubbock a copy of this Resolution." (Signed) A. SUMMERSON, Secretary.

**TRINIDAD.**—The whole matter of Trinidad Expenditure was discussed with Lord Knutsford in the early part of 1891, and there is no doubt the present Governor was instructed to examine closely the financial condition of the Colony. Sir N. Broome found that there was barely £10,000, a sum entirely insufficient to meet the various loan and advance or suspension accounts without which it was impossible to carry on the work of some of the departments. Five or six years ago there was a fair available surplus of about £45,000, but this was encroached upon year by year to make up the deficiencies of revenue to meet expenditure. It has been found impossible to call a Trinidad Meeting since the last mail, but the question is under consideration whether a protest should not be made against new loans for public works.

**BEEF CROPS.**—In several of the Continental papers there have been reports that the sowings of the new crop will not be so extensive as usual and that corn owing to the better prices will be more largely grown. These reports, however, require confirmation. The reductions of the premiums in Germany may restrict the sowings to some extent and the more remunerative price of grain crops may have a like tendency. But the subject remains at present more or less hypothetical. Mr. Licht's monthly circular is not yet published.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR.**—(H. Clark and Co., 8th February):—Europe and afloat for Europe from East, 1,365,000 tons, against 1,339,000 last year; United States, 71,000, against 49,000; Havana, 31,000, against 64,000. Total 1,467,000, against 1,452,000. (C. Czarnikow, 11th February):—Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,346,761, against 1,323,313; United States, 59,500, against 57,402; Havana, 41,000, against 77,000. Total, 1,447,260, against 1,457,715.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First five weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 69,985 tons, against 84,684 last year. Deliveries, 73,359, against 89,627. Stocks, 102,512, against 110,983.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Trinidad, February 2nd, weather favourable; 3rd, weather fine, with occasional light showers; 10th, weather favourable; Barbados, February 15th, good showers generally throughout the Island.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this office.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

14TH MARCH, 1892.

THE UNITED STATES AND WEST INDIES.—The following letter, addressed by Mr. Lubbock to Lord Knutsford, completes the formal account of the negotiations as given in preceding circulars. A paper giving fuller details will be sent to any member for perusal upon application. Mr. Lubbock has received through the Governor and Lord Knutsford the thanks of the Trinidad Government for his services to that Colony;—"Washington, 8th December, 1891. My Lord.—In accordance with your Lordship's desire that I should proceed to Washington in connection with the negotiations which had been entrusted to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister to the United States, relative to the interests of the West Indies and with reference to Sir Robert Herbert's communication of the 30th October, in which I was informed that my functions were to be similar to those entrusted to me in 1884, and that I was to place before Sir Julian Paucelote all the information at my command respecting the interests of the colonies of British Guiana, Trinidad and the Leeward and Windward Islands and to be prepared to advise him on any technical details which might arise; I beg to report as follows:—I left Liverpool by the s.s. *Umbria* on 31st October, arriving at New York on the evening of the 7th November; the following day I proceeded to Washington and on the morning of 9th November I called upon Sir Julian Pauncelote, by whom I was most courteously received. On the 12th November Sir Julian presented me to Mr. Blaine, who informed us that the details of the negotiation in connection with the West Indies on behalf of the United States Government had been entrusted to Gen. J. W. Foster to whom he referred us. He then sent for Gen. Foster, to whom he introduced me. By desire of Sir Julian Pauncelote I held several interviews with Gen. Foster during the following days, the object being in the first place to endeavour to satisfy him that the Tariffs of our West India Colonies and of British Guiana were equal and reasonable, and secondly, to ascertain as precisely as possible what the United States Government complained of and what concessions, if any, they required. At my request Gen. Foster handed me a written memorandum, copy of which I beg to enclose stating the views entertained by the United States Government in regard to the tariffs of our West Indian Colonies. From this Memorandum it will be seen that the grounds of complaint are twofold. First, that the Free List is so arranged as to admit a disproportionate amount of products from countries other than the United States, and secondly, that the rate of duty levied on United States products as a whole is largely in excess of the rate levied on products from other countries. An examination of the Tariffs of the Colonies shows that, as a matter of fact, the value of products admitted free to the West Indian Colonies from countries other than the United States is largely in excess of the value of products coming free from the United States. And also that the percentage of trade from the United States to the West Indies is far in excess of the percent-



age of Free Products coming from the United States to the West Indies. Secondly an examination of the Tariffs shows that the rate of taxation on products coming from the United States is largely in excess of the rate of taxation on products from other countries; so much so, that it can hardly be matter for surprise that the United States have looked upon these tariffs as having been intentionally framed to discriminate against their products. Moreover, it is hardly possible to contend, with any show of justice, that the nature of the products coming from the United States is such as to warrant this higher rate of taxation. It is difficult to find any sound reason why such articles as Flour, Lumber, and Kerosine Oil should be taxed at a largely higher ad valorem rate than Hardware and Textiles. In view of the fact that sugar, coffee, cocoa, and fruit, the staple productions of the West Indies are now admitted free to the United States, it seems to me impossible to contend that the United States Government are making any unreasonable demand in asking that this discrimination against their products should be removed. In my discussions with Gen. Foster I took care, in accordance with Sir Julian Pauccefote's directions, and with what I knew to be your Lordship's wish, to point out most clearly not only that no privileged treatment could be granted to the United States, but that no alteration of the tariffs of the West Indian colonies such as would indirectly give any advantage to the United States trade over that with the United Kingdom and Canada, could be granted. I feel bound to record that Gen. Foster readily gave up any claim to special favours and rested his case entirely on the discrimination which existed against the United States. With Sir Julian Pauccefote's approval, I informed Mr. Foster that it was neither the wish of Her Majesty's Government nor the intention of the Colonies that there should be any discrimination to the detriment of the trade between the West Indies and the United States and that I felt sure there would be no objection either on the part of Her Majesty's Government or of the Colonies to agree to such alterations in their tariffs as would be just and fair. After prolonged discussion involving an immense amount of detail, three schedules were agreed upon: the first being a free list, the second a schedule of articles upon which it is proposed to reduce the duty by fifty per cent. and the third a schedule of articles upon which it is proposed to reduce the duty by twenty-five per cent. There is one exception made on the twenty-five per cent. schedule, apparently in favour of Trinidad. The reduction in Trinidad on Flour instead of being twenty-five per cent. will be a reduction to seventy-five cents. per barrel; this will leave the duty on Flour in Trinidad, under the arrangement, at the same rate as in Barbados and British Guiana. Grenada, in accordance with your Lordship's instruction, is excepted from the agreement. A copy of these schedules is enclosed. I estimate that the effect of the reductions of duty involved by the three schedules will be an immediate loss of revenue of the following amounts for each of the Colonies named:-

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| British Guiana                   | £29 000 |
| Trinidad                         | 14 000  |
| Leeward Islands                  | 8 000   |
| Windward Islands, except Grenada | 4,500   |
|                                  | £55,500 |

It will be seen that in no case is the loss so large as to cause any serious difficulty in providing other sources of revenue to make good the amount involved in the reductions. It will also be seen from the Schedules that under the proposed arrangement (1st) no privileged treatment of any



kind is accorded to the United States; (2nd) The proposed changes in the Tariff will still leave the duties on the products of the U. K. and Canada lower than those levied on the products of the United States; (3rd) That in so far as regards the chief items upon which reductions are made, viz: Flour, Pork and Beef, the changes are in accordance with the views which a few years ago were strenuously urged upon the West India Colonies by the Colonial Office. I therefore venture to hope that the proposed arrangement will meet with your Lordship's approval, and will conduce to the prosperity of the West India Colonies. I have much pleasure in reporting that the Barbados delegates, Messrs. Chandler & Grannum, who arrived in Washington about a fortnight after myself, entirely agreed on behalf of Barbados with the views which I had laid before Sir Julian Pouncefote on behalf of the Colonies which I represented, and they have approved of the schedules subject to the confirmation of the Barbados Legislature. The alterations in the Tariff are to come into force on or previous to 1st February next. In conclusion I have to ask your Lordship to convey to Lord Salisbury my grateful recognition of all the kindness and courtesy I experienced from Sir Julian Pouncefote during my stay in Washington.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK.

**SURTAX ON RUM.**—The following letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been drafted. It will be sent in forthwith if the Importers would approve and attend the Deputation, should it be arranged.—“The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P.—Sir,—In view of the approaching Budget I have respectfully to ask whether it would be convenient to you to receive a small Deputation upon the question of the surtax of four-pence per gallon upon Colonial Rum imported into this country. In our Letter to you of the 22nd August, 1895 we stated fully the objections to the continuance of this protective tax against Colonial produce and in favour of home distillers. The matter was not dealt with, for various reasons, in the fiscal arrangements of last year, and we shall be glad to have the opportunity of again drawing your attention to the unfairness of the charge, in anticipation of the Financial Statement of the present year.”

**SUGAR CANES.**—The Barbados Agricultural Society have had under consideration the “blight” which has become apparent upon Canes in certain districts. A specimen having been submitted to Miss Ormerod she identified it as the “shot borer” hitherto unknown in connection with Cane but an allied species has been known in the Pine Forests of Germany. The danger is in the power of flying or being windborne. Young Canes should not be trashed with trash obtained from fields attacked by this beetle, which trash should be burned. Diseased Canes should be cut down and carried upright and burned outside the affected cane piece. Kerosene and soft soap are good remedies. The matter was brought to the attention of the West India Committee by the receipt of a letter (undated) from Mr. J. H. Pover, the Secretary of the Barbados Agricultural Society, in which he says: “By this mail the Barbados Agricultural Society is sending, in care of Mr. George Hughes, the Society's consulting chemist, specimens of a destructive boring insect which has lately made its appearance in this Island and the neighbouring Islands of St. Vincent and Trinidad, for examination and report thereon by Miss Ormerod, the entomologist.” No specimens have yet arrived at the office of the West India Committee. No importance is attached to the matter as affecting the crop, but instant measures should be taken to stamp out the disease, however small its operations may be.



As above indicated, the West India Committee have not been fully informed on the subject, and any further communications from the Barbados Agricultural Society will be received with much interest, and every assistance given.

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—The extent of the sowings as compared with last crop appears still to be somewhat uncertain. The cold weather, relieved by sunshine and dryness of atmosphere, has not been injurious. Mr. Licht's last monthly report, 20th February, gives the estimate of Beet production for the crop 1891-2 at 3,500,000 tons against 3,635,000 in 1890-1, or 135,000 tons less. Messrs. H. Clark & Co. say, 8th March, "nothing definite is yet known as to the probable extent of sowings for the next Beet crop, but on the whole a small increase would appear to be probable. With an average season this would imply a crop of about 4,000,000 tons, commencing in September." Present prices hardly lend themselves to much increase of sowings. The total of Cane and Beet for 1891-2 is given by Messrs. Clark at 6,180,000 tons against 6,191,000 in 1890-1.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. H. Clark and Co., 8th March):—Europe and Cargoes afloat from the East, for Europe, 1,397,000 tons, against 1,440,000 last year; United States, 25,000, against 90,000; Havana, 67,000, against 92,000. Total 1,489,000, against 1,622,000 tons. (Mr. Czarnikow, 10th March):—Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,358,164, against 1,428,030; United States, 31,500, against 78,963; Havana, 71,000, against 122,000. Total 1,460,664, against 1,628,993. (Some surprise has been expressed that the comparative lightness of the stocks has not produced a stronger market. Prices are, however, reported as recovering during the past week.)

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First nine weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 123,893 tons, against 158,004 last year. Deliveries, 140,535, against 164,720. Stocks, 89,244, against 109,210.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, March 7th, heavy rains since last message, now moderate; Trinidad, February 16th, weather favourable; 18th, weather fine for harvesting; 23rd weather favourable; March 1st, weather favourable; 2nd, weather fine for harvesting; 8th, weather favourable; Barbados, February 29th, dry throughout the Island; March 14th, Showers generally throughout the Island.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR No. 77.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

25TH APRIL, 1892.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Annual Meeting has been fixed for Thursday, 28th April, at Three o'clock.

RUM SURTAX.—A Meeting of West India Planters and Merchants was held at Billiter House, London, on the 31st March, 1892. Correspondence with the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the subject of the Surtax of fourpence per gallon imposed upon Colonial Rum upon its import into the United Kingdom, having been submitted, and with special reference to the letter dated 29th March, instant, addressed by the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., to the West India Committee, it was resolved:—That in view of the approaching Budget it is desirable to call again to the serious attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the great injustice of the surtax of fourpence per gallon upon Colonial Rum, which surtax operates as a protective duty in favour of home manufactured spirits, and to express the hope that the Right Hon. Gentleman will now see his way to remove or modify this onerous and unfair disability upon produce imported from the Colonies." The above was sent to Mr. Goschen, and acknowledged, but owing to the Parliamentary influence of the Home distillers no notice was taken of this Colonial grievance in the Budget.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The following letter has been addressed to Lord Knutsford, 16th April, 1892.

My Lord,—Among the financial measures adopted at the recent Session of the Combined Court of British Guiana, your Lordship will notice the following:—

1. The diversion of a portion of the Acreage tax to General Revenue.
2. An increase of the tonnage dues.

With regard to the first of these points, we respectfully beg to remind your Lordship, that twelve years ago the question of the Contributions to the Immigration Fund was very anxiously discussed. The Indenture Fee was very high, with a prospect of its being further increased. It was therefore considered desirable that the planters generally, whether annually receiving new immigrants or not, but equally enjoying the advantage of the Immigration system, should contribute by a general tax to the Immigration Fund. In January, 1880, these proposals, viz:—a reduction of the Indenture Fee, and the imposition of a general tax upon planters especially allocated to the Immigration Fund, were submitted to the British Guiana Government. The essential basis of this proposal was that the tax should never be alienated from the Immigration Fund. The Colonial Government accepted these views, and a reference to the Legislative proceedings at the time will

show a clear understanding upon the point that such tax should never be used for any other purpose than that of assisting to defray the expenses of Immigration. The terms of the Earl of Kimberley's despatch to Governor Kortright, of the 15th October, 1880, all tend to show the distinct purpose for which the Acreage tax was imposed, and prove its special, and as Lord Kimberley suggested, its temporary character. Moreover, the Ordinance imposing it expressly states that it was to be "exclusively applied in diminution of the amounts payable by the employers of indentured immigrants to the Immigration Fund." Since the first imposition of the Acreage tax the above engagement has been loyally recognised by the British Guiana Government. In every Annual Tax Ordinance since that date the same undertaking has been repeated, and the Proprietors of Estates naturally felt that there was every security that the tax would not be diverted from its original purpose. It is therefore with some surprise and regret the West India Committee have observed that a portion of the Acreage tax has now been diverted to purposes of General Revenue. We do not wish to question the decision of the Combined Court, but on a general review of the circumstances, it appears to us to be an unsound policy to force upon a particular industry for general purposes of revenue a burden which ought to be shared by all classes of the community. The alleged reason for this policy is the supposed advantage derived by the Sugar Industry from the recent arrangement with the United States. In point of fact no increased advantage or profit arises, or was ever expected to arise, from that arrangement. The only result is that the Colony continues to be able to send its sugar to the United States upon the same terms as other Countries, and there is no question of any special profit or advantage. The Colony is mainly dependent upon the Sugar Industry. It was the Colony—having regard to all its industries and interests which are principally kept alive by the Sugar production, —which made the arrangement with the United States, and we think that the general revenue, by means of a fair increase of the advalorem duties or otherwise, payable by all classes, should make up any charge arising from keeping open the channels of trade between the Colony and the United States or other Countries. While not wishing to enter any formal protest against the decision of the Combined Court, we would respectfully suggest that the terms of the Ordinance should be such as to show the temporary character of the present diversion of a portion of the Acreage tax to General Revenue, so as not to constitute a precedent, and that as soon as possible the Tax should be again restricted to its proper purpose, viz —as a contribution to the Immigration Fund.

We think that the Sugar Industry, which is compelled to keep up a costly labour supply, benefitting the general revenue by a yearly influx of population, should not be saddled with any additional special burdens, especially when it is considered that in recent years there have been unfavourable seasons, scarcity of labour and a small margin of profit. The recent remissions of duty consequent upon the arrangement with the United States are mainly in favour of the general population. The principal remissions are on articles of general consumption, such as Flour and Kerosene Oil. Without any reduction in the rate of wages, the general taxpayer receives the benefit of the new tariff, and it seems to us essentially unjust that the planters should be called upon as a class, to make up any deficit caused by such remissions. We have, therefore, to pray that



your Lordship would be pleased to secure in the annual tax Ordinance a strict limitation of the period during which the Acreage tax or any portion of it is to be levied for general revenue—that the exceptional and temporary character of this arrangement should be clearly shown, and that it should not be construed into a precedent for any future financial operations. We have dealt above with the practical objections to this new method of raising public revenue. We need hardly point out to your Lordship how indefensible it is from the point of view of the political economist interested in applying sound principles to systems of taxation. The same remark would apply to the increase in the Tonnage dues. While other Colonies are reducing or abolishing these dues it seems a retrograde step to increase them in British Guiana. Upon this point we beg permission to forward a memorandum received from the owners of a line of steamers trading with the Colony. We are also informed that the Chamber of Shipping in this Country are about to memorialize your Lordship upon the subject.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

TRINIDAD.—A letter has been addressed to Lord Knutsford upon the financial position of Trinidad, and especially referring to the new loan for public works. The correspondence will be published in next Circular. It appears from the Governor's statements that the current revenue is not sufficient to meet the current Expenditure. Notwithstanding this, new loans for public works are issued. In the Ordinance No. 25, 1891, for defraying the expenses of the Government of Trinidad for the year 1892, among other items are the following, the Public Debt charges are £39,242, charges for Salaries and expenses of the Director of Public Works Department £18,833, Salaries and expenses of the Crown Agents £505, Expenses of Public Works, Roads and Telegraphs £62,575. The purely administrative expenses of Public Works appear therefore to amount to £81,408.

SUGAR IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.—The following are the Board of Trade Returns for the three months to March. They show rather a noticeable falling off in the Unrefined Beet from the Continent, and an increase in Java Cane:—

|                             | Three months ended 31st March. |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                             | 1890.                          | 1891.            | 1892.            |
| SUGAR, Refined and Candy:   |                                |                  |                  |
| From Germany - - - - -      | Cwts. 1,105,050                | 1,228,067        | 1,319,944        |
| " Holland - - - - -         | 413,428                        | 371,796          | 349,247          |
| " Belgium - - - - -         | 43,257                         | 63,417           | 69,139           |
| " France - - - - -          | 770,600                        | 527,315          | 299,560          |
| " United States - - - - -   | 377                            | 131,390          | 5,563            |
| " Other Countries - - - - - | 98                             | 7,201            | 359,594          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>2,332,810</b>               | <b>2,329,186</b> | <b>2,403,047</b> |

Three months ended 31st March.

|                                       | 1890.            | 1891.            | 1892.            |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>SUGAR, Unrefined :</b>             |                  |                  |                  |
| From Germany -                        | Cwts. 1,462,750  | 1,540,080        | 1,085,398        |
| "    Holland -                        | " 110,874        | 139,921          | 71,798           |
| "    Belgium -                        | " 317,494        | 444,795          | 213,279          |
| "    France -                         | " 657,951        | 580,070          | 303,748          |
| "    British West Indies and Guiana - | " 370,100        | 315,476          | 257,332          |
| "    British East Indies -            | " 52,670         | 71,345           | 93,752           |
| "    China and Hong Kong -            | " -              | -                | 2,000            |
| "    Mauritius -                      | " 773            | 19,330           | 27,242           |
| "    Spanish West India Islands -     | " -              | -                | -                |
| "    Brazil -                         | " 93,396         | 256,384          | 254,409          |
| "    Java -                           | " 150,242        | 400,708          | 661,992          |
| "    Philippine Islands -             | " 35,600         | 224,688          | 311,725          |
| "    Peru -                           | " 227,556        | 128,656          | 185,899          |
| "    Other Countries -                | " 98,451         | 120,335          | 237,211          |
| <b>Total -</b>                        | <b>3,577,857</b> | <b>4,241,788</b> | <b>3,705,785</b> |

**BEET CROPS.**—The cold and snow rather delayed operations in March, but subsequent dry weather was favourable. Nothing fresh is reported as to this year's cultivation. The area is said by Mr. Licht to be not likely to be less. The same total acreage as last year is not improbable. In Austria-Hungary the Beet sowing is progressing, and in France the weather has favoured good progress. With a probable decrease in Belgium, there will be an increase in Holland. In Russia a full average crop is expected.

The following is Mr. Licht's latest estimate :—

|                       | 1891-92.         | 1890-91.         | 1889-90.         |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                       | Tons.            | Tons.            | Tons.            |
| Germany - - -         | 1,180,000        | 1,331,965        | 1,264,607        |
| Austria - - -         | 810,000          | 778,473          | 753,078          |
| France - - -          | 655,000          | 694,037          | 787,989          |
| Russia - - -          | 555,000          | 544,162          | 456,711          |
| Belgium - - -         | 185,000          | 205,623          | 221,480          |
| Holland - - -         | 40,000           | 61,307           | 55,813           |
| Other Countries - - - | 75,000           | 80,000           | 80,000           |
|                       | <b>3,500,000</b> | <b>3,695,567</b> | <b>3,619,678</b> |

**AMERICAN SUGAR TRUST.**—It is reported that Mr. Spreckels has sold his Refinery in Philadelphia to the Refiners Trust Company, which thus possesses a control of all Refineries except three, viz. :—One in Boston and two in San Francisco. A practical monopoly of refining



has consequently been established in the United States. The price of Refined has been raised, while that of raw has been lowered, as the Trust is the sole buyer of the latter in the United States. Messrs. H. Clark & Co. say, "the disappointment felt at the continued abstention of America from purchases in Europe has been the chief factor in causing the decline in values witnessed since the 15th ultimo, whilst on the other hand, both the Stocks in the U. K., and the quantity afloat are small, and the quantity held invisibly by the Country Grocers is unusually light."

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Licht, 16 April, 1892) Europe and floating cargoes to Europe, 1,220,855 tons against 1,252,616 in 1891; United States 105,000 against 56,745. Havana 131,064 against 151,384; Floating to North America 43,087 against 19,787. Total 1,500,006 against 1,480,532. (Mr. Czarnikow, 21st April, 1892). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 1,200,672 tons against 1,234,061; United States 98,000 against 76,151; Havana 150,000 against 158,000. Total 1,448,672 against 1,468,212.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First fifteen weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 220,295 tons against 264,903 last year. Deliveries, 225,372 against 263,291. Stocks 100,809 against 117,538.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, March 28th, weather bleak and chilly, sunshine wanted April 1st, finer weather since last message; 2nd, weather showery and favourable to cultivation. Trinidad, March 15th, weather favourable; 16th, fine, with occasional light showers; 22nd weather middling; 29th, weather middling; 30th, fine, with occasional light showers; April 5th, weather middling; 12th, weather middling; 13th, rain has fallen heavily; 19th, weather middling; 21st, broken weather, crop operations retarded. Barbados, March 28th, good reaping; April 11th, present crop prospects are now clearing; 25th, good reaping weather.

JAMES L. OILSON, SECRETARY.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this office.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

23RD MAY, 1892.

**IMPORTANT TO SUGAR IMPORTERS, UNITED KINGDOM.**—The attention of the Committee was called to the matter explained below. While it is extremely desirable that the Government should do all in their power to prevent the sale of colourable imitations of West India Sugar, it was considered that a too strict interpretation of the Merchandize Marks Act, under which the bulk of genuine West India Sugar would be excluded from this Country, was not desirable. The following is the substance of a letter addressed to the Customs, 10th May, 1892—"Importers have recently found difficulties raised in passing their produce through the Customs owing to the similarity of the names on the barrels, bags or casks to names of places in Europe. As the greater number of the Estates in British Guiana, Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, and the Windward and Leeward Islands are named after places in the United Kingdom and other European Countries, the difficulties thus caused, by a too strict Interpretation of the provisions of the Merchandize Marks Acts, must be of a very serious and onerous nature, to the British Sugar Trade." Two particular cases are here mentioned, and the letter proceeds, "Under the recent interpretation of the Merchandize Marks Acts, these Sugars would be liable to be stopped at their Custom Houses of the United Kingdom. We beg humbly to testify that the Sugars above named are the genuine produce of the British West Indies, and we pray that they may be duly admitted. We propose to advise all Importers to add the name of the Colony in which is situated the Estate or Plantation on which the Sugars are produced. In the meantime we should be glad to testify to the genuineness of any shipment respecting which Her Majesty's Customs may experience any difficulty. We humbly beg the immediate attention of your Honourable Board to the matter, as under the interpretation now proposed to be enforced the greater portion of Sugar from the British West Indies would be excluded from this Country." The following is the reply from the Customs, 13th May:—"In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, respecting the delivery of importations of Sugar, with reference to the provisions of the Merchandize Marks Acts, 1887, I am directed by the Commissioners of Customs to acquaint you that by Section 16 (4) of the Act referred to it is enacted that, where there is on any goods a name which is identical with, or a colourable imitation of the name of a place in the United Kingdom, that name, unless accompanied by the name of the Country in which such place is situated, shall be treated as if it were the name of a place in the United Kingdom, and therefore Sugars coming from the West Indies marked with similar names to those of places in this Country should also bear an indication of their origin. In view, however, of your intention, as expressed in your letter now under reply, to advise all importers to add the name of the Colony in which the Sugars are produced, the Commissioners will instruct their officers not to detain any goods so imported for the present."



SUGAR-CANE DISEASE.—A parcel of affected canes has been received by a Trinidad House in London. Some were sent to Miss Ormerod, who is writing a paper upon the subject, and others to the Director of the Royal Gardens Kew. The following letter has been addressed by Mr. D. Morris, Assistant Director, Kew, to Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co., 5th May.—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. The specimens of Canes and *Megass* have duly arrived and they are in course of being examined by our expert. In the meantime I may mention that the canes are attacked by the "beetle borer" which has been identified as *Xyleborus perforans*. This is quite distinct from the ordinary sugar-cane borer. It is a minute beetle that has hitherto been known only to infest decayed vegetable matter. Its previous occurrence in sugar-canes has always been associated with the attacks of the moth borer. In fact, as previously known, the injury has been started by the moth borer and the small beetles have come in merely as scavengers to complete the work of destruction. There can, however, be now little doubt that the beetles have attacked perfectly sound canes. It is possible that owing to some circumstance affecting the general condition of canes in the West Indies during the last season there has been developed in them more acidity than usual and this has attracted the beetles. In any case it is important to carry out some measure of precaution and the best one to adopt is to pass fire over the fields after crop is over and to burn all refuse canes likely to harbour the beetles or their grubs. You will find a good deal of general information on the subject in the Barbados *Planters Gazette* for the month of *March* last. I notice also the Agricultural Board of Trinidad has taken the matter up. Your attorney will no doubt follow closely the discussion that is taking place in regard to the pest and the measures best calculated to deal with it; and there is little doubt that the various measures recommended will ultimately combat the evil complained of." (Note.—Miss Ormerod also identifies the shot-borer beetle as *Xyleborus perforans*. It need not follow other attacks as its sole presence has been found).

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.—The following is the substance of a letter addressed to Lord Knutsford 5th May. "The question of resisting the encroachment of the sea has for many years past been one of great anxiety to the holders of property, owing to the necessity of artificial protection against the constant wash of water in one particular direction, endangering not only exposed estates but towns and villages with their great and increasing populations. During the last twenty years various endeavours have been made by the Government and Legislature of the Colony to cope with this danger, and to encourage exposed estates, protecting others within the same district, to maintain their sea defences, the expense being met by an assessment of all the properties so benefitted by a Board for the district constituted, with full powers, by Ordinance. After considerable experience it has been found that this system of District Boards is practically unworkable, so much so that the actual abandonment of valuable Estates is in immediate contemplation, to the general detriment of the Colony and its industrial population. It is strongly felt that the only satisfactory way of meeting the case is for the Government to institute a general scheme having relation to the whole Colony and the welfare and safety of all its inhabitants. The expense it is proposed should be distributed as follows:—



- (1) A direct contribution from the general revenue, as a matter affecting the whole community.
- (2) A direct contribution from the Municipal revenues of Georgetown, on the ground that the safety of property in the city is dependent upon the maintenance of sea defences by contiguous estates.
- (3) An equitable assessment upon the estates varying according to their special circumstances and position on the ground of a common interest of owners in safe-guarding their properties.

No direct contribution would be expected from the village communities, as their interests are essentially a matter of Government control, and would be considered, in the ordinary course, in any action undertaken or any contribution given by the Government. One great advantage of the above suggested scheme, which would include both Sea and River defences, and all portions of the Colony affected by the attacks of tidal water, would be that the Government would be enabled to construct works of a more permanent and uniform character and of a more general bearing than could be done by the owners of isolated estates. The general control of the works would be better and possibly a reduced price obtained in the purchase of stone and other materials. The urgency of the question is sufficiently indicated by the fact that the City of Georgetown would before this time have been submerged but for the action of certain estate proprietors in resisting the encroachments of the water upon their properties and, further, it is quite clear that no satisfactory system of defence based upon sectional or district Boards or Commissions is possible. We do not wish now to enter into any details, but having in view the fact that during the last six years no less a sum than £86,000 has been expended upon sea defences in connection with one estate, we would humbly submit to your Lordship that in our opinion a general scheme, involving a payment from the General Revenue, should be instituted by the Government."

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 19th May.—The Chairman, "Sir, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., suggesting the adoption of a general scheme for the sea defences of British Guiana under Government control, and to inform you that his Lordship is fully impressed with the importance of the subject, which you have brought under his notice, and has sent a copy of your letter to the Governor with a request that he will consider and report fully upon the whole of this question. (Sgd.) Edward Wingfield."

TRINIDAD.—The following correspondence is reported. Colonial Office 27th April to West India Committee. The chairman, "Sir; I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st. instant on the subject of the financial position of the Colony of Trinidad. As regards economy in the administration of the Colony, Lord Knutsford is satisfied that the Governor is fully aware of its necessity and is endeavouring to the best of his power to effect any reform where it may be possible. The loan of £100,000 for Road Extension and for Public Works, recently raised through the Crown Agents was authorized early in 1891,



after full consideration and after hearing the views of the West India Committee, who were no doubt fully aware of the appointment of a special Road Board by Sir William Robinson with power to spend £100,000, part of which has already been expended. In compliance with your request, I am to enclose a copy of the statement of the finances and trade of Trinidad, issued by the Crown Agents for the Colonies in connection with the recent loan. (Sgd.) Edward Wingfield." West India Committee to Colonial Office 16th May.—"My Lord; In acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Wingfield's Letter of the 27th April last, written by your Lordship's direction, I have the honour to thank you for the assurance, which the West India Committee heartily accept, that your Lordship is satisfied that the Governor of Trinidad is fully aware of the necessity of economy in the Administration of the Colony and is endeavoring, to the best of his power, to effect any reform where it may be possible. We are gratified to learn that the recent loan of £100,000 for Road extension and public works is not an additional one to those previously authorized. It was noticed that it was issued by the Crown Agents under Ordinance No 10 of 1892, and this gave rise to the assumption that it was part of a new loan mentioned in the Governor's Message to Council in January last. We beg to thank your Lordship for the copy of the statement issued by the Crown Agents relative to the revenue, expenditure and trade of Trinidad dated 2nd April, 1892. With regard to this we would remark that although the Blue Book totals, without analysis, are in accordance with the figures given by the Crown Agents, yet some misconception might be caused by the inclusion (without being embodied in a separate column, or return, as in the Statistical Abstract) under Imports and Exports, of the transit trade of the Gold and Silver Bullion and Specie, which amounts on the average to between £800,000 and £1,000,000 annually. The large figures for 1886, for instance, are due to the Bullion and Specie amounting for that year to nearly £2,000,000. The same remark applies, in a varying degree, to the figures for other years, which figures we humbly submit might be somewhat misleading as a representation of the actual trade of the Colony for the purposes of a loan based upon its productive capabilities and the Import trade naturally connected therewith. (Sgd.) N. Lubbock, Chairman."

**BET CROPS.**—The weather has been sufficiently warm but much too dry. Copious rains are wanted. The sowings are even not yet terminated; re-sowings have been rendered necessary in some parts by the drought and the north wind. The crop situation without being exactly bad, is not encouraging. It will take a long spell of heat and rain to nullify the effects of cold and dryness. The extent of the sowings is about the same as last year, altho' this does not apply to every country. If the price of Cereals strengthens, the beet will be less sown.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Mr. Czarnikow 19 May, 1892) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,071,249 tons against 1,011,595; United States 129,000 against 112,855; Havana 172,000 against 191,000; Total 1,372,249 against 1,315,450.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First nineteen weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 294,683 tons against 335,615 last year. Deliveries, 291,130 against 330,078. Stocks 109,439 against 120,563.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, May 5th, weather more favourable the last few days; Trinidad, April 26th, weather middling; 27th, rain has fallen heavily; May 3rd, weather too wet; 11th, heavy rains interfering with grinding; 17th, weather too wet. Barbados May 9th, good showers generally throughout the Island; 23rd, good showers generally.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

20TH JUNE, 1892.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND THE UNITED STATES.—An important point has been raised in connection with the recent Commercial arrangement. The good faith of the American Government is involved. The British Delegates were positively assured, in the strongest manner that Manila Sugar would certainly be excluded from the United States, and that probably Java Sugar would also, although in this case negotiations were going on which might have resulted in an arrangement. The fact of no arrangement having been made, so far as we know, and Manila and Java sugar being still admitted free, constitutes a breach of the Reciprocity clause of the McKinley Act and of the understanding on the faith of which the British Colonies reduced their duties. The whole matter is under consideration and a course of action will no doubt be forthwith decided upon. The action of the Trust no doubt makes the position worse. The difficulty is to suggest or apply any effective remedy. The Germans are very full of the question just now. It would require combined action on the part of the Germans, Cubans and British West Indians to have any effect in neutralizing the action of the Trust, but it is only a very strong feeling of injury on the part of all concerned that would lead to such a joint action. Among the means discussed on the Continent of maintaining the price of raw Sugar at a remunerative level is that of limiting the production, but this is confessedly difficult if not impossible in connection with the very large agricultural industry of Sugar. Another means is the regulation, of Sugar exports, and as the Trust is practically a single buyer, there should be a syndicate formed which would occupy the position of a single seller. This latter means was advocated at a general assembly of sugar makers in Bohemia. It was also advocated at the general assembly of German sugar makers held in Berlin last month. All exports would be sent through the syndicate, the Central Office being at Magdeburg or Hamburg, with branches in New York and London. The amounts of the necessary credits to carry out this scheme were discussed, and the necessity of the adhesion of all the Beet Countries was recognised. If the scheme were effective the general result might be expected of a steady remunerative price for Raw Sugar, both cane and beet.

BRITISH GUIANA ACREAGE TAX.—Colonial Office to West India Committee, 24th May.—The Chairman: Sir, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to inform you that he has had under consideration your letter of the 16th ultimo protesting against the diversion of part of the Acreage tax to General Revenue and the increase of Tonnage dues by the Combined Court of British Guiana. Considering that the object of the arrangement with the United States of America was to prevent the imposition on sugar imported from British Guiana into the States, of a duty which



would have tended to exclude the sugar of the Colony from the market of the United States, the sugar of Cuba, Brazil, and other countries being admitted free, his Lordship thinks that it is not unreasonable or unfair that a portion of the loss of revenue which the Colony has sustained in consequence of that arrangement should be made good by the sugar interest, more especially as the arrangement retains on the free list the principal articles imported into the Colony for the use of the Sugar Industry. It appears to his Lordship that a small acreage tax on sugar plantations is a convenient and unobjectionable form of such a contribution, and although the acreage tax was originally imposed for immigration purposes, to which five-sixths of it are still devoted by the New Tax Ordinance, there never was and never could have been any pledge on the part of the Government or of the Combined Court that such a tax would never be imposed for any other purpose. Lord Knutsford therefore sees no reason to express disapproval of the provision of the Ordinance which applies one-sixth of the acreage tax to the purposes of the General Revenue, or to recommend that a similar provision should not be inserted in future Tax Ordinances. I am to transmit to you a copy of a letter which he has caused to be addressed to various Shipping Associations which had complained of the increase of tonnage dues from which you will learn Lord Knutsford's views on this point. (Signed) Edward Wingfield. (A further letter will be addressed to Colonial Office on Acreage tax.) Lord Knutsford's letter to the Shipping Associations is as follows:—24th May. Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, regarding the increase of tonnage dues in British Guiana, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to inform you that while his Lordship is averse to the policy of increasing shipping dues in Colonial ports, he thinks that in the present instance it may be justified on the ground of the heavy expenditure required for sea defences to protect the port of Georgetown; and in any case he would not have felt himself justified in advising Her Majesty to disallow the Tax Ordinance of the year. The principle of exempting from tonnage dues mail steamers subsidised by Her Majesty's Government, or by foreign or colonial Governments, has been for some time past acted on by the Legislature of British Guiana, but as Lord Knutsford is sensible that it tends to discourage other steamships from resorting to the Colony he will instruct the Governor to invite the Combined Court to reconsider the question when the Tax Ordinance for 1893-4 is under consideration.

**BARRADOS AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.**—Upon a suggestion made by Sir Rawson W. Rawson, a meeting was held at the Committee Rooms on June 8th, of gentlemen interested in the Colony to consider the advisability of promoting the exhibition of Barbados products at the Imperial Institute. Mr. Lubbock was in the Chair and there was a good attendance. It was resolved that another meeting should be called, at which it was hoped that Sir James Hay, the Governor, Sir Rawson W. Rawson, and Sir Frederick Abel, would be present. This meeting is now being arranged.

**MAURITIUS HURRICANE FUND.**—At the suggestion of Sir Charles Bruce the West India Committee authorized their Chairman and Secretary to receive any subscriptions, which it

was decided to be limited to one guinea. It was found that several members had already directly contributed a considerable sum. The following guinea subscriptions were received and forwarded to Sir Charles Bruce for the Mansion House Fund:—

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sandbach, Tinne & Co.,  | T. J. Wilkinson,           |
| G. R. Sandbach,         | R. Rutherford,             |
| H. K. Davson,           | Gillespie, Brothers & Co., |
| Jno. Mc Connell & Co.,  | Thos. Daniel & Co., (Ld.)  |
| Audley C. Miles,        | W. P. B. Sheppard,         |
| Sir George H. Chambers, | C. Tennant, Sons & Co.,    |
| Lee Crerar & Co.,       | Boddington & Co.,          |
| Price, Brothers,        | E. A. de Pass & Co.,       |
| P. H. Nind,             | Jonas Brown & Son,         |
| H. Sproston,            | The Colonial Co., (Ld.)    |
| A. Crum Ewing,          | Revd. H. A. Daniel,        |

T. C. Edwards Moss, M.P.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—The following letter with enclosure was addressed to Lord Salisbury on June 3rd:—My Lord Marquis, I venture to take the liberty of calling your Lordship's attention to the enclosed extract from a leading article in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the representative organ of the Beet Sugar Industry in France. Your Lordship will observe the great anxiety of the Beet bounty fed industry of the Continent of Europe to retain complete possession of the English Market, and the sensitiveness of that industry in view of your Lordship's Speech at Hastings. It is, indeed, a full recognition of the power possessed by this country in its fiscal arrangements to neutralize the bounty and protective systems of Foreign Countries, and as a proof of this we think the enclosed extract may be of interest to your Lordship.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

**BEET CROPS.**—All the French reports are full of complaints of the extraordinary dryness of the season.—France has not shared in the beneficial rains experienced in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Holland. In France, vegetation has been retarded, the most vigorous plants being attacked by insects. A third of the French crop is reported to be doubtful. The rest has great need of water, and the weather is all important. Notwithstanding the rains in the other European Countries above mentioned, even in these the weather has been abnormally dry, and must affect estimates of yield. The area sown in the beet countries is said to be slightly less than in 1891. Mr. Licht's circular for June is not yet published.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 8th June) Europe and cargoes afloat from the East, for Europe, 1,099,000 tons, against 1,083,000 last year; United States, 145,000 against 141,000; Havana 188,000 against 190,000. Total 1,432,000 against 1,414,000 tons. (C. Czarnikow, 16 June, 1892) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 936,854 tons against 854,882; United States 148,000 against 181,010; Havana 170,000 against 196,000; Total 1,254,854 against 1,244,922.



SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First twenty-three weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 377,352 tons against 396,525 last year. Deliveries, 359,558 against 395,577. Stocks 123,380 against 116,874.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, May 26th, weather showery and favourable for the cultivation; June 1st, weather showery; 16th, weather again wet and unfavourable. Trinidad, May 24th, weather too wet; June 1st, rain has fallen heavily; 7th, wet season set in; 14th, weather too wet. Barbados, 6th June, fine rains generally throughout the Island; 20th, heavy rains generally throughout the Island.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR No. 80.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

18TH JULY, 1892.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—A desire has been expressed that the Committee should enlarge its basis by inviting the co-operation of British Exporting houses. In the case of the West India as in other trades, great changes have for some time past been taking place. The Colonies are being brought into more direct relation with other Countries than was formerly the case. It is therefore more than ever necessary that West India interests should possess in this Country a strong and thoroughly representative organization. The expenditure has hitherto been chiefly borne by a few of the leading Proprietary and Importing houses, and an application is now being made to some of the British exporting firms to co-operate. A circular letter, signed by the Chairman, is being forwarded, with a covering note, by some Members of the Committee to firms doing an export trade from the United Kingdom to the British West Indies. Further copies of the circular letter, and accompanying papers, for use in this direction, will be sent to any Members requesting same. Information respecting Tariffs, Merchandise Marks &c. in the Colonies, would perhaps be useful to many firms, and there would be further the organization ready to express by deputation or otherwise the views of the trade upon any given question.

SUGAR-CANE SHOT-BORER BEETLE.—A pamphlet with illustrations, upon this subject, has been issued by Miss Ormerod. A copy has been sent by the Secretary to all Members. It is most desirable that Miss Ormerod should receive the best suggestions, especially those pointing to a remedy, from practical Agriculturists and Scientific men in the West Indies. Miss Ormerod has received specimens of Cocoa beetles and has identified or named them. She has sent out, through a Grenada firm in London, a short paper to that Island. This will no doubt be reproduced in the Grenada press. If desired it will be issued in London in the form of a leaflet.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND THE UNITED STATES.—The point mentioned in last Circular under this heading is still receiving anxious consideration. The continued reception of Java and Manila Sugar free of duty, without any reciprocal treaty, is very important in its bearing upon the reciprocal arrangement with the West Indies. The British Colonies have given up considerable revenues in remitting duties upon articles imported from the United States. They did this upon the assurance that all other Countries sending Sugar into the United States would be taxed under the reciprocity clause if they did not make concessions similar in character. That this was the understanding with the United States Government is shown by the Proclamation of the President of March 15th, 1892, that Sugars, &c. from Colombia, Hayti, and Venezuela should pay duties in



the absence of reciprocal arrangements. The question is why is this policy not carried out in the case of Sugars from Java and Manila? If this is not intended it somewhat alters the state of affairs as understood at the time of the British arrangement, and may render necessary a reconsideration of their position by the West India Colonies. The West India Committee are anxious to receive, through firms having correspondence with the principal Sugar Merchants of New York, Baltimore and other importing centres, the latest information respecting the position of the United States Government upon the question. A meeting of the West India Committee will probably be held in a few days, when the whole question will be discussed.

**MAURITIUS HURRICANE FUND.**—In last Circular twenty-three Subscriptions of One Guinea each were acknowledged. The following have, in addition, to be acknowledged:—Messrs. D. Forbes Mackenzie & Co.; Forster M. Alleyne, Esq., and the Revd. Canon Hinds Howell. The total amount received has been twenty-six guineas; the official Mansion House receipts for which amount are filed at the West India Committee Office.

**BRITISH GUIANA ACREAGE TAX.**—It is proposed, with the approval of the British Guiana Proprietors at the next meeting of the Committee, to address the Colonial Office, urging the following points in further opposition to the diversion of a portion of the Acreage Tax to General Revenue. (1) The Sugar Interest does not especially benefit by the recent arrangement with the United States. On the contrary the Market in the United States has been so depressed that a comparatively increased quantity of Sugar is now coming from the West Indies to the United Kingdom. (2) The privilege of West Indian Sugar being able to enter the United States without being met with a heavy differential duty, is of course, so far as it goes, an advantage, but it is a benefit that is equally shared by the Mercantile body, and all other classes, including the labouring population. (3) It follows that if any new tax is necessary it should be paid by the whole community and not by a particular class. (4) When the acreage tax was first instituted there was a distinct understanding that it was never to be diverted from the Immigration Fund. Whatever may be the present value of statements made by the Government ten years ago, there is no doubt that the Ordinance was passed upon the above understanding. This is proved by the Legislative debates, by the terms of all the Ordinances bearing upon the subject, and especially by Ordinance No. 28, 1880, known as the "Acreage Tax Ordinance"—the preamble of which is as follows:—"Whereas by Ordinance No. 6, 1880, (Colonial Taxes) it is enacted that the proprietors of certain plantations therein described shall pay an acreage tax to be appropriated in diminution of the amounts payable by the employers of indentured immigrants to the Immigration Fund and not otherwise." This "Acreage Tax Ordinance" No. 28, 1880, is the provision made by the Court of Policy for carrying out the provisions of, and applying the money raised by the Ordinance No. 6, 1880 (Colonial Taxes). Unless, therefore, Ordinance No. 28, 1880, has been repealed it is difficult to see how it is possible for any diversion of the Acreage Tax to other purposes than the Immigration Fund can be legally made. While the annual tax Ordinance may alter the amount of the tax, the permanent Ordinance keeps the destination of the produce of the tax to the Immigration Fund.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN TRINIDAD.**—The Governor, Sir F. Napier Broome, issued a Minute dated 20th June, 1892, interdicting the Chief Justice from any further performance of the powers and functions of Chief Justice until His Honour's case is finally decided. The Minute also refers to the suspension of Mr. Justice Cook pending the Secretary of State's decision in his case. General commendation is expressed by all who are acquainted with Trinidad at the public-spirited action of those whose exertions have brought about this possibility of reform in the Administration of Justice in the Colony.

**BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS, SIX MONTHS IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.**

|  | 1890           | 1891           | 1892           |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | Tons           | Tons           | Tons           |
| Refined Beet                             | 253,215        | 279,520        | 262,877        |
| Unrefined Beet                           | 256,424        | 244,958        | 182,455        |
| Unrefined Cane (B. W. I. and Guiana) ... | 38,390         | 34,744         | 44,890         |
| Unrefined Cane (Java) ...                | 36,919         | 56,282         | 68,890         |
| Unrefined Cane (Other Countries)         | 61,615         | 93,867         | 137,248        |
|  | <u>646,563</u> | <u>709,371</u> | <u>696,360</u> |

**BEET CROPS.**—Temperature has been varied in France during the last fortnight, producing irregularity of growth, and injuring quality. The long continued drought is expected to reduce crop. Attacks of insects are still complained of. In Germany the rains have partly eased anxiety, but it is doubtful if all the Beetroot regions have profited. The ravages of insects in some parts are much complained of. In Austria-Hungary the crop prospects appear more favourable. If the yield is no better than last year, Mr. Licht estimates a production of 3,500,000 tons, if it is equal to 1890-91, a production of 3,900,000, if the yield is equal to 1889-90 he expects a crop of 4,300,000 tons. (These figures are very uncertain and seem to require confirmation. There is at present little information as to the Beet crops in prospect).

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 8th July) Europe and cargoes afloat from the East, for Europe, 930,000 tons, against 832,000 last year; United States, 158,000 against 177,000; Havana 144,000 against 182,000. Total 1,232,000 against 1,191,000 tons. (C. Czarnikow, 14 July, 1892) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 886,821 tons against 808,761; United States 156,000 against 167,323; Havana 134,000 against 174,000; Total 1,176,821 against 1,150,084.



SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First twenty-seven weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 446,404 tons against 464,627 last year. Deliveries, 422,227 against 459,107. Stocks 129,763 against 111,946.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, June 21st, heavy rains cultivation suffering; 27th, heavy rains since last message (June 16) but now finer; July 8th, rains not heavy, but weather not favourable owing to absence of sunshine. Barbados, July 4th, heavy rains generally throughout the Island; 18th, seasonable weather.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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... during the last 10  
... The total amount of  
... production of 350,000  
... and seem to require confirmation  
... information as to the  
... against 825,000 tons  
... Total 1,230,000 tons  
... against 1,190,000 tons  
... Total 2,281 tons  
... Total 1,200 tons  
... Total 1,200 tons

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CIRCULAR No. 81.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

15TH AUGUST, 1892.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—The letters which have been addressed by the Chairman and Members of the Committee to leading Manufacturing, Engineering, and Shipping Firms, having business connections with the British West Indies and Guiana, have already resulted in several additions to the list of Subscribing Members and a further number may be expected. The action of the Committee in assisting to keep open the American Market for West India Sugar and thereby sustaining the demand by the Sugar Industry for British goods appears to meet with general approval. The larger the markets, the production of Sugar in the West Indies must be maintained, and, subject to favourable seasons, be increased, and British trade with those Colonies must necessarily expand in all those important articles supplied from the United Kingdom.

**THE BRITISH WEST INDIA COLONIES AND THE UNITED STATES.**—The West India Committee carefully considered at their last meeting the question of at once moving the British Government to communicate with the United States Government respecting the continued admission of duty-free Sugar from Java and Manila without any reciprocity arrangement with those countries. But the change of Government at home, and the impending Presidential Election in the States, with other considerations, influenced the Committee to refrain from any formal representation at the present time, but it was decided that an endeavour should be made to obtain an informal interview with Sir Julian Paunceforte before his return to Washington. In the meantime the Committee have been favoured by a member with a copy of a letter received from an influential source in New York, dated 25th July, 1892, of which the following is an extract:—"So far no action has been taken by the President in regard to Sugars coming from Sugar-producing countries, with whom reciprocity has not been arranged, notably Java and Manila. It is said that negotiations are going on, and that in due time reciprocity will be arranged. In the meantime, however, business goes on as if it was all right, and all cargoes arriving have come in free. It cannot be denied that there is an element of danger to importers until a treaty is finally concluded, and, to guard against this, some cargoes coming this way have orders to call at Barbados for orders, as the charters give the option of U. S., Canada, or U. K."

**SUGAR-CANE BORERS.**—In addition to the information given in previous Circulars, and in Miss Ormerod's pamphlet, a copy of which has been sent to every member, the paper by Mr. Walter F. H. Blandford, of the Indian Civil Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, printed in the *New Bulletin* (a copy of which will be sent to members on application), has to be favourably noticed. It brings up the information to the present date. The small beetle, called by Miss Ormerod the "shot-borer," has come into sudden prominence upon the Sugar Estates in the West India Islands. The points in discussion appear to be whether the attacks are due to weakness or unsoundness in the canes, to drought, to a fungus disease, to previous insect attacks, or to less specific causes. Upon these points it may be hoped further light will be thrown by the



attention now being given to them. The only practical remedies at present suggested appear to be (according to Mr. Blandford) the burning of trashings, megass, rotting and diseased canes, and all other refuse, and to cutting out and destroying canes affected; also cutting the canes close and looking after dead trees in places surrounding the cane fields. For the protection of standing canes various remedies, such as the application of kerosene, soft soap, or carbolic acid have been discussed, but the authorities do not appear to be unanimous upon any such remedies. Professor Blandford says it is the circumstances favouring the beetle, rather than the beetle itself, to be considered, and in this connection it may be mentioned here that, in the opinion of practical Trinidad planters, the heavy rains which have fallen will do more than anything else to minimise the ravages of the insect.

OFFICIALS.—Sir J. Hay has returned to Barbados. Sir W. F. Haynes Smith is in London. Mr. Fowler, Colonial Secretary for Trinidad, has arrived in England. Sir D. Chalmers, Chief Justice, British Guiana is expected shortly. Mr. Gatty is acting Chief Justice, Trinidad, until a new appointment from England is made.

BRITISH GUIANA ACREAGE TAX.—It has been decided to protest again to the Colonial Office against the partial diversion of the Acreage Tax to General Revenues. The terms of the letter will be in accordance with the draft printed in last Circular, with certain modifications.

BRITISH GUIANA TONNAGE DUES.—Correspondence has been printed in previous Circulars regarding the increase of the tonnage dues. The protest of the Committee was supported by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom. The Planters Association have forwarded to the Committee copy of a Resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce in Georgetown on 9th July, 1892, which states—That this Chamber has noted with surprise the reply given by Lord Knutsford as to the increased Tonnage Dues, and the Resolution goes on to say—that such increase was made solely for the purpose of meeting the ordinary expenditure of the Colony and that there has been no special outlay for sea defences towards which the additional Tax could have been applied.

COOLIES IN TRINIDAD.—Total amount in Government Savings' Bank to credit of East Indian depositors, £60,766.

UNIVERSAL POSTAGE RATE.—A letter may now be sent from the United Kingdom to any Colony or foreign country at the rate of 2½d for every half-ounce in weight. A postcard for a penny; a packet of papers, whether printed or written, not containing anything in the nature of personal correspondence, may be transmitted to the most distant place at the rate of a halfpenny for every two ounces. The same rate for packets of samples or patterns.

EGYPTIAN SUGAR.—Mr. Lang's annual report contains some interesting statements. The administration of the Daira Sanieh now shows profit instead of loss. In 1891 it produced £38,000 profit, after paying four per cent. interest on the Daira debt of seven and a quarter millions sterling. Sugar-cane, alternating with cereals, is largely grown, but there are 30,000 acres always under cane, and this is the basis of the statistics of revenue. The total production of Sugar in 1891 was 58,728 tons, and if this was produced by the 30,000 acres above mentioned as under cane, it seems to show an average of between one and three-quarters and two tons per

acre. Mr. Lang thinks the surplus revenue for 1892 will be £66,000. A private Company is being started, with a capital of £120,000, for cultivation and manufacture upon 7,000 acres.

**WEST INDIA EXPORTS.**—**JAMAICA**—Coffee crop is expected this year to be one of the heaviest for some years past. Mail news, 26th July, reports weather intensely hot with rain and high winds. **BARBADOS**—Shipments to 30th July, 46,723 hhds. Sugar, 38,501 puns. Molasses, showing increase of 6,000 hhds. upon same period 1891. The bulk of the Sugar has gone to the United States, and the Molasses to British provinces (principally Canada). The selling price in Barbados was 2.20 dols. per 100 lbs. Sugar, and fifteen cents per gallon Molasses. Heavy rains had fallen generally. A money order Exchange has been arranged between Barbados, Germany and Canada, in addition to the previous arrangement with the United States. **ANTIGUA**.—(Messrs. Geo. W. Bennett & Co.)—A considerable number of Estates have finished crop 27th July. Weather has been more favourable for growing crop. The Popeshead district has had between two and three inches rain, and other districts good showers. The market is fairly stocked with supplies. **TRINIDAD**, 27th July—Remainder of Sugar crop nearly all shipped. Weather still wet, but improving. Sugar shipped, 5,409 hhds., 2,122 tierces, 328,297 bags and barrels—being about equal to last year's shipments in same time. About two-thirds of the Sugar has gone to the United States. Cocoa shipments show a large increase over previous years, being 16,335,810 lbs.; but as supplies are coming forward slowly the crop for the year will be short. Coffee exports are only 13,480 lbs., or half last year's shipment. Asphalt exports are larger than ever for the seven months, being 66,884 tons. **BRITISH GUIANA**.—Sugar exports, 28th July, 32,860 tons against 55,680. This year's Sugar is equally divided between U. K. and U. S. Rum, 10,913 puns. against 12,163 last year Gold, 60,133 ounces against 45,392.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. H. Clark & Co., 8th August) Europe and cargoes afloat from the East, 757,000 tons, against 686,000 last year; United States, 166,000 against 184,000; Havana, 128,000 against 161,000. Total, 1,051,000 against 1,031,000 tons. (C. Czarnikow, 11th August) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 740,304 tons against 669,605; United States 159,000 against 178,078; Havana 105,000 against 144,000; Total 1,004,304 against 991,683.

**BEET CROPS.**—Recent weather in France has been favourable. The first sowings are promising but the last give a negative result. Some doubt as to the French crop is still felt. Insects are still locally complained of. In Germany, Austria, Holland and Belgium, the state of the crop is generally satisfactory, subject to the delay in growth of last sown roots. The Russian crop is in a less satisfactory condition. The total European crop is in as good state as might be expected and if weather continues favourable, a part of the bad effects of the drought may be compensated, but impossible to tell how far. Mr. Licht's latest estimate for Total European Beet Crop for 1891-92 is 3,500,000 tons against 3,695,567 (actual) for 1890-91. The Cane Crops for 1891-92 are reported as 2,710,000 against 2,509,000. The total Cane and Beet Crops thus being for 1891-92 6,210,000 tons against 6,204,567 for 1890-91.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First thirty-one weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 514,296 tons against 526,673 last year. Deliveries, 489,405 against 524,461. Stocks 130,477 against 108,638.



**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Weather telegram received 11th August, (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) Demerara, weather again wet and unfavourable. (Per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.) 12th August, weather continues wet with intervals of fine days.

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(Note.—In order to make this Circular more full and interesting the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration ; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

**JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.**

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

12TH SEPTEMBER, 1892.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—A Meeting of Proprietors and Merchants connected with the Leeward Islands was held at the Office of the Committee on August 25th. The attendance was influential and representative, especially as regards Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. The Meeting had been arranged to confer informally with his Excellency Sir W. R. Haynes Smith, K.C. M.G., before his return to the Leeward Islands, by the Mail of August 31st. Mr. Quintin Hogg, Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee presided, and there was a very full discussion of various important points relating to the financial and general condition of the Colony of the Leeward Islands. His Excellency was good enough to explain his views and measures at length, and at the conclusion of the Meeting he was thanked by the Chairman for his kind attendance and the information he had afforded. It is not intended to issue any public report of the Meeting.

A Trinidad Meeting was held on September 8th. It was well attended and largely representative of the principal industries of the Colony, viz:—Sugar and Cocoa. Among the subjects discussed were certain proposed amendments of the Labour Law, and the scheme put forward by the Hon. J. Bell Smyth for the drainage of the Caroni water-shed by clearing the outfalls into the Gulf,—which scheme, being for the general benefit of the population of the district, was decided to be worthy of support, in the first instance by communicating with the Government in favour of the necessary surveys and estimates being made. The labour proposals were approved, subject to the recommendations of Dr. Comins' report. Official correspondence resulting from the Meeting will be printed in next circular.

**THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND THE UNITED STATES.**—The following is the view of president Harrison, in his letter accepting re-nomination, of reciprocity. "The most convincing evidence of the tremendous commercial strength of our position is found in the fact that Great Britain and Spain found it necessary to make reciprocal trade relations with us for their West Indian Colonies, and that Germany and Austria have given us important concessions in exchange for the continued free importation of their Beet Sugar. Taking all the countries with which such arrangements have been made, our trade to June 30th, 1892, has increased 23.78 per cent. The President quotes the percentage of increase of Trade with the British West Indies since the reciprocal arrangement, but he does not appear to refer to any intention to deal with Manila and Java, although private letters say the subject is under discussion at Washington. The only instance, at present, of the re-imposition of duties on account of non-reciprocity has been in the case of Venezuela.

**COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION.**—The London Chamber of Commerce have agreed with the Corporation of London to establish at the Guildhall a Chamber of Arbitration, under their joint management. An official inquiry has been made whether the West India Committee



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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

would nominate Gentlemen to act as arbitrators, if called upon to do so, in matters concerning West India Trade. The matter will come before the General Purposes Committee at the next Meeting.

**QUARANTINE IN TRINIDAD.**—A Lloyd's Notice states that 21 days quarantine is proclaimed against European, including British, ports. (Note.—It may be assumed that the 14 days voyage will count as part of the quarantine?).

**WEST INDIA EXPORTS: DEMERARA.**—Letters to August 24th report cessation of the heavy and continued rains, and a fortnight of really hot weather with an occasional shower, altogether favourable for the estates. Sugar exports to August 25th were 40,246 tons, against 58,625 same time last year. Rum, 13,175 puncheons, against 13,219. Gold, 71,475 ounces, against 52,403. The Sugar is practically halved between U. K. and U. S. Nearly the whole of the Rum comes to U. K. The Gold exports are valued at 11 million dollars. **TRINIDAD.**—Marked improvement in the weather (August 24th) beneficial to all growing cultivation after the heavy rains. Sugar shipped 41,499 tons against 40,538 tons. Cocoa exports are 18,104,080 lbs., against 13,230,715. In Coffee there is a large decrease, being only 15,080 lbs. **JAMAICA.**—Mail news, August 23rd, reports weather very hot, with occasional rains. Crops are promising, though Pimento will not be large. Coffee is expected to be good in quantity and quality. Fair prices for Sugar on the spot are reported. **ANTIGUA.**—Growing Sugar crop maintains promising appearance. Heavy rain much wanted. At mail date (August 24th) weather rather broken and showery. Market barely stocked with supplies. **BARBADOS.**—Sugar shipped to date 53,493 hogsheads and 40,795 puncheons. Molasses, against 46,829 hogsheads and 30,448 puncheons same time last year. The United States have taken upwards of 40,000 hogsheads of the Sugar, and the British Provinces (Canada) upwards of 30,000 puncheons of the Molasses.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. H. Clark & Co., September 8th) Europe and cargoes afloat from the East, 594,000 tons, against 498,000 last year; United States, 114,000, against 143,000; Havana, 91,000, against 135,000; total, 799,000 against 776,000 tons. (C. Czarnikow, September 8th) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 534,886 tons, against 470,402; United States, 96,000, against 130,856; Havana, 62,000, against 119,000; total, 692,886, against 720,258.

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—In France, plenty of rain but cold nights; on the whole the rains have done great good to crop. A satisfactory saccharine richness is expected. The cultural yield is difficult to estimate, so great is the variation in different fields. The late sowings are unsatisfactory, and the first sowings still depend upon four to six weeks favourable weather. In Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium and Holland, it has rained these last days. Germany appears satisfied with the state of its crop. In Austria-Hungary, especially Bohemia, quantity is deficient, but the rains may improve situation. Messrs. H. Clark and Co. say that continued purchases of Beet by America, together with less favourable accounts of the new crops have renewed the confidence of holders of the Continental stocks; the American demands being satisfied, part of the advance has been lost. Mr. Czarnikow says (September 8th) the prospects of increased supplies of Beet-root Sugar during next season compared to last year seem not likely to be realized, as there is still doubt as to the crop results. The rains have been beneficial, but exceptionally favourable weather is still required.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First thirty-five weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 577,739 tons against 584,539 last year. Deliveries, 560,400 against 591,052. Stocks 122,925 against 99,913.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, August 17th, (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) finer weather since last message ; 27th, weather favourable for cultivation ; September 9th, weather fine with occasional light showers. Antigua (per favour of Geo. G Macandrew. Esq.) September 8th, good general rain to extent of two inches.

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JAMES L. OHLSON. SECRETARY.

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

10TH OCTOBER, 1892.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—The Meetings of the General Purposes Committee will be resumed, after the recess, as soon as possible. A special Trinidad Meeting will be arranged, if possible, during the visit to this country, on leave, of his Excellency Sir F. Napier Broome.

**DR. COMINS' REPORT.**—On September 9, an application was made to the Colonial Office for a Copy of Dr. Comins' Report upon his visit to the Coolie receiving Colonies. In Reply, a copy was promised as soon as it had reached that Department. It is understood the Report is a voluminous one, and is now being considered by the Government of India. As soon as the Committee receive a copy, various improvements in the Labour Law and Questions of back passage, and especially the present division of the cost of Immigration, will be discussed with a view to approaching the Government on these important subjects.

**CARONI RIVER, TRINIDAD.**—The following correspondence is reported. To the Marquis of Ripon, K.G., 26th September.—My Lord Marquis, the attention of the West India Committee has been drawn to a petition presented to the Governor and Legislative Council of Trinidad by Proprietors of Estates, and owners of lands growing provisions, and tax-payers generally in the Counties of Caroni and St. George in that Island, praying for a remedy against the injury caused to crops by the over-flowing of the River Caroni, owing to the want of sufficient outlets for the discharge of the land water in such positions as to carry the water to the sea without flooding the lands adjacent to the river, and causing the above-mentioned great injury to cultivation. We need not address your Lordship upon the details of the works proposed. We would only venture to suggest that as large sums of money have in recent years been raised for Public Works a portion of the same should be devoted to this improvement, which would be of great benefit to a large area in which persons of all classes—proprietors, provision growers, labourers, and village residents—are practically interested. We would humbly express the wish that in the first instance the Trinidad Government may, perhaps, be moved to provide for the necessary expense of surveys and estimates of cost, and any proposal which may come before your Lordship from the Colony with this object, we respectfully hope may receive your sanction at the earliest time that may be convenient to your Lordship. (Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman.

Reply. The Chairman: Sir, I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of September on the subject of the overflowing of the River Caroni in Trinidad, and to acquaint you that his Lordship will be prepared to give his consideration to any representations which come before him from the Colony relating to the matter. (Signed) Edward Fairfield.

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QUARANTINE.—In Jamaica quarantine has been declared against the whole world except the United Kingdom, and the British West India Islands. The general information in the United Kingdom is that in all the West India ports quarantine is rigorously exacted. \*If this is really necessary from the point of view of the Colonies (on which there seems some difference of opinion in the Colonies themselves), no possible objection could be made. The Foreign Office have issued a statement that the severe restrictions imposed against the United Kingdom in many countries resulted from an imperfect knowledge. Her Majesty's representatives were informed by wire on the 3rd October that only two cases from abroad had occurred in the United Kingdom, and no deaths. It is possible, therefore, that there might be some relaxation of the severe restrictions in the West Indies, or, at all events (as suggested to the West India Committee, by Firms connected with the Islands), that there might be some uniformity of regulations in the Island ports, so that it might be reasonably or approximately known by an arriving ship what treatment it might expect.

VENEZUELA.—The question of the boundary is still unsettled, except so far as the action of the British Government is concerned. Guzman Blanco broke off diplomatic relations with Great Britain, and at the present moment there is hardly any Government in Venezuela with which negotiations, supposing they were desirable, could be carried on. The large amount of British capital invested in mining operations and the impossibility of the Venezuelan Government affording any security to property made it imperative on the part of the British Government to define the boundary line, which will unquestionably be maintained. The United States Government still apparently put forward their consent to act as arbitrators, but it does not appear there is any difference to arbitrate upon, from the British point of view. As to Point Barima giving Great Britain any position on the Orinoco prejudicial to Venezuelan or American interests, such a contention is not tenable. At the same time it is to be noted that Admiral Walker's mission to La Guayra with his squadron will be to proffer the friendly intervention of the United States so as to restore the *status quo* existing before 1887. The possession by Great Britain of the port or point of Barima on the Orinoco is a question to which some undue importance seems to be given. The matter was dealt with by Secretary Bayard, when in office, but he now takes a view justifying the action of the British Government.

COOLIE IMMIGRANTS IN BRITISH GUIANA.—Of the 5,007 Indian immigrants arriving in 1891, 22 paid their own passages to the Colony, 136 were immigrants who had previously resided in the Colony, and 64 had been in other Colonies. Some of these return immigrants came with funds. 91 East Indians and 6 Chinese came to the Colony otherwise than on the Coolie ships. On the 31st December, 1891, there was a sum of £107,343 to the credit of East Indian immigrants in the Government Savings Banks, besides £3,380 in the Post Office Banks. A considerable amount is remitted to relatives and friends in India every year. Investments in landed property to the extent of £9,591 were made in 1891 by East Indians. The death rate of indentured immigrants is 2.32 and unindentured 3.05. 1,956 people (adults) returned to India, taking with them money and jewellery valued at £28,000. The question of continuing the grant of a free back passage received attention from Dr. Comins when he was in the Colony on behalf of the Indian Government. In 1891 work was plentiful and wages good. The total East Indian population resident on estates was 72,816 (16,710 indentured). The



approximate number not residing on estates was 35,668, making an estimated East Indian population of 108,484. The above particulars are taken from the excellent annual report of the Hon. A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General.

**JAMAICA LOAN.**—For £180,000 Jamaica 4 per cent. inscribed stock, applications amounted to £375,000 at 103 to 108. Average price realised, £103 10s. 10d.

**MEGASS FURNACES.**—The economical use of Megass as Fuel is so important in Sugar making that the interest shown in the question in Demerara is not surprising, and the efforts of all scientific Sugar makers towards producing the best furnaces are deserving of every encouragement. In Mr. Duncan's speech before the British Guiana Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, on July 14th last, he said that the Colonial Company had been experimenting with the burning of green Megass, especially since 1890, and, indeed, for years before. In the ordinary multitubular boiler there was consumed one pound of green Megass to the evaporation of three-quarters to one pound of water. In the furnace subsequently invented by the Colonial Company, and now in use on their own and a number of other Estates in the Colony, one and a half to one and three-quarter pounds of water were evaporated to one pound of green Megass. The consequence was that the cost of purchased fuel was reduced seventy-five per cent. The importance of this improvement in Sugar processes to the Colonies is of course apparent. The principal feature of the furnace thus invented was that the crown at the furnace descended acutely and towards the boiler, and a combustion chamber was arranged in front of the boiler. Mr. Abell has also brought his scientific knowledge of practical Sugar making to bear upon this furnace question, and he appears to have suggested that while the angle of the arch adopted in the Colonial Company's furnaces varies from twenty-five to thirty-five degrees, the like angle in his furnace is about fifty degrees. Mr. Abell has applied for a patent for his improvement, and, of course, no attempt would be made in this Circular to influence proceedings one way or the other. Mr. Abell's proposed furnace may or may not present such radical distinctions from that of the Colonial Company as to influence the granting or otherwise of a patent, but in any case the elaborate attention which is now being paid in Demerara to economical processes, especially with regard to fuel, must be regarded as one of the most promising signs of the times. Should any of our Engineering Members in the United Kingdom or the Colonies like to publish their opinions in this Circular, in a brief form, the same would be printed subject to the discretion of the Secretary.

**MAIL NEWS.**—**BRITISH GUIANA, 21ST SEPT.**—Several estates commence manufacturing this week, and by the end of the month Sugar making will be general. The American market at the time was more favourable to refining than Yellow Sugar. The weather was hot and dry with a few partial showers. Sugar exports to September 22, 44,933 tons, against 62,466 same time last year. Rum, 14,076 puns., against 13,766. Gold, 82,557 oz., against 62,445. The Sugar is practically halved between U.K. and U.S. Nearly the whole of the Rum comes to U.K. The value of the gold exports was 1,500,000 dollars. The Planters' Association send a copy of the Report of the Commissioners on opening up the interior of British Guiana. The annual list of arrivals and allotments of immigrants for the season 1891-92 has been received. Copies are ready for members. **TRINIDAD, 21ST SEPT.**—Produce shipped. Sugar, 42,775 tons, against 42,367 same time last year. Cocoa exported, 19,152,540 lbs., against 13,732,895. Coffee, 16,146 lbs., against 26,240. Cocoanuts about 9,000,000 in number, against 10,500,000. The weather in the fortnight

to date was very good for growing crops. **BARBADOS.**—To September 23rd some dry days, but as a rule heavy rains with thunder. There were several landslips. Rain was very heavy at time of mail departure, and this is reported to be promising for the growing crop. (Note.—Neither the Jamaica nor Barbados Prices Currents received contains any information as to produce exports. **ANTIGUA.**—Season practically over, and last of the Sugar shipped. Weather has been again too dry, but there have been showers. A heavy and general rain is wanted. The import market is fairly stocked, according to the excellent report by Messrs. Geo. W. Bennett & Co.

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—Temperature wet and low, with increased foliage. Upon the whole the French crop is still doubtful. In Holland the Crop is good. In Germany, Austria and Russia, crops are reported fairly favourable. Crop reports are still contradictory, especially as to reduced quality being compensated for by heavier weight. There seems to be no distinct setimate quotable. Mr. Lichts' last is 3,500,000 for 1891-2 against 3,695,568 tons.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(C. Czarnikow, October 6th) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 356,212 tons, against 314,344; United States, 95,000, against 75,488; Havana, 20,000, against 86,000; total, 471,212 against 475,832.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First thirty-nine weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 622,139 tons against 637,278 last year. Deliveries 622,433 against 658,336. Stocks 105,292 against 85,341.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, September 19th, (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) weather very hot and oppressive with very little rain; 24th, (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited,) fine with occasional light showers. October 3rd, (per favour of Messrs. John McConnell & Co.) weather favourable for cultivation. 10th, (per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.) weather dry but favourable. Barbados, September 13th, (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) seasonable weather; 27th, heavy rains generally throughout the Island. Copies of the Barbados telegram expected on 11th will be sent to Barbados Members and others applying for same.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, Subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this office.

(Note.—In order to make this Circular more full and interesting the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1892.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Committee having been requested by the London Chamber of Commerce to nominate Members of a Chamber of Arbitration to deal with West India matters, have sent in a list after communication with the gentlemen concerned. It is proposed to ask the Firms connected with the Exporting trade if they would like to nominate Members through the West India Committee. The London Chamber of Commerce have been requested to send to all the gentlemen nominated by the West India Committee any printed or otherwise easily available particulars of the duties of an Arbitrator, and the kind of matters that would have to be dealt with.

TRINIDAD.—At a special Trinidad Meeting held in October last at this office, the following were some of the points discussed. An improved state of things in the Colony was recognised, and the new Judicial appointments were such as to inspire confidence. The strictest economy was essential in public expenditure. The interests of Sugar should be supported with a just regard for other interests. The Cocoa industry was very important, and its interests with regard to labour were identical with those of Sugar. There should be a cordial union between the two industries. The cost of Immigration was a great burden, and a fairer distribution of the cost should be brought about. Dr. Comins' Report was not yet published, but it was thought it might propose some modification of back passages. These should not be abolished entirely, as returned immigrants were often good recruiting agents. Still, while the people lost their earnings in India, they had acquired such an independent character, that probably their return in large numbers, say 20,000 a year, would be a source of anxiety to the Indian Government, whose interest it would therefore be to revise the system. Many of the Coolies, after being deprived of the larger part of their earnings in India, return to the West Indies, paying their own passages. A great deal depends upon the attitude of the Immigration Department in Trinidad, which has of late years been understood to have been unfavourable to immigration. The position of the Sugar Industry was perfectly sound; there were now few of the old common process Estates existing, the Muscovado Estates having adopted to a large extent the improved processes. At present prices the Muscovado Estates should be paying. With regard to the Caroni Drainage question, it was hoped that the Cocoa would join with the Sugar proprietors in a scheme for the general cultivation of the district. The drainage of the Savanna would certainly lead to cultivation, applications for land having been made. The proposed drainage works were eminently desirable, and surveys and estimates were strongly recommended. (It is understood the Legislative Council has approved of this course.) The question of the maintenance of Roads was discussed. The road between Princes' Town and San Fernando was in an impassable state, such as it had

not been in for eighteen years. It is true the recent heavy weather might have been the cause, but the necessity is shown for a local authority being charged with Road maintenance. The Government spent a great deal of money for Education and greater supervision should be exercised. Nominally the grants were given for secular education, but the whole system was denominational, great competition existing among the denominations for the attendances to secure the grants. The hospital and poor law system, costing an enormous sum of money, required revision. The hospital accommodation was much abused, not only by patients but their friends and families. A Vagrancy Act was suggested as desirable.

Shipowners agree in wanting two things. First, a better warehouse accommodation, the trade having outgrown the facilities afforded, and secondly by dredging the approaches to be able to go alongside. (This view is supported by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce). It was thought the Chaguaramas scheme would be no advantage to Port of Spain Harbour. Dredging the latter seemed to be the only remedy to prevent the further accumulation of mud although it was suggested that the improvements and alterations of the Caroni, by causing a conflict of currents, would be beneficial to Port of Spain Harbour. The question of cane farming was discussed and the judicial interpretations (very often contrary) of agreements. With regard to improvements in cane farming, further notice will be taken in the circular. With regard to the Reform Agitation, the information is not sufficient to justify any definite opinion at present, but the question cannot fail to receive attention.

MAIL NEWS.—BRITISH GUIANA, Oct. 19.—Crop is now in full swing. Weather continued dry, and some showers were wanted especially in Berbice. Prices opened fair, but had slightly declined. Sugar exports to October 17 equal to 57,958 hogsheads, against 73,652. Rum, 15,224 puncheons, against 13,525. Another return of Rum gives 14,089, against 11,954. Gold, 97,573 ounces, against 71,520. TRINIDAD, Oct. 19.—Produce shipped. Sugar, 45,395 tons, against 43,141. Cocoa, 19,592,840 lbs., against 13,963,415. Coffee, 16,226 lbs., against 26,246. Coconut, 10,500,000, against 11,250,000. Asphalt, 88,210 tons, against 76,575. Much rain and high winds, followed by fine and occasional showers. A great storm did much injury to roads, and two railway bridges were carried away, causing temporary suspension of railway traffic. Cocoa crop suffered in some districts, and low lands were under water for several days. The Chamber of Commerce have advocated uniformity of quarantine regulations for the Islands. BARBADOS, Oct. 22.—Sugar shipped, 58,902 hogsheads, against 49,524. Molasses, 42,022 puncheons, against 31,681. The bulk of the Sugar has gone to the United States, and the Molasses to Canada. Weather dry on the whole, but canes not suffering. The borer is again appearing. JAMAICA, Oct. 17.—Trade dull, general rains preventing produce going to market and shipment. Quarantine against all arrivals from Continental (Europe) ports, pratique given to vessels from U.K. No export statistics appear to be published in Jamaica for the mail. ANTIGUA, advices not received.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—Mr. Licht, in his monthly report of October 23, has reported as follows:—



|                 | 1892-3           | 1891-2           | 1890-1           |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany ...     | 1,200,000        | 1,198,156        | 1,381,965        |
| Austria         | 750,000          | 786,566          | 778,473          |
| France          | 625,000          | 650,377          | 694,037          |
| Russia          | 480,000          | 560,000          | 544,162          |
| Belgium         | 200,000          | 180,377          | 205,623          |
| Holland         | 65,000           | 37,451           | 61,307           |
| Other Countries | 80,000           | 78,000           | 80,000           |
|                 | <u>3,400,000</u> | <u>3,490,927</u> | <u>3,695,568</u> |

For the Season of 1892-3 the estimates of Beet are therefore 3,400,000 tons. The published estimates of Cane crops are open to criticism, but supposing published estimates for 1892-3 are fairly correct, viz., 2,760,000 tons, there will be a total Sugar production (Cane and Beet) of 6,160,000 tons. The probable increase of consumption, though comparatively only slight, with a fairly stationary production, both of cane and beet, justifies the current impression of stronger prices in the near future. The weather in France had been extremely wet, the week ending November 2nd, interfering with transport and damaging roots in Silos. This weather has a damaging effect on yield. The quality is admitted to be inferior to last year. In Germany the weather has been seasonable, with light rains. Upon the whole, Germany reports an average condition.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Licht, October 23) Europe and floating cargoes 279,738 tons, against 248,203; United States, 110,000, against 80,590; Havana, 32,502, against 79,248; floating to North America, 44,571, against 43,553; total, 466,811, against 451,594. (Czarnikow, November 3rd) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 278,053 tons, against 240,167; United States, 109,000, against 60,533; Havana, 10,000, against 52,000; total, 397,053, against 352,700.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First forty-three weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports, 677,212 tons, against 689,487. Deliveries, 692,414, against 717,646. Stocks, 90,384 against 78,627. (These returns are admittedly imperfect.)

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, October 31st, (per favour of Messrs. John McConnell & Co.) weather dry, some showers would be acceptable. Barbados, October 11th, (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) heavy rains generally throughout the Island; 25th, no rain during the past fortnight. Antigua, October 25th ((per favour of Geo. G. Macandrew, Esq.) rain to extent of two inches since last mail; 31st, rain four inches.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this Circular should be sent to the Secretary. Also, subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to Circular for a year, and other papers. Circular is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this office.

(Note.—In order to make this Circular more full and interesting the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C

21ST NOVEMBER, 1892.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The General Purposes Committee met on 27th October. Minutes of Special Meetings were reported No special business was done, but various questions were incidentally raised as to the Sugar industry, and these were held over for further special consideration.

MEGASS FROM DOUBLE AND SINGLE CRUSHING,—The Secretary has received the following letter from the Chairman: "I beg to enclose to you a memorandum containing some data in regard to double and single crushed Megass which I think will prove of interest to many of your readers in the West Indies. (Signed) N. Lubbock."

Assuming the canes to contain 12.5 per cent. of woody fibre, and the juice to contain 16 per cent. of sugar; that double crushing expresses 72 per cent. of juice, and single crushing 65 per cent. of juice, one ton of canes will give,—

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| DOUBLE CRUSHING.                    |              |
| Say 150 galls. of juice at SG 1.070 | = 1,605 lbs. |
| 5.60 cwt. of megass                 | = 627 "      |
| Total (about 1 ton of canes)        | 2,232 lbs.   |
| SINGLE CRUSHING.                    |              |
| Say 136 galls. of juice at SG 1.070 | 1,455 lbs.   |
| 7 cwt. of megass                    | = 784 "      |
| Total (about 1 ton of canes)        | 2,239 lbs.   |

3.57 tons of double crushed canes and 2.90 tons of single crushed canes will yield 1 ton of megass.

The composition of this megass will be approximately:—

|             |                     |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|             | DOUBLE CRUSHED.     | SINGLE CRUSHED.     |
| Woody fibre | 12.5 = 45 per cent. | 12.5 = 36 per cent. |
| Water       | 13.0 = 46 " "       | 19.0 = 51 " "       |
| Sugar       | 2.5 = 9 " "         | 3.5 = 10 " "        |
|             | 28.0 = 100          | 34.0 = 100          |

The Woody Fibre contains 51 per cent. of carbon, and the Sugar 42.1 per cent. of carbon. The Megass therefore contains:

|   |   |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
|   | DOUBLE CRUSHED.                         | SINGLE CRUSHED. |
| Woody Fibre 45 p. c. X 51 p. c. = 22.95 p. c. crbn. | 36 p. c. X 51 p. c. = 18.36 p. c. crbn. |                 |
| Sugar 9 p. c. X 42.1 p. c. = 3.79 p. c. " "         | 10 p. c. X 42.1 p. c. = 4.21 p. c. " "  |                 |
| Total ... 26.74 p. c. crbn.                         | 22.57 p. c. crbn.                       |                 |

3.74 lbs. of the double crushed, and 4.13 lbs. of the single crushed megass contain 1 lb. of carbon.



Theoretically, 12lbs of air are required for the combustion of 1lb. of carbon. One cubic foot of air at 85 deg. Fahr. weighs .0729 lbs. and 12 lbs. of air measures 164<sup>3</sup> cubic feet. But careful experiments at Windsor Forest Estate, Demerara, showed that the best results were obtained when 250 cubic feet of air per lb. of carbon were supplied. (On this basis 1lb. of double crushed megass will require 67 cubic feet of air, and 1lb. of single crushed megass will require 50<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cubic feet of air.

The same Windsor Forest experiments showed the best results with a combustion of 110 lbs. of megass per square foot of grate surface per hour.

Assuming 1,600 gallons of juice to be taken to the ton of Sugar each ton of Sugar would be the equivalent in the case of

|   |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Double Crushing, to 10.66 tons of Canes | = | 3 tons of Megass. |
| Single " " " " " "                      | = | 1.2 " " "         |

The Boilers in use on Windsor Forest Estate, Demerara, during the experiments above mentioned were two of the multitubular type 14 ft. by 7 ft. and 12 ft. by 7 ft. respectively, with new improved furnaces of The Colonial Company's type, fired direct, i.e., through the tubes, round the sides and away underneath. The canes were single crushed, yielding 62 per cent. of juice and the woody fibre amounted to from 12.60 to 13 per cent. of the canes.

**SUGAR CANE BORER.**—Miss Ormerod continues to devote much attention to the borer. Her opinion is understood to be that if there are signs of the borer in the cane from which the plant is cut, it would be well to reject it. It is likely the borer may be found about the cane stumps. Covering deeply with soil of a deterrent nature might do good or dry earth, sand or other material mixed with some mineral oil. Stools or stumps known to be infected should be burnt; with regard to the use of any chemical mixture applications containing sulphur or mineral oil are very deterrent of insect attack. Several well-known preparations, such as a mixture of sulphur and soft soap are recommended. We are awaiting Miss Ormerod's permission to use the full particulars she gives in corresponding with a Barbados Firm.

**MAIL NEWS.**—**BRITISH GUIANA,** Nov. 2.—Complaint is made that the acreage tax accounts rendered by Government do not show the apportionment between the Immigration Fund and the General Revenue. As it is most important this distinction should be shown, the Government have been asked to render separate accounts. Crop was progressing favourably, but young canes much needed showers. The weather is reported as very dry and hot. Considerably more Sugar was being made into yellow for U. K. Shipments to November 2nd were 56,520 tons, against 80,347; Molasses, 9,219 puns, against 10,482; Rum, 14,558, against 15,447; Gold, 99,731 oz., against 75,575. **TRINIDAD.**—Rains had set in, and the weather was considered seasonable, and favourable for growing crops. Sugar, 45,77; tons, against 42,776. Molasses, 16,000 puns, against 13,500. Cocoa, 19,886,940 lbs., against 14,062,355. Coffee, 16,000 lbs., against 26,000. Cocoanuts, 10,581,000, against 12,728,000. Asphalte, 94,311, against 80,932 tons.

**BISHOP AUSTIN.**—The news, by cable, of the death of this esteemed and revered Bishop has been received with the greatest regret and sympathy.

**BARBADOS. NOVEMBER 3RD.**—Sugar shipped 58,910 hhds. against 49,672. Molasses 42,922 puns. against 32,262. 47,000 hhds. Sugar went to the United States this year, and 10,000 to

**U. K.** Weather rainy, canes forward, early crop and probably somewhat shorter return than expected.

**BET AND CANE PROSPECTS.**—In France the weather has been rather unfavourable, making work less easy in a number of usines and the yields diminish notably. Districts vary but the general impression is that the roots increasing in weight have lost richness. In Western Germany the weather has not had much influence upon the cultural yield which is on the whole more satisfactory than might have been hoped, although in Eastern Germany and Russia and Austria not such good accounts are given. Messrs. H. Clark and Co. (8th November) report on the general sugar situation that the supplies (Beet and Cane) actual and prospective, for the coming twelve months are equal to those of last year and that consumption for the twelvemonths ending September last presents an increase of 148,000 tons. Messrs. Clark estimate cane for 1892-3 at 2,880,000 tons against 2,784,000 for 1891-2; beet 3,400,000 against 3,491,000. Total cane and beet 6,280,000 against 6,275,000.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Clark.) Europe and afloat from the East for Europe 301,000, against 264,000 in 1891; United States 111,000, against 61,000; Havana 20,000, against 70,000. Total 432,000, against 395,000. (Czarnikow, Nov. 17th.) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 329,089, against 277,995; United States 88,000, against 56,263; Havana 7,000, against 42,000. Total 424,089, against 376,258.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First forty-five week's landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports:—703,004 tons, against 730,360. Deliveries 719,762, against 749,753. Stocks 88,828, against 86,993.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—**DEMERRARA**, Nov. 14th (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell and Co.)—Weather fine, with occasional light showers. Nov. 19 (per favour of the Colonial Company, Ltd.)—Weather showery and favourable for cultivation. **BARBADOS**, Nov. 8th (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller).—Fine rains generally throughout the island. **ANTIGUA**, Nov. 12 (per favour of Geo. G. Macandrew, Esq.)—General rainfall of five to seven in. since last mail.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 88.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

2ND JANUARY, 1893.

SALE OF DEMERARA SUGAR.—The question has been again discussed, how far the Adulteration Act and the Merchandize Marks Act afford a security to the consumer in purchasing the Demerara Sugar he asks for. The prosecution by the Marylebone Vestry, in 1890, showed that the former of these Acts afforded no such security. As to the bearing of the Merchandize Marks Act, it should be observed that Demerara Sugar is a well-known description in the Trade; it is vouched for by Estates' Marks; it has a special value, being of superior quality, the crystals having a clear bright colour, and its reputation with the public commands for it a relatively high price. Steps have been taken to test the matter practically. Three bags of "Demerara" were ordered of a well-known firm of wholesale dealers. The bags were supplied in response to this order, but, according to chemical analysis, the Sugar was not Demerara, but was some kind which was dyed with a coal-tar dye. It is true, the invoice described the Sugar only as Raw Sugar, and there were no Demerara marks, or the name Demerara on the packages. The purchaser, therefore, got a stuff he did not order, and has no remedy against the seller. A further order was given in another district with the same result. A bag was then purchased at a retail grocers; it was bought and invoiced as Demerara, but it was not of this description; a number of other experimental purchases showed the same process. Whether an action would be successful against the retail grocer, who bought the sugar wholesale, as Demerara, and re-sold it *bona fide* as such, has still to be proved, but it will be noticed that it is an important matter for every grocer, who, if he buys Demerara from the wholesale dealer, ought to have some security that he gets it, before selling Sugar under a false trade description to his customers. In fact, the retail grocers' grievance is a very real one, but he has the remedy in his own hands, by requiring that the name "Demerara" should be written or printed on the package he buys from the wholesale dealer, and that the same description of the Sugar should be inserted in the invoice. In fact, the Sugar should be supplied to the grocer as landed, with the Demerara marks on the bags. The above observations apply not only to Demerara, but to all West Indian Sugars and all the Colonies are equally interested in securing the sale of their produce unadulterated. The West India Committee will probably address the Board of Trade in regard to any defects in the Merchandize Marks Act. In the meantime, the "Cane Sugar Union" is doing good work in drawing the attention of retail grocers to the necessity of taking every means to supply the public with genuine West Indian Sugar.

MAIL NEWS.—**DEMERARA**, 14 December. Sugar exports, 93,332 tons, against 100,257. A slight increase in shipments to U.K. is shown. Molasses (principally to Martinique and Holland), 10,558 puns, against 13,590; Rum (two-thirds to U.K., remainder to Canada), 25,236 puns, against 18,813; Gold, 114,959 oz., against 89,776; Timber same as usual—Shingles, considerable falling off, also decrease in Cocoanuts; Ballata, a considerable increase; and a falling off in Gums and Isinglass. Heavy rains had set in. **TRINIDAD**: Sugar, 48,172 tons, against 44,228; Molasses, 17,000 puns, against 14,000; Cocoa, 22,169,700 lbs., against 14,713,000; Coffee, 19,586 lbs., against 27,360; Cocoanuts, 12 million, against 14; Asphalt, 101,000 tons, against 90,000. The bulk of the Sugar went to U.S. Weather dry. Sugar Crop begins January. **JAMAICA**: Good rains. No export figures available. **BARBADOS**: Figures may be taken as in previous CIRCULAR—viz., 59,000 hogsheads, against 49,000.

**TRINIDAD REFORMS**.—It has been observed that an agitation has been revived in Trinidad for an election to Council by franchise, in place of nomination, of unofficial members by the Crown. The Council is at present composed of the Governor, eight official, and ten unofficial members, all appointed by the Crown. If the body of unofficial members represented fairly the different interests of the Colony, it is probable that no objection would be made to the present system. An improvement was made some three years ago, by which unofficial members were appointed for five years (instead of for life), and were made representative of particular districts. In 1894, it is expected that the Governor will make fresh nominations, and it is suggested that it would be better to wait and see how this arrangement works before making important changes in the principle of the Constitution. Without prejudging the question in any way, but rather with a desire to assist in a generally satisfactory settlement, it might be asked whether, after two bad sugar crops, it would be opportune to disturb the labouring and other classes by political excitement; and also whether it would not be better to promote the feeling of contentment and security that would be created by an administration of the Law that would secure the confidence of all classes? It is eminently to be desired that nothing should be hurriedly done to disturb labour and upset present conditions to an extent that would be detrimental to the industrial progress of the Colony.

**BRITISH GUIANA**.—A copy of the Village Ordinance, 1892, has been received. It is a consolidation Law containing 144 sections.

**BET PROSPECTS**.—(Licht), Germany.—The weather in November was colder than usual, and the frost hindered inland navigation. Some mild weather in December improved matters in this respect. Moderate cold is beneficial for the pitted beets. The yield may be somewhat higher than expected. The price of molasses regulates production, now that sugar and molasses are produced separately. In Austria the beet working was progressing rapidly (Dec. 20), and production figure is raised to 770,000 tons, subject to possible revision. In France, the probable sugar yield is put at 11 per cent, compared with 11.56 in 1891-2. Figures, however, are still uncertain. In Belgium and Russia, reductions in estimates are made of 10 and 20 thousand respectively. On the whole the campaign of 1892-3 will probably be less by 136,000 tons compared with previous crop. The following is Mr. Licht's latest account:—



|                 | 1892-3.          | 1891-2.          | 1890-1.          |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany         | 1,180,000        | 1,198,156        | 1,331,965        |
| Austria ...     | 770,000          | 786,566          | 778,473          |
| France ...      | 600,000          | 650,377          | 694,037          |
| Russia ...      | 460,000          | 550,994          | 544,162          |
| Belgium         | 190,000          | 180,377          | 205,623          |
| Holland         | 75,000           | 46,815           | 76,635           |
| Other Countries | 90,000           | 87,945           | 80,000           |
|                 | <u>3,365,000</u> | <u>3,501,230</u> | <u>3,710,895</u> |

News to 28th December reports in France that the frost is not so good for the fabriques, but it may do good to the soil in view of spring sowings. The work is proceeding to a greater extent than last year, and will soon be concluded. A deficit of 40,000 tons is expected. The general production, Beet and Cane, is estimated at 6,140,000 tons against 6,294,500 in 1891-2. Altogether, the figures show a decided prospect of stronger prices, especially when it is known that 30,000 tons of Beet have recently been shipped from Antwerp for America. The freight of this shipment is reported to be only 2s. per ton.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES** (Czarnikow, December 29).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 1,217,164 tons, against 1,074,118. United States 45,000, against 71,000. Havana 3,000, against 23,000. Total 1,265,164, against 1,168,118.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First fifty-one week's landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports: 795,212, against 845,513 Deliveries 810,530, against 849,761. Stocks 90,261, against 102,178. (These returns are admittedly incomplete).

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell and Co.) Nov. 22nd.—Weather changeable, heavy showers. Dec. 2nd. — Weather dry, no rain since last message. 13th. Rainy season appears to have set in. 22nd.—Rainy season has set in. — Per favour of Messrs J. McConnell and Co.). Nov. 23.—Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding. Dec. 13th.—Rain is falling generally. 19th.—Weather continues wet. 24th.—Weather favourable for cultivation.—(Per favour of Colonial Company, Ltd.). Nov. 28th.—Weather showery and favourable for cultivation. Dec. 5th.—Weather too dry. 12th, heavy rains beneficial to cultivation. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller). Nov. 22.—Fine rains generally throughout the island. Dec. 6th.—Seasonable weather. 20th.—Dry weather throughout the island. **TRINIDAD** (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley and Co., Ltd.). Dec. 13th.—Weather favourable. Sugar being made on your estates. 20th.—Weather too dry. 28th.—Weather favourable.

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**NOTE.**—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

30TH JANUARY, 1893.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Ordinary Meeting of the General Purposes Committee will be held on February 2nd. The meeting has been delayed as it was thought possible that questions as to the sale of Demerara Sugar would bring up members from Liverpool. A Special Meeting will, however, be called when the matter is more advanced.

MR. THOMSON HANKEY.—It is proper to express in this Circular the great regret which is felt at the death of Mr. THOMSON HANKEY. For many years he was an active member of the West India Committee, and in many other capacities, especially as Member of Parliament he rendered to the West India Colonies services of a most important and valuable character.

SALE OF DEMERARA AND WEST INDIA SUGARS.—It has been decided to take Counsel's opinion as to the bearing of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. The main point is:—If Sugar is described as Demerara Sugar on an invoice, and is not Demerara, does such proceeding come under the penal provisions of the Act? Further particular questions are as follows:—Could a retail Grocer, ordering "Demerara" from a wholesale dealer, and not being supplied with it, but with an altogether different article, prosecute that wholesale dealer—1st, if the Sugar was invoiced to him as Demerara—2nd, if it were not so invoiced, or invoiced only as Raw Sugar or Cane Sugar, but was evidently not Demerara, and without the marks on the packages identifying it as Demerara? Could a purchaser asking for Sugar as Demerara from a retail Grocer, and not being supplied with Demerara, have any remedy against the Grocer who (1) writes on his account "Demerara Sugar" and (2) ostensibly supplies what is required but without invoice or any written description? If in the above cases, a "false description" within the meaning of the Act, could be shown, could persons selling "Demerara" which is not Demerara, become liable to penal provisions of the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887? Should the Merchandise Marks Act afford no remedy, what other course is open to protect genuine Demerara against spurious imitations? In Merchandise Marks Act, 1891, Sect. 1, 54 Vic., c. 15, it was enacted that a false description made in a CUSTOMS ENTRY of goods imported would be held to be a false description applied under the Act of 1887, showing that in the case of imported goods it was not absolutely essential that the false description should be on the goods themselves. Logically, therefore, in the case of other goods, an invoice, which is in very many cases the only description available, which falsely describes them, should be held to be "application of a false description" under the Act. Is this a correct view? The point as to Demerara Sugar has been raised as the strongest, but it will be obvious that all West India Sugars shipped under specific marks are equally interested. (The above are simply draft questions for Counsel—they have not yet been definitely formulated).



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE MEETINGS.—Complaint has been received with regret that an inaccurate and unauthorised report of a Special Trinidad Meeting, held in October last, has appeared in some newspapers; such report was not supplied from the office. The Secretary has no connection whatever, direct, or indirect, with any Home or Colonial papers, and the only authentic reports of the proceedings of the Committee are printed in this Circular.

A YEAR'S SUGAR SUPPLY, U.K. (Board of Trade Returns.)

|                                | 1891.            | 1892.            |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BEET-ROOT SUGAR.—Refined       | 566,106          | 531,210          |
| Unrefined                      | 455,519          | 414,310          |
| Total Beet Supply... Tons      | <u>1,021,625</u> | <u>945,520</u>   |
| CANE SUGAR—                    |                  |                  |
| British West Indies and Guiana | 54,806           | 74,406           |
| British East Indies            | 47,645           | 40,735           |
| China and Hong Kong            | —                | 100              |
| Mauritius                      | 11,139           | 12,252           |
| Total British Cane ... Tons    | <u>113,590</u>   | <u>127,493</u>   |
| FOREIGN CANE—                  |                  |                  |
| Spanish West India Islands     | 996              | 626              |
| Brazil                         | 25,104           | 19,897           |
| Java                           | 115,471          | 99,676           |
| Phillipine Islands             | 50,240           | 74,704           |
| Peru                           | 21,110           | 35,914           |
| Other Countries                | 28,832           | 42,157           |
| Total Foreign Cane ... Tons    | <u>241,753</u>   | <u>272,974</u>   |
| TOTAL SUPPLY.                  |                  |                  |
| Foreign Beet                   | 1,021,625        | 945,520          |
| British Cane                   | 113,590          | 127,493          |
| Foreign Cane                   | 241,753          | 272,974          |
| Total Sugar Imports ... Tons   | <u>1,376,968</u> | <u>1,345,987</u> |

MAIL NEWS.—BRITISH GUIANA, 11th January. The Spirits Ordinance No. 24 of 1890 has been brought into force. The regulations are very restrictive, and it remains to be seen if the Law is workable. Sugar exports for 1892 are reported at 110,000 tons. Weather favourable for Estates, but Sugar until April or May will not be coming forward in large quantities. JAMAICA figures are never published in newspapers or prices current, but the Sugar exports may be estimated at 15,000 to 18,000 tons, with a proportionate quantity of rum, that is, about a puncheon to every ton of sugar. TRINIDAD: The Ordinance No. 24, 1892, for raising funds in aid of immigration for

the year 1893, imposes a tax on Sugars of 6/- per hhd., 4/- per tierce, 8d. per barrel or bag; Molasses at the rate of 2/- per puncheon; Rum, 4/- per puncheon; Cocoa, 1/8 per bag; Coffee, 1/8 per bag; Cocoanuts, 1/- per 1,000. Trinidad exports in 1892 were 50,000 tons of Sugar; 25 million pounds of Cocoa (a large increase upon the previous year); 19,746 lbs. of Coffee (a considerable decrease); 12½ million Cocoanuts, against 17; Asphalte, 108,247 tons, against 94,523 the previous year. The total production of Sugar in British Guiana and the West Indies may be taken at 260,000 tons for the year 1892.

BRITISH GUIANA.—In view of the meeting of the Combined Court, in February, 1893, the attention of the correspondents of the Committee has been called to the question of the diversion of a portion of the Acreage Tax, originally and exclusively imposed in aid of Immigration, to general Revenue. It is hoped that in the ensuing Session of the Combined Court, the revenue from this tax will be exclusively confined to its proper and legitimate object, viz: in aid of Immigration.

TRINIDAD.—The Chaguaramas Scheme has been under consideration by a Special Committee who proposed to give the promoters of the scheme the right of erecting buildings and otherwise making use for their own purposes of two-thirds of the reclaimed land, and raising the amount to be paid by the Government towards the cost of the reclamation from £15,000 to £19,000. When this report came before Council, a protest was made by two Hon. Members, containing important reasons, especially against the erection of buildings on what should be a public wharf. The protest also included objections to the Government contributing to the cost of reclamation. Another ground of objection is the haste with which the vote was passed in Council without possibility of proper discussion. A further loan of £200,000 is proposed for the extension of Roads and Railways. Whether the Colony can bear this additional burden of what must be for many years an unproductive expenditure, remains to be seen; and yet, side by side with this enormous liability the Government of the Colony appear to be doing everything possible to restrict immigration, forgetting that an increase of population is the only justification for the money spent in roads and railways. Public business is very backward in Trinidad, the estimates for 1893 not having been passed up to Mail dates.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—(Licht).—The extremely cold weather has not been unfavourable either to the soil or the pitted beet-roots. No trustworthy forecast can be made of the campaign of 1893-4. The estimate for Germany 1892-3 has been increased, making a total European production of 3,402,000 tons, otherwise figures remain as printed in last circular. Messrs. H. Clark & Co., notice in their circular, January 7th, a decrease in consumption in U.K., and this is confirmed by the Board of Trade figures. The total production of Cane for 1892-3 is estimated at 2,850,000 tons, and Beet 3,402,000; against for 1891-2, Cane 2,806,000, Beet 3,510,000. With a growing consumption, which must come about as population increases, although subject to fluctuations on account of strikes, distress, and diminished volume of general trade, the above statistics are favourable to a firmness in prices. Mr. Czarnikow, 26th January, seems to confirm statements made earlier in the month that Cuba crop would be short. A decrease is also expected in Brazil and Manila, but nothing definite is yet known.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES (Licht, 21st January.)—Europe, and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,448,979, against 1,393,344. United States 49,000, against 72,387. Havana 7,112, against 27,432. Floating to North America 23,174, against 35,667. Total 1,528,265, against 1,528,830. (Czarnikow,



26th January.) Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe 1,432,104, against 1,382,904; United States 43,000, against 80,571. Havana 16,000, against 31,000. Total 1,491,104 tons, against 1,494,475 time last year.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First two weeks landings of Raw Sugar at the principal ports 34,369, against 49,032; Deliveries 36,726, against 37,162; Stocks 94,244, against 117,756.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) Jan. 10th.—Weather showery and favourable for cultivation. Jan. 28th.—Weather showery and favourable for cultivation. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavilleri). Jan. 17th.—Good reaping weather. **TRINIDAD** (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.) Jan. 10th.—Weather favourable. 17th.—Weather favourable. 23rd.—Weather favourable (per favour of Colonial Company, Ltd.). Jan. 13th.—Fine with occasional light showers. 25th.—Fine, with occasional light showers.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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America 18,160 against 23,188. Total 1,472,726 against 1,530,830.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

27th February, 1893.

MAIL NEWS.—BRITISH GUIANA, 8th Feb. The last Coolie Ship had arrived for the Season, bringing the total immigrants introduced to 4,450. The number to be introduced in next season is 5,450. Weather wet and favourable for cultivation, although in parts a little too heavy. The "Demerara Market Report" says, the shipment of Sugar to 9th February was 1,760 tons against 2,652. Rum, 3,204 puns. against 6,558. Gold, 2,896 ozs. against 2,858. Trinidad Sugar, 1,232 tons against 1,225. Cocoa, 1,048,560 lbs. against 3,425,330. Coffee, 960 lbs. against 240. Cocoanuts, 1,199,732 against 2,410,753. Asphalte, 9,103 tons against 12,465. Jamaica Coffee still coming to market in Kingston, good prices being obtained. A session of the Court of Policy had been held in British Guiana, the principal subject of discussion being a Bill concerning the Magistracy.

BOOKS AND PAPERS.—A copy of Mr. Rodway's Handbook of British Guiana has been received. Its subject matter is well written and arranged, and its illustrations are excellent. An idea is presented both of town and country life, and great natural features, such as the Kaieteur Falls and Roraima are brought into proper prominence. Also received report by Mr. Harry I. Perkins, Acting Crown Surveyor, on his visit to the Gold District on the Potaro and Conawaruk Rivers, Essequibo. Received Report of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, 21st January, 1893. Various subjects were discussed, among them being the desirability of an uniformity in the Quarantine Laws throughout the West Indies. Such a measure was suggested in this circular some time ago, when, owing to the Cholera outbreak in Europe, ships did not know what regulations they would have to meet at the different ports. The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce hoped that the Revolution in Venezuela would lead to the abolition of the 30% differential duty. It would be interesting to know whether any progress is being made in this matter, as other Colonies besides Trinidad are interested, although not, of course, to the same extent. The shoaling of the water at the Port of Spain wharves is proposed to be remedied by the erection of a jetty and the use of a dredger. Connected with these proposals is the Chagaramus scheme referred to later on. Mr. Wm. Howatson is the President of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Edgar Tripp the Hon. Secretary.



of Sunderland, is to be

26th January.) Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe 1,432,104, against 1,387,430,000, against 80,571. Havana 16,000, against 31,000. Total 1,491,104 tons, against 1,418,430,000, against 111,571. a Commission to report as to the sugar trade, and to be reported with interest, as it is time last year.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First two weeks landings of

**TRINIDAD.**—Revenue for 1892, £561,721. Expenditure, £543,932. The reduction of duties in consequence of the McKinley Tariff arrangements amounted to £10,970, but the general revision of the Excise and Customs duties resulted in an increased revenue to the extent of £25,925. The complaint, therefore, that the revenue has lost by the McKinley arrangement is groundless. No doubt some disappointment is felt that the McKinley arrangement was not followed by a better market in the United States, but it must be remembered that in consequence of that arrangement the West India Colonies have been free from any sugar duties in the States. This has been a great practical benefit. It was impossible to foresee that the market would be controlled by Trusts, and also that the election would result in a Democratic Government pledged to a revision of the Tariff. How far such revision would affect sugar and Colonial produce generally the next few months will probably decide.

**CHAGARAMUS (TRINIDAD) SCHEME.**—The scheme proposed by Mr. Siegert to establish deep water piers at above place, and connect same by railway with Port of Spain, has been much criticised. The whole matter, however, has been referred to the Secretary of State, who, in a despatch of 17th January last, decided that the Resolution passed by the Legislative Council in favour of the scheme was perfectly regular, and that the payment by the Government of one-third of the cost of the Port of Spain reclamation up to a maximum of £19,000, is fair and reasonable. Owners of neighbouring properties will apparently be entitled to compensation from the undertaker.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Weather in France has been satisfactory for agricultural operations. Care has been taken to sow roots that will better resist insects and extremes of weather. Weather in Germany has proved favourable to roots. The effect of the present cold weather is not yet known. Licht, 25th February, reports cold weather in Germany interfered with trade and traffic. Although seeds protected by snow, danger to crop not passed. European Beet production 1892-3, 3,402,000 tons against 3,501,920 for 1891-2, and 3,710,895 for 1890-1.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(H. Clark & Co, 8th February).—Europe, and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,432,000, against 1,368,000. United States 58,000, against 71,000. Havana 16,000, against 38,000. Total 1,506,000, against 1,477,000. (Czarnikow, 23rd February).—Europe, and Cargoes afloat to

Europe, 1,367,281, against 1,429,395. United States 89,000, against 50,437. Havana 39,000, against 60,000. Total 1,495,281, against 1,539,832. (Licht, 25th February).—Europe, and Cargoes alloat to Europe, 1,336,102 against 1,397,261. United States 89,000 against 50,437. Havana 29,464 against 50,044. Floating to North America 18,160 against 23,188. Total 1,472,726 against 1,530,830.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First six weeks landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports 76,719 tons, against 88,908; Deliveries 97,284, against 100,064; Stocks 76,036, against 94,730.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.). Feb. 11th.—Heavy rains have fallen generally since 28th Jan. 15th.—Wet weather continues; (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.). Feb. 10th.—Rain has fallen heavily. 17th.—Heavy rain since last message, 10th Feb., now moderate. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Jan. 31st.—Seasonable weather. Feb. 13th.—Good reaping weather. **TRINIDAD** (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.). Jan 31st.—Weather favourable. Feb. 8th.—Weather favourable. 15th.—Weather favourable. 21st.—Weather favourable—(per favour of Colonial Co., Ltd.). Jan. 30th.—Weather fine for harvesting. Feb. 21st.—Weather fine for harvesting—(per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.). Feb. 16th.—Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 89.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

27TH MARCH, 1893.

**THE MCKINLEY TARIFF ACT.**—The proposed termination of the arrangement, under the above Act, is no doubt partly justified by the fact that the Reciprocity clause has not been brought into effect against certain other countries. It is desirable, of course, that the West India Colonies should exercise entire freedom of Tariff action, but any open determination on the part of the Colonies to put an end to the arrangement is deprecated at the present moment. The Reciprocity clause is still in force, and nothing should be done to endanger the United States Market for British West India Sugar. The exact views of the U.S. Government might be ascertained without any public or official movement just now. Any hasty and ill-considered action is to be strongly deprecated, although it is quite agreed that entire freedom of Tariff action in the Colonies should be obtained without any undue delay.

**WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.**—Meetings have been held to consider this question, in view of the heavy rates now payable for telegrams. Communications have been received from the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, whose line to the Bermudas is now completed, and who are anxious to continue to Jamaica, having applied for a subsidy from that Colony of £2,000 a year, and having received, as stated, promises of business support from the Kingston Merchants. When established in Jamaica, this Company is desirous of making friendly arrangements with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company for the transmission of their European and Canadian Telegrams to the other Islands of the West Indies and British Guiana—the rate between England and Jamaica being fixed at 3s. per word. The West India Committee feel that a direct cable from Bermuda to Jamaica, which would have the effect of reducing the present onerous telegraphic charges, would meet with support in the West Indies. An interview with the representatives of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company was subsequently held. It appears that the latter Company are precluded by their contracts with the Cuba and International Companies from making arrangements for any other route to Europe. They are opposed to a line being laid from Bermuda to Jamaica on the ground that they would lose their remunerative business with Cuba, and also probably their Jamaica Subsidy of £2,000 a year. If the West India and Panama Company were free from contracts they would naturally work harmoniously with other Companies. Reduction of Rates, in their opinion, would not increase business, but with this view the West India Committee do not at all agree. It is believed, on the contrary, that a large increase of business would follow if the Rates were materially reduced. The West India Company suggested that if this increase were possible, the West India Governments should guarantee the present moderate income of the Company and make any tariff arrangements they pleased. This was, however, thought impracticable and

perhaps unreasonable. It was, in the end, pressed upon the West India Company that unless some mitigation of their contracts could be made, the Colonies might possibly withdraw their Subsidies, as it is not likely that they will allow those contracts for ever to stand in the way of a reasonable Telegraphic Service such as would be secured by a line from Bermuda to Jamaica. The Bermuda and Halifax Company are willing, in the event of their line being made to Jamaica, to work harmoniously with the West India and Panama Company, and such an arrangement would obviously be highly advantageous to the West India Colonies, as it would materially reduce the cost of the service.

**CONSUMPTION OF WEST INDIA SUGAR.**—An Association was formed six years ago by the employés, at Derby, of Messrs. George Fletcher and Co., the well-known engineering firm, for the sale of Pure Cane Sugar. In practically advocating the superiority of Cane over Beet Sugar, the Association has been very successful. The business is founded upon an absolute belief in the genuineness of the sugar sold, which is guaranteed by invoices and estates marks. The Derby Association sell fifty tons a year, and if similar associations were formed under the auspices of other large firms interested in Cane Sugar Machinery, a very considerable consumption might be secured, to the manifest advantage of the consumers.

**BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.**—West India Committee to Colonial Office, 10th March: "My Lord Marquis, the West India Committee ventured to address the Secretary of State on the 5th May, 1892, according to the printed summary enclosed, on the question of a general scheme of Sea Defences in British Guiana. In reply, Lord Knutsford was good enough to say that he had sent a copy of our letter to the Governor with a request that he would consider and report fully upon the whole of this question. I beg respectfully to enquire whether any Report has accordingly been received from his Excellency. (Signed), N. Lubbock, Chairman." Reply, 13th March: "Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 10th inst., I am directed by the Marquis of Ripon to inform you that the Governor of British Guiana has not yet furnished the Report on Sea Defences which has been called for, and that he will be reminded of the omission by the mail of the 15th inst. (Signed), Edward Wingfield."

**TRINIDAD (Chaguaramas Scheme).**—In consequence of the receipt of an official communication from the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, the following Letter to Lord Ripon has been submitted for approval to the Trinidad Members of the Committee.—"My Lord Marquis, The Chamber of Commerce in Trinidad, and other influential correspondents in that Colony, have forwarded to us certain communications which have taken place with the Colonial Government upon the subject of the Chaguaramas Scheme and especially with reference to your Lordship's Despatch of the 17th January last. There seems a very strong feeling on the part of the Chamber of Commerce as representing the Commercial Interests of Port of Spain, and also on the part of a section of the Legislative Council, that the above-mentioned scheme is objectionable. 1st. That it involves a payment of £19,000 from the General Revenue towards the cost of reclamation. 2nd. That it gives the promoters the right of making use for



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their own purposes of two-thirds of the Reclaimed Land. 3rd. That it is contrary to the terms and spirit of Ordinance No. 22, 1858. 4th. That the erection of the said Buildings would be a serious detriment to the present wharf facilities and surrounding stores (especially in the case of bulky goods) by taking away a water frontage from shipping houses and thus reducing the value of contiguous property. The facilities of the water front, as at present enjoyed, would be destroyed. 5th. That if the scheme were put forward as a private scheme, the same could be discussed upon its merits, but the receipt of public money and the official support of the Government render it subject to the opposition of the Mercantile Community of the Colony. 6th. That the proposed buildings would spoil one of the finest views in the West Indies—viz., from Marine Square to the Gulf of Paria. We have, therefore, humbly to ask that your Lordship would be pleased to consider any representations which you may receive, through His Excellency the Governor, such representations being made with a view to the removal or amelioration of the objections entertained to the scheme by an influential body such as the Chamber of Commerce, who are practically acquainted with the Trade of the Port and the necessary facilities it requires. Your Lordship will remark that the objections raised are not objections to the principle of the Scheme, but to some of the incidental details."

MAIL NEWS.—British Guiana, 8th March. Contributions of employers of immigrants to Medical Department to be reduced from one-half to one-third. Diversion of part of Acreage Tax to general revenue will probably not be remedied this year. The Immigration Fund Account for the year 1891-2 shows a credit of 11,050 dols., thus reducing the debit balance brought from previous years to 66,888 dols. Rain fell heavily early in the fortnight; weather reported as altogether favourable to cultivation. Figures of exported produce are not so useful now as they will be later in the year, when they will be given here. Trinidad: Weather dry but favourable for estates operations, which are progressing rapidly. The seasons are distinctly favourable to good crops both in the above two colonies and others in the West Indies.

BEET PROSPECTS.—We are obliged to go to press without seeing Mr. Licht's latest Circular, now due. Field work is going on actively in France, and from the point of view of sowings and preparations of the ground, cultivators are satisfied. No precise information as to the extent of the sowings is available, but it is thought there will be little difference from last year. The same absence of information as to the extent of sowings is also observed in regard to Germany and the other Beet countries. The last week has shown a general improvement of markets in Europe and America.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES (C. Czarnikow, 23rd March).—Europe, and Cargoes Afloat to Europe, 1,293,186, against 1,339,324; United States, 127,000, against 72,142; Havana, 86,000, against 97,000. Total, 1,506,186, against 1,508,466.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First ten weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports—130,448, against 157,391; Deliveries, 156,000, against 165,858; Stocks, 71,049, against 97,419.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. John McConnell and Co.), 3rd March: Weather favourable for cultivation. 23rd: Rainy weather for last week. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell, and Co.), 4th March: Finer weather since last message (17th February), generally acceptable. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley and Co., Limited). 1st March: Weather favourable. 7th: Weather favourable. 13th: Weather too dry. 21st: Weather too dry. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited).—8th March: Weather fine for harvesting. 21st: Weather fine for harvesting. (Per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons, and Co.)—16th March: Weather favourable; crop progressing satisfactorily. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller).—27th February: Good reaping weather. 13th March: Slow reaping weather.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 90.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

24th April, 1893,

**NEW GOVERNORS.**—Lord Gormanston has been appointed Governor of Tasmania. His administration of a little over five years in British Guiana was honest and vigorous. It is to be regretted that during his tenure of office public expenditure has largely risen, the estimate of expenditure for 1893-4 being reported as \$2,734,358, against \$2,354,718 in 1888. Nevertheless, all British Guiana people will sympathise with the address presented to His Excellency by the Elective Members upon his departure. The deep interest which he took in every question that came before him was very remarkable, and, indeed, quite exceptional in a West Indian Governor. His successor, Sir Charles Cameron Leveson, has had much experience in the West Indies, particularly as Governor of the Leeward Islands and Barbados, and a satisfactory career, no doubt, lies before him in British Guiana.

**THE NEW BISHOP OF BRITISH GUIANA.**—The Chairman was requested by some Demerara Members to allow the Secretary, as a matter of convenience, to take steps with regard to the preparation of an address to Dr. Swaby. An address has been signed by 150 ladies and gentlemen connected with the Colony.

**THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF THE WEST INDIES.**—The proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Colonial Company, among other public indications, were full of promise for the future of this industry. Although the seasons last year were exceptionally unfavourable, the result was, in the circumstances, fairly satisfactory. The prospect of good West Indian crops generally during the current year, and the actual improved prices, afford ground for hopeful estimates. With Beet selling for May at 16s. 3d., it seems clear that with the reported deficiencies of the European and Cuban crops, supply will barely suffice for the consumption of the world to the end of September next. Seasons in British West Indies appear to be fairly favourable. But, perhaps, the chief cause of the sound position of the West India Sugar Industry is the reduced cost of production; a ton of best Crystals, which not many years ago cost £18 to produce, now costing £11, and probably with good seasons £10, a perfectly safe price for any condition of the Market that would be within the range of probability. So far therefore from Sugar in the British West Indies being in a state of decadence it seems to be not only in a sounder position than ever, but promises to continue to be the most important staple of those Colonies.

**DR. COMINS' REPORT.**—This has been for some time past under the consideration of the Indian Government. It has not yet reached the Colonial Office. Some very important modifications of the system of back passage of Coolie immigrants are hoped for in consequence of the Report, and there seems no reason to suppose they will not receive official approval. The Report is expected to be generally favourable in regard to Coolie emigration from India and the condition of the immigrants in the West Indies.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—The *per caput* expenditure of the Colony in 1880 was \$7.51, and in 1891-2 \$9.60. The value of exports in 1880 was £2,384,003, and in 1891-2 £2,395,713. The new Spirits Ordinance, providing for the use of Alcoholmeters, was criticised by Elected Members in Combined Court as unsatisfactory. An important debate took place upon Mr. Duncan's motion that the colonial revenue should defray one-half the cost of immigration, instead of one-third. The motion was lost by ten votes (including eight official votes) against five unofficial votes. The tonnage duties were continued, after debate. Also the acreage tax of 50 cents for general revenue, this being perhaps the most unsatisfactory proceeding on the part of the British Guiana government during Lord Gormanston's administration. The 50 cents above-mentioned means at least \$40,000, being a considerable proportion of the reported loss of revenue under the McKinley arrangement.

**TRINIDAD.**—A petition has been presented to the Council and agreed to, for leave to establish telegraphic communication between Trinidad and Venezuela. The Surgeon General has been added to the official section of the Council, and an additional unofficial has been appointed. The Secretary of State forwarded to the Governor a memorial from steam-ship owners, signed by the West India and Pacific Steam-ship Company, the Harrison Line, Messrs. Bell, Brothers & McLelland, Wainster & Watson, Caw, Prentice, Clapperton & Co., and Scrutton, Sons & Co., praying that immediate steps be taken to prevent the silting up of the foreshore in Port of Spain Harbour. Council agreed to three feet alongside wharf at low water, and appointed Committee to prepare plans and estimates. Lord Ripon acknowledged a despatch from the Governor respecting proposed £500,000 loan for railway extension and public works. Before considering this proposal his lordship asks for full information as to proposed railway to Cumuto, and as to probable traffic, and wishes more definite estimates of the other works, suggesting that if railway extension is undertaken at all it should be proceeded with one line at a time. 3,567 immigrants were applied for, season 1893-4. Mr. Tanner wants an Assistant Director of Public Works appointed.

**CHAGUARAMAS SCHEME.**—C.O. TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 4th April 1893. Sir.—In reply to your letter of the 27th of March, I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acquaint you that the objections of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to the Chaguaramas Bay Port and Railway scheme are under his lordship's consideration in connection with the details of the scheme. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

**MAIL NEWS.**—**BRITISH GUIANA,** 5th April. The duties under the McKinley tariff arrangement were continued for another year. Little doing in produce. A small lot of Refining Crystals was sold at 3.40. Finer weather was needed for cultivation. Shipments to April 4, Sugar 14,395 tons, against 12,857. 9,000 tons went to United States, and nearly 4,000 to United Kingdom. Rum 7,300 against 7,421 puns., practically all to United Kingdom, with 877 puns. to Canada. Cocoanuts show great decrease, being only 12,100 against 62,658. Gold 21,786 ozs against 18,075. **TRINIDAD.**—Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co.'s report (April 5th), crop operations being pushed. Returns fairly satisfactory, but doubtful if yield will come up to average. Numerous enquiries from America and Canada, but owing to refusal to guarantee colour or test, crop is largely shipped on producer's account instead of sold on the spot. Cocoa suffering from drought, and crop will be less than estimate. Cultivation suffering from want of rain. From October 1st to April 5th, 1892-3, Cocoa shipments were to England 13,379 bags; France 14,004; America 15,296, total 42,679, against a total of 69,818 in 1891-2. The Trinidad market report gives shipments Jan. to April 5th, Sugar 17,000 tons against 16,100. Cocoa 2,126,360 lbs., against 9,283,360. Cocoanuts, 3,285,135, against 4,124,338. Asphalte, 33,232 tons against 31,785. **JAMAICA.**—Coffee coming freely to market; crop approaching close. Good prices for Ginger. **BARBADOS.**—Sugar shipments to 7th April, 9,873 hhds., against 2,750. The bulk goes to the United States. Molasses, 11,254 puns., against 7,330. Prices on spot stronger, planters holding back. 2.75 to 2.80 offered. Molasses active at 13 cents. Weather dry; partial light showers.



**BEET PROSPECTS.**—In France the sowing of Beets is generally advanced. Rain and less cold nights much desired. In some parts the sowings have been delayed by dryness. In Germany sowings have been rapidly carried on. Generally a moderate augmentation of sowings is reported, but as to production of Sugar everything depends on weather.

**SUGAR SHIPMENTS.**—The Mail news is put in the following tabular form for convenience. The Secretary will be glad to receive information from Jamaica and the Leeward and Windward Islands, so that a monthly return of exported Sugar and other produce might be made up.

| SUGAR. January to March—     |           | 1893.       | 1892.  |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| British Guiana               | ++ ... .. | Tons 14,395 | 12,857 |
| Trinidad                     | ... ..    | " 17,000    | 16,100 |
| Barbados                     | ... ..    | " 9,873     | 2,750  |
| St. Kitts (private estimate) | ... ..    | " 6,000     |        |

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(C. CZARNIKOW, 20th April.) Europe, and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,061,980 tons, against 1,215,489; United States 133,000, against 100,752; Havana 129,000, against 150,000. Total 1,323,980 tons, against 1,466,241.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—First fifteen weeks' landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports:—209,639 tons, against 220,295; Deliveries 220,825, against 225,372; Stocks 85,415, against 100,809.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 4th April.—Heavy rain continues, finer weather much wanted. 4th.—Finer weather since last message. 12th.—Weather dry and favourable for cultivation. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 17th April.—Weather has been dry for past week, but half inch rain has now fallen. **TRINIDAD** (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited), 28th March.—Weather too dry. 4th April.—Weather too dry. 11th.—Weather too dry. 18th.—Weather too dry. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited), 5th April.—Weather fine for harvesting. 19th.—Weather fine for harvesting. (Per favour of Messrs. Gregor Turnbull & Co.), 17th April.—Weather dry, with occasional showers. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 28th March.—Slow reaping weather. 11th April.—Seasonable weather.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

24th April, 1893.

P.S.—Beet is selling for May at 16/11.

CIRCULAR No. 91.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

May, 1893.

SALE OF WEST INDIAN SUGARS.—A Select Committee was appointed in 1890 to consider the Merchandize Marks Act, 1887, in relation to the prevention of frauds by the use of an indirect indication of origin on imported goods, or their false marking after importation. Mr. N. Lubbock gave evidence. He said that Demerara and West Indian Sugar had acquired a considerable reputation. Imitations of Demerara Sugar were made from the crystals of white beetroot, and they were coloured by aniline dyes and bought and sold as Demerara Sugar. After the imitation stuff is kept for about a fortnight the smell is very disagreeable, and at any time the colour can be washed off. This imitation Sugar is an infringement of the Merchandize Marks Act, but it cannot be laid hold of owing to a flaw in the Act. Purchases have been made of 2d. Demerara Sugar at grocers' shops, but the Sugar was not Demerara. The vendor thus rendered himself liable to the penalties of the Act as having applied a false trade description. Mr. Poland, Q.C., was of opinion that the false description came within the penal provisions of the Act. But the persons selling Sugar as Demerara which is not Demerara have not brought themselves within the penal provisions of the Act, because they have not applied the false trade description to the Sugar which they sold. To state in words at the time of sale that it is Demerara Sugar does not come within the meaning of the Act. If it were labelled and sold wholesale as Demerara it would come within the meaning of the Act, but broken up and sold retail without labels it would not. Retail fraud consists of two things:—labelling Sugar as Demerara in the window, genuine, but selling imitation; labelling Sugar as Demerara which is not Demerara, but selling it as such.

It is desired that the name applied to the sample shall follow the quantity sold. At present a mere label on the sample is not sufficient, as the false trade description has not been "applied," within the meaning of the Act, to the Sugar actually sold. What is wanted is:—(1) That the Sugar sold shall be governed by the labelling of the sample, (2) That Sugar sold from bulk exposed in the window and labelled Demerara, and is not Demerara, should come within the penal provisions of the Act.

To carry out these two improvements of the Act, Counsel have drafted the following clauses:—

"Where any goods to which a trade-mark, mark or trade description is applied within the meaning of the Merchandize Marks Act, 1887, are exposed for sale, or any purpose of trade, and any other goods, when sold and delivered, are represented by the seller to be identical in nature, substance and quality with the goods so exposed for sale, or any other purpose of trade, the seller shall be deemed to have applied such trade-mark, mark or trade description to such goods so sold and delivered, although no trade-mark, mark or trade description is actually applied to or accompanies the delivery of such goods.

"Where any goods to which a trade-mark, or mark, or trade description is applied within the meaning of the Merchandize Marks Act, 1887, are exposed for sale, and any portion of such goods shall be separated from the bulk and be sold and delivered, the seller shall be deemed to have applied such trade-mark, mark or trade description to such portion so separated from the bulk and sold and delivered as aforesaid, although no trade-mark or mark or trade description is actually applied to or accompanies the delivery of such portion."



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A further case has been submitted to Counsel, as follows:—

An inquiry was made of a wholesale grocer for two samples of "Demerara" Sugar, according to marks, though these marks were not recognised Demerara ones. An order was given and the Sugar supplied, but it was not Demerara Sugar, but some kind dyed with a coal tar dye to imitate it. The sellers, however, refused to put "Demerara" on the Invoice. Sugar was also bought from a grocer dyed with an aniline dye, and this was described on the *Invoices* as Demerara. Counsel are of opinion that a retail grocer ordering Demerara Sugar from a wholesale dealer, and not being supplied with such Sugar but with another kind of Sugar, the wholesale dealer may be prosecuted by the retail grocer if, with the delivery of the different article, an Invoice was delivered describing it as *Demerara* Sugar. An invoice therefore would come within the meaning of the Act as "applying" to Sugar sold, if delivered with the goods so sold. This is not so clear in the Act as it should be, and an amendment in this direction is desired.

Counsel are also of opinion that a purchaser asking for Demerara Sugar from a retail grocer, and being supplied with Sugar which was not Demerara, has a remedy under the Act, if the Grocer at the time of delivery of the Sugar, describes it in the *Invoice* delivered with the Sugar as Demerara Sugar. A verbal description is not sufficient. The effect of *Invoice*, as thus described, should be clearly stated in an Amending Act—to the effect that an *Invoice delivered with the goods* should be held to be an application of the description to the goods under Sec. 5 (See case of *BUDD v. LUCAS*, 1891—1, 2 and 3, 408, S.C. 60 H.J., M.C., 95), that where a Brewer sends to a customer by his carman a cask of Beer, and the carman delivers along with the cask an Invoice in which the cask is described as a *barrel* when it was not a barrel, the Justices were entitled to find that the description in the *Invoice* was applied to the cask delivered, although not physically attached to such cask.

The desired amendments in the Act are therefore:—

1.—That Sugar exposed for sale and sold as Demerara, and not being Demerara, should be subject to the penal provisions of the Act.

2.—That Sugar exposed by sample—such sample being genuine Demerara—should be held to cover, for the purposes of the Act, any Sugar sold according to that sample, and if the same is not according to the sample, the penal provisions of the Act should apply.

3.—That any invoice delivered by a wholesale or retail seller of goods, at the actual time of the sale or delivery of such goods, shall be deemed an application of the trade description to such goods under the Act.

By the Merchandise Marks Act 1891, Sec. 1, 54 Vic., c. 15, it was enacted that a "Customs entry relating to imported goods should for the purpose of the Merchandise Marks Act 1887 be deemed to be a trade description applied to the goods," showing that in the case of imported goods it was not absolutely essential that the false description should be on the goods themselves. Logically, therefore, in the case of other goods, an invoice which is in very many cases the only description available which falsely describes them, should be held to be "application of a false description" under the Act.

The further suggestion is made that perhaps the simplest remedy would be to provide, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act or the Merchandise Marks Acts, that the seller of Sugar should put upon the packet "Cane," "Beet," or "Mixed." The conditions of sale of Coffee and Chicory, and Butter and Oleomargarine, might afford precedents.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

A further amendment to the Act, as follows:—

An inquiry was made of the Registrar of Companies, according to the Act, as to whether the goods were not imported as Demerara sugar, but it was found that the goods were not imported as Demerara sugar, but as sugar, and the Registrar accordingly issued a certificate to that effect. The Registrar also issued a certificate to that effect, and the goods were accordingly imported as Demerara sugar. The Registrar also issued a certificate to that effect, and the goods were accordingly imported as Demerara sugar. The Registrar also issued a certificate to that effect, and the goods were accordingly imported as Demerara sugar.

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The goods imported in the Act are therefore —

- 1.—That sugar imported for sale and sold as Demerara, and not being Demerara, should be subject to the usual provisions of the Act.
- 2.—That sugar imported by sample—such sample being genuine Demerara—should be held to cover, for the purposes of the Act, any sugar sold according to that sample and if the same is not according to the sample, the penal provisions of the Act should apply.
- 3.—That any sugar delivered by a wholesale or retail seller of goods, at the actual time of the sale or delivery of such goods, shall be deemed an application of the trade description to such goods under the Act.

The Registrar also issued a certificate to that effect, and the goods were accordingly imported as Demerara sugar. The Registrar also issued a certificate to that effect, and the goods were accordingly imported as Demerara sugar. The Registrar also issued a certificate to that effect, and the goods were accordingly imported as Demerara sugar.



CIRCULAR No. 92.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

19th June, 1893.

**SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT.**—The following is the substance of correspondence on this subject. Mr. Arthur M. Lee to Sir Charles Cameron: "I am requested by the West India Committee to forward you the following observations on your Bill (No. 213) now before the House to amend the 'Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875.' Your Section I. makes the Act of 1875, (especially Section 6 and the consequential sections) applicable to the wholesale trader and manufacturer, and this appears to us a most desirable provision in face of the ambiguities of the Act. Your Section II. deletes the word 'written' in Section 25 of the old Act, with the object, as it appears to us, of guarding the retailer against such injustice as was inflicted in a reported case, where an invoice was held not to be a written warranty within the meaning of the Act. But, while curing this mischief, it would seem that a palpable fraud might be committed without remedy, as in the following example:—A purchaser buys, to his prejudice, goods not of the nature, substance and quality demanded by him; but the retail seller having sold the article innocently, and having purchased it under the same description as that under which he passes it on to the retail buyer, and being able to prove this, and to plead the implied warranty provided by your Bill, is dismissed from the prosecution under Section 25 of the Act of 1875. The retail buyer has no privity of contract with the wholesale trader, and, therefore, no remedy against him; while the retail seller, being dismissed from the prosecution, would appear not to have suffered any prejudice from the wholesale trader, and, therefore, to have no ground of prosecution against him. It might also so happen that he had now passed on the bulk or the whole of the fraudulent goods, and, therefore, have suffered no damage or prejudice, and thus be disinclined or unable to take any effective legal action. In any case it would appear to us that such a case is not free from grave doubt, and that, in view of the plain intention of Clause I., it would be advisable by express words to obviate the chance of the offender going scot-free, and of the prosecution—whether by a private person, or by the officer of the local authority—collapsing. I would suggest, as one way of meeting the difficulty, that it might be provided that although the retail seller be dismissed from the prosecution (as in the supposed case) a right of prosecution should still remain against the wholesale trader, whether by adding him as a party to the suit, or in a new suit. And it might be well, out of abundant caution, to provide as a condition precedent to the dismissal of the retail seller that he should disclose the name of his vendor.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON to Mr. LEE, 2nd June.—"I am much obliged by your letter embodying the views of the West India Committee as to my Sale of Food and Drugs Act Amendment Bill.

"In reply, I acknowledge the force of your observations on the question of warranty, which will certainly require careful treatment by the Select Committee to which it is proposed to refer the Bill. But the first thing is to obtain evidence as to the working of the written-warranty section of the present Act, regarding which a number of contradictory statements are afloat. The Act of 1875



was certainly never intended to let off the really guilty party, in cases where a written warranty had been given, and provisions are made in the Act for his punishment. In certain places the provisions are said to work satisfactorily, while in others they are said to render the Act useless where a written warranty has been given. If the former statement is correct, the provisions applicable to a written warranty will, as my Bill is drafted, be equally available in the case of the implied warranty which I suggest. If the contrary is the case we shall require to amend the law as to proceedings where a warranty is pleaded, whether that warranty has been an implied one as proposed, or a special written warranty as provided for under the Act of 1875. That it seems to me should be the first point which the proposed Select Committee should investigate, and in that connection I look upon the suggestions contained in your letter as most valuable. At present the position of the Bill is this—I propose that after a formal second reading it should be referred to a Select Committee to take evidence on the whole question raised by it. To this course the Government has assented, but unfortunately a small number of members block my Bill whenever the second reading is moved, and so far I have been unable to make any progress with it. If your Committee could bring any influence to bear upon these gentlemen to induce them to allow the Bill to go before the Select Committee it would be an important step towards the remedy of the many injustices which occur under the existing law.

“(Signed) CHARLES CAMERON.”

**COOLIE EMIGRATION.**—A ship has been engaged to carry Coolie Emigrants from India to Jamaica and St. Lucia. Each of these Colonies will probably receive about 300 emigrants during the ensuing season.

**Dr. COMINS' REPORT.**—In reply to an inquiry, a letter was received from the India Office, transmitting copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated 15th April, 1893, stating “Demerara Report nearly ready. The West Indies Report promised at the end of next month. No time will be lost in sending them on receipt. Delay caused by Comins' duties as Inspector-General of Jails, requiring much touring, leaving little leisure.” A copy of the report may therefore be expected almost immediately.

**CHAGUARAMAS (TRINIDAD) SCHEME.**—In reply to an inquiry as to the position of this matter, the following letter was received from the Colonial Office. “5th June.—I am directed to acquaint you that the matter is now before the Crown Agents for the Colonies for their Report, but that his Lordship will not be able to come to a final decision upon the questions raised by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, until the draft of the agreement with Mr. Siegert, which is being revised, has been again submitted to the Legislative Council. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.”

**BRITISH GUIANA QUESTIONS.**—The new Governor, Sir Charles C. Lees, goes out by this mail. Among the questions to be dealt with by His Excellency, the following may be mentioned.—Opinion is unanimous as to the want of labour and the necessity of keeping up an annual immigration of at least 5,000 from India. Owing to the drain of able-bodied labourers to the gold fields, the estates must soon be entirely dependent upon the coolie labour. It is felt that the gold industry should provide for its own labour by immigration either from the West India Islands or from China, or contribute to the Immigration Fund. The royalty now exacted upon the gold finding is quite inadequate as a return for all the Government supervision and protection afforded. In 1891-2 the Revenue from gold was £20,729, but the whole of this is apparently absorbed in increased expenditure, without any relief to the taxpayers. No portion of this money goes to the maintenance of labour supply, and under the rule of Lord Gormanston and Sir Charles Bruce, a part of the revenue properly belonging to the Immigration Fund has been diverted to General Revenue. With regard to Sea Defences and Drainage, opinion is



favourable to a general Government scheme (District Boards having proved unsatisfactory) with possibly modifications as to assessment in the case of River Estates and Villages. The West India Association of Liverpool do not concur in this proposal. The attitude of the Government in regard to Estates' Roads is also an important subject for consideration. The restrictions and extra unnecessary expenses imposed by the Rum Ordinance are strongly condemned, and the Ordinance is likely to prove unworkable. It may be expected that Sir C. Lees will give serious attention to this matter. The difficulties have been increased by the lamented death of Mr. Turner, the Chief Commissary, who was an able and energetic Government Official.

**WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.**—The position remains much the same as last reported. The Halifax and Bermudas Company wrote to the West India Company as to a business arrangement. The latter Company replied, that they merely referred to proposals, on Colonial account, to extend the transit rate now in operation with the Cuba Company to all interests generally. The Secretary has received no instructions to express any opinion. The Halifax Company want Imperial assistance to go to Jamaica, or, failing this, assistance from the merchants "to place us in the same position with the money they are spending at present." It is difficult to follow the exact meaning of the last sentence. What the Colonies want is a cheaper system, with all the necessary elements of permanence. If the Halifax Company will formulate their demands in such a way as to be subject to a practical decision by the West Indian Legislatures, perhaps the question may advance to a solution.

**MAIL NEWS**—The British Guiana Planters' Association are seriously considering the question of labour supply. Messrs. Pickford & Black, who run their Canadian steamers to Demerara monthly, have made a proposition for the introduction of Chinese emigrants. The cost, landed at Georgetown, would be 110 dollars per head. They would come by steamer to Vancouver B.C., thence by rail to Halifax, thence by Canadian steamers to Demerara. Cuba is said to be taking large numbers of these labourer. Of course, there are many points to be considered in connection with this scheme, and the views of the Planters' Association by next mail will be welcome. A prospectus of the Barima Gold Mining Company, Limited, has been received; capital 300,000 dollars, 60,000 shares at 5 dollars each. Mining and Placer Claims are to be acquired, the vendors accepting part payment in shares. In Antigua, the young crop continues to look well, but rain is much wanted. The weather in Trinidad, to the 30th May, had been very wet, the rainy season having evidently set in. Sugar-making was at an end for the season.

SHIPMENTS JANUARY TO MAY (INCLUSIVE).

|                         |          | Sugar.<br>Tons. | Rum<br>Puos. | Coffee.<br>Lbs. | Cocoa.<br>Lbs. | Asphalte.<br>Tons. |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana, ...     | 1893 ... | 17,331          | 8,288        |                 |                |                    |
|                         | 1892 ... | 17,298          | 8,819        |                 | 2,580          |                    |
| Trinidad ...            | 1893 ... | 35,041          | 214          | 6,080           | 4,650,010      | 50,731             |
|                         | 1892 ... | 30,223          | 5            | 8,040           | 13,256,090     | 49,217             |
| Barbados ...            | 1893 ... | 37,490          |              |                 |                |                    |
|                         | 1892 ... | 24,721          |              |                 |                |                    |
|                         |          |                 | Gals.        |                 |                |                    |
| Jamaica (to 31st March) | 1893 ... | 6,267           | 417,953      | 5,337,612       | 396,933        |                    |
|                         | 1892 ... | 10,321          | 660,730      | 4,199,851       | 136,664        |                    |

Gold from British Guiana, 38,571 ozs., against 34,000.

**BET CROP**—Complaints are strong in France of the extraordinary dryness and great heat. Local rains in some parts quite insufficient, while in others none has fallen. Beet does not escape this general calamity to agriculture, and presents itself under a sufficiently melancholy aspect. The crop, however, varies, some of the roots sown in good time not having suffered, and there is still the possibility of improvement with the desired weather. In Belgium and Holland similar improved weather is desired. Austria has had partial and irregular rains. The situation has improved in Bohemia, but in Germany it is less happy, the season being fairly favourable, but rains not general enough. Mr. Licht's report for June is not out—his figures remaining 3,402,000 for 1892-3, and 3,501,920 for 1891-2. Estimate for 1893-4 not yet published.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES**—(Clark, 8th June).—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe—907,000 tons, against 1,098,000; United States 161,000, against 231,000; Cuba 233,000, against 309,000. Total 1,303,000, against 1,638,000. (Czarnikow, 15th June).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe:—835,910, against 1,035,005; United States 89,000, against 145,648; Havana 135,000, against 170,000. Total 1,062,910, against 1,354,553.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET** 88 per cent (Czarnikow), 18/10½, against 12 3 for same time 1892 and 1891.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM**.—First twenty-three weeks landings of Raw Sugar at four principal ports 356,744 tons against 377,352; Deliveries 355,040, against 359,558; Stocks 95,305, against 123,380.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS**.—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 20th May.—Weather has been finer since last message, and generally favourable for the cultivation and grinding. (Per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.), 12th June.—Showery and unsettled. **TRINIDAD** (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.), 23rd May.—Wet season set in. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Ltd.), 31st May.—The rainy season has set in. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 23rd May.—Fine rains generally throughout the island. 6th June.—Seasonable weather.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



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CIRCULAR No. 93

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

17<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1893.

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.—The Colonial Office forward to the committee a batch of important papers. The documents include: letter of the West India Committee to Lord Knutsford, 5th May, 1892; letter of Liverpool West India Association to Lord Knutsford 24th May, 1892; despatch of Lord Knutsford to Lord Gormanston 20th May, 1892, calling for a full report, the subject being one of "grave importance"; a report by Mr. G. W. Dickson, Colonial Civil Engineer, 20th February, 1893, stating various objections to the general scheme proposed, but recommending the appointment of a committee to consider the general line to be adopted: despatch of Sir C. Bruce to Lord Ripon, 5th April, 1893, of which the following is an extract; "As Mr. Dickson has urgently pressed an application for leave, which I do not feel justified in refusing, the appointment of a commission must in any case be postponed, but I am inclined to think that it is advisable to limit the reference to a commission—if a commission is appointed—to the consideration of some definite scheme, and, particularly the distribution of the cost of execution and maintenance. In my despatch No. 9, of the 4th January, 1889, I explained the principles of the East and West Coast Sea Defences Ordinances. It is true that these Ordinances failed in practice, but the cause of failure is perfectly clear. It arose from the impossibility of getting the proprietors of the Coast Estates to agree, and the consequent inability of the Commissioners to carry out the duties assigned to them. This was unanimously admitted when the Ordinances were repealed. But the general principles laid down in my despatch seem to me still perfectly sound and in accordance with the recommendations made in paragraphs 4 to 10 of Mr. Dickson's report. What proved defective in the operation of the Ordinances was the agency by which the principles were to be put in practice. What is necessary is to substitute the Governor-in-Council, or preferably, in my opinion, the Governor and the Court of Policy for the Commissioners provided by the Ordinance. The course that I venture to advise is the enactment of an Ordinance to provide for the units of Sea Defence included in the East and West Coast Sea Defences Ordinances, and, if it is thought advisable, for an additional unit including the Coast from Suddie to Hampton Court, in Essequibo, referred to in the 4th paragraph of Mr. Dickson's report. The enactment should give the Governor and Court of Policy all the powers given to the Commissioners by the East and West Coast Sea Defences Ordinances, and it should contain provisions similar in spirit to the provisions of sections 119 to 123 of the Village Ordinance, giving the Governor and Court of Policy power to deal with loans and grants for the Sea Defence of the respective units authorised by the combined Court. After the passing of such an enactment the Government will probably with advantage appoint a commission to report on the method of assessment and the areas over which the liability of the Coast Estates and villages to assessment should extend. For instance an estate with a total area of say 1000 acres may have a narrow sea front and great depth; it would be for the Commission to report as to how such an estate should be assessed as compared with an estate of the same acreage

having a wide sea front and lesser depth. In making this recommendation I venture to anticipate that these units of sea defence might be at once adopted for drainage and sanitary purposes and eventually for purposes of local taxation generally. I find it impossible to reason myself into the belief that the villages as at present constituted are satisfactory units for any of these purposes." Lord Ripon's decision is announced in a despatch to Sir C. Lees as follows:—July 4th, 1893.

"On the papers before me, I am disposed to concur generally in Sir C. Bruce's view of the method by which these defences should be kept up: that is to say, that the portion of the Colony affected should be divided into districts composed of all the polders, or estates, lying within certain fixed limits, and that these should form units for purposes of sea defence; that the power of determining the general lines and of superintending the details of defence should rest with the Colonial Government; but that the revenue of the whole Colony should not be burdened with the expense, or part of the expense, of protecting the foreshore of a portion of the Colony. I am aware, however, that before you left to assume the government of the Colony you had interviews with the West India Committee and with the leading estates owners in this country upon the subject, and that you may accordingly have suggestions to lay before me, which would be of importance in determining my final opinion on the question. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will bring the matter as soon as possible before the Executive Council, and unless, after consulting them, you see any objection to this course, if you will cause a draft ordinance to be prepared in accordance with Sir C. Bruce's proposals, and have it published for general information before it is introduced into the Court of policy. While, as at present advised, I have doubts whether it is reasonable that the general revenue should contribute to the cost of the sea defences, except in respect of lands belonging to the Colony, which may be benefited by such defences, I think that the Colonial Government may fairly assist those on whom the expenses fall by borrowing the whole or part of the cost of construction of the Defences, and advancing it at a low rate of interest, on the security of the rates to be assessed on the lands benefited, and you may include provisions of this character in any ordinance which may be drafted. If it be the case, as stated by the West India Committee, that the safety of Georgetown is dependent on the maintenance of the sea defences of contiguous estates, it seems proper that the municipal revenue should contribute to the cost of these defences; and I should wish you to consider and report on this point, which was not noticed in either Sir C. Bruce's despatch or the Report of the Colonial Civil Engineer."

**DR. COMINS' REPORT.**—Information from India has induced the Committee to write as follows to the Under Secretary of State for India, 11th July, 1893:—"We had the honour to receive the letter of Mr. Horace Walpole, written by direction of the Earl of Kimberley, dated the 8th June last, informing us that his lordship had not then received from the Government of India the Report of Dr. Comins on his mission to the West Indies. May we venture to ask whether his Lordship would be pleased to inquire of the Government of India what is the reason of the delay in the production of the Report, considering that, as we are informed, the Government of India telegraphed to the Secretary of State on the 15th April last to the effect that the Report, both for Demerara and the West Indies, would be ready by the end of May."

**WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.**—In continuation of the paragraph in circular 92 it may be said that in reply to a suggestion from the Halifax Company for a business-like arrangement



with the West India Company, the latter mention a projected undertaking to be called the Bermuda Extension Company. This projected undertaking the West India Company did not have in view when they referred to "proposals on Colonial account to extend the transit rate now in operation with the Cuba Company to all interests generally." In writing to the Committee 26th June, the West India Company say that they quite agree it would be advantageous to the Colonies," to have cheaper telegraphic rates with a system as reliable as the present duplicated one. The question is at whose cost is it to be obtained?" The requirement as to reliable connection would not be fulfilled by a single line from Jamaica to Halifax, and the West India Company naturally go on to object to competition for the Jamaica subsidy. The West India Company again profess themselves willing to arrange low tariffs if a revenue were guaranteed sufficient to maintain the system and yield a very moderate return on capital. It is clear that such a proposal could be better discussed by the West Indian Legislatures than on this side.

The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., are willing to extend the Bermuda Cable to Jamaica upon obtaining the inducement asked for; viz., a subsidy. The Halifax Company no doubt deserve credit for their enterprise. According to their published reports the Company was formed in May, 1889, to establish communication between Halifax and the Bermudas or elsewhere. The Directors in 1890 were Sir Alex. Armstrong, Mr. L. H. Isaacs, M.P., Mr. J. W. Adamson, and Mr. T. G. H. Glynn. A favourable report was expected as to the first years' traffic. The principal liabilities were the share capital of £50,000 and £120,000 debentures. In September, 1891, the Directors were Sir A. Armstrong, Chairman, and Messrs. Isaacs, Glynn, Skinner, Hosmer, and Rippon, the latter (Mr. Joseph Rippon) being General Manager. The capital account, viz., £120,000 at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  first mortgage debentures and £50,000 fully paid shares remained as above, £168,000 had been paid for and in connection with the cable. The shares held by the International Cable Company, the promoters, were acquired by Mr. Thomas Skinner, of London (largely interested in Canada), and Mr. C. Hosmer, of Montreal. The Report for year ending June, 1892, showed a profit on working of £1,261, which the Directors report as satisfactory. The claims of the Construction Company had been discharged and all open matters with the International Cable Company finally adjusted. Sir A. Armstrong and Mr. Isaacs retired from the Directorate on the ground of economy. A sum of £1,714 is credited as "proportion of subsidy accrued due to date." The Company therefore is in working order but no opinion can be expressed here as to demands for West Indian Subsidies for projected extensions; the matter, as stated above, being for the Colonies to determine.

Proposals are being submitted to the Spanish Cortes for a cable between Cuba, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, by a gentleman who has been long identified with telegraphic enterprise. A special Committee has been appointed to report on the bill prior to its passage through both houses at Madrid. It is contemplated that the Azores may also be brought into the connection. At present there does not seem any cable connecting the Azores, telegrams being sent by post from Lisbon.

**THE CHAGUARAMAS SCHEME.**—Some friendly criticism, to which no objection could be taken, has been expressed in the Trinidad Council in respect of the action taken by the West India Committee in this matter. It may be explained, however, that the information received from the Colony was very full and precise and the only object of the Committee was to secure, at the instance of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, a full consideration of all the facts of the case.



A review of the correspondence would lead to the belief that the decision, whatever it may be, will be founded upon a complete knowledge of all the different views entertained in the Colony. The West India Committee expressed no decided opinion, thinking it was a matter for the Colony.

MAIL NEWS,—June 28th, *British Guiana* Combined Court sanctioned the construction of a light Railway to connect the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers; continued rain was beginning to tell on cultivation. The Barbados Government appear to be willing to establish Emigration to Guiana. *Trinidad* The deepening of the water in the Harbour is recommended by the Select Committee to be done by dredging. The best means of dealing with soft mud appears to be by centrifugal pumps, and they are recommended to be tried, the work being contracted for after tender. The cost is expected to amount to £11,500. The Government, however, are in favour of reclamation at a greatly increased cost, instead of dredging. The reconstitution of the Central Agricultural Board upon a really representative basis would result in very useful work and be generally approved. *Jamaica*. Coffee crop prospects favourable, rain very beneficial. Cocoa small supply at reduced prices. Trade depressed owing to no crops at market. Fruit in fair demand at lower prices with declining market abroad. *Antigua*. More favourable weather, good rains have checked damage to growing crop and with further rains prospects will be satisfactory.

#### SHIPMENTS, JANUARY TO JUNE.

|                       | Sugar. | Rum.   | Coffee. | Cocoa.     | Asphalte. |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|-----------|
|                       | Tons.  | Puns.  | lbs.    | lbs.       | tons.     |
| British Guiana 1893.— | 28,538 | 8,493  | 13,930  | 3,528      |           |
| 1892.—                | 33,432 | 10,539 | 5,322   | 2,583      |           |
| Trinidad 1893.—       | 38,245 | 220.   | 6,720   | 6,786,060  | 1,849     |
| 1892.—                | 36,057 | 5.     | 11,880  | 14,550,810 | 59,797    |
| Barbados 1893.—       | 51,410 |        |         |            |           |
| 1892.—                | 38,816 |        |         |            |           |

Jamaica (advices to date not received).

Gold from British Guiana 57,797 ozs. against 50,352.

BEEF CROP.—Up to July 5th the prospects of the crops of Russia, Austria, Hungary and Germany, excepting the South Western Districts, are said to be good, but the amount of rainfall to that date was quite insufficient for South West Germany, France and Belgium, and the damage done in these countries by drought is irreparable. Strong complaints still come from France of heat and dryness; on all sides rain is desired especially for the first beets sown which are good in appearance, but their quantity is small as compared with the whole. In some districts there will be a deficit of 30 to 40 per cent. In Holland, Belgium and Austria reports are of unequal crops. Germany is better but still abundant rains are wanted. In Russia there will be an abundant crop. On the whole the crop will be satisfactory in the East of Europe and very deficient in the West. Mr. Licht's report for July is not out. (The rains of the last few days have, of course, improved outlook).

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Clark, 8th July).—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe: 744,000 tons against 945,000; United States and afloat to United States 156,000 against 238,000; Havana 211,000 against 250,000. Total 1,111,000 tons against 1,433,000. (Czarinkow, 13, July). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe:—679,243 tons against 884,902; United States 106,000 against 157,435; Havana 122,000 against 134,000. Total 907,243 tons against 1,176,337.



SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—First twenty-seven weeks landings of Raw Sugar at four principal parts:—421,503 tons against 446,404; Deliveries 415,935 against 422,227, Stocks 102,169 against 129,763.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET 88 per cent, (Czarnikow), 17s. 9d. against 12s. 6d. for same time 1892.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co). June 24th:—Heavy rains continue; the cultivation is not yet suffering but finer weather would be acceptable. 3rd July—Finer weather last few days—12th, Finer weather since last message. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) 29th June.—Heavy rain continues, fine weather wanted. Antigua (per favour of Geo. G. Macandrew, Esq.) 29th June.—Good rains have fallen generally to extent of 1½-inches since last Mail. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited.) 27th June—Weather too wet. 6th July—Weather good for growing canes. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 20th June—Fine rains generally throughout the Island. 4th July—Seasonable weather.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 94.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

14th August, 1893.

**SUGAR CANE DISEASE.**—*Kew Bulletin* for July contains some information on this disease as distinguished from the attacks of borers. Mr. Thiselton Dyer writes to Colonial Office, stating that he intrusted a complete series of diseased Canes, received from Mr. Bovell, of Barbados, to Mr. George Massee, a well known expert in Mycology, who made a careful study of them at Kew. Mr. Massee's preliminary report is given. Mr. Dyer summarises the conclusions as follows:—(1) The disease is due to a fungus, a species of *Trichosphaeria*; this, like many allied minute fungi, has the peculiarity of possessing more than one reproductive phase. These different phases have been mistaken for distinct fungi, but as a matter of fact they are not so, but are capable of reproducing one another. (2) The *Trichosphaeria* is evidently a very destructive parasite. It can effect a lodgment on the young leaves of the Sugar Cane, but not on the mature ones. But it readily takes advantage of any wound, such as is produced by the removal of young shoots, or by the different kinds of borers. It is this latter circumstance which has led the malady which the fungus produces to be regarded as having some connection with the borers. Mr. Dyer proceeds: No practical remedy can be suggested to check the progress of the disease beyond the "cutting out" and the careful destruction by *burning* of every diseased Cane.

**BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION.**—It is proposed to address the Secretary of State to express the anxiety which is felt in respect of the supply of labour, especially in view of the absorption of labourers by the gold industry. This new industry is one which is no less favourably regarded on this side than in the Colony, and its development is to be much desired as adding to the wealth and resources of the Colony. At the same time, there must be, for a longer or shorter period, a dislocation of labour, and it is proposed to urge upon the Secretary of State, that a larger number of immigrants from India should be introduced. This, of course, depends practically upon the requisitions from planters, as it is understood the Colonial Government are disposed, as in this season, to secure the introduction of all that may be applied for. This action by the Committee is quite in accordance with the suggestions contained in the letter of Mr. B. Howell Jones, who has been elected Chairman of the Planters' Association, to the Secretary of that body, dated 20th July, 1893. The difficulties in the way of Chinese immigration, as pointed out by Mr. Howell Jones, are fully appreciated, and the matter is really one for the consideration of the Planters' Association, who have decided to write to the Government, with regard to Messrs. Pickford & Black's proposal to introduce Chinese, to the effect that "the subject has the hearty support of the Association, and it is hoped that the Government will see its way to introducing a batch of these immigrants as a trial."



**DR. COMINS' REPORT.**—The letter addressed to the India Office, printed in last circular, produced no result, and it was therefore decided to have the following question put in Parliament:—  
“Mr. Gilliat: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for India whether Surgeon-Major Deane Comins, Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, was instructed by the Government of India, in the early part of the year 1891, to proceed on an official visit to the British and Foreign Colonies in the West Indies, and to report upon the condition of the Coolie immigrants in those Colonies. Whether as the result of repeated applications to Her Majesty's Government, the Government of India telegraphed to the India Office, on the 5th April, 1893, that Dr. Comins' Reports were nearly ready, and that no time would be lost in sending them on receipt. Whether the Reports have yet been received and transmitted by the Government of India to the Secretary of State, and if not, what is the reason of the delay which has occurred in connection with them.” The answer was: Reports not yet received owing to Dr. Comins' want of leisure.

**WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.**—This subject is likely to excite such great attention in the near future, that every desire naturally exists that no misconception should arise as to the exact views of the parties interested. In referring to last circular, No. 93, Mr. R. T. Brown, Secretary of the West India Company, writes:—“What my Company intended to convey was, that if the Colonies would help it to bear the loss that would be caused by a competing line, subsidized, from Jamaica to Halifax, it was willing to extend its transit rate to such a competition and to all interests generally. It naturally enough is not prepared to offer low rates and facilities to a projected Company called the ‘Bermuda Extension Company,’ and thereby assist in promoting an undertaking which would probably seriously endanger this Company's power of maintaining the communication throughout the Caribbean Sea. But it is willing to receive proposals from the Colonies for reducing rates either on the existing cables, or by the proposed new route *via* Bermuda.” The letter goes on to regret that the last circular “makes no mention of the governing fact that the West India Company, after paying irregularly the interest on the capital expended in giving the Colonies a double line of cables—which was not contemplated when the enterprise was started—has only divided an aggregate amount of 6s. 3d. per £10 share during the 24 years of its existence. It might also be conducive to a fair judgment on the question to state that the West India Company performs services which are unknown to any other British Telegraph Company, though there are several enjoying subsidies, which, both in amounts and terms of contract, are far more liberal than those given in the West Indies. Something might be done towards giving greater satisfaction to the West Indian public if the terms of our contracts could be brought into unison with those adopted in numerous instances by Her Majesty's Government, the Australian and Cape Governments, as well as by the Foreign Governments which subsidize English cables;” and the letter concludes by suggesting that “more business-like arrangements between the Colonies and the Company would give more scope for the natural development of the Company's business, which is now checked by obligations exceptionally onerous and inconsistent with the proper functions of a Telegraph Company, and would probably lead in the direction of that reduction of rates which has been followed by all Telegraph Companies fairly supported by the publics they serve.” The above extracts are simply given for the information of Members, and are printed without comment.

**BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.**—West India Committee to Colonial Office, 3rd August:—  
“My Lord Marquess, I have the honour to acknowledge, on behalf of the West India Committee, the receipt of the Hon. R. H. Meade's letter of the 5th July last, transmitting, by the direction of your Lordship, copies of the following Papers:—(1) Sessional Paper laid before the Combined Court, including a Report by Mr. Dickson, dated the 20th February, 1893, upon the subject of Sea Defences in British Guiana; (2) Copy of a Despatch by Sir C. Bruce to your Lordship, dated 5th April, 1893, and (3) Copy of a Despatch from your Lordship to Sir C. Lees, dated the 4th July, 1893. (2) I have to thank your Lordship for these Papers, and, especially for the interesting Despatch of Sir C. Bruce. We are glad to perceive that Sir C. Bruce concurs in the view we ventured to express as to the



unworkability of the previous system, and that your Lordship approves of His Excellency's recommendation that a law should be passed substituting the Governor-in-Council or the Governor and the Court of Policy for the Commissioners. With regard to this, our impression is that the Governor-in-Council should be selected, and there could be no doubt as to His Excellency obtaining the best advice on practical questions of detail. (3) We think that the principle as stated in the 2nd par. of your Lordship's Despatch of 4th July would be generally acceptable, viz., that polders or estates lying within certain fixed limits should be formed into districts, and that these should form units for the purpose of Sea Defence, and should be arranged as soon as possible for the four units, viz., East Coast, West Coast, Berbice and Essequibo, although as regards Berbice there is no present prospect of any expenditure being required. But we trust that upon further consideration of the matter your Lordship would be pleased to consent to a certain amount of assistance being given in some form or another to the District Funds from the Colonial Revenue, as the maintenance of Sea Defences is a work that concerns the general welfare and security of the Colony; and we may especially call your Lordship's attention to the fact that unless the Sea Defences are maintained the Public Roads of the Colony would become useless. Apart from this point, we think that your Lordship's suggestion for the raising of a Loan, as stated in your Despatch, would be acceptable. With regard to this matter, a suggestion has been made, and it is one worthy of consideration, that the Government should take upon itself the maintenance of the Sea Defences, subject to the estates concerned agreeing to an assessment on some equitable basis, such assessment to be payable over a period of, say, 30 years. Upon this assessment the Government would recoup the cost of a Loan from which to defray the cost of the Defences. In other words, that in lieu of the estates being called upon to defray expenses incurred from time to time, they should become liable, once for all, for a definite amount, the Government agreeing in consideration of this amount, to become liable for such maintenance as may become necessary. If the Government thus became financially responsible there would be every inducement on its part, while having every power to do the work, or obtain the work being done effectively, to do it as economically as possible. One of the questions which would come before the Governor-in-Council and any Committee of Advice which might be formed, would be as to whether the work should be done by the Government itself, or by the estates under the certificate of the Colonial Civil Engineer. In ordinary circumstances the Estates would probably do the work more cheaply than the Government. (4) We shall be glad to receive a copy of the draft Ordinance at your Lordship's convenience as soon as it is prepared, and if your Lordship would be pleased to approve, it might be useful for us to communicate with Mr. Dickson during his leave in this country. (5) With regard to the letter of the West India Association of Liverpool, dated the 24th May, 1892, and the further letter which they have recently addressed to your Lordship, we have only the following remarks to make. We demur, of course, to the statement that the present Law has proved adequate, and that a coast line of 280 miles long has to be defended. The coast line for sea defence purposes would not be more than 60 to 70 miles. With regard to the difference of value between River Estates and Sea Coast Estates, the liability of the latter for Sea Defence is of course always an item in value, and it therefore would appear to be right that River Estates which are not affected should not be subject to immediate or direct assessment, but only indirectly through any contribution from the General Revenue "

(Signed) - N. LUBBOCK,

*Chairman.*

THE ENGLISH ADDRESS TO THE BISHOP OF BRITISH GUIANA.—Contributions towards the special fund for the payment of expenses in connection with this movement have been received from Mrs. Andrew Hunter, Mr. R. J. Kelly, Mr. H. K. Davson, Mr. Thomas Porter, Mrs. L. Manget, Mr. N. Cox, Revd. W. G. G. Austin.



## SHIPMENTS JANUARY TO JULY.

|                    |          | Sugar.<br>Tons. | Rum.<br>Tuns. | Coffee.<br>Lbs. | Cocoa.<br>Lbs. | Asphalte<br>Tons. |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| British Guiana ... | 1893 ... | 31,293          | 8,962         |                 | 3,528          |                   |
|                    | 1892 ... | 31,633          | 10,853        |                 | 2,580          |                   |
| Trinidad ...       | 1893 ... | 42,669          | 355           | 6,720           | 10,047,000     | 63,039            |
|                    | 1892 ... | 38,945          | 11            | 13,480          | 16,335,810     | 66,884            |
| Barbados ...       | 1893 ... | 54,796          |               |                 |                |                   |

**SUGAR CROPS.**—The sun and rain of the last fortnight have been very beneficial to the Beet in France. The situation, as regards the first sowings, has very much improved, but upon the whole the French prospects remain as before, that is, a part of the crop promises a good yield, the rest will give but feeble results, repeating practically the experience of 1892. In the other countries the situation is much improved by the weather. Germany has made great progress during the last fortnight. Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Holland and Russia also send good reports. In short, the general European crop is well spoken of, although the dryness must leave ineffaceable traces in many countries. Mr. Lichts' last estimate (July) is 2,412,000 for 1892-3, against 3,501,920 in 1891-2. Estimates of growing crop not to hand. (Clark)—Total Cane crop 1892-3, 2,685,000, against 2,807,000. Total Cane and Beet, 6,097,000 tons in 1892-3, against 6,310,000 in 1891-2.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Clark, 8th August).—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe:—590,000 tons against 757,000; United States and afloat to United States 149,000, against 235,000; Havana 168,000, against 173,000. Total 907,000 tons, against 1,166,000. (Czarnikow, 10th August).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 514,492 tons, against 670,541; United States 97,000, against 155,912; Havana 115,000, against 105,000. Total 726,492 tons, against 931,453.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1893—480,390, against 514,296. Deliveries for 1893—476,009, against 489,405. Stocks for 1893—100,982, against 130,477.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET** 88 per cent. (Czarnikow), 16/1½, against 13/1½ for same time 1892.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 22nd July.—Weather unsettled. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 11th August.—Weather continues wet, with intervals of fine days. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), 18th July.—Seasonable weather. 1st August.—Seasonable weather.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

11th September, 1893.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—Owing to the holidays there have been no recent Meetings. Due notice will be given of the resumption of Meetings.

**Dr. COMINS' REPORT.**—The question and answer in the House of Commons were submitted to Sir Charles Elliott, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, now in England. His Excellency had received some reports from Dr. Comins, and had sent them on to the Government of India, but he would write at once to the Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government. All such reports would be sent at once to the Supreme Government.

**IMMIGRATION.**—A good deal of interest is taken in the arrangements for the ensuing and subsequent seasons. A proposal was made that an influential member of the Trinidad Council should proceed to Demerara to exchange views with regard to terms of future contracts, but owing to the proceedings of the Trinidad Government nothing was done. So far as Trinidad is concerned, the matter seems still suspended. The Immigration Committee, on the 7th August, passed a resolution that for three years of the proposed Contract the minimum number of Coolies to be introduced be fixed at 2,500, and the minimum number of return Coolies at 600. This resolution came before the Council on 21st August, and the consideration of it was apparently adjourned. The British Guiana advertisement for the next three years contract, has not yet been issued, pending despatches from the Colonial Government. There is no doubt that the whole question of these Contracts deserves full consideration, and that the opportunity has now come for putting it upon a more satisfactory basis for the Colonies.

**MAIL NEWS.**—British Guiana, August 23rd.—The Demerara Railway Company have accepted the Government terms for an extension to Berbice. The route of proposed railway between the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers is to be reported on by the Colonial Civil Engineer. A Bill has been read a first time in the Court of Policy, rendered necessary by the transfer of the cost of maintenance of the Estates roads to the Colony. The Court passed a Resolution recommending a bounty of \$25 per adult be paid to anyone who will, within twelve months, bring into the Colony, under such conditions of contract of service and otherwise as may be fixed by the Governor-in-Council, any number of Chinese up to 5,000 who may be suitable labourers either for the Cane field or the Gold industry. Dry weather is reported to have set in on August 15th. Trinidad, August 23rd.—The weather was drier during past fortnight, and this was a welcome and favourable change after the late heavy rains; all cultivation was looking well. (No telegram since above date has been received.) The total output of Sugar crop is estimated at 47,000 tons. Jamaica.—Trade depressed until crops come to market. A fair crop of Pimento is expected. Coffee is expected at market very early this year, and prospects are good. Antigua.—Weather variable and stormy, and on two occasions threatening. Rain was still wanted all over the Island. Nevis has had a gale, but no damage done.

## SHIPMENTS JANUARY TO AUGUST.

|                    |          | Sugar.<br>Tons. | Rum.<br>Puns. | Coffee.<br>Lbs. | Cocoa.<br>Lbs. | Asphalte.<br>Tons. |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana ... | 1893 ... | 39,080          | 10,166        |                 | 3,528          |                    |
|                    | 1892 ... | 40,246          | 13,175        |                 | 3,804          |                    |
| Trinidad ...       | 1893 ... | 43,212          | 527           | 6,720           | 12,455,730     | 70,949             |
|                    | 1892 ... | 41,477          | 11            | 15,080          | 18,194,080     | 71,103             |
| Barbados ...       | 1893 ... | 64,658          |               |                 |                |                    |
|                    | 1892 ... | 52,446          |               |                 |                |                    |

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—No estimates, in figures, have yet been put forward for the Beet crop of 1893-4, but Mr. LICHT, in his circular of 26th August, says, according to the present state of affairs,



the new campaign preliminarily gives hopes of a minus of about 90,000 tons against its predecessor. The following are the latest figures published :—

|                     | 1892-3.          | 1891-2.          | 1890-1.                |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Germany ...         | 1,225,000        | 1,198,156        | 1,331,965              |
| Austria ...         | 800,000          | 786,566          | 778,473                |
| France ...          | 590,000          | 650,377          | 694,037                |
| Russia ...          | 450,000          | 550,994          | 544,162                |
| Belgium ...         | 180,000          | 180,377          | 205,623                |
| Holland ...         | 70,000           | 46,815           | 76,635                 |
| Other Countries ... | 97,000           | 88,635           | 80,000                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>3,412,000</b> | <b>3,501,920</b> | <b>3,710,895 TONS.</b> |

The weather has been hot and dry in France, with occasional favourable times. Rain is still wanted. In Holland and Belgium, as in France, the crops are still uncertain. In Germany, rains have fallen. Upon the whole, German reports are favourable for an average crop. Owing to financial crisis in United States, retailers have reduced their purchases, and refiners have restricted operations. The market for raw in United States is not, therefore, so strong. German Beet, to the extent of over 60,000 tons, was to be sent to United States and Canada during August and September, thus reducing European stocks. Latest estimates of Beet, 1893-4, are still very various, ranging from below last campaign to very considerably above it.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Licht, 26th August).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe :—463,491, against 575,645 ; United States 78,000, against 139,983 ; Havana 114,808, against 106,680 ; floating to North America 36,466, against 37,570. Total 692,765, against 850,878. (Czarnikow, 7th September).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 432,695 tons, against 522,950 ; United States 63,000, against 96,819 ; Havana 106,000, against 62,000. Total 601,695 tons, against 681,769. (Clark, 8th September).—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe :—477,000 tons, against 586,000 ; United States, 63,000, against 97,000 ; afloat to United States 40,000, against 60,000 ; Havana 150,000, against 100,000. Total 730,000 tons, against 843,000.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1893, 514,052 tons, against 553,526. Deliveries for 1893, 515,371, against 533,973. Stocks for 1893, 95,282, against 126,039.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—Eighty-eight per cent. (Czarnikow), 14/4½, against 13/6½ for same time 1892.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. JNO. McCONNELL & Co.), 22nd August—Weather dry. (Per favour of Messrs. HOGG, CURTIS, CAMPBELL & Co.), 2nd September—Dry weather appears to have set in. (Per favour of COLONIAL COMPANY, LIMITED), 7th September—Fine, with occasional light showers. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. BURNLEY AND Co., LIMITED), 17th August—Weather favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. WILKINSON AND GAVILLER), 15th August—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island ; 29th—Seasonable Weather.

**THE ENGLISH ADDRESS TO THE BISHOP OF BRITISH GUIANA.**—In continuation of list in last CIRCULAR, the following subscriptions have been received :—Dr. M. Shannon, M.D., Mr. A. J. Pitman.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration ; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET. LONDON, E.C.,

9th October, 1893.

DR. COMINS.—The Colonial Office forward the following papers. Note (dated 28th December, 1892), on the abolition of return passages to East Indian immigrants from the Colonies of Trinidad and British Guiana, by Surgeon-Major D. W. D. Comins, on special duty in the English and Foreign Colonies: with an appendix containing official and other statements furnished to him in the Colonies:—Despatch from the Bengal Government to the Government of India, 9th March, 1893, forwarding the note, and expressing the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor of return immigrants paying a fixed proportion of the passage money. Report by Dr. R. Macleod, Protector of emigrants, at Calcutta, to the Bengal Government, agreeing that Immigrants should so contribute, and suggesting that the Colonies, by offering land grants and other inducements, should aid in the permanent settlement of the people. Despatch from Madras Government to Government of India, with report from Protector at Madras. Despatch from Government of N.W. Provinces and Oudh to Government of India. Other Official papers are included, but the most important is, the Despatch of the Viceroy (The Marquis of Lansdowne), signed by His Excellency and Council, to the Earl of Kimberley, Secretary of State for India, dated Simla, 15th August, 1893, of which the following is a copy:—

"MY LORD.—With reference to our despatch, No. 26, of the 11th March, 1891, we have the honour to forward a copy of a note by Surgeon-Major Comins, on the abolition of the return passages at present required to be provided for East Indian Immigrants by the Colonies of Trinidad and British Guiana, as well as a copy of our correspondence with the Local Governments concerned on the subject of the recommendations made in the note.

"2.—We see no objection to a system under which the Agents for a particular Colony might refuse to engage labourers who have previously proceeded to that Colony, and returned, except upon the condition that such labourers shall have no right to a free return passage.

"3.—As regards others, who may in future emigrate to the two Colonies above-named, we are ready to allow that a substantial, though not excessive, contribution towards the price of a return passage may reasonably be required from all who have money, and we would fix the amount at *one-fourth* of the passage-money for men, and *one-sixth* for women. Destitute and disabled persons must, however, be returned free, and persons dependent on labourers must be allowed a free passage along with the persons on whom they are dependent.

"4.—We trust that these proposals will be approved by your Lordship and the Colonial Authorities, and we shall be willing, on receiving advice of such approval, to arrange for their immediate adoption so far as concerns the Colonies of Trinidad and British Guiana."

The consensus of opinion among the Governments of India and the Supreme Government is apparent, and the attention which has thus been officially drawn in India to the emigration to British Colonies cannot fail to have beneficial results. Dr. Comins' "Note" commences with an account of the history of back passage. He traces it back to Lord Stanley's despatch of 1842, concerning emigration to Mauritius. While, however, back passage was not retained for Mauritius, it was for the West Indies. Sir P. Wodehouse's Ordinance of 1854 (B. Guiana) recognised Immigrants' payments for back passage, but the plan was not carried out. "The principle that Immigrants should contribute towards the return passage was, however, fully recognised and agreed to by the Home Government." The further history of the subject is given in some detail. Sir Richard Temple, Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, in a Minute, in 1875, said, that to withhold the back passage altogether would be doubtful justice, and people coming back with their pocket full of earnings induces others to try their chances. But the majority will remain, says Sir R. Temple; and Dr. Comins adds, "that the people who voluntarily remain in Trinidad and Demerara show how greatly they appreciate the advantages they obtain there." In further dealing with the question, the point comes out strongly that a certain number of return Coolies are valuable as recruiters, and this was the opinion of the British Guiana



Committee on Return Passage in 1889. Would the withdrawal of the right to a free return passage act as a deterrent to emigration? asks Dr. Comins. The question is extremely important, and is discussed from several points of view. "The Colonial Emigration Agents, who know the condition of Immigrants in the Colonies as well as in India, think that the change might be made without checking the flow of emigration." A good deal of testimony is then adduced as to the proposals in the Colonies to give inducements, such as land grants, to Emigrants to remain. The savings taken back by the Coolies are prominently mentioned, as well as the satisfactory position of those who remain. "In both Trinidad and Demerara an industrious and steady man can rapidly save money and soon acquire a position of independence, and in many cases they become most wealthy and influential. Free Coolies in Trinidad have purchased over 38,000 acres of crown land, besides the numerous properties they have bought from private individuals, and many of these Cacao and Rice farms are extraordinarily rich in production and bring in large revenues. Coolie settlers are often largely interested in the cultivation of Sugar Cane on their own account or for the proprietors, and make considerable sums of money thereby. In British Guiana, Coolies own land valued at \$300,000 or \$400,000, on which they grow rice or other crops and graze their cattle, of which Coolies working on estates own over 20,000, also 5,000 sheep and goats, pigs and fowls, horses, mules and donkeys." A number of other statements are then made showing the satisfactory condition of the Coolie population, and the "Note" closes as follows: "The following tables show the riches acquired by these humble people in Trinidad and Demerara, and anyone who has seen them in their new homes, surrounded by evidences of comfort and prosperity, must be convinced that they have found a place far superior to India, which, if no temptations were offered them, they would never in their own interests quit."

TRINIDAD.—The following letter has been addressed to Lord Ripon:

19th September, 1893.

My LORD MARQUESS.—Being very largely interested in Trinidad, we beg to express to your Lordship our great anxiety with regard to the present position and future arrangements of Coolie Immigration into that Colony. The following is an extract from the proceedings of the Immigration Committee, presided over by Mr. Mitchell, the Protector of Immigrants, on the 7th August, 1893:—"The despatch of the Secretary of State 'Emigration' of 18th July, 1893, was submitted to the Committee, and it was decided on the motion of Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Fenwick, that for three years of the proposed contract the minimum number of Coolies to be introduced be fixed at 2,500, and the minimum number of return Coolies at 600. Mr. Guppy dissented. The Chairman moved as an amendment that the minimum number to be introduced be fixed at 1,500. This was not seconded." The demand for Coolie labour is so urgent in order to maintain the cultivation, that the above minimum of 2,500 is absolutely required. It is also necessary that a minimum of this number (or any other that may be decided upon) should be fixed as a guide or guarantee to shippers tendering. Otherwise, with a fluctuating and uncertain number requisitioned in each year, no shipowners would compete in tendering, and the Immigration interests of the Colony would be at the mercy of a single tenderer, who would have practically a monopoly of the business and be able to exact increased terms for passage. At the Meeting of the Council, however, on August 23rd, the officials voting against the motion, there was an equality of votes, and the Administrator refusing to give his casting vote, the question of a minimum remained undecided, and this essential basis for a satisfactory Contract was not agreed to. The unofficial Members gave notice of protest, but ultimately decided to address a letter to your Lordship which it was hoped the Administrator would forward by the same Mail as his Despatch reporting the proceedings of Council. We beg respectfully to take the liberty of enclosing a copy of this letter, in order to justify us in saying that we cordially agree with its contents, and we trust that it will receive your Lordship's favourable consideration. We would further humbly say that we think we have grave reason to complain of the attitude assumed by the present administration of Trinidad towards Coolie Immigration. For instance, the action of the Protector of Immigrants in Council was in direct contradiction to the Report of the Immigration Committee of which he is Chairman. Your Lordship is aware that it is entirely owing to Coolie Immigration that capital has been invested and the leading industries maintained; and if such Immigration were now stopped there is no doubt that there would be a gradual cessation of the Sugar Industry, and the Cocoa Industry would be seriously crippled. Such a state of things would be calamitous for the Revenue and Institutions of the Colony. A diminution of cultivation would cause much suffering to the industrial population, for



labourers and artisans would lose their work and wages. Upon every ground therefore, and especially having regard to the interests of the working classes, it is desirable that no difficulties should be placed in the way of the moderate annual immigration which has been going on for so many years. We believe it to be true that there are but few who express themselves in opposition to immigration, and they have no large stake in the Country, do not contribute to its industry, and are not supported by the opinion or sympathy of the community at large, and have nothing to lose in view of the changes they seek to bring about. Any weight they may seem to possess is derived from the inexplicable attitude and declarations of some of the official members of Council; but we humbly trust that the result of the present discussion will be to continue the system of immigration—so beneficial to all classes. We beg further to say, that the Report of Dr. Comins, late the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, upon his visit to the coolie-receiving Colonies of the West Indies, will no doubt soon be in your lordship's hands, and we hope this may contain suggestions which will tend to bring about more satisfactory arrangements in regard to the immigration.

*(Signed by all the Trinidad Firms in England and Scotland.)*

The following is the reply.—“Colonial Office, 25th September, 1893.—I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of September, with reference to the present position and future arrangement of Coolie Immigration into Trinidad.

“In reply, I am to state that Lord Ripon has instructed the Crown Agents in calling for tenders for a contract for three years to guarantee payment for the conveyance of a minimum number of 1,500 Coolies from Calcutta to Trinidad in each year, and I am to add, that while his Lordship has thought it right that the Colonial Government should not bind itself to a greater extent for a period of three years, he does not intend by this decision to discourage or check the system of Coolie Immigration to the Colony.

*(Signed)*

EDWARD WINGFIELD.”

WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.—A letter has been received, dated 9th September, from Mr. J. Gardiner Austin, Junr., Chairman of the Commercial Hall, Barbados, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, and asking the co-operation of the West India Committee in the proposals therein contained. There is no space in this circular for a full reprint of this letter to the Telegraph Company, but the following are its principal points:—A reduction of rates is advocated; Barbados gives more traffic than leeward stations which have lower rates; the high rates prevent use of cable; Barbados is a shipping centre, and the high rates outweigh the geographical advantages of the Port; the Inter-colonial trade cannot afford to pay such high cable rates, competition being keen and the margin of profits too small to permit of wiring; imports and exports are bought and sold by cable, the cost of telegrams being out of proportion to the profits earned; the business now contributed from the West Indies, and Barbados in particular, is no uncertain factor, and any Cable Company could make sure of a large income especially if rates were lower; the question is also important for the Cuba Company, if it wishes to maintain its position, and their charges should be reduced; Barbados should have specially reduced rates to all points beyond the Windward Islands, a rate not exceeding that enjoyed by St. Thomas; the Bermuda and Halifax Cable Extension Company should be communicated with as to connecting the two systems; altogether a cheaper tariff is to be desired. The above letter from the Commercial Hall will be considered by the West India Committee at their next Meeting.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Various important papers have been received from the British Guiana Planters' Association. These will be dealt with in next circular. The papers are as follow: Letter (31st August, 1893) from the Association to the British Guiana Government on the general labour supply, and making suggestions on immigration matters. Letter from Association to Immigration Agent-General (14th September) on class of immigrants recently introduced. Copy despatch of Sir James Hay, Governor of Barbados, to Sir C. C. Lees, Governor of British Guiana (25th August) on Barbadian emigration to British Guiana. Report of Immigration Agent-General for year 1892-3. Court of Policy Sessional (printed) Paper, correspondence relating to emigration from Barbados.



## SHIPMENTS JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER.

|                       |          | Sugar.<br>Tons. | Rum.<br>Puns. | Coffee.<br>Lbs. | Cocoa.<br>Lbs. | Asphalte.<br>Tons. |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana        | 1893 ... | 41,809          | 10,747        |                 | 3,528          |                    |
|                       | 1892 ... | 44,933          | 14,076        |                 | 3,804          |                    |
| Trinidad              | 1893 ... | 43,669          | 574           | 6,720           | 13,671,230     | 76,579             |
|                       | 1892 ... | 42,837          | 11            | 16,146          | 19,152,540     | 80,280             |
| Barbados              | 1893 ... | 65,237          |               |                 |                |                    |
|                       | 1892 ... | 58,338          |               |                 |                |                    |
| Jamaica (6 months)    | 1893 ... | 16,616          | 11,800        |                 |                |                    |
|                       | 1892 ... | 18,831          | 15,620        |                 |                |                    |
| Gold (British Guiana) | 1893 ... | 92,199 oz.      |               | 1892 ...        | 82,557 oz.     |                    |

**BEET CROP.**—Weather in France wet, lowering the density of the juice, and making yields variable. But on the whole the yield will be superior to last year. The German crop, according to latest accounts, is not proceeding so satisfactorily as previously reported. In Austria there have been abundant rains and the quality of the root has retrograded. Russian reports are more favourable. But for the whole of Europe, it is practically impossible to furnish a serious estimate, the larger part of the crop being still in the ground. The above is from the *Journal des Fabricants*, but Mr. Czarnikow speaks in his Circular (5th October) of the slight market depression of the past week being caused by more favourable advices from Beet Growing Countries and by speculative manipulations. Mr. Licht repeated in his Circular, 23rd September, that the new crop, preliminarily, gives evidence of a minus of about 90,000 tons against its predecessor, but this opinion may now of course be modified as the working up of the crop proceeds.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Licht, 23rd September).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe:—336,682 tons, against 379,981; United States 55,000, against 77,300; Havana 101,600, against 56,896; floating to North America 39,524, against 41,403. Total 532,806 tons, against 555,580. (Czarnikow, 5th October).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 307,155 tons, against 336,760; United States 42,000, against 95,666; Havana 69,000, against 20,000. Total 418,155 tons, against 452,426.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1893, 601,187, against 622,130; Deliveries for 1893, 598,555, against 622,433; Stocks for 1893, 99,233, against 105,292.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—Eighty-eight per cent. (Czarnikow), 14/-, against 13/1½ for same time 1892.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. JNO. MCCONNELL & Co.), 11th September—Weather showery and favourable for cultivation; 20th—Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable. (Per favour of Messrs. HOGG, CURTIS, CAMPBELL & Co.), 18th September—Weather dry. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. BURNLEY AND Co., LIMITED), 14th September—Weather favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. WILKINSON AND GAVILLER), 11th September—Rain over Leeward Parishes; 26th Heavy rains generally throughout the Island. Antigua (per favour of GEO. G. MACANDREW, Esq.), 20th September—Good showers have fallen generally since the mail; 3rd October—Splendid rains.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 97.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

23rd October, 1893.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—The Committee, at their Meeting on the 12th inst., decided to issue a Circular by this Mail, in order to place on record as soon as possible various important papers, and to express their opinion with regard to some of them.

DR. COMINS' REPORT.—The following letter has been addressed to the Marquess of Ripon:—

"11th October, 1893.

"My LORD MARQUESS,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter dated 26th September last, from Mr. Wingfield, written by your Lordship's direction, transmitting a copy of a letter from the India Office, enclosing a copy of a note by Surgeon-Major Comins on the question of the abolition of the return passages at present required to be provided for East Indian Immigrants by the Colonies of Trinidad and British Guiana; together with a copy of Correspondence with the Local Governments of India, on the subject of the recommendations made in the Note. We also venture to convey to your Lordship our great satisfaction at the interest shown by the Government of India in the system of Coolie Emigration, a system which, owing to its limited operations, may not be considered as of great importance to India itself, but is highly beneficial to the Coolies who emigrate and the Colonies which receive this addition to their industrial population. We also beg to express our high appreciation of the thorough knowledge brought to bear by Surgeon-Major Comins upon his work when in the Colonies, and from the opportunities we have had of observing the manner in which he conducted his investigation; we gladly bear testimony to the energy, ability, and industry he displayed. His intimate acquaintance with the feelings and habits of the Coolies, and with their condition in their own country, combined with his personal observation of their state and prospects in the Colonies, render his report of very high value and importance. As your Lordship received Dr. Comins' Note from the Secretary of State for India, we respectfully hope that you will be pleased to communicate the views we now express to the Earl of Kimberley, so that the Government of India may be made aware of the opinion entertained as to the valuable services rendered by Dr. Comins in his visit to British Guiana and Trinidad.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

WEST INDIA TELEGRAPHS.—The West India and Panama Telegraph Company forward a copy of their reply (10th October) to the letter addressed to them by the Barbados Commercial Hall referred to in last circular. They say: "The base of the arguments set forth in your letter for a considerable reduction in tariffs may be said to be summarised in your words, 'that the time has now fully arrived when the exigencies of our trade render it necessary.' But I would ask your Committee whether the exigencies of our trade, which, by the way, is, I believe, one of the most important of exclusively West Indian enterprises under one Administration, are to have no consideration? Is your Committee aware that during the twenty-four years that we have carried on the Telegraph service of the West Indies, after paying the guaranteed interest on the Capital raised to give the Colonies the additional security of a duplicated system—and in the pressure put upon the Company to incur that expenditure certainly Barbados was not the least active Colony—our Shareholders have received an aggregate in dividends amounting to 6s. 3d. on the £10 share, and that the Capital value of the original stock is reduced by more than 80 per cent.? We really think that as far as exigencies affect



the question it is the Telegraph trade that might fairly appeal to its customers for a reconsideration of the conditions the Colonies have imposed upon it." The Company then produce statistics upon which they deny that the volume of traffic from Barbados is constantly increasing from year to year. They deplore a marked decrease of late years in the general traffic of the West Indies, and add: "In the current half-year the traffic receipts show a decline of 14½ per cent. in comparison with those of the corresponding half-year of 1892. It is clear, therefore, that a plea for reduction (of rates) based upon a growing revenue, fails to the ground." With regard to the Cuba Company, the letter says: "We have no power to 'insist' upon any tariff of the Cuba Company, or other connecting Companies. The Cuba Company's tariff was reduced from the 67 cents per word rate, established by the Colonial Acts, to 50 cents per word in 1889, and that reduced rate is the one now paid on international traffic by all West Indian Colonies. But the Cuba Company's line forms but a comparatively small portion of the route between Barbados and Europe, and any possible reduction on so short a section would make but a slight difference in proportion to the whole through rate." The remainder of the letter refers to the proposed Bermuda extension and the prospects of that undertaking, and ends by repeating the suggestion that if it be true that a large reduction in tariff would result in an improvement in the Company's revenue there would be little risk in the West India Colonies guaranteeing the present revenue of the Company and fixing their own tariff. (The West India Committee have already expressed their opinion on above points.)

BRITISH GUIANA.—It was intended to print in this Circular, the Letter addressed by the Planters' Association (31st August, 1893) to the Colonial Government, on the general question of the Labour supply. But as the Government have not yet made any reply, it has been decided to defer printing. From the reports of the Emigration Agent in Calcutta, there is a very unusual difficulty in obtaining emigrants. There is great competition, especially on the part of Assam and Cachar. From a letter addressed to the Planters' Association by the Government Secretary (26th September), it appears that the Government are awaiting an amount of information that will take considerable time to collect, before communicating with the Barbados Government, on Emigration from that Colony. Mail reports (3rd October), weather favourable for reaping, and sugar-making pretty general.

SUGAR REPORTS.—The warm rains in France have favoured the growth of Beets in the ground. It is still difficult, in view of the very great inequality in the crop, to form any estimate. What appears certain, is, that the "cultural" yield is inferior to last year, while the saccharine richness is better (in fact, no one can tell what the French crop will be, for 1893-4). The "Journal Des Fabricants" says, 18th Oct., that Mr. LICHT provisionally estimates the European and Colonial crop (presumably Beet and Cane) for 1893-4 at an excess of 500,000 tons over 1892-3. In Germany the humidity has caused leaves at the expense of saccharine, but the fabriques working give satisfactory results. On the whole the various Continental reports are very uncertain, and, to some extent, contradictory. Messrs. H. CLARK, DE SILVA & Co. say, 7th Oct., "Mr. LICHT's last week's report of the Beet crops was thought to forecast a deficiency in both Germany and Austria, in addition to the deficiency in France, which is now generally admitted, and it was said that last year's total would be scarcely reached. The tenour of the latest advices, however, points to an increase in all Countries, excepting France. The usual authorities have, as yet, abstained from putting forward formal estimates, on the plea that much depends upon the weather of the present month, but opinion favours an increase of 250,000 tons in Europe." Messrs. CLARK give the total Beet and Cane for 1892-93 at 6,147,000 tons, against 6,310,000 in 1891-92.

MAIL NEWS (4th October).—British Guiana, very dry weather, a little rain would do good. Trinidad, fortnight bright and dry, and most favourable for all descriptions of cultivation. Other reports say, much too dry, and no signs of a break. Barbados (7th October), intense heat for some days, followed by refreshing rains. Jamaica (2nd October), rains have fallen generally throughout the Island. Antigua (4th October), good rains generally; young canes show vigorous growth, prospects much improved.

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SHIPMENTS JANUARY TO 4TH OCTOBER.

|                    |          | Sugar.<br>Tons. | Rum.<br>Puos. | Coffee.<br>Lbs. | Cocoa.<br>Lbs. | Asphalte.<br>Tons. |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana ... | 1893 ... | 42,797          | 10,864        |                 | 3,528          |                    |
|                    | 1892 ... | 45,635          | 14,089        |                 | 3,804          |                    |
| Trinidad ...       | 1893 ... | 43,840          | 574           | 6,880           | 14,181,230     | 79,689             |
|                    | 1892 ... | 44,552          | 11            | 16,146          | 19,278,170     | 84,110             |
| Barbados ...       | 1893 ... | 66,637          |               |                 |                |                    |
|                    | 1892 ... | 58,472          |               |                 |                |                    |

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(CLARK, DE SILVA & Co., 7th Oct.)—Europe and cargoes afloat from the East for Europe, 354,000 tons, against 405,000; United States 137,000, against 180,000; Havana 99,000, against 41,000. Total 590,000 tons, against 626,000. (Czarnikow, 19th Oct.)—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 246,431 tons, against 270,903; United States 25,000, against 109,520; Havana 52,000, against 12,000. Total 323,431 tons, against 392,423.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1893, 619,236 tons, against 642,684; deliveries for 1893, 628,892, against 650,477; stocks for 1893, 86,945, against 97,792.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (Czarnikow, 19th Oct.) 13/3, against 13/10½ for the same time 1892.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. JNO. MCCONNELL & Co.), 10th October.—Weather fine with occasional light showers. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. WILKINSON AND GAVILLER) 9th October—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island.

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JAMES L. OLSON, SECRETARY.

P.S.—Mr. Licht's Circular (21st October) gives the following estimate:—

|                    | 1893-4.        | 1892-3.   |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Germany ...        | Tons 1,300,000 | 1,225,331 |
| Austria ...        | " 825,000      | 802,577   |
| France ...         | " 575,000      | 588,838   |
| Russia ...         | " 650,000      | 455,000   |
| Belgium ...        | " 225,000      | 180,000   |
| Holland ...        | " 75,000       | 68,070    |
| Other Countries... | " 120,000      | 97,000    |
|                    | 3,770,000      | 3,416,816 |

The estimate of the crop 1893-4 is judged from its momentary appearance, and is subject to modification.









The Trinidad volume is also very extensive. It is full of particulars regarding the Colony. The Government of Lord Harris is especially singled out for favourable comment. The correspondence between the West India Committee and Colonial Office relating to Sir W. Robinson's administration is mentioned. Long quotations are given from Count de Verteuil's history. As in the Demerara case, the Immigration Law is strictly analysed. The account of the free Coolies is particularly interesting. "The free Coolie who has been accustomed to lead a life of drudgery to gain the daily pittance to keep him alive, finds himself the possessor of a comfortable homestead, with an increasing farm of the richest and most fertile land around him, on which he lives with his family, and becomes in a small way quite an important person." There is no space here for the whole paragraph, which should be carefully read by all who are anxious for the future of Coolies in Trinidad. One important class of evidence is that afforded by Dr. Morton, Mr. Moore, and others who have done so much beneficial and successful work among the Coolies. There are a number of criticisms as to details in the Law which deserve consideration, and Dr. Comins closes his report on Trinidad as follows:—"In this Colony Indian Coolies have already very exceptional advantages, and a still brighter future is before them. Of all the Colonies of the West Indies, Trinidad is the favoured home of the Cooly settler, where he can easily and rapidly attain comfortable independence, and even considerable wealth with corresponding social position. British Guiana, in consequence of the long continued efforts of successive generations of legislators and planters, has brought its system of beneficial control of indentured labour to a higher pitch of perfection than any other Colony, but it has no such solid advantages to offer the settler as Trinidad. If I were a Cooly I should like to spend my indentured service in British Guiana and then settle down in the hills of Trinidad." The statistics in this volume are of the most exhaustive character. "The account of Jamaica is not so full." The Government were very chary in giving information, and Dr. Comins deserves commiseration for his sufferings in the rain-storms, which he found trying. The early history of Immigration into Jamaica is given, with a very searching criticism of the Immigration Laws, which deserves the consideration of the Legislature. Particulars of Coolies in different Estates are given, including an account of a visit to Ewing's Caymans, George's Plain, Blackheath, Blue-Castle and Fontabelle. "Properly speaking, there are no pauper Coolies in Jamaica, excepting the few invalids who are physically unfit to labour, and even these are usually not wholly penniless. The liability to provide return passages is a great tax on the Immigration Fund, and greatly restricts the demand for Immigrants." "I question whether the time has not now arrived when Immigrants could be obtained without offering this inducement." All the Colonies, however, should act in concert. The report on St. Lucia has a fairly detailed map. The historical account, partly summarized from Breen, is very well done. The importance of the Island as a place of arms and fortified coaling station is recognized. The four central Sugar Factories are described. The East Indian population is only 2523. "Now that the Crown lands have been thrown open to the Coolies, they will, no doubt, eagerly take advantage of the opportunity of rendering themselves independent, and, while continuing to work on the Estates as day labourers, will devote their spare time to their principal occupations, the tilling and extension of their own grounds. This is the only way there can be any real development of the Colony. The prospects of the Sugar industry in St. Lucia, on which the welfare of the Indian immigrants mainly depends, hang at present in a very delicate balance. It seems in a great measure to be a question of the multiplication of Central Factories. Dr. Comins seems to imply that minor industries should also be encouraged. But he is eminently fair in referring to the question of making



sugar the principal, and perhaps only staple. Dr. Comins' diary when in St. Lucia is extremely interesting to anyone connected with the Island, but it is, of course, impossible to give extracts here.

(NOTE—Any of the above Papers will be lent to Members, on condition of returning them in two days.)

**BACK PASSAGES FOR IMMIGRANTS.**—With reference to Dr. Comins' Note on this subject, the West India Association of Liverpool "inclines to requiring a fixed contribution towards back passage of Rs.35 for men, and Rs.25 for women, so as to place Immigrants to the West India Colonies on the same footing as those to Mauritius—practically the same terms as those suggested by the Viceroy of India; and, as to Immigrants returning a second time to the Colony, my Association think that they should not be entitled to a second back passage at the Colony's expense.

(Signed) ALEX. GARNETT, CHAIRMAN."

NOTE—The West India Committee have not come to any conclusion upon this subject.)

TRINIDAD.—The following letter has been addressed to LORD RIPON:

"14th November, 1893.

"MY LORD MARQUESS,—I have the honour, on behalf of Proprietors of Estates and Merchants largely interested in the general condition and welfare of Trinidad, to address your Lordship upon certain matters connected with that Colony.

2.—"We have recently had the opportunity of communicating with the Hon. Colonel Man, Commandant of the local forces, who has given us, at the request of His Excellency The Governor, information as to the requirements for preserving order in the Island and for its external defence.

3.—"In the year 1889 we ventured to make, representing the unanimous feeling of the Colony, a strong protest against the withdrawal of the Imperial troops. We pointed out that during the few days that would elapse before any troops could be obtained from Jamaica or St. Lucia, a very serious state of things might be brought about in connection with internal disorder, and in the case of external defence, while the Harbour of Port of Spain might be protected against a foreign enemy for one or two days, the uncertainty of obtaining troops from St. Lucia or Jamaica would be great. St. Lucia would probably be the first attacked and unable to send troops.

4.—"The whole question, up to the present year 1893, has remained in a very unsatisfactory state; but it is now clear that the Home Government will adhere to its determination not to allow Imperial troops to be quartered in Trinidad, and that some other force must, therefore, be organised for the maintenance of order, and, as far as possible, for local defence.

5.—"We understand from Colonel Man, with regard to raising Volunteer Yeomanry as part of the permanent force of Trinidad, that unless proprietors were prepared to authorise their managers and overseers to join these Volunteers, the Government had decided to make such military service a compulsory matter. We believe, however, it would be to the highest extent unwise of the Trinidad Government in any way to trust to a body of Volunteers, either for the maintenance of order, or as part of the necessary defensive forces of the Island. After the novelty of the proceeding had worn off, it would, we are convinced, be most difficult if not impossible to maintain a high state of permanent efficiency in such a body. Further, in the case of serious riots, it would be out of the question to expect managers and overseers to leave their own estates to the mercy of a mob, while they proceeded to join their several corps in other districts; and, lastly, the employment of planters, managers and overseers



for the purpose of maintaining order would certainly be open to misapprehension in England. There could, however, assuming a sufficient force of police to be maintained by the Colony, capable of coping with any disturbances at all likely to arise, be no objection to Volunteering in itself: it would be a good thing for the young men, and it might have some moral effect upon the people. It would, of course, be necessary to arrange matters so as not to interfere in any way with the working of the estates, but we believe Colonel Man sees no difficulty as to this.

6.—“ This question, being one largely involving financial considerations, is closely connected with other important matters, such as the expenditure on Coolie Immigration, now under discussion in the Colony. Bearing in mind what has recently taken place in regard to the Coolie contract for the next three years, it seems evident that the Government are making a great effort to reduce the Expenditure of the Colony, so as to bring the finances into proper order. While readily admitting the desirability of this proceeding, we beg humbly to express our strong opinion that the two last things as to which expenditure should be reduced are Coolie Immigration and the Defences of the Colony: and we protest against the apparent intention of the Colonial Government to select these as the first objects on which such reduction will be effected.

7.—“ We would venture to propose to your Lordship that sufficient expenditure should be incurred to maintain a force of 600 Constabulary, of whom 100 should be mounted men, to be under the immediate and undivided control of the Commandant of the Local Forces. And also that the Coolie Immigration should be maintained to the extent of a minimum of at least 3,000 a year. Without this number of Immigrants the maintenance of the Revenue will be difficult, but if this number be introduced annually we are convinced that the Revenue will show a healthy and steady expansion, and that the expense necessary to maintain such a force as above suggested would be readily met. We know from personal experience that cultivation is actually at the present moment being checked for want of the necessary labour.

8.—“ With regard to the highly desirable object of reducing Expenditure, we would point to the enormous amount of money now spent upon the Medical Department. We believe this to be largely in excess of the requirements of the Colony. We understand that it is now the practice for other Colonies to send their sick people and lunatics to be maintained at the expense of Trinidad. These Colonies ought to provide for their own requirements in these respects, and it is a great injustice that Trinidad should be selected as a kind of Medical and Hospital centre for the maintenance of diseased paupers brought from other Islands. It is little short of a scandal.

9.—“ Adverting more generally to the condition of the Colony, we cannot help expressing our grave anxiety at the gradual arising and intensifying of an unpleasant class feeling, which unless checked may have deplorable consequences. We much fear that this feeling will be rendered more pronounced by the publication of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th August, 1893, respecting the so called Reform agitation. The few gentlemen who have been agitating for Reform have no appreciable stake in the Colony. The agitation is not supported by any feeling among the industrial classes of the community, whether employers or employed, and from the information we have received, no importance can be attached to the 'public meeting' to which we believe your Lordship's attention has been called. To give up half the seats in Council to the promoters of such a meeting would, we humbly submit, be quite unreasonable, and would prove an increased incentive to class feeling which is already deplorably acute. We understand that the Council has always been constituted upon the basis of representing all the interests of the Colony. Thus, for what might be called general interests, there



are already two unofficial Members, the Sugar and Cocoa industries are also represented, as well as the commercial affairs of the towns. The interests of the Coolies are specially protected by the head of a Government Department, while the official Members as a whole, from the Governor downwards, may be assumed to be the impartial guardians of the interests of the community at large. We may, therefore, be permitted respectfully but most emphatically to protest against such a complete disturbance of this balance, as would be caused by the allotment of five seats to gentlemen who would represent no public interests, and whose only pretext for a claim appears to rest upon their having organized a public meeting which the leading members of the community carefully refrained from attending and which is certainly not entitled to be taken seriously, and the purpose of which is not supported beyond a small and specially interested circle.

We would earnestly impress upon your Lordship, that the welfare of Trinidad is more likely to be promoted by the industrial classes being allowed to devote their energies to the carrying on of their business, than by forcing them all to become local politicians.

We would, in conclusion, humbly pray that your Lordship would be pleased to approve of the above suggestions with regard to the Constabulary and the Immigration, and that the Reform Agitation should not be encouraged by a proposal for its representation in Council.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, CHAIRMAN.

**COOLIE CONTRACT.**—A copy of the Form of Tender for conveyance of Indian Labourers from Calcutta to British Guiana and from British Guiana to Calcutta, for three or five years, from July, 1894, can be seen at this office.

**MAIL NEWS, BRITISH GUIANA, November 1st.**—Mr. Cavendish Boyle, C.M.G., who is announced in the Demerara papers as the new Government Secretary and Lieut. Governor, in the place of Sir C. Bruce, was a District Magistrate in Leeward Islands, 1879; Colonial Secretary, Bermuda, 1882; Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, 1888. Emigration from Barbados is still being discussed, on the understanding that the Governor of Barbados has appointed a Commission to consider this question, but nothing will be done in time to affect current crop in Demerara. The full number of 5,000 Immigrants will be received in British Guiana during the current immigration season. The Hon. B. Howell Jones is elected a Member of the Court of Policy in the place of the Hon. A. Barr, on leave. Weather dry and favourable for manufacturing. Moderate showers would do much good.

**BARBADOS.**—The Commercial Hall, J. Gardiner Austin, Jun., Esq., Chairman, send a further letter, 4th November, on the Telegraph rates. They say that, as the Jamaica and Porto Rico rates are about one-half of ours, they think their argument for lower rates is confirmed, but the whole matter is still under consideration, and no action has yet been decided upon. Weather comparatively dry, but nothing to complain of. Next crop expected to fall short of this year's, 66,500 tons being shipped.

**TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co.) 1st November.—During the fortnight there has been some light showers partially distributed, but more rain is required generally for both Cocoa and Cane cultivation. ANTIGUA: a volume of the Acts of the General Legislature of the LEeward ISLANDS has been received. Antigua (1st November) reports continuance of heavy rains, but falling irregularly, in some parts between four and five inches. The promise for next crop is now excellent.



## SHIPMENTS, JANUARY TO OCTOBER.

|                    |          | Sugar.<br>Tons. | Rum.<br>Puns. | Coffee.<br>Lbs. | Cocoa.<br>Lbs. | Asphalte.<br>Tons. |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana ... | 1893 ... | 59,029          | 13,295        |                 | 8,528          |                    |
|                    | 1892 ... | 56,520          | 14,558        |                 | 3,804          |                    |
| Trinidad ...       | 1893 ... | 43,944          | 574           | 6,880           | 14,648,730     | 80,809             |
|                    | 1892 ... | 46,129          | 11            | 16,226          | 19,886,940     | 94,311             |
| Barbados ...       | 1893 ... | 66,816          |               |                 |                |                    |
|                    | 1892 ... | 58,901          |               |                 |                |                    |

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Messrs. H. CLARK, DE SILVA & Co., say (8th Nov.) :— “The requirements of the United States may be an important factor in preventing for the present the decline in prices which the prospective large supplies have led the trade in this Country (U.K.) to expect.” Refiners’ stocks in U.S. are comparatively trifling. In U.K. a dull market has ruled, owing to estimates of excess over last year in Beet and Cane. In France weather favourable, but *Journal des Fabricants* maintains its estimate of a deficit as compared with last year. As to the general Beet crop there is nothing new after Mr. Licht’s figures, quoted in last circular, except Messrs. Clark’s estimate of considerable excess in Cane; but this estimate is very early and probably subject to much revision.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(CLARK, DE SILVA & Co., 8th Nov.)—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe, 305,000 tons, against 301,000; United States and afloat to United States, 76,000, against 156,000; Havana 62,000, against 25,000. Total 443,000 tons, against 482,000. (Czarnikow, 16th Nov.) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 427,511 tons, against 422,566; United States 34,000, against 88,703; Havana 43,000, against 7,000. Total 504,511 tons, against 518,269.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1893, 690,436 tons, against 703,004; deliveries, 707,827, against 719,762; stocks, 79,210, against 88,828.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (Czarnikow, 16th Nov.)  $12/10\frac{1}{2}$ , against  $13/10\frac{1}{2}$  for the same time 1892.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. BURNLEY & Co., Ltd.) 21st October.—Weather good for growing Canes. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. WILKINSON AND GAVILLER), 24th October.—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island. 7th November.—First part of fortnight rainy, latter dry.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,**

**BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.**

18th December, 1893.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**—The Committee have greatly to regret the loss, by death, of two of their most active and influential Members, Mr. WILLIAM TENNANT, of the Trinidad House of Messrs. CHARLES TENNANT, SONS & Co., and Mr. D. C. DA COSTA, of Barbados.

**RUM IMPORTS.**—The following resolutions were agreed to at a Meeting of the West India Committee, on December 14th:—(1.) That the Committee have considered the letter, dated 22nd November, 1893, addressed by firms in the Rum Trade to Messrs. PAINES & REID, and informally communicated to the Committee by a Member of the same. (2.) That with regard to the first suggestion as to ascertaining from the Customs the obscuration upon all rums on arrival by testing about one cask in every seven or eight, a letter was addressed on the 4th inst. by the West India Committee to the Customs, asking whether the information could be given. No reply has yet been received. (3.) That with regard to the second proposal of the Trade, that the Dock Company should be instructed to draw all samples on landing and to report any abnormal sediment, the West India Committee have been in communication with the Dock Company, and it is found that all cases of abnormal sediment are readily detected and are very rare, and that even in the few cases which have occurred, the deposit has in no case exceeded about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per puncheon, and that the average over the whole import is practicably inappreciable, and would not justify the request for drawing all samples on landing. Moreover, the Committee are assured that in all cases of abnormal deposit the amount of deposit is shown in the sample. (4.) That the West India Committee will, however, impress upon the Dock Company the necessity of great care in drawing samples in all cases of abnormal sediment, so as to meet the proper requirements of the trade.

**NOTE.**—The West India Committee believe that it would be a convenience to the Trade if Rums for home consumption (equally with those for export) could be coloured in bond, and they will communicate forthwith with the Customs with a view to obtain, if possible, their sanction to this being done.

15th December, 1893.

**TRINIDAD** —“The Chairman, W.I.C., Colonial Office to West India Committee—

“SIR,—I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th of November, upon certain matters connected with the Colony of Trinidad. The questions of preserving order in the Colony and of its defence against external aggression must, in Lord Ripon's opinion, be kept distinct. As regards the former, Lord Ripon has no reason to doubt that the Colonial Police Force, which was increased in 1890 by twelve Sergeants and forty-five Constables, is fully adequate to preserve order, and he is, therefore, not prepared to recommend the Colonial Government to further increase the force. As regards external defence, Lord Ripon's predecessor, after the question had been very fully considered both by the Colonial Defence Committee and by the Local Defence Committee in Trinidad, decided that while the Police would form the first line of a defensive force, they should be supported either by Volunteers or by Militia, and that as there was already a force of Volunteers, it was not desirable to disturb the existing Volunteer organization, but, if through discouragement on the part of the Planters or Managers, or for any other reason, the Volunteer



system should break down, it will become necessary to have recourse to compulsory Militia service. Lord Ripon entirely concurs in the view of the West India Committee that while every attempt should be made to prevent unnecessary expenditure, considerations of economy should not be allowed to prevent adequate provision being made for the defence of the Colony. Lord Ripon is not aware that there is any desire on the part of the Colonial Government to unduly restrict Indian Immigration, but he is not prepared to advise the Colonial Government or Legislature to pledge themselves to the introduction of 3,000 Immigrants annually, a number considerably in excess of the average supply during the last twenty years. The question of the large expenditure on the Medical Department has received and is receiving careful consideration, and the Colonial Government has been urged to adopt an organized system of Poor Relief, with a view of reducing the expense now incurred in maintaining paupers in the Hospitals. As regards the influx of paupers from other Colonies, there is a Colonial Ordinance which gives very large powers for restricting the landing of such persons without security being given for protecting the Colony from the cost of their maintenance. Lord Ripon regrets to learn that the West India Committee have received information of the existence of what you describe as a 'class feeling' in Trinidad, but he has received no confirmation of this information from the Governor of the Colony, and he is unable to perceive that his despatch of the 29th of August—which proposes, not as would be inferred from your letter, that the whole of the five seats in the Legislative Council which will become vacant next year should be filled by persons who held views favourable to a reform of the Constitution, but that in filling those seats a share in the representation in the Council should be given to the promoters of the movement in favour of reform—in any way tends to encourage any such feeling.

(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

**TONNAGE DUES, BRITISH GUIANA.**—The following is from a Shipping Correspondent in New York:—"I take the liberty of drawing the attention of the West India Committee to the matter of the tonnage dues levied in British Guiana, and which have the effect of discriminating against regular lines of steamers in favour of sailing vessels, and which hitherto have prevented the successful operation of a regular steamer service between this port and Demerara. The dues levied are the same on all vessels, whether sail or steamer, and are collected on the net register tonnage of the vessels, irrespective of the cargo landed. As sailing vessels invariably go in with full cargoes, the dues practically amounted to so much per ton of cargo carried. Steamers, on the other hand, call at a number of other ports, and go into Demerara with cargo bearing but a small proportion to their register tonnage. For example, our steamers going into Demerara with 200 tons cargo pay \$358.60 dues, their tonnage being 1,304 tons. A sailing vessel of 600 tons register would pay \$165, and would deliver 900/1000 tons of cargo. This is constantly happening, and places steamers at a great disadvantage. There is not sufficient trade with Demerara alone to support a regular line of steamers, and a service can only be worked in connection with other ports. In Barbados, for instance, dues are levied on the quantity of cargo landed, without reference to the size of the vessel that brings it, and this would seem to be the fair and proper method, unless Demerara can be induced to follow the enlightened course of Trinidad, and abolish all tonnage dues. If our steamers call only at Trinidad and Grenada, we pay no dues in New York, this being in accordance with the reciprocity policy of the United States; but calling at Demerara entails dues of 6d. per ton in New York. The trade hitherto has been almost exclusively in the hands of American sailing vessels."

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—A report upon the Blue Book for 1892-3 has been issued by the Assistant Government Secretary, Mr. C. T. Cox. The surrender of duties demanded by the United States, under the reciprocity clause of the McKinley Act, amounted to £29,000, but, owing to expansion of the revenue, only £17,500 had to be provided from other sources of taxation. The revenue for the year was £573,463, and the expenditure £542,469. The debt for public and special purposes for which the revenue is pledged is £812,155. The new Political Constitution had run its first year, with



smoothness and efficiency. The East Indian population is estimated at 109,673, 71,000 of whom resided on Estates, some 17,000 being under indenture. Indian immigrants owned £113,315 in the Savings Banks. The imports are valued at £1,780,319, and the exports £2,433,213, the latter averaging £8.14 per head of population. The gold exported in year 1892-3 amounted in value to £493,000. Mr. Cox concludes by commenting upon the lack of labour for agricultural purposes, and adds, "across upon acres of fertile soil, suitable for market produce await the farmer, while the mineral wealth of the Colony is yielding itself up more and more readily to the skilful, strong and adventurous."

**TRINIDAD IMMIGRATION TAX.**—The West India Committee have had under consideration Dr. Comins' remarks upon the incidence of this Tax upon Sugar and Cocoa, and it may now be stated that the Committee see no objection to a readjustment of the Immigration Taxes on Sugar and Cocoa, so that the Cocoa industry may pay a proportion to the Immigration Fund that might be considered more in accordance with its participation in the benefit derived from the Immigration of Coolies, and that in the event of this being done, Dr. Comins' suggestion that the Revenue should pay more than one-third of the expenses of Immigration be also considered, with a view to its being carried out.

**BACK PASSAGES OF IMMIGRANTS.**—The West India Committee have called the attention of the British Guiana Planters' Association, and of their correspondents in Trinidad, to the proposals regarding a modification of the system of back passages as approved by the Indian Government in the Viceroy's Despatch of the 15th August, 1893, printed in Circular No. 96. In writing to Lord Ripon, December 4th, the Committee say: "We have no doubt that all Dr. Comins' suggestions will be considered and adopted by the Colonies concerned, and submitted for your Lordship's approval and that of the Government of India."

**TRINIDAD.**—From a minute of the Governor it appears that the proposed change in the Constitution will be discussed in Council after the nomination to five seats, in June next. A Public Works Loan of £400,000 is to be issued, £250,000 of which will be for Railway extension, and other sums for Harbour improvement and Waterworks. The Harbour Improvement has been referred to Messrs. Coode & Matthews. A shallow depth dredger will probably be used as a preliminary. The Chaguaramas Wharfage and Railway Scheme goes back for further consideration, as to buildings on reclaimed land, compensation claims and other points. Mr. Tanner receives a pension of £800 a year, and an elaborate Public Works Department is to be organized. Governor recommends Mr. Vincent Brown for second Puisne Judgeship. Tobago is to be recompensed by an annual grant for loss of Customs, owing to annexation. The construction of batteries at great cost will not be pressed at present. According to the estimates, the pension list now amounts to £11,330. The medical charges reach the enormous sum of £65,000; and the total estimated expenditure under Director of Public Works Department is £82,832. With regard to Dr. Comins' remark that a great many free coolies are engaged in digging pitch for exportation, it may be noted that while the lessees draw large profits and the Government obtains a large revenue (£33,000) from the pitch lake, no assistance whatever is given on this account to the Immigration Fund. Coolie labour is also largely employed by the Government in making roads. The Government thus derives a substantial benefit from immigration, but contributes nothing on this account to the Immigration Fund.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—In France, manufacture is terminated in a great number of usines. Distilleries will largely compete with sugar factories for Beetroot. Mr. LICHT estimates the total sugar production of Europe and exports from the Colonies as follows:—

|                | 1893-4.   | 1892-3.   | 1891-2.   |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Beet sugar ... | 3,770,000 | 3,416,816 | 3,501,920 |
| Cane sugar ... | 2,960,000 | 2,645,963 | 2,852,296 |
|                | 6,730,000 | 6,062,779 | 6,354,216 |



Messrs. H. CLARK, DE SILVA & Co. say (Dec. 18th), if the proposal to reduce the duty on refined in United States is carried out, it is expected that continental refined will find its way in larger quantities than hitherto, and thus relieve the pressure on the United Kingdom markets, which have heretofore been practically the only outlet for the surplus production of this sugar. The mild weather has deteriorated the saccharine contents of the roots, but they have been worked up with unusual rapidity. Mr. CZARNIKOW says that the small Russian exports, considering the large crop, are attributed to bad weather interfering with harvesting balance of crop and fair home and Eastern demand.

**SHIPMENTS.**—These returns are incomplete. An endeavour will be made to bring the figures in the next Circular up to the end of the year.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—H. CLARK, DE SILVA & Co. (8th Dec.)—Europe and cargoes afloat from the East for Europe, 751,000 tons against 722,000; United States, 116,000 against 102,000; Havana, 54,000 against 20,000. Total, 921,000 tons against 844,000. CZARNIKOW (14th Dec.)—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 946,788 tons against 873,866; United States, 75,000 against 62,592; Havana, 40,000 against 5,000. Total, 1,061,788 tons against 941,548.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1893, 746,996 tons, against 775,495; deliveries, 769,967, against 786,433; stocks, 73,630, against 94,641.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (Czarukow, 14th December) 12/3, against 13/11½ for the same time 1892.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 21st November—Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable. 24th—Moderate rains generally, 30th—Weather favourable for cultivation, heavy showers daily. 13th December—Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) 24th November—Nice showers have fallen. 11th December—Weather favourable for cultivation, heavy showers alternately with hot sunshine. 15th December—Rainy season has set in. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) 20th November—Fine rains generally throughout the Island. 5th December—Good showers, but partial. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley and Co., Ltd.) 12th December—Weather all that could be desired.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

|           |         |         |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1893      | 1892    | 1891    |
| 746,996   | 775,495 | 775,495 |
| 769,967   | 786,433 | 786,433 |
| 73,630    | 94,641  | 94,641  |
| 1,061,788 | 941,548 | 941,548 |

# WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

January, 1894.

RUM SURTAX.—The following letter has been addressed to the Right Hon. Sir W. Harcourt, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer, 27th January, 1894: "Sir,—We beg respectfully to call your attention to the Surtax upon Rum imported from the colonies as distinguished from the duty upon home-made spirits; and we venture to hope that the protective duty in favour of producers in this country, so detrimental to the British colonial producers, who are equally entitled to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, will be modified in connection with the Budget arrangements of this year. (2) Prior to the year 1881, the Excise duty on British spirits was 10s. per gallon; the Customs duty on Colonial Rum, 10s. 2d. per gallon; and the Customs duty on foreign spirits, 10s. 5d. per gallon. (3) The reason for the differential duty against Colonial Rum had been explained in the 'Report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue upon the Duties under their Management, C. 82, 1870.' It appears that the tendency of legislation had been to reduce the difference between the duties on home and colonial spirits, it being decided, after the most minute examination, that the Excise restrictions in the United Kingdom should be compensated for by a countervailing duty of 2d. per gallon on Colonial Rum, which was a surtax of very great importance upon an article intrinsically worth on the average about 1s. 6d. per proof gallon. It is stated in the above report that upon plain spirits an allowance of 1½d. is sufficient to compensate the home distiller for the Excise restrictions. A surtax of 2d. per gallon on Rum is thus admittedly in excess of the actual requirements. And it must be borne in mind that, against the assumed disadvantage of 1½d. to which the home distiller is subject, there must be set the extra expense to which the colonial manufacturer is liable, such, for instance, as the long voyage (to which the Inland Revenue Commissioners refer in their report above mentioned), during which voyage, we may state, there is a loss equal to about 1d. per gallon, and the freight, insurance, and other expenses, are calculated to amount to threepence or fourpence per gallon. (4) Further, in the settlement of these countervailing duties, no allowance was made for the expense of Excise restrictions in the colonies. A considerable portion of the revenues of British Guiana, Jamaica, and other Colonies is derived from Excise duties on Rum, and it is, therefore, necessary for the protection of those revenues that the most complete Excise supervision (with its attendant expense to the manufacturer) should be enforced. And we venture to say that the expense thus incurred is quite equal to that to which the home distiller is liable, and for which he is more than compensated by a protective duty. (5) The case, therefore, in 1881 stood thus: the sum of 1½d. was admittedly quite sufficient to compensate the home distiller for his Excise restrictions, even if the colonial distiller were not subject to similar



restrictions, and had no freight to pay nor liability of loss on the voyage. (6) Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1881, notwithstanding the above considerations, persisted in his determination to induce Parliament to raise the tax on imported Colonial Rum from 10s. 2d. to 10s. 4d., and to reduce the tax on Foreign Spirits from 10s. 5d. to 10s. 4d., while retaining the 10s. duty on Home-made Spirits. (7) In reply to a protest against this new scheme of duties, Mr. Gladstone wrote:—(i.) That the surtax represents not only an allowance to compensate the home distiller for Excise restrictions, which the memorialists took at 1½d., but the expense and loss which fall on the compounder and rectifier, and that Rum was imported into this country fit for consumption; and (ii.) That the colonial distillers being subject to Excise laws, was a question that concerned the Colonial Governments, and it was for them to decide whether an export allowance should be made or not. (8) The distinction above drawn by Mr. Gladstone between plain and rectified spirits shows clearly that in raising the surtax to 4d., a plain spirit like Whiskey receives a protection not only against Rum but against a compounded and rectified spirit like Gin. With this latter point we are not concerned; but Colonial Rum had never been placed on the same footing as compounded and rectified spirits. It is a plain spirit like Whiskey, and the natural product of the sugar-cane, and to raise it to the same level as rectified spirits is to increase considerably the protection enjoyed by Whiskey. The manufacture and consumption of plain spirits are very much larger than those of rectified spirits, and if any surtax upon Colonial Rum were justifiable at all, it should be regulated by that class of spirits which forms the bulk of the consumption in the United Kingdom. In this case, a surtax of 2d. would be amply sufficient. (9) We would therefore humbly propose to you, Sir, that in order to remedy the inequality above mentioned, and at the same time benefit the Revenue, the Excise duty on plain spirits should be raised to the extent of 2d. (two pence) per gallon, thus making the duty 10s. 8d. per gallon, and preserving the countervailing duty of 2d. per gallon, which is admittedly sufficient to compensate the Home distiller for the Excise restrictions. In the case of rectified and compounded spirits, we would suggest an increase of duty of 1d. (one penny) per gallon, making the duty 10s. 7d., which would be a sufficient compensation for the Excise restrictions and the additional expense of rectifying. The present duty of 10s. 10d. on Colonial and Foreign Spirits, we would propose should be retained, thus continuing the protection of 2d. and 3d. respectively on plain and rectified British Spirits.

“Humbly trusting that you would be pleased to give these matters your favourable consideration,—I have, &c.,—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.”

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

12th February, 1894.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—A meeting was held on the 18th January, to receive The Earl of Stamford and Dr. Anderson, who wished to explain the objects of the "West India Alliance." The meeting was private, in the sense that no public reports of it were to be issued. Mr. Lubbock was in the chair, and having introduced Lord Stamford to the meeting, his Lordship said, although he did not approve of all the methods of the Alliance yet he was practically acquainted with the West Indies, and continued to take an interest in their affairs. Dr. Anderson then explained the principal points of a paper he had prepared. The first object was to remove misapprehensions existing in the United Kingdom as to the social, economic, and climatic conditions of the West Indian Colonies, and especially as to the condition of the Negro. It is often impossible to enforce contracts, crime is often not adequately punished, and civil duties are not enforced upon the lower classes. Dr. Anderson gives instances of alleged failures of justice. In cases of prædial larceny it is the honest black man who suffers from being confounded with his ill-conducted neighbour. There are no more law-fearing or law-abiding people than the peasantry of the West Indies, where the law is intelligently interpreted and consistently enforced. Many of these people have improved their position, becoming proprietors and tradesmen, and have no need of any special protection. The large number of suits *in forma pauperis* in Trinidad and Tobago produced much class ill-feeling. Dr. Anderson then explained the objects of the "Alliance" formed in England, and enlarged upon the Trinidad inquiry into the conduct of the judges. Dr. Anderson argued for an extension of political self-government and an improvement in the administration of Crown functions. For making the West Indies better known, large numbers of tourists should be attracted. There is in some places good hotel accommodation and this would be enlarged as guests increased. A cricket team, composed of members of the best English clubs, was proposed to visit the West Indies and play a series of matches. There should also be a permanent exhibition in London of West Indian productions. At the close of Dr. Anderson's speech, Mr. Lubbock said, that while some of the objects of the West India Alliance could only be approved, yet the West India Committee, bearing in mind what Lord Stamford had said on his own behalf, could not become identified with the Alliance. Dr. Anderson had done much in Trinidad and Tobago, and it was creditable to him. There was nothing new in the attempt to remove misconceptions. Every effort had been made to this end for many years. In referring to the Trinidad Commission, Mr. Lubbock said it was not quite fair or wise to assume that such proceedings as those which formed some of the subjects of the Commission would ever occur again. As to the cricket suggestions it was not possible to undertake any responsibility here on behalf of the Colonies, but no doubt an eleven, if the right men were selected, would be well received. He suggested that the I Zingari might be approached for this purpose. A vote of thanks to Lord Stamford was then passed, and a similar compliment having been given to Dr. Anderson for his address, the meeting closed.



RUM IMPORTS.—Several important proceedings were recorded in this Circular during the last few years. In June, 1887, the Rum buyers addressed the importers, asking that the terms of payment should be modified. On the 9th February, 1888, it was agreed that "the terms of selling Jamaica, Demerara and other Rum, in London, be with prompt of 14 days and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. discount, interest to be charged from day of sale to date of application for warrant at 5 per cent., and in the case of Jamaica Rums that a halfpenny price be made." These terms are now ruling, although frequently modified, by consent, in the case of individual contracts. In September, 1889, the following addition was printed: "that notices for the delivery of warrants should not be given later than noon for delivery on the same day; that interest shall not commence to run until the day subsequent to date of sale, and that rent shall be at sellers' expense to date of prompt, buyers to have the benefit of any unexhausted time of storage remaining after prompt." Various other matters connected with the interests of the trade have been fully reported in recent Circulars, such as testing for obscuration by the Customs, and colouring in bond for Home consumption. With regard to the first of these there is no difficulty, but the Customs will not agree to the second.

Strong protests have been made from time to time against the imposition of a 4d. surtax upon Colonial Rum in favour of Home spirits. The following letter was received from Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer:—"25th May, 1890—The Scotch and other distillers have been urgent with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to re-examine the question of the surtax on spirits from the opposite point of view, viz., from that of alleged injustice to British distillers, arising from the surtax on Foreign spirits being too low. They were similarly answered, that such a question could not be dealt with suddenly and without a minute examination of every side of the question. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not fail to institute an examination with regard to the surtax on spirits generally." Subsequent correspondence on the subject has left it in the same position; but in view of the coming Budget, the following letter has been addressed to Sir William Harcourt:—"27th January, 1894—Sir,—We beg respectfully to call your attention to the Surtax upon Rum imported from the Colonies as distinguished from the duty upon Home-made spirits; and we venture to hope that the protective duty in favour of producers in this country, so detrimental to the British colonial producers, who are equally entitled to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, will be modified in connection with the Budget arrangements of this year. (2) Prior to the year 1881, the Excise duty on British spirits was 10s. per gallon; the Customs duty on Colonial Rum, 10s. 2d. per gallon; and the Customs duty on foreign spirits, 10s. 5d. per gallon. (3) The reason for the differential duty against Colonial Rum had been explained in the 'Report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue upon the Duties under their Management, C. 82, 1870.' It appears that the tendency of legislation had been to reduce the difference between the duties on home and colonial spirits, it being decided, after the most minute examination, that the Excise restrictions in the United Kingdom should be compensated for by a countervailing duty of 2d. per gallon on Colonial Rum, which was a surtax of very great importance upon an article intrinsically worth on the average about 1s. 6d. per proof gallon. It is stated in the above report that upon plain spirits an allowance of  $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. is sufficient to compensate the home distiller for the Excise restrictions. A surtax of 2d. per gallon on Rum is thus admittedly in excess of the actual requirements. And it must be borne in mind that, against the assumed disadvantage of  $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. to which the home distiller is subject, there must be set the extra expense to which the colonial manufacturer is liable, such, for instance, as the long voyage (to which the Inland Revenue Commissioners refer in their report above mentioned), during which voyage, we may state, there is a loss equal to about 1d. per gallon, and the freight, insurance and other expenses, are calculated to amount to threepence or fourpence per gallon. (4) Further, in the settlement of these countervailing duties, no allowance was made for the expense of Excise restrictions in the colonies. A considerable portion of the revenues of British Guiana, Jamaica, and other Colonies is derived from Excise duties on Rum, and it is, therefore, necessary for the protection of those revenues that the most complete Excise



supervision (with its attendant expense to the manufacturer) should be enforced. And we venture to say that the expense thus incurred is quite equal to that to which the home distiller is liable, and for which he is more than compensated by a protective duty. (5) The case, therefore, in 1881 stood thus: the sum of 1½d. was admittedly quite sufficient to compensate the home distiller for his Excise restrictions, even if the colonial distiller were not subject to similar restrictions, and had no freight to pay nor liability of loss on the voyage. (6) Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1881, notwithstanding the above considerations, persisted in his determination to induce Parliament to raise the tax on imported Colonial Rum from 10s. 2d. to 10s. 4d., and to reduce the tax on Foreign Spirits from 10s. 5d. to 10s. 4d., while retaining the 10s. duty on Home-made Spirits. (7) In reply to a protest against this new scheme of duties, Mr. Gladstone wrote:—(i.) That the surtax represents not only an allowance to compensate the home distiller for Excise restrictions, which the memorialists took at 1½d., but the expense and loss which fall on the compounder and rectifier, and that Rum was imported into this country fit for consumption; and (ii.) That the colonial distillers being subject to Excise laws, was a question that concerned the Colonial Governments, and it was for them to decide whether an export allowance should be made or not. (8) The distinction above drawn by Mr. Gladstone between plain and rectified spirits shows clearly that in raising the surtax to 4d., a plain spirit like Whiskey receives a protection not only against Rum but against a compounded and rectified spirit like Gin. With this latter point we are not concerned; but Colonial Rum had never been placed on the same footing as compounded and rectified spirits. It is a plain spirit like Whiskey, and the natural product of the sugar-cane, and to raise it to the same level as rectified spirits is to increase considerably the protection enjoyed by Whiskey. The manufacture and consumption of plain spirits are very much larger than those of rectified spirits, and if any surtax upon Colonial Rum were justifiable at all, it should be regulated by that class of spirits which forms the bulk of the consumption in the United Kingdom. In this case, a surtax of 2d. would be amply sufficient. (9) We would therefore humbly propose to you, Sir, that in order to remedy the inequality above mentioned, and at the same time benefit the Revenue, the Excise duty on plain spirits should be raised to the extent of 2d. (two pence) per gallon, thus making the duty 10s. 8d. per gallon, and preserving the countervailing duty of 2d. per gallon, which is admittedly sufficient to compensate the Home distiller for the Excise restrictions. In the case of rectified and compounded spirits, we would suggest an increase of duty of 1d. (one penny) per gallon, making the duty 10s. 7d., which would be a sufficient compensation for the Excise restrictions and the additional expense of rectifying. The present duty of 10s. 10d. on Colonial and Foreign Spirits, we would propose should be retained, thus continuing the protection of 2d. and 3d. respectively on plain and rectified British Spirits.

“Humbly trusting that you would be pleased to give these matters your favourable consideration,—I have, &c.,—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*”

**ST. LUCIA LOAN.**—The Crown Agents are advertising for tenders, not below par, for St. Lucia Government 4 per cent. inscribed Stock, to the amount of £48,600.

**GRENADA EXPORT DUTIES.**—The Secretary of State has been unable to approve of the imposition of Customs duties upon Cocoa and Spices exported from the Island of Grenada.

**APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS.**—A. O. Luckman, 23, West Hill Road, Brighton, wishes to know of any vacancies for a young man to learn planting. A. Barclay, 34, Cambridge Gardens, Leith, has been employed as Distiller and Overseer on Sugar plantations in Jamaica for eleven years, wishes to obtain employment in Demerara.



## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

|                   | Year 1892  | Proof gallons. | 1893       | Proof gallons |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| RUM, Imports      | 6,852,240  | ...            | 6,072,313  | ...           |
| " Consumption     | 4,268,498  | ...            | 3,762,522  | ...           |
| " Exports         | 1,100,356  | ...            | 1,008,563  | ...           |
|                   |            | Cwts.          |            | Cwts.         |
| COFFEE, Imports   | 846,971    | ...            | 828,858    | ...           |
| " Consumption     | 257,571    | ...            | 242,423    | ...           |
| " Exports         | 533,806    | ...            | 488,309    | ...           |
|                   |            | lbs.           |            | lbs.          |
| COCOA, Imports    | 30,839,525 | ...            | 32,933,548 | ...           |
| " Consumption     | 20,797,283 | ...            | 20,874,995 | ...           |
| " Exports         | 8,969,740  | ...            | 9,178,965  | ...           |
|                   |            | Cwts.          |            | Cwts.         |
| MOLASSES, Imports | 616,041    | ...            | 584,747    | ...           |
| " Exports         | 182,211    | ...            | 207,027    | ...           |
|                   |            | Cwts.          |            | Cwts.         |
| GINGER, Imports   | 34,411     | ...            | 61,732     | ...           |

TRINIDAD COCOA.—Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse, in their annual circular of January, 1894, quote from Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. the following figures, showing the distribution of the crop from 1st October to 30th September in the following years:—

|         | 1892-3. | 1891-2. | 1890-1. |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|         | Bags    | Bags    | Bags    |
| England | 43,683  | 49,858  | 49,678  |
| France  | 41,038  | 41,706  | 33,127  |
| America | 28,970  | 33,832  | 30,166  |

MAIL NEWS.—Barbados, 27th January.—Reaping operations will soon be general. The quantity yet fit for delivery is inconsiderable. Weather dry during the fortnight, but suitable for those beginning reaping. Demerara, 24th.—Heavy rains had given way to weather more favourable for cultivation. Sugar making had nearly ceased, not much more will be made before May. Immigration from Barbados was still being considered, but nothing practical had yet been done. Jamaica, 22nd.—Trade dull owing principally to peasantry turning their attention to electioneering. Pimento finished, and Cocoa just coming in, a good deal still uncured. Trinidad, 24th.—No new crop Sugar come forward. Unsettled weather retarded crop operations. Few Estates commenced grinding, but in another week, Sugar-making would be in full progress. Cocoa coming in more liberally than expected, the showery weather of previous 3 months having increased the yield. A good demand first absorbed supplies, after which, easier feeling set in, supplies from Venezuela being liberal. Weather generally favourable for crop operations. Antigua, 24th.—Sugar market about to open. Reaping will be general in a week, with promise of a fair crop. Good showers in town, but not enough in country to materially affect standing crop.

## SHIPMENTS FOR THE YEAR, 1893.

|                      | SUGAR.  | RUM.   | COFFEE. | COCOA.     | ASPHALTE. |
|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|------------|-----------|
|                      | Tons.   | Puns.  | Lbs.    | Lbs.       | Tons      |
| British Guiana, 1893 | 103,464 | 20,147 | —       | 3,528      | —         |
| " 1892               | 114,075 | 24,849 | —       | 3,804      | —         |
| Trinidad, 1893       | 44,184  | 675    | 9,280   | 18,081,880 | 88,669    |
| " 1892               | 48,326  | 11     | 19,586  | 24,091,380 | 107,847   |
| Barbados, 1893       | 66,816  | —      | —       | —          | —         |
| " 1892               | 58,901  | —      | —       | —          | —         |



**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—In Germany a considerable number of new Beet factories are projected. If these forty-seven factories are installed for the approaching *campagne*, the German production may possibly be raised, with good weather, to 1,500,000 tons. French papers criticise this view as a dangerous exaggeration, and on the whole, it would seem to be a very remarkable development. Sugar legislation in United States remains undecided. It remains to be seen whether Congress will finally decide to abolish the bounty on Home Sugars, and put refined imports on the free list. On the contrary, the possibility of a re-imposition of the duty on raw sugar is discussed in American trade circles. The revised Tariff Bill before the Senate proposes a duty of 1 cent on raw and 14 on refined. The improvement of price in the States has much improved the tone in the United Kingdom. Various estimates of the Cuba crop have been put forward, the most moderate being 875,000 tons, instead of the 1,000,000 and even higher estimates previously reported. There is no doubt the crop will be a good one, yield promising well. Reverting to beet, the opinion is, that Continental sowings will be large, partly owing to the low value of cereals, but there is nothing definite yet possible. Messrs. Clark give the total of Cane and Beet as follows:—

|      | 1893-4.          | 1892-3.          | 1891-2.          |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CANE | 3,017,000        | 2,653,000        | 2,784,000        |
| BEET | 3,841,000        | 3,429,000        | 3,501,000        |
|      | <u>6,858,000</u> | <u>6,082,000</u> | <u>6,285,000</u> |

Mr. Czarnikow says (8th February), "The situation has somewhat improved during the week, owing to the news from America, where the Wilson Bill, with some slight modifications, is believed to have more chances than expected, and where the Trust, in addition to American stocks is supposed to hold most of the first Cuban Sugars and tonnage, rendering purchases of prompt Sugars for outside and Canadian refiners more difficult." Mr. Czarnikow further deprecates transactions entirely upon American immediate prices. He does not think the report as to building forty-seven new factories in Germany should be taken seriously. Only a few would be likely to work next crop.

The Sugar position is therefore rather interesting. So much turns upon the projected legislation in the United States, the Cuba crop, and the influence of the value of wheat in increasing beet sowings.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Clark de Silva & Co., 8th February).—Europe and afloat from the East for Europe, 1,504,000 tons, against 1,432,000; United States and afloat to United States, 141,000 tons, against 140,000; Havana, 142,000, against 71,000. Total, 1,787,000 tons, against 1,643,000. (Czarnikow, 8th February).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,450,763 tons, against 1,364,007; United States, 81,000, against 74,036; Havana, 142,000, against 71,228. Total, 1,673,763 tons, against 1,509,291.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1894, 56,562 tons, against 56,199; deliveries, 67,960, against 70,918; stocks, 67,071, against 81,882.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (Czarnikow, 8th February), 13s. against 14s. 4½d. for the same time 1893.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 20th January—Finer weather since last message, generally acceptable. 26th January—Weather showery and favourable for the cultivation. 9th February—Weather favourable for cultivation. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) 29th January—The weather has been finer



since last message, and is generally favourable for cultivation and grinding. Trinidad (per favour of Colonial Company, Limited). 26th January—Showery and unsettled. 6th February—Showery and unsettled. (Per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited). 5th February—Weather favourable. (Per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) 1st February—Weather broken reaping about three-fourths of usual produce. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller) 17th January—Light partial showers. 30th January—Very dry, rain wanted.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

Mr. Chairman (per 1st February). The edition has somewhat improved during the week ending in the past few days when the Wilson Bill, with some slight modifications, is believed to have more chance than expected, and when the House in relation to it is expected to hold some of the late Cuban sugar and tobacco, and other products of the country, the duties and charges thereon more difficult. Mr. Chairman, having discussed the subject of the duties and charges thereon, it does not seem to be likely that any further amendments will be made in the bill, and it would be best to wait until the bill is passed, and then to see what can be done to improve it.

VEGETABLE SUPPLIES.—(Per 1st February).—Europe and a part of the West Indies, 1st February, 1892. United States and other to United States, 1st February, 1892. Total, 187,000 tons against 187,000 tons. Havana, 14,000 tons against 14,000 tons. Total, 187,000 tons against 187,000 tons.

WEATHER TELUKANG.—(Per 1st February).—The weather is generally favourable for cultivation and grinding. Trinidad (per favour of Colonial Company, Limited). 26th January—Showery and unsettled. 6th February—Showery and unsettled. (Per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited). 5th February—Weather favourable. (Per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) 1st February—Weather broken reaping about three-fourths of usual produce. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller) 17th January—Light partial showers. 30th January—Very dry, rain wanted.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

12th March, 1894.

**UNITED STATES' TARIFF.**—This does not seem in prospect of any immediate settlement, but the possibility of the resumption of Import duties on Sugar has drawn attention to the position of the West India Colonies under the Trade arrangement of 1891-2. The latest news as to the proposed duties is, that the Bill was to be reported by the Democratic Senators on the Senate Finance Committee to the full Committee, with the following proposals, viz.:—one cent per pound testing below 80 degrees, 1.10 cents between 80 and 90 degrees, 1.22 cent between 90 and 96 degrees, and 1.40 cent over 96 degrees.

Section 3 of the Tariff Law of the Congress of the United States, approved on the 1st October, 1890 (commonly called the McKinley Act), enacted: "That with a view to secure reciprocal trade with countries producing the following articles, and for this purpose, on and after the 1st January, 1892, whenever and so often as the President shall be satisfied that the Government of any country producing and exporting sugars, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, or any of such articles, imposes duties or other exactions upon the agricultural or other products of the United States, which in view of the free introduction of such sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides into the United States, he may deem to be reciprocally unequal and unreasonable, he shall have the power, and it shall be his duty to suspend by proclamation to that effect the provisions of this Act relating to the free introduction of such sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the production of such country for such time as he shall deem just, and in such case, and during such suspension, duties shall be levied, collected and paid upon sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the product of, or exported from such designated country, as follows:" (here follow the duties in such cases).

The above enactment attracted attention in the West Indies, and in May, 1891, a Memorial was addressed to Lord Knutsford by West India Proprietors, Bankers and Merchants, with regard to the possible operation of the above enactment. The Memorial stated that the tariffs of the British West India Colonies being raised for revenue purposes only were equal and reasonable, and such as might fairly be accepted by the Government of the United States as fulfilling the requirements of Section 3 of above Act. The Memorial prayed that the tariffs should be submitted to the United States Government as fulfilling the requirements. Some delay arose in this being done, and the Washington Mission was decided upon with the consent of the Colonies concerned. In the meantime, Mr. Blaine had sent a despatch to the United States Consuls in the West Indies, calling attention to the Reciprocity Clause, and other intimations were given that the President would exercise his powers, which were mandatory and not permissive, on the 1st January, 1892. When Mr. Lubbock arrived in Washington it was found that an arrangement was absolutely necessary to avoid duties being placed upon British West India sugar, and the consequent disorganization and possible stoppage of the trade. The arrangement was then made, which was approved by the Colonies, and carried out by them in their tariff laws.

The above arrangement was not embodied in any formal treaty, but upon the Colonies agreeing to their reductions of tariff upon United States products, there was an exchange of diplomatic notes, and the arrangement came into force upon the President, on the 1st February, 1892,



proclaiming that "the remissions and alterations of duties in the British Colonies, above mentioned, is accepted as a due reciprocity for the action of Congress, as set forth in Section 3 of said Act," viz.—the McKinley Act of 1890. The agreement with regard to any termination of the arrangement is thus expressed in Sir Julian Pauncefote's despatch, to Mr. Blaine, of December, 24th, 1891, and confirmed by Mr. Blaine on December 29th:—"The arrangement shall remain in force so long as it shall not be modified by the mutual agreement of the Executive power of the two Governments, or by the legislative action of the United States, or of the said Colonies with the approval of the British Government." Freedom of action on either side was thus secured. The now proposed action of the United States, obviously terminates the arrangement, and the Colonies have perfect freedom of action to deal with their tariffs as they please. Of course, if the Reciprocity Clause, or rather principle, is retained in force—that is, a smaller duty on Sugar from countries having reciprocal relations, the Colonies may put forward a claim to be treated on such reciprocal footing; but, there is at present, no sign of the continuance of differential duties between reciprocal and non-reciprocal countries. The conclusion is, in effect, that if the new duties in the United States are levied upon all Sugars, whether coming from countries reciprocal or not, the arrangement of 1891-2 lapses, and the Colonies have perfect freedom of tariff action.

**RUM SALES.**—Two Meetings of Members of the West India Committee interested in this question, as importers, have been held, to consider matters which have arisen in regard to obscuration. Immediately before the Meeting on the 1st March, a circular addressed by the principal Rum dealers to brokers was indirectly communicated to the Committee. This circular said that the dealers would not in future accept as good delivery Rums bought "to arrive," or before the obscurations came to hand, which showed Demeraras more than 2.5 per cent. obscuration, and Jamaicas more than 2 per cent. The excessive amount of sediment in the casks was also alleged, and it was suggested that the Dock Company should have all casks rolled immediately before landing samples are drawn.

No decision was arrived at, but the general feeling of importers was not in favour of the percentages of obscuration proposed. It appears that two methods of testing are in force at the Customs: (1.)—The hydrometer test, which is used as a means of identifying Rums, and (2.)—the distillation test for duty purposes. In the cases of prosecutions of retailers for selling spirits below the legal minimum of 25 per cent. under proof, the hydrometer is only used. This test which is merely a specific gravity test, does not take into account the colouring matter and other ingredients by which from 1 to 10 per cent. in coloured Rum may be obscured, although not shown by the hydrometer. Such method (the hydrometer) is necessarily erroneous as giving invariably a less percentage of spirit than actually exists in the parcel. The question therefore arose whether it would not be better to have one uniform test throughout, viz.—distillation, for the satisfaction of the wholesale and retail trade. It was thought desirable, however, before coming to any decision, to communicate with the Customs. The correspondence will be printed when complete. It may be added that the law allowing distillation is 44 Vic. cap. 12, Sec. 8. And the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 42 and 43 Vic. Cap. 30, contains the existing law as to what is a good defence in the case of Rum reduced.

**WEST INDIA MAILS.**—The following letter has been received from the Postmaster-General:—

"THE CHAIRMAN; SIR,

"The Postmaster-General has had before him your letters of the 5th of last month and subsequent dates in which, on behalf of the West India Committee and of Merchants and others interested in the West India Mail Service, you request that special trains may always be used for the conveyance to London of Mails landed at Plymouth at times when ordinary trains are not available. I am directed to inform you that, in view of the disproportionate expense involved in the



employment of special trains to bring on from the ports of disembarkation the numerous Mails reaching this Country from places abroad, it has been found necessary to restrict the use of such trains to cases of real urgency, in which very great advantage can be gained by that means. The principle which regulates the employment of Special Services from Queenstown to London for the highly-important American Mails is that special trains are only to be used when necessary to afford an interval for reply by the next outgoing Mail; and this principle is at present applied to the Mails from the West Indies and South Africa landed at Plymouth. In the case of the Mails brought to Plymouth by the 'Para' on the 27th of December last, a better result could, it is true, have been obtained if the Mails had been carried on by the Packet to Southampton, but the contract, while providing for an excellent service, does not provide for an arrangement whereby the Mails might be landed at one port or the other according to circumstances. I am to point out, in particular, as regards the present contract, that the interval between the arrival of a homeward and the despatch of an outward Mail has been increased by two days as compared with the interval given under the previous contract, and that even in the case of the Mails brought by the 'Para' there were five full days in which letters could be answered.

"(Signed) H. BUXTON FORMAN."

It is proposed to have the following question to the Postmaster-General asked in the House of Commons: "Whether he received a Memorial in the early part of January last from firms in the United Kingdom interested in the regular arrival and prompt delivery of the Mails from the British West Indies and South America. Whether it is true that the incoming Mail, arriving at Plymouth between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. is detained, owing to the discontinuance of provision for a special train, for a number of hours, thus delaying the delivery of letters in England and Scotland for a whole business day; and, whether he will make such arrangements, by providing a special train, when necessary, as will carry out the provisions of the contract, and always allow of the earliest possible delivery of the West Indian and South American Mails in the United Kingdom."

GRENADA.—A London firm connected with Grenada, writes: "We learn that the bye-way rates have been abolished, and that the land tax is 1/- per acre."

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—Mr. Czarnikow says (8th March): "Prices fairly maintained, owing to shipments to America. The tariff question of course contains elements of uncertainty." Messrs. H. Clark, De Silva & Co., say (8th March): "That a duty on sugar in U.S. is now considered certain, but until a formal decision is announced, no decided action, so far as market is concerned, will be taken. Mr. Licht has increased his estimate for Germany by 20,000 tons, and the European excess of production is estimated at 433,000 tons. The bounties on home production in Germany are now being strongly opposed there. The Cane estimates for 1893-4 are now 3,017,000 against 2,654,000 tons, and Beet 3,861,000 against 3,429,000, making a total supply of Cane and Beet for 1893-94, 6,878,000 against 6,083,000 tons in 1892-3. In France there will be an extension of sowings. In all the Beet countries an increase of sowings is probable, but of course this is at present purely speculative."

MAIL NEWS.—British Guiana, 22nd February.—Nothing further has been done with regard to Barbados immigration. Correspondence on the subject of the Berbice and West Coast Railways published. Applications for 7,500 Coolie immigrants have been made for season 1894-5. The same will be approved, although it is understood the Secretary of State does not approve of the Government taking over the roads. Dr. Carrington, the Attorney-General, was coming to England on leave by Mail. A revised edition of the "Statute Law of the Colony" was before the Court of Policy. The weather had been rather heavy, but there had been a few days finer weather. Trinidad, 21st February.—Sugar-making progressing satisfactorily and shipments commencing.



Restricted supplies of Trinidad and also Venezuela cocoa reported. Sugar-making general, and weather generally favourable for crop operations. Jamaica, 19th February.—Trade recovering from Election excitement. The following are the new Members of Council:—Mr. Constantine Burke, Mr. R. H. Jackson, Mr. T. H. Sharpe, Rev. H. Clarke, Mr. J. E. Kerr, Mr. J. H. Levy, Mr. J. T. Palache, Mr. W. Andrews, Mr. J. M. Farquharson. The Governor, in future, will resume his position as Chairman of the Council. Barbados, 24th February.—Weather dry and favourable for reaping.

#### SHIPMENTS, TO FEBRUARY.

|                 |          | SUGAR. | RUM.  | COFFEE. | COCOA.    | ASPHALTE. |
|-----------------|----------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|
|                 |          | Tons.  | Puns. | Lbs.    | Lbs.      | Tons.     |
| British Guiana, | 1894 ... | 15,423 | 6,461 | —       | —         | —         |
| "               | 1893 ... | 12,626 | 6,345 | —       | —         | —         |
| Trinidad,       | 1894 ... | 1,884  | —     | 960     | 3,648,850 | 13,092    |
| "               | 1893 ... | 4,384  | —     | 5,920   | 1,594,940 | 12,985    |
| Barbados,       | 1894 ... | 482    | —     | —       | —         | —         |
| "               | 1893 ... | 465    | —     | —       | —         | —         |

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(H. Clark, de Silva & Co., 8th March).—Europe and cargoes afloat from the East for Europe, 1,506,000 tons, against 1,382,000; United States and afloat to United States, 208,000 tons, against 183,000; Havana, 191,000, against 130,000. Total, 1,905,000 tons, against 1,695,000. (C. Czarnikow, 8th March).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,437,995 tons, against 1,310,417; United States, 107,000, against 112,383; Havana, 191,000, against 130,000. Total, 1,735,995 tons, against 1,552,800.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1894, 129,457 tons, against 103,530; deliveries, 129,559, against 131,271; stocks, 78,367, against 68,860.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (Czarnikow, 8th March), 13s. 1½d. against 14s. 3d. for the same time 1893.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.), 12th February—Weather favourable. 20th February—Weather favourable. 26th February—Weather middling. 5th March—Weather middling. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited) 20th February—Weather fine for harvesting. 6th March—Weather fine for harvesting. (Per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) 12th February—Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 13th February—Seasonable weather. 27th February—Slow reaping weather.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

9th April, 1894.

**THE CROWN AGENTS.**—Recent proceedings in the Court of Policy respecting the proposed Berbice Railway, have caused attention to be drawn to the position and functions of the Crown Agents. They were freely criticised by an elective Member. The Secretary of State sent a Despatch to the Governor in defence of the Crown Agents, and the Member referred to offered a qualified withdrawal of the criticisms to which Lord Ripon had taken exception. There is no doubt of an honest belief existing in the West Indies that the arrangements with the Crown Agents are not always the most advantageous for the Colonies, and that the latter would do better if they were free to give their business to any English Firm or Agent they might select. This feeling is easily understandable, although it is probably founded upon a misapprehension of the actual functions of the Crown Agents, the manner in which they are paid, and the character of the work they do.

The position of the Crown Agents was apparently first defined in a circular to the Colonies by the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State, dated 31st December, 1863. The average annual receipts and disbursements of the office amounted to £3,169,217, and the Colonial contributions were only £3,127. The Treasury agreed that the office should be enlarged and the salaries increased. A commission of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was to be charged on all loans raised, and interest paid by the Agents; and they were to deal directly with brokers instead of through the Bank of England, thus saving the Bank's Commission of  $\frac{1}{10}$  per cent. Any Colony overdrawing its account, was to be charged 5 per cent. interest on said overdrafts. The principal Colonies employing the Agents were to pay fixed annual contributions.

In January, 1868, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos still further defined the charges, as follows: 1st—For negotiating new loans,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. commission, out of which the Crown Agents will meet claims for brokerage; 2nd—For payment of interest,  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the interest; 3rd—For paying off the principal at maturity,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Lord Kimberley in September, 1870, decided that the audit of the Agents' accounts should be conducted by the local Governments and not as before by the Imperial Government, and the Agents were to send their accounts monthly with vouchers. In order to check the cash balances, &c., the Agents were to supply the Secretary of State quarterly with a certified statement of their accounts, and the Bankers were also to supply him with certificates of the aggregate amounts of cash and securities deposited in the names of the Agents, and these two certificates were to be forwarded quarterly by the Secretary of State to each Colony concerned. This arrangement still exists. Lord Carnarvon decided, in August, 1874, that these quarterly statements should contain particulars (hitherto omitted) of all bills or other convertible securities in the hands



of the Agents which had not matured when the balances were struck. In 1877, the average business amounted to £1,948,000 for Crown Colonies and £7,533,000 for Representative Colonies. But in 1880, it was found that the position of the Agents was anomalous in regard to Colonies having responsible Government. Sir R. Herbert, by Lord Kimberley's direction, said in a letter to the Treasury, Nov., 1880, that "there were obvious objections to a system under which officers appointed and supervised by Her Majesty's Government undertake large transactions, and assume large obligations on behalf of those Colonial Governments which manage their internal affairs independently of Her Majesty's Government." Steps were then taken to terminate all connection between the Crown Agents and the responsible Government Colonies. Sir R. Herbert further said in the above letter "although their offices (*i.e.* the Crown Agents') are under the same roof with this Department (*i.e.* the Colonial Office) the Agency is, nevertheless, not an integral part of it, and though the Agents are supervised and directed by the Secretary of State in all matters of importance, or when any question of principle has to be decided, yet they execute considerable transactions without an express instruction in every case." They pay rent to the Crown for their office. Sir R. Herbert concludes, "no closer connection with, or more direct responsibility for the transactions of the Agency than previously existed has been involved in this removal of the Crown Agents' Office; and as previously, they act in the discharge of their business not in any sense as Agents of Her Majesty's Government, but as the Agents of each Colony that employs them. The connection of the Secretary of State with the Agency consists principally in superintending and directing the Crown Agents on behalf of the Colonial Governments, and this is obviously of much value as obviating the serious delay and loss which a reference to the Colony for further instructions would often entail."

Now, the doubt as to where the responsibility of the Crown Agents ends and that of the Secretary of State begins, has always given rise to much misapprehension in the Colonies; but, while it is quite clear that the Secretary of State is in no way financially responsible for the acts of the Crown Agents, it is equally evident that, inasmuch as he requires the Governments of the Crown Colonies to transact their business through those Agents, he is under a full Administrative responsibility to satisfy himself that that business is properly conducted. It is the case, also, that the Colonial Under Secretary is a trustee, along with the Crown Agents, of the investments made by them on behalf of the Colonies employing them, except of securities held on account of Colonial Loans with an Imperial Guarantee, in which case the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is a joint trustee. These arrangements are, however, obviously in the nature of precaution for the due administration of these Trusts.

The authorised charges have been modified on two occasions since the particulars given above. On the 12th May, 1886, Lord Granville issued a Circular Despatch, stating that since the cessation of the Loan work of the responsible Colonies, the income of the office had been reduced, so that a revision of charges became necessary. Lord Granville says, "The annual disbursement of the Crown Agents' Office, in the six years immediately preceding the withdrawal of the business of the Colonies having responsible Government, averaged £10,810,400 and in the three years following that withdrawal the average fell to £7,323,039. The average annual income has fallen, in the same period, from £21,645 to £17,102, with the immediate prospect of a further considerable diminution."

The scale of the Crown Agents' charges was modified as follows, in Lord Granville's despatch of 12th May, 1886:—"On Loan business, a commission of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the issue and repayment of loans; Colonial Governments, however, paying in addition the commission of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. which it is the custom to allow on tenders made through brokers. A commission of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the payment of interest, as at first laid down by Circular of 31st December, 1863, instead of  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., to which it was reduced by Circular of 23rd December, 1868. These charges, I understand, compare favourably with those of leading Banks for like services." For financial business other than that connected with loans, a fixed contribution was settled from all the Colonies whose general



financial business, as distinguished from loans and commercial transactions, exceeds £10,000 a year. Lord Granville's despatch further prescribes the amount of fixed contribution of each Colony. A uniform commission of 1 per cent. on all stores obtained through the Crown Agents is provided. The charge on overdrawn accounts is to be at Bank rate, with a minimum of 3 per cent. instead of the uniform rate of 5 per cent. hitherto charged and the half-brokerage on investments. Subsequently, by Lord Ripon's Circular despatch of the 10th September, 1893, the following arrangements were made:—

1. Colonial Governments to be relieved from the payment of commission of  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on tenders for loans made through Brokers.
2. The Commission payable to the Crown Agents of  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the payment of interest on loans to be reduced to  $\frac{1}{8}$  per cent.
3. The fixed annual contribution payable to the Crown Agents by some of the Colonies to be either reduced or abolished.

One thing is clear, the Secretary of State appoints the Agents. They are paid by salary from the income of their office, and such salary is quite unaffected by any commissions earned by the Office. Successive Secretaries of State have approved the manner—and no doubt deservedly so—in which they have conducted their business. The treatment of interest on balances, of trade discounts, and other profits accruing to the Colonies is shown in the Agents' Monthly Accounts and the Secretary of State's Certificates.

An impression, we believe, prevails in the West Indies that the Crown Agents, in addition to the Commissions authorized by the Secretary of State, retain the discounts, allowances or deductions which are so frequently made by furnishers of goods. This is not the case. The West India Committee are authoritatively informed that all allowances in any shape are immediately credited to the Colonies, and are shown on the face of invoices and accounts rendered. In fact the Crown Agents' Office receives no benefit beyond the authorized commissions, and the Agents and their staff derive no remuneration whatever from their business, beyond their fixed salaries.

**WEST INDIA MAILS.**—The question to the Postmaster-General, printed in last circular, was answered, as follows, in the House of Commons on March 18th. Mr. A. Morley said:—“Such a memorial has been received and duly answered. When the mails in question reaching Plymouth miss the night mail train to London, they have to be detained for some hours to go by the next ordinary train; and the use of a special train for them is not, in my opinion, warranted unless an interval for reply by the next outgoing mail is to be obtained, by that means only. The delay does not amount to a whole business day. In London, Birmingham, and other places it is only a few hours. In Scotland the letters, instead of being delivered late in the day after their arrival at Plymouth, are delivered the following morning. I am not aware of any provision in the mail contract requiring the use of special trains.”

**FAVOURER NATION TREATIES.**—It will be remembered that during the late Sugar Bounty discussions, the Favourer Nation Treaties with Belgium and Germany, dated 1862 and 1865 respectively, although determinable by a year's notice, were held to be a fatal objection to the West India Colonies making their own tariff arrangements, and to the Mother Country giving the Colonies any advantages unless they were shared by Foreign Countries. A decided change of opinion has taken



place, now that Mr. Reid, the Victorian Minister of Defence, is pursuing his Mission in this Country. The following extract from *The Times* of March 26th is significant. "A much more remarkable anomaly is, however, involved in the other Treaty obstruction, for the removal of which the Colonies are soliciting the Imperial Government. That a country in which the battle of free trade had been triumphantly fought, a country that abolished the Corn Laws in 1846, and made the Commercial Treaty with France in 1860, should in 1862 and again in 1865 have accepted Treaties with Belgium and Germany which prevented its own Colonies from trading with it on equal terms of reciprocal free trade, unless they accorded similar terms to every foreign country affected by the most-favoured-nation clause, is one of the extraordinary facts of commercial history which can only be taken as an indication of how little we valued our Colonial interests only thirty years ago. We now import from British possessions about £100,000,000 worth a year, to which India contributes less than a third, and the Australasian Colonies, Canada, and South Africa, slightly more than half. Upon the whole of this trade we have laid the burden that the exports by which these goods are paid, for shall be subject to every duty imposed upon the goods of Belgium and Germany, and consequently of every other nation which trades with our Colonies and possessions under a most-favoured-nation clause. In other words, we have laid what proves to be an embargo of about 20 per cent. upon our export trade with our own possessions, and when any colonial free-trader entertains the desire which Mr. Robert Reid expressed, to trade as freely with other portions of the Empire as Kent trades with Surrey or Surrey with Yorkshire, he is met by the Imperial Foreign Treaties, which render the accomplishment of his wish impossible. That we should not have forced our possessions to trade freely with us, was a part of the liberty upon which their constitutional existence has been based. That we should absolutely have forbidden their trade and bound them to the observance of the prohibition by engagements made in their name to foreign Powers is an exercise of authority so strangely overstrained, that it is not surprising to find the representatives of all the self-governing Colonies united in a request that the clauses which embody the restriction in the Belgian and German Treaties may be got rid of."

**INDIAN-EMIGRATION TO REUNION.**—The following letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State for India:

The Right Hon. Henry H. Fowler, M.P.

22nd, March, 1894.

"Sir,—We beg respectfully to inquire whether the statement is correct that the Government of India are favourable to the resumption of emigration from India to Reunion, and that the French Agent in India has received orders for the despatch of no less than 6,000 Coolies to Reunion during the next Emigration Season. The Government of India are fully aware of the objections which have caused the cessation of this Emigration from British India to Reunion for many years past, and we venture to request that you would be pleased to inform us whether the Government of India have recently obtained any further particulars respecting the condition and treatment of the Coolies in Reunion as to justify the proposed resumption of this Emigration. We are much interested in the West Indies, and in the Emigration from India to those Colonies, and we understand that considerable difficulty is likely to be experienced during the coming season in securing the number of labourers which the British West India Colonies are anxious to obtain, and in these circumstances it is evident that if the Colony of Reunion is to be allowed to obtain 6,000 emigrants such supply of labour will be at the expense of our own Colonies. We think that you, Sir, will agree with us that the demand from our own Colonies for suitable Emigrants should be satisfied before that of a Foreign Colony. We beg to express the hope that you, Sir, will kindly consent to communicate with the Government of India upon this subject, which is of so much importance to the British West India Colonies.

(Signed) N. LAMOCK, Chairman.

ROM SALIS.—Correspondence will be printed when complete.



**BRITISH AND WEST INDIAN ALLIANCE.**—A letter has been received, signed by Major-General Graham and Dr. Anderson, complaining that a portion of the Report of Meeting in Circular No. 101 might create an impression injurious to the Alliance, and giving a corrected report of Lord Stamford's speech as follows:—"I have not so far identified myself with these Societies (the Union and Alliance), as I feel it more advantageous to maintain a perfect freedom of action and of views, whilst it is possible that their methods might not at all times commend themselves to my mind." The letter goes on to explain the objects of the two Societies, viz., the West India Alliance and Union, but there is now no space to quote.

**MAIL NEWS.**—British Guiana (22nd March).—Owing to the resolute action of the Elective Members, resulting in telegraphic communication between the Governor and the Secretary of State, the Estates' Roads are to be taken over by the Government on 1st July next, and the number of immigrants next season is to be 7,200. Nice showers had fallen, doing much good to cultivation. Applications have been renewed for Letters Patent connected with furnaces for burning Megass.

Both in Demerara and Trinidad, resolutions have been passed in accordance with Dr. Comins' suggestions on back passage. The grant of £1,500 to the widow of Mr. C. W. Warner, C.B., has been concluded. Trinidad revenue for 1894 is estimated at £578,448, and expenditure £563,571. 2,400 immigrants have been provided for. Barbados (24th March).—Weather too dry and not sufficient wind. Exports, 2,423 hogsheads against 2,470, and 18,921 bags against 12,470.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Beetroot sowings have been commenced in France in some districts, but the dryness of the weather is not a good sign. In other countries, including Germany, sowings have begun, but rain is wanted. All the countries, except Russia, are expected to show an augmentation. Messrs. Willett & Gray, of New York, estimate the total European and Colonial crop at 7,326,500 tons, against 6,557,515 in 1892-3. The Beet sowings will show a substantial increase, but of course no estimate of crop can be formed. It appears that some of the reciprocally contracting countries with the United States, notably Brazil, require notice of any change of legislation in United States. The Tariff legislation in United States is still in a very unsettled state.

#### SHIPMENTS, TO MARCH.

|                          | SUGAR. | RUM.  | COFFEE. | COCOA.    | ASPHALTE. | GOLD.  |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|                          | Tons.  | Pans. | Lbs.    | Lbs.      | Tons.     | Oz.    |
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 18,374 | 6,953 | —       | —         | —         | 12,485 |
| 1893 ...                 | 14,023 | 7,322 | —       | —         | —         | 15,519 |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...       | 8,821  | 4     | 1,680   | 5,902,880 | 20,952    | —      |
| 1893 ...                 | 13,090 | 2     | 5,920   | 1,994,610 | 23,149    | —      |
| Barbados, 1894 ...       | 4,867  | —     | —       | —         | —         | —      |
| 1893 ...                 | 4,115  | —     | —       | —         | —         | —      |

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(C. Czarnikow, 5th April).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,384,991 tons, against 1,283,275; United States, 232,000, against 148,823; Havana, 253,000, against 209,000. Total, 1,869,991 tons, against 1,641,098.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1894, 183,565 tons, against 187,615; deliveries, 192,042, against 196,266; stocks, 69,990, against 87,950.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (Czarnikow, 5th April), 12s. 6d. against 16s. od. for the same time 1893.







WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

7th May, 1894.

RUM.—The following correspondence is reported :—

“ West India Committee, Billiter House, E.C., 9th March, 1894.

“ Sir,—Our attention has recently been called to the question of ‘obscuration’ in rums. We are informed that inasmuch as tavern-keepers are legally precluded from selling rums at a strength below 25 per cent. under proof, and that in the case of prosecution the rums in question are tested by the hydrometer, which of course fails to show the amount of spirit obscured, the tavern-keeper has to sell obscured rums at a higher strength than he need do by law, and thus loses the value of the rums obscured and the duty laid upon it. It appears to us that under the law, if a given puncheon of rum shows an obscuration of 5 per cent., the tavern-keeper is legally justified in reducing his rum to 30 per cent. under proof as shown by the hydrometer, and if the obscuration is 3 per cent. he would be entitled to water down to 28 per cent. under proof as shown by the hydrometer, since it is a recognized fact that the amount of obscuration remains the same at all strengths. We should be very much obliged if you would kindly inform us if we are correct in making this statement, and also whether it is not the case that the Board of Customs have found that the correct strength of a spirit such as rum, in which colouring or sweetening matter is present, cannot be ascertained by Sikes’s hydrometer, and that under the law as it now stands, the Customs find it necessary to resort to distillation for the purpose of ascertaining the true strength of the spirit so distilled, and whether, if such is the case, the Board would have any objection that the public should be so informed by means of an official statement in the *Board of Trade Journal* to the above effect. If this were done, the retail trade would be given an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the course which they might ask should be taken in the event of their being called upon to justify any apparent reduction they might have made in the strength of rums sold by them. It is considered that such information would be very beneficial to the trade concerned.

“ I am, &c.,

“(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

“ H. H. Murray, Esq., C.B., &c., Chairman, Board of Customs.”

“ CUSTOM HOUSE, LONDON, 7th April, 1894.

“ SIR,—With reference to your letter dated the 9th ult., requesting information with regard to the testing of rum, and whether such information might be made public by insertion in the *Board of Trade Journal*, I am directed by the Board of Customs to inform you that they have forwarded a copy of the enclosed, marked ‘A’, to the Board of Trade Department, with the request that a statement may be inserted in the journal of that department in accordance therewith.

“ I am, &c.,

“(Signed) R. T. PROWSE.

“ The Chairman, West India Committee.”

“ A.”

“ The West India Committee of Billiter House, London, E.C., having requested that a statement should be inserted in the *Board of Trade Journal*, of the method adopted in the Customs Department of ascertaining the true alcoholic strength of spirits to which sweetening, colouring, or other matter interfering with the free action of the hydrometer has been added, the Board of Customs state that they have found that the correct strength of spirit, such as rum, in which colouring or sweetening matter is present cannot be ascertained by Sikes’s hydrometer without first distilling the spirit, and that, under the law as it now stands, the Customs resort to distillation in the first instance for the purpose of ascertaining the true alcoholic strength of such spirits by Sikes’s hydrometer.

“ CUSTOM HOUSE, LONDON, 6th April, 1894.”



**SUCCESSION DUTY.**—Attention has been called to the following passage in the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, April 23rd, on the Budget resolutions:—"The duty will be graduated according to the scale set forth in the resolution. Property passing on the death of the deceased may be of different kinds, the first property which will be dealt with is property of which the deceased is competent at the time of his death to dispose. That includes for the first time foreign property belonging to persons domiciled in the United Kingdom." The question has been asked whether such property would be liable to double succession duty, one in the Colony and the other in England. An endeavour will be made to get the point explained in the debates on the second reading. It will be remembered that a scale of succession duties has quite recently been established in British Guiana. Full particulars of this question will be given in next circular.

**MAILS.**—The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce invited the West India Committee to be represented at their interview with the Postmaster General on April 24th. The view of the Committee, however, has not been favourable to the proposal to make Plymouth exclusively the port for the mails, and it was not thought desirable to attend the deputation. The Committee would of course be glad to have their own proposal adopted, viz: the provision of a special train to bring up the mails when the ordinary fast trains do not serve.

**INDIAN EMIGRATION TO REUNION.**—India Office to West India Committee

"11th April.

"Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 22nd March I am directed by Mr. Secretary Fowler to inform you that the Government of India have made certain proposals as to the conditions under which they will be prepared to allow the recruitment of Indian labourers for Reunion to be resumed, but these proposals have not yet been submitted to the French Government, and no action can be taken under the India Emigration Act, 1883, until the conditions have been fully agreed to and embodied in a Convention. It is, therefore, very unlikely that 6,000, or even any labourers can be engaged for Reunion during the current year. I am to add that the Government of India are in possession of full information as to the condition of the Indian labourers now in the Colony, having recently deputed a Special Commissioner for the purpose of investigating the whole subject on the spot. The proposals which have now been submitted are based on the recommendations made in the Commissioner's Report.

(Signed) REAY."

**UNITED STATES TARIFF.**—The following is from *The Times*, April 30:—

"The final form in which the Sugar Duties are arranged is 40 per cent. *valorem* on all Sugars, with one-eighth of a cent additional on refined, also one-tenth of a cent more when imported from a country which pays bounties to producers. These Duties are to come into effect on January 1st, thus continuing the present bounties for this year." It remains to be seen, of course, whether these provisions will

**INDIAN EMIGRATION.**—Mr. O. W. Warner, Acting Emigration Agent for British Guiana in Calcutta, has reported to the Secretary of State that unless emigrants are very much more plentiful than they were last season it will be impossible to satisfy the indent of the Colony for 7,200 Statute Adults.

**CARAMEL.**—At a Meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, held on Thursday, March 8th, 1894, the following resolution was adopted:—

That the sum of Two Hundred Dollars be paid from the funds of the Society, on the award of its Agricultural Committee, to such person or persons as shall, by the 30th of September next, inform this Society of some improved way of producing Caramel,—combined with its economical manufacture,—for colouring rum for market and producing the least degree of obscuration."

**BRITISH GUIANA LAWS.**—The thanks of the West India Committee are due to His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, for transmitting through the Government Secretary a copy of the Laws for the year 1893.

**MAIL NEWS.**—British Guiana (18th April).—Dr. Grieve, the Surgeon-General, has retired on pension. Dr. Wallbridge, Medical Inspector of Estates Hospitals, will act as Surgeon-General. The fortnight's weather was favourable to cultivation.—Jamaica (April 17th)—Legislative Council passed resolution in favour of extension of term of office of Sir Henry Blake. The Coffee crop is just over; the coming one promises to be very large.—Trinidad, 18th April.—Sugar making is progressing energetically, the yield being satisfactory. Shipments continue to go forward freely to Europe and America. Cocoa supplies continue very limited; values have not been in any way affected by lower quotations from Europe, and keen competition continues for the small quantities offering. Fortnight's weather favourable for Sugar. Venezuelan Cocoa.—New crop comes forward in about two months, before which no increase of supplies expected.—Antigua, 18th April.—General rain much wanted, although growing crop continues to look promising.



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SUGAR PROSPECTS.—Weather has been very variable in France. Rain has not been sufficiently general. Sowings approaching their end, which will be earlier than usual. In general, although there are complaints of insects, the coming crop is in satisfactory condition. The sowings have been larger and the ground better prepared, and nothing is wanted but favourable seasons. In Germany the sowings are generally terminated. The condition of the roots is reported satisfactory, notwithstanding insects and want of sufficient rain. The best means of dealing with prospective low prices, whether by union of fabricants for sale of sugar or otherwise, is being discussed in Germany. Mr. Czarnikow says (3rd May) the firmer tone in the United States market, which is slightly under European parity, has somewhat influenced markets here, especially as the European excess is not so important, but the great increase in stocks in America and Cuba, with the Duty question in abeyance, may keep the American Refineries out of the European Beet market.

#### SHIPMENTS, TO APRIL.

|                          | SUGAR. | RUM.  | COFFEE. | COCOA.    | ASPHALTE. | GOLD.  |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|                          | Tons.  | Puns. | Lbs.    | Lbs.      | Tons.     | Oz.    |
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 20,821 | 7,378 | —       | —         | —         | 23,408 |
| 1893 ...                 | 15,112 | 7,942 | —       | —         | —         | 26,822 |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...       | 18,201 | 4     | 2,160   | 7,598,290 | 31,579    | —      |
| 1893 ...                 | 21,057 | 2     | 5,920   | 2,369,970 | 32,433    | —      |
| Barbados, 1894 ...       | 12,319 | —     | —       | —         | —         | —      |
| 1893 ...                 | 9,873  | —     | —       | —         | —         | —      |

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(C. Czarnikow, 3rd May).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,182,416 tons, against 1,069,782; United States, 265,000, against 127,809; Havana, 310,000, against 228,000. Total, 1,757,416 tons, against 1,425,591.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1894, 236,807 tons, against 251,038; deliveries, 249,667, against 257,254; stocks, 65,598, against 90,385.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT.—Mr. N. T. Christopherson, 51, Thornlaw Road, West Norwood, connected with *Anna Regina* Estate in business capacity in London from 1885 to date of amalgamation, wishes position in Mercantile House. Good testimonials.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 % (Czarnikow, 3rd May), 11s. 8d., against 18s. 3d. for the same time 1893.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 11th April—Fine rains have fallen generally since last message. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell and Co.) 26th April—Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.), 9th April—Weather favourable. 16th April—Weather favourable. 23rd April—Weather favourable. 30th April—Weather favourable. (Per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited) 16th April—Weather fine for harvesting. 1st May—Weather fine for harvesting. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviiler), 10th April—Seasonable weather. 24th April—Seasonable weather.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

4th June, 1894.

WEST INDIA MAILS.—It is publicly announced that forms of Tender for a new Contract have been issued. The existing one came into force on the 1st July, 1890, and expires on the 30th June, 1895. The Committee are informed by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, that there is a movement in favour of making that Colony the principal port in the West Indies. Barbados, of course, will strongly support the present arrangement, and it must also be considered how such an alteration would affect Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, and Demerara. The Committee will be glad to receive expressions of opinion on this important matter.

COLONISTS AND THE BUDGET.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has promised to give the following letter his "careful consideration":—

"24th May, 1894.

"SIR,—As representing holders of property in the West India Colonies, we have observed with much interest your announcement that the death duties proposed to be levied under the Finance Bill will include property in the Colonies where similar duties are in force in aid of Colonial Revenues, and owned by persons who may, at the time of decease, have been domiciled in the United Kingdom. We beg respectfully to point out, that in all the Colonies in the West Indies there are heavy taxes on land, and in British Guiana there is a succession duty graduated up to 5 per cent. according to relationship. We think it would be very unjust that succession duties should be charged twice over on the same property, once by the Colonial Government and again by the Imperial Parliament. We may further point out, that anyone holding property in the Colonies and resident in this Country not only pays Income Tax upon the Income derived from such property but through himself and family contributes in other ways to the Income of this Country besides paying local rates. It seems, therefore, economically unwise to discourage such residence in this Country on the part of Colonists by heavy death duties. We beg to support the arguments addressed to you, Sir, by the Royal Colonial Institute as to the discouragement of investments in the Colonies which would be caused by the proposed system of double duties. We quite agree that the mechanical difficulties of ascertaining the value of such property for assessment in this Country would be insuperable, especially in the West Indies, dependent as that value must necessarily be upon the amount of bounty granted by Foreign Governments from time to time to their Sugar Industries.

"(Signed) N. LUMBOCK, *Chairman*."

RUM SURTAX.—TREASURY TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"7th May, 1894.

"SIR,—The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them your letter of 27th January addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking, on behalf of the West India Committee, for a modification of the Surtax or Countervailing Duty now charged on Colonial Rum on admission into the United Kingdom. My Lords regret that they are unable to entertain your proposal. They agree in the view expressed by Mr. Gladstone in 1881; that the question is one which concerns the Colonial Governments rather than the Government of this Country, and, that if any redress is necessary it should be looked for not in a heavier burden laid on the Home Manufacturer, but in the imposition by the Colonial Government of such an export allowance as would compensate for any disadvantage suffered by the Colonial Manufacturer.

"(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON."



## TRINIDAD.—COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

" 24th May, 1894.

" SIR,—I am directed by the Marquis of Ripon to transmit to you, for the information of the West India Committee, a copy of the correspondence between the Government of Trinidad and the Honourable G. T. Fenwick, with reference to a memorial which his Lordship has received through the Governor from planters and employers of Indian labour in the Colony, asking for the introduction of 3,000 Indian immigrants this year, and in each of the two following years. I am to state that his Lordship has authorized the Emigration Agent at Calcutta to recruit 3,000 Coolies for introduction into Trinidad this season, if so many can be obtained, which appears to be very doubtful, but that he has informed the Governor that he is not prepared at present to give any pledge as to the number of immigrants to be introduced into the Colony in future years. His Lordship has not thought it necessary to require any undertaking or assurance from the planters with regard to the proposed Volunteer organization as a condition of the introduction of these additional Coolies; but he trusts that those Trinidad planters who are members of the West India Committee will set a patriotic example by giving an assurance of their readiness to support the Volunteer system in the manner expressed in Mr. Fenwick's letter.

" (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

## TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT TO MR. FENWICK.

" 16th April, 1894.

" SIR,—His Excellency, the Governor, has under his consideration the petition forwarded by the letter dated the 4th instant, signed by yourself and others, addressed to the Most Honourable the Secretary of State, praying that his lordship may approve of the introduction of not less than 3,000 Coolies annually for the next three years. 2.—I am to enquire whether the representatives of the Planting interest are prepared to undertake that the Volunteer system, including the mounted corps, which has been organized for the defence and internal security of the Island, shall receive the full and hearty support of the owners and managers of Estates. As you are aware, this support has in some degree been withdrawn of late, particularly from the mounted corps, but the Governor considers it absolutely necessary, in view of a proposed considerable increase of the Indian population, that these corps shall be effectively established and maintained in the numbers and on the basis for which provision is, or may be made in the annual estimates. 3.—If at a meeting of the leading representatives of the Planting interest, which the Commandant of the Local Forces, the Hon. Colonel Man, would be ready to attend, a resolution indicative of full and hearty support of the Volunteer organization, both mounted and foot, could be adopted, His Excellency will be prepared to give his support to the Petition to the Secretary of State.

" (Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS, Colonial Secretary."

## MR. FENWICK TO TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT.

28th April, 1894.

The following is an extract:—"Since receiving your letter I have, in company with the Honourable A. P. Marryat and Mr. Macfarlane (Attorney for Messrs. Burnley & Co.,) had an interview with Colonel Man, and ascertained from him that the support required by the Government was, practically, as follows:—That a mounted corps should be raised of not less than a hundred men. This to be divided into 4 troops. 25 men being raised in Port of Spain, 25 at St. Joseph, 25 at Couva, and 25 in Naparima. The Port of Spain troop to be recruited in the town and its suburbs; and for the three country troops, each estate of any importance in the vicinity to furnish a man and a horse—both to be approved by the Colonel Commandant—the horses remaining the property of those furnishing them, and being worked as usual when not on duty. The Government to provide uniforms, accoutrements, and all other necessaries for the troop. Each man to attend 20 drills during the first year of service and 12 in each subsequent year, and to give in each year one week's



permanent duty, during which week men and horses will be quartered in St. James' Barracks. No drills or permanent duty to be exacted during the Crop season. Owing to the fact that there are few large Cocoa estates within easy reach of the proposed depôts, and that even the largest of them have rarely more than one resident employe of the class from which it would be desirable to recruit, the burden of raising the country troops would fall principally on the Sugar estates. The owners of these are, with a few exceptions, resident in England, and I question whether their representatives here would act in this matter without first consulting them. Under such circumstances, time would be gained if the proposals of His Excellency were submitted direct to the West India Committee in London, by the Secretary of State, and I think it would be a preferable course, in many ways, to submitting His Excellency's letters to a public meeting here. Personally, I consider the scheme sketched out by Colonel Man to be a thoroughly practical one, which is much more than can be said for recent attempts, and I shall not hesitate to recommend it as such to the West India Committee, being confident that, assured of the sympathy of the local Government with their urgent need for an increased supply of Coolie labour, the Trinidad proprietors will not be backward in giving the Government such hearty support as is now asked for the Volunteer system. I, however, respectfully submit that the Immigration question is one of sufficient importance to be dealt with on its own merits. The raising of the Country Troops of Mounted Volunteers will affect, to any appreciable extent, only some half dozen or more large Sugar estate proprietors, while the introduction of a proper supply of labour affects, directly, the whole agricultural community, and indirectly, every other section of the community of the Colony. An average of 2,500 Coolies having been introduced for the last 20 years, the extra increase caused by raising the number to 3,000 annually represents considerably less than one per cent. on the total Indian population of about 70,000. So small an increase can hardly constitute a danger to the Colony, necessitating the establishment of a special mounted force to control it. What is, I venture to point out, more urgently required, is capable management of a very easily led people by the Immigration Department. In the present Protector and Sub-Protector, we have not, whatever may be their qualifications, such qualifications as fit them for the post they occupy. Men who have been to a great extent brought up in India, who have a perfect command of the language, have a thorough knowledge of the East Indian character, and who will be in touch and sympathy with our Indian labourers, are simply indispensable as heads of the departments; and co-incident with the appointment of such men, it would be most desirable to have a thorough revision and consolidation of the Immigration Laws.

"(Signed) G. TOWNSEND FENWICK."

CARONI, TRINIDAD.—The West India Committee have forwarded the following Memorial to the Secretary of State:—

"21st May, 1894."

"We, the undersigned Proprietors and Merchants owning or representing large Estates in the Valley of the Caroni River in the Island of Trinidad, beg to represent to your Lordship the urgent necessity for the adoption of measures to prevent or mitigate the now frequently recurring floods of the above river, by which much damage is done at every heavy rainfall to the properties in which we are interested. The public roads of the district suffer considerably from the same cause, and we are informed, and we believe, that the health of the locality is also prejudicially affected thereby. Prior to the construction of the Government Railway, money was voted in the Public Estimates for the purpose of removing tree-stumps and other obstructions from the mouth of the river, but since the completion of the railway this work has ceased with the result that the river mouth has become gradually blocked and silted up, and the natural outflow of the rainfall has been obstructed, causing the floodings above referred to. We do not deny that prior to the construction of the railway floods occasionally occurred, but the river mouth and channel being free, the water remained on the cultivated land only a few hours and did no harm. Now the flood waters are backed up and remain upon the land often for days; ordinary drainage is inoperative, and the crops are almost entirely



destroyed. Early in 1893 a concession was granted to Mr. Labastide for the reclamation of the Caroni swamp at the river mouth, and the work if carried out would have necessitated the drainage of the area concerned by the provision of a proper outlet to the river. Nothing has been done under the concession, and we are informed that it will lapse in the month of June in the present year. Your Lordship is doubtless aware that, year by year, the Harbour of Port Spain is becoming silted up. It is the common opinion in the Island, and we firmly believe it to be the fact, that much silt is brought down by the Caroni. If the mouth of the river were open this would flow out to sea, but in consequence of the blocking it is diverted into the Harbour. We would therefore respectfully request that your Lordship would be pleased to communicate with the Governor-in-Council upon the matter, with the view of adopting measures at the earliest moment to remove or mitigate the serious evils of which we now humbly complain to your Lordship." (Signed by Proprietors interested.)

**BEET PROSPECTS.**—The cold weather in France gave to May an abnormal character. The weather is against the Beet, and tends to lose the advance which had been gained as compared with previous years. There is little progress in vegetation. Final results of course cannot be estimated. The same uncertain weather has been experienced in Germany and other countries, but with greater variations in the temperature and rainfall. Mr. Licht says the current crop of 1893-94 shows a surplus of 432,000 tons against 1892-93. He gives (26 May) a more favourable account of the existing sowings. Vermin seems to be generally complained of. Mr. Licht thinks that the over-production of Beet will cause loss to Agriculturists. Mr. Czarnikow (31 May) reports greater firmness for ready and June Beet, owing to some shipments for U.S. English refiners are working on reduced stocks. The period of large consumption is beginning, with perhaps a healthier demand. Mr. Czarnikow thinks prospects of the Beet sowings remain favourable with the warmer weather.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 16TH MAY.

|                          | SUGAR. | ROM.  | COFFEE. | COCOA.    | ASPHALTE. | GOLD.  |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|                          | Tons.  | Puns. | Lbs.    | Lbs.      | Tons.     | Oz.    |
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 22,399 | 8,181 | —       | —         | —         | 33,665 |
| 1893 ...                 | 17,331 | 8,288 | —       | —         | —         | 38,571 |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...       | 25,157 | 204   | 6,800   | 9,106,530 | 37,974    | —      |
| 1893 ...                 | 32,390 | 127   | 5,920   | 3,806,810 | 44,490    | —      |
| Barbados, 1894 ...       | 31,000 | —     | —       | —         | —         | —      |
| 1893 ...                 | 30,632 | —     | —       | —         | —         | —      |

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Licht, 26th May), Europe 1,001,026 tons against 887,532; United States 267,000 against 99,609; Cuba 314,960 against 238,456, floating to North America 18,148 against 37,337; total 1,601,134 tons against 1,262,934 (C. Czarnikow, 31st May); Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 1,017,348 tons against 880,623; United States 265,000 against 99,609; Cuba 310,000 against 241,008; total 1,592,348 tons against 1,221,240.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1894 295,540 tons against 311,054; deliveries 301,775 against 315,690; Stocks 72,242 against 91,965.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (C. Czarnikow, 31st May) 11s. 9d. against 18s. 3d. for the same time 1893.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 26th May—Weather dry with occasional showers, but more would be acceptable. Trinidad (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited), 16th May—Weather fine for harvesting. 25th May—Showery and unsettled. (Per favour of Messrs. William F. Burnley & Co., Limited), 22nd May—Weather favourable. 28th May—Weather favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 22nd May—Very dry, rain wanted. Jamaica (per favour of Messrs. Gillespie Brothers & Co.), 26th May—Heavy seasons general.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

2nd July, 1894.

WEST INDIA MAILS.—The principal features of the new tender for contract are—(1) That the port of departure is left open for consideration. The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce have been strongly urging that Port as the exclusive port, in substitution for Southampton. The West India Committee have expressed no opinion regarding this proposal, as for London especially Southampton is convenient. (2) The Postmaster-General again reserves the right to substitute St. Lucia for Barbados. The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce wish that Colony to be selected in preference to either Barbados or St. Lucia. The West India Committee, representing the interests of all the Colonies, have not been committed to any policy in this respect, and if any movement is made at all the only way seems to be to leave it to the individual Colonies concerned; but the Secretary will be glad to receive any communications on this subject. (3) The rates of speed are different within the following limits. Form A, 13 knots main line, Branch Barbados to Demerara 10 knots, other branches 10 and 8½ respectively. Form B, 14-10-8½; Form C, 13 knots main line, 11 knots Barbados to Demerara; the other two branch lines 9½ knots. Form D, main line 14 knots, branch line Barbados to Demerara 11 knots, and on the two other branch lines 9½ knots. Should the rate of speed be accelerated as above suggested, for inter-colonial service, the time saved should be so arranged as to avoid arriving at unseasonable hours. The existing time table seems to provide for convenient times, except in Barbados, for arrival and departure. The Barbados times should certainly be amended. But the question has been asked, should any time be saved by greater speed, would it be satisfactory to preserve Southampton as head quarters and call at Plymouth for Mails, thus allowing letters (for instance) to be posted on Thursday morning instead of Wednesday morning as at present. The general opinion in London seems to be that any saving of time should be given to the Colonies.

In the four Forms of Tender issued, there are four routes; as follows:—

FORM A. Speed 13 for (1), 10 for (2), 8½ for (3 and 4).

(1) From (U.K.) to Colon, calling at Barbados, Jacmel, and Jamaica, and back (on the return voyage) from Colon to (U.K.), calling at Jamaica, Jacmel, and Barbados; (2) From Barbados to Demerara direct, and back (on the return voyage) from Demerara to Barbados direct; (3) From Barbados to Tobago, calling at St. Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad, and back (on the return voyage) from Tobago to Barbados, calling at Trinidad, Grenada, and St. Vincent; and (4) From Barbados to St. Thomas, calling at St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, and St. Kitts, and back (on the return voyage) from St. Thomas to Barbados, calling at St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique and St. Lucia.

FORM B. Speed 14 for (1), 10 for (2), 8½ for (3 and 4).

(1) From (U.K.) to Colon, calling at Barbados, Jacmel, and Jamaica, and back (on the return voyage) from Colon to (U.K.), calling at Jamaica, Jacmel, and Barbados. (2) From Barbados to Demerara direct, and back (on the return voyage) from Demerara to Barbados direct. (3) From Barbados to Tobago, calling at St. Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad, and back (on the return voyage) from Tobago to Barbados, calling at Trinidad, Grenada, and St. Vincent; and (4) From Barbados to St. Thomas, calling at St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis and St. Kitts, and back (on the return voyage) from St. Thomas to Barbados, calling at St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, and St. Lucia.



FORM C. Speed 13 for (1), 11 for (2), 9½ for (3 and 4).

(1) From (U.K.) to Colon, calling at Barbados, Jacmel and Jamaica, and back (on the return voyage) from Colon to (U.K.), calling at Jamaica, Jacmel and Barbados; (2) From Barbados to Demerara direct and back (on the return voyage) from Demerara to Barbados direct; (3) From Barbados to Tobago, calling at St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Trinidad, and back (on the return voyage) from Tobago to Barbados, calling at Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia; and (4) From Barbados to St. Thomas, calling at Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts and Tortola, and back (on the return voyage) from St. Thomas to Barbados, calling at Tortola, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique.

FORM D. Speed 14 (No. 1), 11 (No. 2), 9½ (Nos. 3 and 4).

(1) From (U.K.) to Colon, calling at Barbados, Jacmel and Jamaica, and back (on the return voyage) from Colon to (U.K.), calling at Jamaica, Jacmel and Barbados; (2) From Barbados to Demerara direct, and back (on the return voyage) from Demerara to Barbados direct; (3) From Barbados to Tobago, calling at St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Trinidad, and back (on the return voyage) from Tobago to Barbados, calling at Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia; and (4) From Barbados to St. Thomas, calling at Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts and Tortola, and back (on the return voyage) from St. Thomas to Barbados, calling at Tortola, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique.

DEMERARA SUGARS AND REFINERS' CRYSTALS.—The "Grocer" of 9th June prints a letter from Messrs. Abram Lyle & Sons, Limited, in which they deny that genuine Demerara attains its complexion by some natural process, whereas all other Yellow Sugars are artificially coloured. They say that "all Demerara Sugars are invariably artificially coloured." The following reply was inserted in the "Grocer" of 23rd June:—

"THE EDITOR, SIR,—In your issue of June 9th a letter appears from Messrs. Lyle & Sons bearing upon the "artificial colouring of sugar" with reference to "refiners' yellow" and Demerara Crystals. Messrs. Lyle are quite at liberty to say what they please about their own sugars, but when they take upon themselves to assert that Demerara cane sugars are artificially coloured equally with their own, they should take care to make themselves acquainted with the details and principles of Demerara manufacture before committing themselves to a statement so damaging to the latter. As a matter of fact, the lemon-yellow colour of true Demerara sugars—and also of West Indian Island sugars made on the Demerara system—is derived from the colouring matter of the cane juice itself; the chemical methods of clarification and purification adopted, which cannot in any sense be described as the use of colouring matter, are rendered necessary in order to leave the colouring matter present in the juice in its natural condition. The colour of Demerara sugars, therefore, due to the cane juice itself, admits of no comparison with the aniline dye used to colour the crystals of Messrs. Lyle. Messrs. Lyle go on to say, "many planters have copied the system of colouring adopted by us." This is misleading, the real facts of the case being that in a few isolated cases, where a good natural colour was not obtainable, from difficulties connected with the manufacture, colouring matter was experimentally tried, but almost universally with unsatisfactory results.

"I am, &c., N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman, West India Committee.*"

RUM SURTAX.—It is hoped that this question will be raised in the debate on the Spirit Duties imposed by the Finance Bill. The surtax of 4d. on Colonial and Foreign Spirits constitutes a large protection on Whiskies and other home-made spirits, and for this reason it is so difficult to be heard in Parliament, where Scotch and Irish Whiskey manufacturers have so much influence with the Government. The position is, that Colonial Produce is unduly taxed for the benefit of Home Whiskey and Gin.



TRINIDAD.—In continuation of the correspondence printed in last Circular, the following letter has been addressed to Lord Ripon :—

“ 4th June, 1894.

“ My Lord Marquess,

“ With further reference to Mr. Wingfield's letter of the 24th May, enclosing, by your Lordship's direction, copy of correspondence between the Government of Trinidad and the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, with regard to certain questions relating to Immigration and the formation of a Mounted Troop, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the same has been communicated to the Trinidad Members of the Committee, with the result that the principal Proprietors of Estates, as stated below, have agreed to support Mr. Fenwick's proposal for a Mounted Troop, as explained in his letter to the Trinidad Government of the 28th April last.

“ (Signed)

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.”

(Here follows the list of signatures.)

CARONI, TRINIDAD.—In reply to Memorial printed in last Circular, Lord Ripon says (6th June) “ That a copy has been sent by this mail to the Governor for his consideration and report.”

BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION.—The Revd. H. V. P. Bronkhurst, the well known and highly respected Missionary connected with the Wesleyan Church in British Guiana has recently published a letter in the “ Daily Chronicle ” of that Colony, giving a most interesting account of the religious and social condition of the Coolie Immigrants from Southern India, with whom he has been brought into contact by his missionary labours, now extending over 33 years. He says, “ knowing as I do the different places in Southern India where good labourers are to be found and obtained, and knowing also the temporal (to say nothing of their moral and spiritual) wants and conditions of the vast masses of the labouring population, and desiring, if possible, to do good by persuading them to come over to Demerara, the land of Goschen, the land of Plenty, the Poor Man's Paradise, I am induced to write to you, hoping you will be pleased to find a short space in your excellent journal, that it might be read by all and explained to the labouring classes of people with whom they come into contact in different parts of the land. No Indian Immigrant, be he Pariah, Pallan, Chakli, Sudra, Vellallan or else, is debarred or prevented from rising higher and higher in social status and worldly circumstances if he is only active, diligent, strictly honest, and attends to his allotted task or work in the Sugar-cane field.” Mr. Bronkhurst, who is well acquainted with Southern India and the condition of its people, speaking of the condition of the Coolies in British Guiana concludes his letter as follows: “ As this Colony is not a Paradise for fools, but for honest and industrious labourers, we do not require loafers, barbers, beggars and mendicants, but agricultural labourers or persons who would be willing to work and earn fair wages by doing a fair day's work. I may state here that in British Guiana people experience no famine, cholera, small pox, want of rain, &c. We have a perpetual summer, same as it is in India. Whilst thousands annually die in India from cholera and other indigenous diseases, people's lives are prolonged here. This fact alone should open the eyes of the labouring population.”

EMIGRATION FROM AFRICA TO BRITISH GUIANA.—Information has been received that Emigration of Kroomen from Liberia might be effected. Opinions at present are rather against the practicability of the scheme, owing to the want of labour in places upon the West African Coast. The matter will remain under consideration.

BEET PROSPECTS.—In France, the weather has at last become favourable, and although there are backward parts, the continuance of fine weather will be remedial. Insects are still the subject of complaint. In Germany the changes of temperature are complained of, but the general state of the beet is very satisfactory. In Austria-Hungary the changeable weather has retarded field work, and there is no likelihood of an advance upon last crop. Licht (23rd June) complains of too much cold weather in the month. The late sown beets had suffered from want of rain. Mr. Licht complains



strongly of insects. On the whole German estimates are only fair. In Austria there has been increase of sowings, but results modified by changeable weather. The European Beet Sugar production is given for 1893-4 at 3,861,000 against 3,428,515. The 1894-5 crop cannot of course be estimated. Czarnikow reports (28th June) an excess of imports of Foreign Refined into U.K. The unsettled state of the Tariff question in United States is also mentioned as influencing Markets.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 14TH JUNE.

|                          | SUGAR.<br>Tons. | RUM.<br>Pans. | COFFEE.<br>Lbs. | COCOA.<br>Lbs. | ASPHALTE.<br>Tons. |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 24,729          | 8,286         | —               | 3,000          | —                  |
| 1893 ...                 | 20,872          | 8,442         | —               | 3,528          | —                  |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...       | 36,782          | 304           | 6,960           | 11,852,540     | 44,779             |
| 1893 ...                 | 38,245          | 214           | 6,720           | 5,996,410      | 54,715             |
| Barbados, 1894 ...       | 36,301          | —             | —               | —              | —                  |
| 1893 ...                 | 43,629          | —             | —               | —              | —                  |

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(C. Czarnikow, 28th June, 1894). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 883,082 tons against 715,676; United States 281,000 against 88,812; Cuba 215,000 against 211,202; total 1,379,082 tons against 1,015,690.—(Licht, 23rd June). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 870,894 against 742,184; United States 286,000 against 81,027; Cuba 243,840 against 220,402; floating to North America 24,383 against 24,720. Total 1,425,117 tons against 1,068,333.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1894 365,211 tons against 301,846; deliveries 362,054 against 381,114; Stocks 81,614 against 97,333.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (C. Czarnikow, 28th June), 12s. 3d. against 18s. 6d. for the same time 1893.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 5th June—Fine rains have fallen generally since last advices. 8th—Rainy season has set in. 13th—Weather has been finer since last message, and is generally favourable for cultivation and grinding. (Per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 6th June—Fine rains have fallen generally since last message. 18th—Weather favourable for cultivation. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited), 5th June—Weather favourable. 12th—Crop finished. This indicates that the wet season has set in. 21st—Weather too dry. (Per favour of Messrs. Frame, Alston & Co.), 7th June—Weather has been very fine. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 5th June—No rain since last message. 14th—There is no change in the weather. 19th—Rain much wanted, crops suffering. 20th—Light partial showers.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

30th July, 1894.

**DEMERARA AND WEST INDIA SUGARS AND COLOURED CRYSTALS.**—The Select Committee of the House of Commons upon Food Products Adulteration have been communicated with through Sir C. Cameron. Evidence was tendered on behalf of Demerara and West India Sugars, but the Select Committee will only take evidence this Session on milk and dairy products. The evidence will be again tendered at the resumption of the sittings next Session. In the meantime the present position of the question has been under consideration, with the valuable assistance of Mr. Frederic I. Scard, the chemist of the Colonial Company in Demerara, now home on leave. There have of late been several prosecutions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for selling Coloured Crystals as Demerara. In one district, out of nine prosecutions seven convictions had been obtained. The other two were dismissed on technical grounds. A case in another district was also dismissed on the grocer pleading the mistake of his assistant. The importance of these cases is evident; the Public Analyst certifies to a percentage of impurity and the Sugar "not being of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded by such purchaser" (Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875), a conviction, as in the above-mentioned instances, becomes almost a matter of course. In those cases which are dismissed, the possibility of an appeal might be considered in connection with any representative case. It is estimated that at least 60,000 tons of Beet Crystals, coloured with aniline dyes, in imitation of Demeraras, are produced for sale in the United Kingdom annually. This quantity is considerably larger than the whole of the imports of genuine Cane Crystals from the British West Indies and Guiana. If these Beet Crystals are largely sold as Demerara or West Indian, as is probably the case, the injury to the latter produce must be very great. It is alleged that aniline dyes are sometimes used in the colouring of Cane Crystals. This may possibly be the case in purely isolated instances in some of the Colonies. If so, it is very desirable that the practice should be entirely stopped, as it might bring discredit on the whole of the Cane Sugar production, and hinders the prosecution of cases of imitation Sugars. Such colouring is certainly not to the advantage of the individual producer, as its cost should put it out of the question in any well regulated factory, and it could only be used in those cases where it might seem necessary to cover imperfections of manufacture.

**COOLIE EMIGRATION.**—It is understood that Mr. Warner has reported from Calcutta under date 18th June, that in view of the fact that the current Emigration Season has opened more hopefully than the last, he is led to hope that there will be no great difficulty in satisfying the demands of Trinidad. As Mr. Warner is also acting for British Guiana, in the absence on leave of Mr. Mitchell, it may be assumed that prospects are equally favourable for that Colony.

**WEST INDIA MAILS.**—Mr. J. Gardiner Austin, Chairman of the Commercial Hall, Barbados, writes 13th July:—"That whilst for Mails the Plymouth arrangement might be more advantageous, the Board of the Commercial Hall could not help thinking that passengers found Southampton more economical and more convenient in reaching and leaving London. The Board, however, would be glad to see the arrival and departure of the Mail Steamer at and from this Island, so arranged that a working-day and not a Sunday intervene between the two. Again, they have heard a wish often expressed that the homeward Mail should not leave until after the arrival of the outward, but if so arranged it is manifest that three or four days should be allowed to intervene so as to admit of correspondence being replied to."



CIRCULAR No. 107

COLONIAL GOVERNORS.—It is understood that the report which has been circulated pointing to approaching vacancies in British Guiana and Trinidad is not well founded.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The Planters' Association appointed a Committee to consider a scheme of Bardadian Immigration. The result is that there seems some difficulty in selling or leasing land and houses to intending settlers, on account of the cost of drainage and other items. But it is suggested that as regards immigrants who come to British Guiana on short term of service a regular system between the two Governments should be arranged and officially managed, instead of the practice hitherto adopted of individuals collecting people under private contracts. The matter is so obviously one for settlement between the two Colonies that no opinion need here be expressed. Another question relating to British Guiana has been again raised by Messrs. George Christall & Co., of New York. This refers to the discrimination against large steamers entering the ports of the Colony in the matter of the tonnage dues. The letter which they have addressed to the Members of the Combined Court fully explains their views, in the course of which they say, "We merely suggest that dues on all vessels should be collected on the quantity of freight carried, irrespective of the size of the vessel carrying it, and that the discrimination against large vessels should thus be removed. The revenue from tonnage dues would not be affected by this as it depends entirely upon the amount of imports and exports. It may seem strange that a Colony of such importance as Demerara should be so far behind the other West Indian Colonies in means of communication with the States, but reference to the foregoing figures will show that under existing conditions no regular line of steamers can exist in competition with sailing vessels and steamers paying no dues."

TRINIDAD.—The following is an extract from the Report of Railway Enquiry Commission, laid before the Council by the Governor in a Minute, dated 27th June, 1894:—"Of course, the enormous extent of the corruption pervading every branch of the Traffic Department of the Railway was a matter which, when revealed by the public evidence, took by surprise a great many people." But this was explained to be exceptional. The Report discloses an extraordinary state of things, especially as to "Special Rates" favouring individuals. From the Report it is difficult to see how such a state of things as is disclosed could arise, but no doubt the Secretary of State will consider the Report signed by Mr. Justice Nathan, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Bourne and others. It might be mentioned that the Railway Receipts for the five months to May, 1894, show an increase of nearly \$20,000 over same time in 1893. Does this arise from a better administration?

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—Licht (21st July). Weather on the whole not quite warm enough. In Austria there has been too much rain. In many parts of Bohemia, large tracts of Beet fields had to be re-ploughed. On the whole a generally satisfactory crop is expected in Austria. From France, Belgium, Holland, and Russia, fairly favourable reports have come, so far as weather is concerned. Mr. Licht thinks there is an enlargement of the cultivated area of about 8 per cent. (but of course all these estimates are purely speculative) no statistics for 1894-5 are yet available. Mr. Licht only gives the following:—3,861,000 tons for 1893-4, and 3,428,515 for 1892-3. The "Journal des Fabricants" complains of low prices as affecting not only Home but Colonial Sugars. A review of the Continental reports shows an utter absence of any estimate of the next Beet crop. Mr. Czarnikow (26th July) after referring to the depression, says: "The statistical position has rather improved. The world's visible supplies show a slight decrease, but this seems to be caused by the large shipments afloat to the United States, which do not appear in stocks. Doubtless the favourable Beet crop accounts, coupled with the still prevailing stagnation in trade, generally explains somewhat the present hesitating policy of consumers. The deadlock of the Tariff Bill in Washington does not improve matters, though the opinion is gaining ground that the Senate Bill, with slight modifications, will have to be accepted."



## SHIPMENTS TO 11TH JULY.

|                          |        | SUGAR.<br>Tons. | RUM.<br>Puns. | COFFEE.<br>Lbs. | COCOA.<br>Lbs. | ASPHALTE.<br>Tons. |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 32,439 | 8,763           | —             | 7,569           | —              |                    |
| 1893 ...                 | 31,293 | 8,962           | —             | 3,528           | —              |                    |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...       | 42,000 | 538             | 7,120         | 13,803,970      | 49,029         |                    |
| 1893 ...                 | 42,174 | 305             | 6,720         | 9,345,410       | 61,599         |                    |

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Licht, 21st July). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 692,844 tons against 613,591; United States 333,000 against 116,479; Cuba 88,376 against 184,845; floating to North America 21,897 against 42,681; total 1,136,117 tons against 957,596.—(C. Czarnikow, 26th July). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 708,136 tons against 596,169; United States 354,000 against 110,659; Cuba 31,000 against 171,257; total 1,093,136 tons against 878,085.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1894 437,938 tons against 446,588; deliveries 426,226 against 440,136; Stocks 90,169 against 103,053.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (C. Czarnikow, 26th July), 11s. 4½d. against 15s. 9d. for the same time 1893.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 12th July—Weather favourable for cultivation. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 26th July—Weather all that can be desired, nice showers with fine days intervening. Barbados, (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 2nd July—Rainfall general, but less than an inch. 9th—Rain at times. 17th—Light partial showers. 23rd—Fine rains generally throughout the Island, but not enough. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull & Co.), 18th July—Heavy rain; fever extinct.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

27th August, 1894.

DEMERARA AND WEST INDIA SUGARS AND COLOURED CRYSTALS.—The proceedings of Analysts in cases before Magistrates are being carefully observed. It is understood that in the recent successful case at Enfield, conducted by the Middlesex Inspector of Foods and Drugs, and supported by the County Analyst, no appeal has been lodged. From a report of the proceedings it appears that the Chairman's letter to the "Grocer," printed in this Circular, No. 106, was prominently brought forward.

FAVOURER NATION TREATIES.—The Colonial Under Secretary stated in House of Commons, August 21st, that Article 15 of the Treaty with Belgium of July 23rd, 1862, and Article 7 of the Treaty with the German Zollverein of May 30th, 1865, were, in the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, to be interpreted as follows:—"The general effect of the stipulations quoted in regard to import duties on the points mentioned in the question is that (1) they do not prevent differential treatment by the United Kingdom in favour of British Colonies; (2) they do not prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of the United Kingdom; (3) they do not prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of each other."

UNITED STATES TARIFF.—The following is the text of the Clauses ("Times" copy), of the Wilson Tariff Bill, relating to Sugar. Schedule E. Sugar. 182.—That so much of the Act entitled "An Act to reduce Revenue Equalize Duties, and for other purposes," approved October first, eighteen hundred and ninety, as provides for and authorizes the issue of licences to produce sugar and for the payment of a bounty to the producers of sugar from beets, sorghum, or sugar-cane grown in the United States, or from maple sap produced within the United States, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and it shall be unlawful to issue any licence to produce sugar or to pay any bounty for the production of sugar of any kind under the said Act, against there shall be paid, from any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, under the provision of section three thousand six hundred and eighty-nine of the Revised Statutes, to the producer of sugar testing not less than ninety degrees by the polariscope, from beets, sorghum, or sugar-cane grown within the United States, or from maple sap produced within the United States, a bounty of two cents per pound; and upon such sugar testing less than ninety degrees by the polariscope, and not less than eighty degrees, a bounty of one and three-fourths cents per pound, under such rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe.

182½. There shall be levied, collected, and paid on all sugars and on all tank bottoms, syrups of cane juice or of beet juice, melada, concentrated melada, concrete and concentrated molasses, a duty of forty per centum *ad valorem*, and all sugars above number sixteen Dutch standard in colour, and upon all sugars which have been discoloured there shall be levied, collected, and paid a duty of one-eighth of one cent per pound in addition to the said duty of forty per centum *ad valorem*; and all sugars, tank bottoms, syrups of cane juice or of beet juice, melada, concentrated melada, concrete or concentrated molasses, which are imported from or are the production of any other country which at the time the same are exported therefrom pays, directly or indirectly, a bounty on the export thereof, shall pay a duty of one-tenth of one cent per pound in addition to the foregoing rates; provided that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to abrogate or in any manner impair or affect the provisions of the treaty of commercial reciprocity concluded between the United States and the King of the Hawaiian Islands on the thirtieth day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, or the provisions of any Act of Congress heretofore passed for the execution of the same. That on and after January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, there shall be levied, collected, and paid on molasses testing above forty degrees and not above fifty-six degrees polariscope, a duty of two cents per gallon; if testing above fifty-six degrees polariscope, a duty of four cents per gallon (against all sugars above number sixteen Dutch standard in colour shall pay a duty of five-tenths of one cent per pound: provided that all such sugars above number sixteen Dutch standard in colour shall pay one-tenth of one cent per pound in addition to the rate herein provided for, when exported from, or the product of any country when and so long as such country pays or shall hereafter pay, directly or indirectly, a bounty on the



exportation of any sugar that may be included in this grade which is greater than is paid on raw sugars of a lower saccharine strength; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe suitable rules and regulations to carry this provision into effect; and provided further that all machinery purchased abroad and erected in a beet sugar factory and used in the production of raw sugar in the United States from beets produced therein shall be admitted duty free until the first day of July, eighteen hundred and ninety-two: provided that any duty collected on any of the above described machinery purchased abroad and imported into the United States for the uses above indicated since January first, eighteen hundred and ninety, shall be refunded).

183. Sugar-candy and all confectionery, made wholly or in part of sugar, and on sugars after being refined, when tintured, coloured, or in any way adulterated, thirty-five per centum *ad valorem* (against five cents per pound); glucose, or grape sugar, fifteen per centum *ad valorem* (against three-fourths of one cent per pound); saccharine twenty-five per centum *ad valorem*.

(NOTE.—The only reciprocity clauses apparently retained are those with the Hawaiian Islands. But the following letter to the Foreign Secretary, the Earl of Kimberley, has been drafted:—“MY LORD, We are much interested in the imports of British West India Sugars into the United States. The McKinley Act of 1890 contained a reciprocity clause under which British West Indian Sugar went duty free into the United States upon a formal agreement to reduce duties upon United States imports into those Colonies. In consequence of this agreement, duties were reduced in the British West Indies upon United States products, and we respectfully desire to know whether these reciprocity provisions are at an end, under the new Act, or whether, the British West Indian Sugars are able to still go into the United States duty free, as the remissions of duty agreed upon by Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States in the year 1891, are still in force in the West Indian Colonies.”)

CANE DISEASE.—The following has been received from Mr. L. Bert, of Barbados. It is reprinted for the information of Members of the West India Committee. “Proposed method for the destruction of all Germs, Spores, &c., in old canes and stumps. Old canes, stumps, and, in fact all products of vegetable origin are liable to carry the Germs, Spores, Eggs, etc., of the insects or fungus which live upon them, and in the case of green fodder or cane-tops eaten by an animal with these germs and eggs attached to them, can reproduce themselves after having passed through the process of digestion. 1st—In case of Borers—their eggs deposited on cane-tops eaten by a cow will pass through the process of digestion untouched and will moreover remain fertile and hatch under favourable circumstances. 2nd—An example of the above can be stated in connection with the numerous insects found in a living state when a manure pen is first opened up and which must have therefore been hatching in the body of the pen. 3rd—Fungoids in general and particularly those of the species so ably and scientifically described by Mr. Thistleton Dyer and Mr. Masee, and commonly known here as Rind Fungus and Root Fungus are unable to resist the action of Sulphate of Copper, and as it is a matter of impossibility here to destroy the old cane-stumps by fire (although, theoretically speaking, this would be the surest method) I have therefore devised a practical method by which all Germs, Eggs, and Fungoid matters contained in any kind of vegetable *debris* can be completely destroyed and this method is fully described further on. I have only been able to arrive at this result by the help of the Honourable Sir George C. Pile, the Honourable A. J. Pile, and Mr. G. Laurie Pile, who have greatly assisted me in every possible way. Further on I also describe a method by which the cane hole may be treated where canes have been grown infected with the Root disease. When a sugar-cane is attacked by Root disease, this very cane can be cured, but will not at the time of maturity give the same results as one not attacked by this disease, but if the bunch of roots have been treated for and cured of this disease, some new plants will spring and moreover be found to grow healthy—however, as it will perhaps cost more than the plants are worth to cure them, it will be more beneficial to pull up the plant just as the disease begins to appear, and carry out the following method:—Pull out the cane stump to be destroyed and then treat the cane hole with Bisulphide of Carbon and any clean fertilizing material mixed with Sulphate of Copper to a proportion of about 2 per cent. of an ordinary application of soot, etc., and unslaked lime, and then plant again 48 hours after this application. STUMPS.—The following method described here is for the destruction of all Germs, Spores, etc., in old canes and stumps and to eventually turn them into a valuable manurial substance. Put on the ground old canes and stumps so as to form a square 30 feet by 40 feet, taking care that this first layer resting on the soil itself is about 18 inches thick, and then treat them in the following manner; 1st—Cover the layer of 18 inches of stumps, etc., with Unslaked Lime. 2nd.—To this add a certain quantity of Superphosphate of Lime enough to cover your previous application of Lime—the thickness of this Superphosphate layer to be about a quarter-of-an-inch. 3rd.—Sprinkle over the Superphosphate of Lime about 30 lbs. of very finely ground Sulphate of Copper



and which must be applied so as to cover your whole original surface. 4th.—Then go on covering with cane stumps each successive layer to be about 15 inches thick till you reach a height of about 5 feet when the layers can be made of about 24 inches thickness. 5th.—The watering of the heap must be done only after reaching a height of about 5 feet and only for the purpose of giving enough moisture to the Lime and other Chemicals, which without it cannot produce any effect; and further, I must also add that artificial watering must be resorted to if there is not sufficient rain to supply the moisture required by the Chemicals contained in the heap of stumps to act. The result of this mixture will be that after a certain time the heap will be found to be entirely free from all animal life, and having a manurial value as manure and as insecticide, this effect having come about through the multiple action of the Lime, the Superphosphate and Sulphate of Copper, thus having completely destroyed all Germs, Spores of Fungus, etc., also having fixed any matters which might have been liberated by the action of the Lime alone. Practice will show the right quantities to operate on, as at present all that has been done in this line is only in its infancy, but there is this sure cheap remedy which can be practically used for the above purpose of destroying Fungoids or other pests. *Lime*.—The Lime in absorbing moisture produces heat which can rise to 300°—this heat then destroys the organic matter and produces gases. The *Superphosphate of Lime* will contribute to the Manurial value. *Sulphate of Copper* will act, as it is well-known already, as an Insecticide throughout the heap. (NOTE.—The Committee are not responsible in any way for the above suggestions. They are only printed for discussion).

MAIL NEWS.—British Guiana, 8th August, Court of Policy and Combined Court in Session, dealing with many important matters. The delay of the new Colonial Secretary in taking up his appointment, while drawing half salary for many months naturally attracted attention. The delay by the Secretary of State in confirming the Consolidation Immigration Ordinance of 1891 was warmly criticized. This matter has been kept before the West India Committee, but it was thought that despatches from the Guiana Government would be more effective in moving the Colonial Office than any representations on this side. A settlement was arrived at in regard to the Demerara-Essequibo Railway. It seems probable that advantage will be taken of the imposition of Sugar Duties in the United States, and the consequent annulment of the reciprocity arrangements between that Country and the West India Colonies, to revise the Import Duties. Mr. Duncan's resolutions on the Sugar Industry and the payment of the cost of Immigration are very opportune, especially that which proposes the payment by the General Revenue of half the cost of Immigration, a measure of justice, which has been too long delayed. A Commission was appointed by the Combined Court to consider the question of the Immigration expenses in connection with the present state of the Sugar Industry. British Guiana weather report, 8th, the rain has not yet subsided though the weather has been slightly drier than in the previous fortnight. Trinidad, August 9th—The Immigration Committee had before them Mr. Nourse's Contract for conveying Indian Labourers to and from Calcutta and Trinidad for the Seasons 1894-7. 3,000 Coolies will be received in Season 1894-5. Fine soaking rains have fallen nearly every day since last mail, and this seasonable change has been welcome. The health of the Colony is satisfactory. Sir Napier Broome is said to be coming home on leave, and may probably not return. Barbados, August, 11th—Crop to end of July slightly larger than last year, being 61,500 hhd. against 59,210. Molasses was 43,087 puns. against 41,284. Rain badly wanted (Fine rains have since been reported by wire).

BEEF PROSPECTS.—Continental Sugar papers are discussing the formation of Syndicates or Trusts in view of the low prices. Complaints are general in France as to abnormal temperature and humidity. Analysis shows that the root is inferior in richness and yield to last year's. Notwithstanding the fine appearance of the fields the crop does not justify the hopes entertained. In Germany the reports are more satisfactory, and in Austria-Hungary the culture is not complained of. Russia shows a good crop in quantity and quality. But generally speaking, throughout the Beet countries there is great need of warm dry weather. Everything depends upon a fine September. Prices, owing to Continental movements, have been stronger during the past week.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 8TH AUGUST.

|                          | SUGAR. | RUM.   | COFFEE. | COCOA.     | ASPHALTE. | GOLD.  |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|-----------|--------|
|                          | Tons.  | Puns.  | Lbs.    | Lbs.       | Tons.     | Ozs.   |
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 37,502 | 9,377  | —       | 29,501     | —         | 66,958 |
| 1893 ...                 | 38,521 | 10,128 | —       | 3,528      | —         | 73,467 |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...       | 4,219  | 700    | 8,880   | 15,353,520 | 58,770    |        |
| 1893 ...                 | 42,774 | 527    | 6,720   | 11,726,430 | 67,599    |        |
| Barbados 1894 ...        | 61,500 |        |         |            |           |        |
| 1893 ...                 | 59,210 |        |         |            |           |        |





## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

24th September, 1894.

**THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST INDIES.**—The Foreign Office informs the West India Committee that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington reports that certain sections, including that numbered 182½ of the New Tariff Act, have the effect of cancelling the McKinley Act Agreements with the West India Colonies.

**RUM OBSCURATIONS.**—Complaint having been made of delay in obtaining obscurations from the Customs, now required before sales can be effected, the attention of the Authorities has been called to the matter, and in view of heavy rent and exceptionally low prices, the Customs have been asked for a more prompt delivery of the obscurations. No blame attaches to the present staff, which has suddenly had a large increase of work thrown upon it; but, in view of the great inconvenience caused to the trade by the delay, it is proposed that the staff should be temporarily reinforced until the arrears are disposed of; the season for the largest import during the year of Demerara Rum being not far distant.

**CANE DISEASE.**—This subject is to be brought before the Agricultural Society of Trinidad by the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, who proposes that an expert botanist and mycologist should be obtained, the expense to be shared by Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados, the Leeward Islands, and Demerara. The Kew authorities to be asked whether a suitable scientist could be selected, so that the inquiry could take place in November or December next. Planting and Botanical representatives to meet the expert in Conference at Barbados after his tour. In connection with this subject a report has been officially printed, written by Mr. Barber, the Superintendent of Agriculture in the Leeward Islands. He says that the rind fungus (*Trichosphaeria*) is now the most dangerous enemy of the cane, and is to be found practically in all cane countries. The fungus appears either contemporaneously or subsequently to an attack by the moth borer. "The most usual course of disease in our cane fields appears to me to be the following:—The cane is attacked from its youngest shoot—its birth so to speak—by the moth borer caterpillar. From a number of specimens examined, these attacks do not appear to be due to grubs left in the plants, but to grubs hatched from eggs laid on the first leaves. Many of the plants thus die out as dead hearts, and successive broods of moths, at first few but ever increasing in numbers, cause much damage to the developing canes. Towards November or December (the exact date has not been determined) brown stains appear upon the surface of the canes usually towards the middle of their length. These are not as a rule evident on any but maturing canes. They are the first indication of *Trichosphaeria* not as yet in its fruiting stage probably. The course of fungus disease is now regular and rapid, and the longer the canes stand in the field the more are they diseased. It now becomes simply a race between the boiling-house and the fungus. The statements of former observers that the shot borer does not appear to attack any canes but such as have been soured by the previous attacks of *Trichosphaeria* appear to be substantially correct. This is the regular annual rotation in the Leeward Islands." That is, 1st, the moth borer, then the fungus of which the air is charged with multitudes of spores, and 3rd, the shot borer. There are three lines of action: destroy the moth borers; make the Bourbon cane capable of resisting fungus, replace canes by



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undiseased kinds. To destroy the moth borer, reject all borer plants, strip the lower leaves from plant canes, then immerse the plants for several hours in carbolic acid 1 per cent. or for 12 hours in lime water. Watch plants and cut out dead hearts using a sharp narrow gouge-shaped spade to sever dying cane from parent plant. A knapsack sprayer with Kerosene emulsion might also be tried. Collect all rotten canes while carting the ~~the~~ of each day and burn megass. Burning the fields might possibly be dangerous and might not be effective, for several reasons which Mr. Barber gives. If it is true that ratoons are freer from fungus, then ratoon as much as possible. Select best plants, watch fields and be careful about soils and manuring. Mr. Barber concludes by advocating experimental stations where different varieties of cane can be cultivated. Notice of his remarks under this head and that of manures must, however, be left over.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Sept. 5th). A Committee of the Combined Court upon the condition of the Sugar industry was in Session and taking evidence. A very important and representative public meeting had been held in Georgetown on the condition of the Colony. The Mayor was in the chair. Mr. W. Yates Perot advocated cheaper and more ready access to the interior for the development of the gold industry. He also spoke in favour of a Law similar to the Homestead Law of the United States, to encourage settlers and keeping immigrants in the Colony. Mr. Weber moved that for the next five years the general revenues should bear the entire cost of immigration, the annual number introduced to be limited to 5,000, and that if necessary the Government should raise a loan of one million dollars for the purpose. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Sproston, supported by Mr. Duncan, and adopted by the Meeting. Mr. Gilzean moved that the banana industry should be encouraged by planters putting in and maintaining 3 acres of bananas to every 100 acres of cane. Mr. Macquarrie seconded and Mr. Weber supported the motion, which, after some further discussion, was adopted. Mr. George Garnett then moved that to improve the means of communication with the gold fields, the Government should raise a loan of one million dollars, and should also adopt a more liberal policy with regard to the opening up and settling the interior. Mr. Howell Jones seconded, Mr. Burgess supported, and, after some discussion, an amendment was carried in favour of a loan of two millions. After authorizing the forwarding of the resolutions in the form of a petition to the Secretary of State, through the Governor, thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings, marked throughout with much earnestness and enthusiasm, to a close.

**TRINIDAD**—The official Gazette prints a very elaborate agreement between the Government and Mr. Siegert, relative to the Chaguaramas Bay, Port and Harbour scheme. Reports and correspondence on the drainage of the Caroni Savannah and swamp are also printed, leading to the belief that something practical will shortly be done. Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. say (Sept. 5th):—That the cultivation of next year's Sugar crop was progressing satisfactorily with favourable weather. The alternate sunshine and rain was also favourable to Cocoa crop. The Colonial Company's circular of same date reports weather all that could be desired for growing crops.

**BARBADOS.**—(Sept. 7th). Weather more favourable with general rains. (See telegrams).

**WEST INDIA MAILS.**—The West India Committee, being interested in all the Colonies, have taken no steps in regard to influencing the choice of the Central Depot in the West Indies. The Committee have, however, been informed that the selection of Trinidad as regards postal facilities for Demerara (including Tobago on the way to and from that Colony) would involve a loss of 25 hours outward and 18 hours homeward; and in the case of Jamaica 24 hours outward and 19 hours homeward.

**BET PROSPECTS.**—The following figures are from "L'Agriculture Rationnelle," reproduced by the "Bulletin des Halles" and the "Journal des Fabricants," with of course every possible reserve. The figures have not been confirmed by any authority, responsible or otherwise. They are entirely speculative, and no doubt a very bad guess.

|                        | 1894-5.          | 1893-4.          |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| France ... ..          | 880,000          | 580,000          |
| Belgium ... ..         | 290,000          | 235,000          |
| Holland ... ..         | 110,000          | 75,000           |
| Germany ... ..         | 1,825,000        | 1,390,000        |
| Austria-Hungary ... .. | 1,100,000        | 845,000          |
| Russia ... ..          | 725,000          | 675,000          |
| Divers ... ..          | 140,000          | 120,000          |
|                        | <u>5,070,000</u> | <u>3,920,000</u> |

In France, atmospheric conditions were favourable to Beet-root, with sunny days and increased temperature. Under this influence the Beet-root has generally gained in saccharine richness and purity. In Germany, weather news is less favourable, with too much rain and cold. Similar reports come from Austria. In reference to the above, Mr. Czarnikow says that it must be borne in mind a big crop has already been more or less discounted, and it seems safer not to pin too much faith to figures, which are still subject to much variation. The result, however, of the above reports has been to weaken prices.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 5TH SEPTEMBER.

|                           | SUGAR. | RUM.   | COFFEE. | COCOA.     | ASPHALTE. | GOLD.  |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|-----------|--------|
|                           | Tons.  | Puns.  | Lbs.    | Lbs.       | Tons.     | Ozs.   |
| British Guiana, 1894 ...  | 39,015 | 9,899  | —       | 29,501     | —         | 76,701 |
| 1893 ...                  | 39,239 | 10,216 | —       | 3,528      | —         | 85,406 |
| Trinidad, 1894 ...        | 45,492 | 700    | 11,280  | 16,657,420 | 68,511    |        |
| 1893 ...                  | 43,669 | 574    | 6,720   | 13,317,970 | 76,079    |        |
| Barbados (hhds.) 1894 ... | 64,462 |        |         |            |           |        |
| 1893 ...                  | 64,777 |        |         |            |           |        |

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(C. Czarnikow, 20th September). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 325,069 tons, against 315,403; United States, 229,000, against 54,901; Cuba, 17,000, against 129,380. Total, 571,069, against 499,684.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1894, 522,440 tons, against 563,681; deliveries, 531,830, against 561,098; Stocks, 69,067, against 99,184.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (C. Czarnikow, 20th September), 11s. 1½d., against 15s. for the same time 1893.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 30th August—Weather dry with occasional showers. 18th September—Weather dry. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited), 13th September—Weather too dry. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 28th August—Light partial showers. 11th September—Fine rains generally throughout the island. 21st September—Heavy rains generally throughout the island.





CIRCULAR No. 110.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

22nd October, 1894.

CENTRAL FACTORIES.—In *The Times* of September 22nd, the Sugar districts of Queensland were described as the new home of farmers from various parts of Australia and New Zealand; but the Queensland Sugar industry had not on the whole been remunerative. In 1892 Queensland produced 60,000 tons of Sugar, in 1893, 80,000 tons, and probably in 1894, 100,000 tons, but the number of Mills was not sufficient, and certain farmers petitioned the Colonial Parliament for a measure enabling groups of farmers to obtain capital for the erection of Mills, the security being the Mills and a first mortgage on the lands. The result was the "Sugar Works Guarantee Law." It provides that in certain circumstances the Treasurer may empower a Company formed under it to issue Debentures, and that to the holders of these Debentures the Government of the Colony will guarantee both principal and interest. The land of the associated farmers must be of a quality that may be reasonably expected to produce adequate crops of Sugar-cane; there must be land already planted with cane sufficient to keep the proposed Mill fully employed; and the land which it is proposed to mortgage to the Government must be of a value equal to the amount of the Debentures to be guaranteed, such Debentures merely covering the cost of Mill and needful tramways. It will be observed that the above provisions refer to farming and the Mill, but they apparently include all the grades of manufacture. This point is perhaps not so clear as it might be, although the cases of two mills is given as follows:—In the first case, 20,272 tons of cane were crushed, 2,375 tons Sugar made; cost per ton, including 5 per cent. Government interest, £8 14s. 1d., price realized for Sugar, £12 8s. 11d. The other case showed 21,347 tons crushed, Sugar made, 2,570 tons, cost £8 5s. 3d., price realized, £12 os. 9d. The first started with a capital borrowed from the Government of £25,000; on this they last year made a profit over and above 5 per cent. interest of £8,887, and £9,655 in the second case.

The question of Central Factories in Barbados, Antigua and Jamaica has now become urgent. It does not appear that any definite scheme has yet been prepared in connection with any of these Colonies, but the matter seems to have been taken up with great energy in Barbados. Meetings have been held in Bridgetown and various districts. One was presided over by Sir George Pile, at which the importance of such a scheme to the Sugar industry was insisted upon. Mr. A. J. Pile said the average general loss in crops from defective machinery was equal to 50 per cent. the monetary value. He advocated Government help to erect factories to grind canes and manufacture Sugar for estates contracting to supply sufficient tonnage to keep the factory running continually. About one-sixth of the produce reaped at the factory should be kept to the factory account, which would in a certain time repay the capital advanced, and provide for interest and repairs. £80,000 was suggested (is not this an outside estimate?) as sufficient to erect a complete factory capable of reaping 10,000 tons of Sugar. The question has been brought to the attention of the Governor, and when his reply is known every endeavour will be made to obtain a full representative Barbados meeting in London to consider plans and best means of raising the capital, the two essentials being a Government guarantee, say of



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4 per cent. upon a loan to be raised, and a binding contract with estates for a sufficient supply of canes. The exact security to be given to the Government for the loan must be settled afterwards. In the case of Queensland, both the lands under canes and the factories form the security, but this might perhaps be modified. (The Secretary will be glad to receive any communications on this subject and to advise persons interested of any meeting that may be called.)

WEST INDIA MAILS.—In Lord Ripon's despatch to the West India Governors of 7th February, 1894, he suggests that all the Windward Islands should be connected for mail route purposes, that is, that St. Lucia should be connected with Grenada, and the Virgin Islands also included. His Lordship also suggests a higher minimum speed, *i.e.* 11 and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots instead of 10 and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  for Inter-colonial boats. The Treasury letter of 11th August, 1894, doubts whether the 14 knot service proposed by the Royal Mail Company could be considered by the Home Government on account of the expense, especially considering the proposed substitution of Plymouth for Southampton, which would involve an increased cost of £10,000 a year. The General Post Office reported on the 5th July that the only tenders received were from the Royal Mail Company. Messrs. Leach, Harrison & Forwood also called attention to the service of the Atlas Line from New York to Jamaica, Hayti, Colombia and Costa Rica, but they did not tender. The 14 knot service proposed by the Royal Mail Company was thought too expensive. The Company proposed to depart from Plymouth on a  $13\frac{3}{4}$  knot service every alternate Thursday at 3 p.m., admitting of a despatch of the Mails from London  $18\frac{1}{2}$  hours later than at present. Important places in the North would gain from 10 to 24 hours extra time for posting. Another advantage would be that letters received on the same day of the week as at present would be in general of later date by a day. But the Company's scheme would involve a departure from London some six hours earlier in the morning, and the total severance from Southampton. The substitution of Plymouth for Southampton would seriously increase the difficulty of obtaining parliamentary approval of the new contract. A service therefore on the present basis, at a saving of £5,000 a year, was recommended by the Treasury. The tender under A is £80,000 by the Royal Mail Company; under B. is £110,000; under C. £85,000; and under D. £115,000 (see West India Committee Circular, No. 106). The Plymouth going and returning is £100,000 and £105,000, respectively, the speed on Main line being 14 knots. With this increased speed of 14 knots the Royal Mail Company seem to prefer the Plymouth route, but the Government appear to have decided to continue Southampton. The following paragraph in the Company's letter to the Post Office of the 1st June, 1894, will be endorsed by every one acquainted with their admirable service. "The first Steam communication with the West Indies was opened by the Royal Mail Company in 1842. For more than 50 years the Company have been working under Her Majesty's Government in maintaining the postal service, to carry out which the Company received a Royal Charter. This long-continued and uninterrupted service is in itself strong evidence of the confidence felt in the character of the Company's work, but as late as 1890 Her Majesty's Government and Public Bodies testified to the efficiency of the service carried on by the Company, affording for so many years punctual and absolute regularity of communication not only between Europe and the Colonies and Foreign Countries, but between the Colonies themselves, an inter-communication that it has always been deemed of great importance to maintain." The whole matter is now before the Colonial Governments, and there is no reason to doubt that the service will again be placed in the hands of those who have maintained it with such efficiency for so long a time.

UNITED STATES TARIFF.—The Earl of Kimberley has received a Telegram from the Embassy at Washington, to the effect that Molasses under forty degrees, containing not over 20 per cent. moisture are dutiable at 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, as unenumerated manufactured articles included in Section 3 of the Tariff.



BRITISH GUIANA.—A very important letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State on the condition of British Guiana, and pressing for certain alterations in the distribution of the cost of Immigration. The letter cannot be printed yet, but a copy will be sent for perusal to any members who may not have seen it. The Petition agreed upon at the Georgetown Meeting has been very largely signed. It has been presented to the Governor, and it may be hoped that it is now in the hands of the Secretary of State.

The Committee of the Combined Court have made some very important proposals as to the distribution of the Cost of Immigration and the financial arrangements which would be consequent thereupon. The Gold Industry which has been productive of so much good to the Colony generally and of so much support to the public revenue, would be equally interested in these matters with that of Sugar. No doubt the Gold Industry requires measures on the part of the Government for its successful development, and all interests in the Colony would cordially support the Government in giving to that industry every assistance and encouragement it may legitimately claim. Labour is essential for the Gold Fields, and it is confidently hoped and believed that the two great Industries will work together in the present condition of affairs to settle the question of Immigration cost upon a basis acceptable to both.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—The *Journal des Fabricants* says, allowing for the increase of sowings and a slightly increased yield, the Beet crop in France will be sensibly greater than in 1893, but the average saccharine richness is still difficult to estimate. It does not appear to be better than last year. For the rest of Europe it is certain that the crop will be larger than last year, but the quality leaves something to desire, and the deductions imposed upon cultivators, owing to low prices, will probably have effect. The estimates already furnished are no doubt exaggerated. In Germany the weather reported favourable for work in the fields, and for quantity of roots, but the yield is not so good and no definite estimates can be formed. In Austria-Hungary rains have reduced the quality. Upon the whole the European Beet production is likely to be much less than previously estimated. The consequence is a greater steadiness in the market, without perhaps any very considerable advance in values at present. Buyers are waiting for more news as to Beet crop. There is trouble with the American Custom House as to the imports of Beet, as duties as now calculated are practically prohibitory. The recent storm in Cuba, although apparently only slightly noticed in market reports, probably had some effect on the Sugar crop.

DOMINICA.—A copy of Sir R. Hamilton's Report can be seen at this Office. There is no space to discuss it in this Circular.

WEATHER.—The Secretary of State was good enough to forward to the Committee, on the 17th October, the following copy telegram from the Governor of the Windward Islands to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, received 16th October, 1894. "Administrator of St. Lucia reports by telegram, 14th October, considerable damage by gale and flood, eleven lives lost; no damage to Grenada or St. Vincent." With regard to the gale at St. Kitts, reported as on the 21st September, by a Reuter's telegram, in the London papers of October 9th, the Committee are indebted to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company for wiring enquiries and obtaining the following reply, on October 11th. "St. Kitts, 26 lives lost, and a number of small sloops." The storm touched Antigua, and appeared to have been severely felt in Dominica. For Barbados report, see Weather Telegrams. The Colonial Office despatches received by last Mail on weather damage can now be seen at the Committee's Office.

ANTIGUA.—The Committee have to thank the Leeward Islands Government for a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony for 1893.



## SHIPMENTS TO 3RD OCTOBER.

|                          | SUGAR.<br>Tons. | RUM.<br>Puns. | COFFEE.<br>Lbs. | COCOA.<br>Lbs. | ASPHALTE.<br>Tons. | GOLD.<br>Oz. |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| British Guiana, 1894 ... | 41,470          | 11,132        | —               | 26,380         | —                  | 26,005       |
| 1893 ...                 | 42,797          | 10,862        | —               | 3,528          | —                  | 97,564       |
| Trinidad; 1894 ...       | 45,942          | 700           | 12,880          | 17,060,490     | 77,557             |              |
| 1893 ...                 | 43,840          | 574           | 6,880           | 14,181,230     | 79,689             |              |
| Barbados, 1894 ...       | 64,711          |               |                 |                |                    |              |
| 1893 ...                 | 64,980          |               |                 |                |                    |              |

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(C. Czarnikow, 18th October). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 256,311 tons, against 246,285; United States, 195,000, against 25,175; Cuba, 10,000, against 74,000. Total, 467,311, against 345,460.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1894, 555,964 tons, against 610,230; deliveries, 576,290, against 628,892; Stocks, 58,131, against 86,945.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (C. Czarnikow, 18th October), 10s., against 13s. 3d. for the same time 1893.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. MacConnell & Co.) 9th October—A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 25th September—Seasonable weather; 9th October—Seasonable weather; 16th October—Heavy storm of wind and rain last Friday, damage not serious, no lives lost. Antigua (per favour of Messrs. Boddington & Co.), 17th October—General rain, 5 inches since Mail left. (The Mail referred to left on October 3rd.)

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 111.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

19th November, 1894.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—All the available days for Meetings have, during the last few weeks, been utilized for business connected with British Guiana. A Meeting of the General Purposes Committee will be called as soon as possible, when all business will be reported.

BRITISH GUIANA DEPUTATION.—A very important interview with the Secretary of State took place on the 14th November. There were present representatives of the Sugar Industry of the Colony from London, Liverpool, and Glasgow. The interview was a lengthy one, and all the main points connected with the Sugar Industry were discussed, especially the readjustment, upon a fairer basis, of the Immigration Expenditure, upon the basis of the Report of the Committee of the Combined Court; all the recommendations of which were strongly supported by the Deputation. The reply of Lord Ripon was in general terms of a considerate and satisfactory character, and his decision upon the points raised will be known when the despatches are forwarded to the Colonial Government.

DEMERARA SUGAR AND COLOURED BEET CRYSTALS.—A very important prosecution by the County Analyst is reported from Staffordshire. The investigation took a whole day, many experts and other authorities being examined. The result was a conviction of the grocer, with a fine of 40s. and £27 6s. 8d. costs. The Stipendiary Magistrate, in giving his decision, said (according to the London *Grocer*), "the question turned solely and absolutely upon the question as to what was known to the commercial world as Demerara sugar,—what was the nature, substance, and quality of the article known by that term. It seemed to be beyond contradiction that there was a commodity known as Demerara sugar, and it was equally beyond dispute that there were other sugars that could be coloured so as to imitate Demerara sugar. All the witnesses were agreed that the Demerara was a raw sugar and the best raw sugar, and the witnesses for the prosecution said it was a pure cane and undyed sugar. If that was the true definition, and the weight of the evidence tended in that direction, the question was whether the purchaser got Demerara sugar. This definition, however, was contested by the defendant, who said that all sugars were dyed, some by chloride of tin, and some by aniline dyes. But the two processes were entirely different, the one being a clearing matter used in the manufacture, and the other being a foreign colouring matter. He found as a fact that the purchaser had not received what he might have reasonably expected, and that he was not supplied with Demerara sugar, but a sugar dyed to imitate it. This was a test case, and the penalty would be a nominal one, but in imposing that penalty he could not lose sight of the fact that these adulterations were a fraud on the whole public. And they were the worst kind of frauds, because the offender defrauded the people in the matter of their food, and also defrauded their competitors by obtaining an undue advantage by unfair means."



**MOLASSES IN UNITED STATES.**—In Circular No. 110, a letter from the Foreign Office was printed to the effect that Molasses under 40 degrees containing not over 20 per cent. moisture was dutiable at 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, as unenumerated manufactured articles included in Section 3 of the Tariff. The English Blue Book, subsequently published, put this particular product on the Free List. The attention of the Foreign Office was at once called to the discrepancy, and the Under Secretary of State writes, 12th November, that the matter has been referred to Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Washington, with instructions to obtain an authoritative statement from the United States Government on the point which has arisen.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE**

**RUM SALES.**—In circulars Nos. 102, 100, and 99, the question of the delivery of obscurations was referred to and correspondence printed. In consequence of buyers having refused to buy parcels of Rum for some time past, until the obscurations were received from the Customs, there has been considerable delay in Merchants being able to effect sales. At a full Meeting of the Importers and the Trade, held at the West India Committee Office, on 15th November, the general conclusion arrived at was expressed in the following resolution, subject of course to further communication with the Customs and Excise authorities:—"That steps be taken to induce the Customs to take average sample of each separate mark or quality by each ship, and that such average sample be tested for obscuration, the same to be accepted by the Customs for duty purposes." Further proceedings in this matter will be reported, especially in connection with the action of the Excise in regard to the retail sale of Rum.

**ST. LUCIA.**—On the 16th October (as reported in last circular), the Secretary of State forwarded to the West India Committee, copy of a telegram received from the Governor of the Windward Islands, reporting the occurrence of a destructive gale at St. Lucia. It is now probable that full despatches have been received, and the St. Lucia Proprietors have been in communication with the West India Committee as to the arrangement of an interview with the Secretary of State in regard to remedial measures. The matter is under consideration, and a decision will be arrived at without loss of time as to the action of the West India Committee in the matter.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Copy of Amended Spirits Ordinance received. The amended Immigration Ordinance reduces the indenture of female immigrants to three years instead of five. Ten years continuous residence ("industrial" being struck out) entitles immigrants to back passage, if entitled to certificate of exemption from labour, on paying one-fourth of passage-money by males, and one-sixth by females. The office of Chief Commissary is abolished.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—The weather in France, in some respects, has not been unfavourable to the Beet, but a medium yield is expected. The latest Continental advices do not modify estimates. There is a better crop than 1893 but less quality. The excess of the total crop is still quoted with a very wide margin, that is, from 500,000 tons to 1,100,000. Clark (8th November) says:—"Consumers in United States continued to be supplied out of accumulation of stocks before duties were imposed." Licht's last estimate is 4,675,000 for present Beet crop, or an excess of 780,000. Clark gives the following returns:—

|      | 1894-5           | 1893-4           |
|------|------------------|------------------|
| Cane | 2,934,000        | 3,054,000        |
| Beet | 4,675,000        | 3,895,000        |
|      | <u>7,609,000</u> | <u>6,949,000</u> |

London Circulars say in effect (15th November):—Expected improvement from American stocks being worked off not yet come, but prevented by heavy sales of Beet.

## SHIPMENTS TO 31ST OCTOBER.

|                      | SUGAR.<br>Tons. | RUM.<br>Puns. | COFFEE.<br>Lbs. | COCOA.<br>Lbs. | ASPHALT.<br>Tons. | GOLD.<br>Ozs. |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| British Guiana, 1894 | 53,668          | 11,350        | —               | 36,389         | —                 | 98,223        |
| 1893                 | 59,029          | 13,295        | —               | 3,528          | —                 | 111,417       |
| Trinidad, 1894       | 46,512          | 700           | 12,880          | 17,326,200     | 84,350            |               |
| 1893                 | 43,944          | 574           | 6,880           | 14,648,730     | 80,809            |               |
| Barbados, 1894       | 64,711          |               |                 |                |                   |               |
| 1893                 | 64,980          |               |                 |                |                   |               |

ANTIGUA.—Reports want of rain.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1894, 609,161 tons, against 690,436; deliveries, 635,957, against 707,827; Stocks, 51,661, against 79,210.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(C. Czarnikow, 15th November). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 522,061 tons, against 462,360; United States, 207,000, against 33,273; Cuba, 15,000, against 59,000. Total, 744,061, against 554,633. (H. Clark, De Silva & Co., 8th November). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 358,000 tons, against 355,000; Stock in United States, 209,000, against 25,000; afloat to United States, 50,000, against 130,000; Cuba, 15,000, against 60,000. Total, 632,000, against 570,000.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (C. Czarnikow, 15th November), 9s. 6½d. again: 12s. 9½d. for the same time 1893.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Colonial Company, Limited), 27th October—Dry weather, canes suffering. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 12th November—Heavy showers would be acceptable. (Per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 1st November—Weather dry. 14th November—Weather very dry and rain much wanted. Trinidad (per favour of Colonial Company, Limited), 8th November—Weather too dry. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 7th November—Dry.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



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CIRCULAR No. 112.

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E. C.

17th December, 1894.

1. **BRITISH GUIANA.**—The Deputation to the Secretary of State, reported in last Circular, resulted in the following letter being addressed to the West India Committee by Lord Ripon, 20th November, 1894 :—The Chairman, "Sir, with reference to the letter from this Office of the 25th ultimo and to the interview with the Marquis of Ripon of Proprietors of Sugar Estates of British Guiana on the 14th instant, I am directed by his Lordship to communicate to you the decision at which he has arrived upon the proposals of the Combined Court for the relief of the Sugar Industry.

2. "The following proposals for the immediate relief of the planting interest during the current financial year have been approved :—

(i) The remission of the half-year's acreage tax due 1st December next, estimated to amount to \$102,000, part of this amount to be provided for by the transfer of the sum of \$87,485, at the credit of the Interest Account of the Immigration Account to the Immigration Fund Account, and the balance to be charged against general revenue.

(ii) The remission of the half-yearly instalment of the additional 50 cents acreage tax now payable to general revenue, estimated to amount to \$17,500.

(iii) The postponement of the payment of the amounts becoming due in respect of existing Immigration notes during the period from the 1st of October, 1894 to the 31st March, 1895, treating them as becoming due on the 1st of April, 1895, and the extension of the payment of these notes over double the period for which they were originally given.

3. "It is estimated that the relief thus given, amounting to \$285,500, will involve a charge during the current year on the Revenue of the Colony of \$32,000, which it is anticipated will be met out of the duties recently re-imposed by the Combined Court.

4. His Lordship has also agreed that for the next five years after the 31st March, 1895, the number of Immigrants to be annually introduced under the Immigration Laws should be limited to 5,000; that the acreage tax of 50 cents per acre of land in cultivation should be abolished; and that the payment of the existing Indenture Fee notes (and) of the Water Loans should be spread over double the period originally intended, and that for the period of three years from the same date, the cost of the introduction of Indian Immigrants should be borne as to two-thirds by the Colonial Revenue, and as to one-third by those by whom they are requisitioned.

5. His Lordship has also expressed his approval of the taxes which the Combined Court have recommended should be imposed to provide for the additional expenditure involved in the above proposals, with the exception of the increased duty on rice.

6. These decisions have been communicated to the Governor of the Colony by telegraph, and by a despatch which will be sent by to-morrow's mail. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

The above concessions were satisfactory, but it was considered essential that the redistribution of the cost of Immigration should be for five years instead of three. A telegram was sent to the British Guiana Planters' Association on November 27th, upon this point, and on December 3rd, the



following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State.—“My Lord Marquess: I have the honour on behalf of British Guiana Proprietors, to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Wingfield's letter of the 20th November, written by your Lordship's direction, upon the proposals of the Combined Court for the relief of the Sugar Industry. I have to convey to your Lordship the sincere thanks of the Proprietors for your prompt and kind attention to this matter, and to express the high appreciation that we feel for the approval given by your Lordship to the proposals of the Combined Court. We may, however, venture to ask your Lordship to be pleased to extend the period from three years to five years of the re-distribution of the cost of Immigration, as to two-thirds by the Colonial Revenue and one-third by the Planters; for the following reasons:—(a) The Immigration System has always been based upon the period of five years for the indentures of the Immigrants, and the liability of the employers in connection therewith. (b) A certain portion of cultivation has to be renewed every year, either by taking in new land within the holder of the Estate, or by replanting. And, as it requires fourteen months for a cane to attain maturity, the lands of the Estate are only reaped five times in six years. And on the proposed limit of three years which your Lordship has sanctioned, there is no inducement to keep up the rotation of crops by replanting, which is a most costly operation. As practically in the three years the Estates would only be able to take off two crops from the replanted land. (c) Further expenditure of Capital in the Sugar Industry would not be risked unless the full cultivation could be secured for the extended period. We have, therefore, humbly to ask your Lordship to be pleased to consent to the extension of the period of re-distribution of cost from three years to five years, so as to give the Industry sufficient time to take proper measures to meet the severe competition to which it is now subject, especially from the Bounty aided Beet Countries.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

(The decision of the Secretary of State is for the time suspended, awaiting despatches.)

**DELIVERY OF RUM OBSCURATIONS.**—The following letter, 3rd December, has been addressed to the Board of Customs after two meetings with the trade.—“SIRS.—We beg humbly to submit for the consideration of your Hon. Board the following matter:—Owing to the great differences which have arisen in the obscuration of parcels of rum, which to the taste and smell apparently vary but little, the dealers have lately insisted upon the importers furnishing them with the obscuration of each individual cask of a parcel before they would consent to purchase. This means not only an enormous amount of work for the officers of your Hon. Board, but also a very serious delay to the importers in making sales and rendering accounts to their consignors in the Colonies. If it would be consistent with the regulations of your Hon. Board, we would respectfully venture to suggest that as your officers have to draw a sample of each package in order that the Hydrometer test may be ascertained, one or more average samples of the parcel—assuming there to be no material difference in the quality and strength—should then be made, and these averages could be tested for obscuration. We believe (from actual experiments made) that there would be ample protection for the revenue in adopting the method now suggested, and a considerable amount of labour (in a great many instances altogether wasted on account of exportation or vating of the rums) would certainly be saved to the officials of your Hon. Board. Further than this, the importing merchants would be able without delay to have the average obscuration delivered to them with the Hydrometer strength accounts, as is the case with Brandies. Respectfully asking the favourable consideration of your Honourable Board to the above proposal.—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman West India Committee.” The above agreed to by the Wine and Spirit Association.—(Signed) WALTER P. BROWNE, Chairman.

**ST. LUCIA.**—The West India Committee were requested by St. Lucia Members to arrange a Deputation to the Secretary of State, to propose measures of relief on account of the recent hurricane. The Chairman accordingly introduced a Deputation to Lord Ripon, on 11th December. Lord Ripon announced the following concessions:—(1) The suspension of the export duty on Sugar for the



remainder of the term of Immigration liabilities, and therefore (as was understood) its consequent extinction. (2) The extension of the period for the payment of immigration instalments, making them payable as in two years instead of one year. (3) Any deficit thus caused in the Immigration Fund Account to be made good by the general revenue. While thanking Lord Ripon for the above, a further communication has been made to him, on behalf of the Deputation, by Mr. Hales, strongly urging that some measure should be granted which would replace the capital destroyed by the hurricane. A loan of £20,000 was therefore asked for under an Imperial guarantee as in the Mauritius case of 1897. An alternative scheme was suggested, either that a tax should be laid upon buildings and growing crops equal to six per cent. upon the loan, thus providing three per cent. interest and creating a sinking fund; or advancing the money on first mortgage, up to 30 or 50 per cent. of the value of the buildings and crops. It is understood that the matter will be referred to Sir C. Bruce, the Governor of the Windward Islands, by this Mail.

**MOLASSES IN UNITED STATES.**—A letter from the Foreign Office has been received, November 30th, correcting the information previously given, and stating that Molasses under 40 degrees containing not over 20 per cent. moisture free, containing over 20 per cent. moisture, dutiable at 20 per cent. *ad valorem* as unenumerated Article Section 351.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Owing to the Sugar Crisis, a General Congress of the Agricultural Societies in France has been held, to bring before the Government the critical state of the industry, and apply for measures of relief. Important remedies (says the *Journal des Fabricants*) are necessary, both for agriculturists and manufacturers. The general extension of sugar planting over the world, the reduced freights, the better and more economical manufacture, are pointed out by the Journal as reasons for serious attention being given to the matter in France. The weather in France is reported to be favourable to work with the Beet, though in some important districts the yield is notably deficient as compared with last crop. In Germany there is great discussion between cultivators and manufacturers as to the price of Beet Root for 1895. There must be a reduction in the price paid for roots, as well as a reduced sowing. (NOTE.—Would it not seem to be to the interest both of France and Germany to abolish their bounty systems, and take up again the negotiations of some years ago, when a final agreement was on the point of being secured?) Clark's Circular, 7th December, says:—"It is estimated; on the basis of the price paid for roots, that the average cost of 88 this season has been about 11s per cwt., whilst at a difference of 1s. 6d. per cwt. between 88 Beet and Granulated, a profit on refining can scarcely exist." Mr. Lich's estimate of Beet crop is now 4,800,000 tons, or 1,000,000 tons beyond last year; but these figures have yet to be verified. Mr. Czarnikow says, how the future course of prices may shape will depend on the extent of sowings for the next Beet crops, and these can only be approximately ascertained in March next. German legislation tends to increased protection by higher export bounties, payable by home consumer in increased consumption tax. This would of course be futile in checking over production in Germany. (Again, would it not seem to be to the interest, both of Germany and France to reduce their export bounties, thus checking over-production, and placing their respective industries on a sounder footing? To increase the State subsidies would only seem to lead to the further depression of their industries, while inflicting in the immediate future incalculable injury upon all free trade sugar producing countries).

|                 |      | SHIPMENTS TO 28TH NOVEMBER, 1894. |        |         |            |           |         |
|-----------------|------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
|                 |      | SUGAR.                            | RUM.   | COFFEE. | COCOA.     | ASPHALTE. | GOLD.   |
|                 |      | Tons.                             | Puns.  | Lbs.    | Lbs.       | Tons.     | Ozs.    |
| British Guiana, | 1894 | 73,821                            | 13,970 | —       | 41,609     | —         | 111,295 |
|                 | 1893 | 78,965                            | 15,587 | —       | 3,528      | —         | 120,954 |
| Trinidad,       | 1894 | 46,512                            | 700    | 13,200  | 17,899,100 | 90,349    |         |
|                 | 1893 | 43,964                            | 674    | 6,880   | 15,284,020 | 83,312    |         |
| Barbados,       | 1894 | 64,711                            |        |         |            |           |         |
|                 | 1893 | 64,980                            |        |         |            |           |         |



**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1894, 674,354 tons, against 730,995; deliveries, 695,210, against 769,967; Stocks, 57,601, against 73,630.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(H. Clark, De Silva & Co., 7th December). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 934,000 tons, against 801,000; Stock in United States, 189,000, against 75,000; Afloat to United States, 51,000, against 84,000; Cuba, 14,000, against 54,000. Total, 1,188,000 tons, against 1,014,000. (C. Czarnikow, 13th December). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 1,091,412 tons, against 946,164; United States, 186,000, against 75,111; Cuba, 14,000, against 53,000. Total 1,292,412 tons against 1,074,275.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 13th December), 8s. 7½d., against 12s. 3d. for the same time 1893.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.), 19th November—Too dry. (Per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 22nd November—Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message. 26th—Wet weather continues. 10th December—Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding. (Per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), 24th November—The Rainy season has set in with moderate rains. 27th—Heavy rain continues, finer weather wanted. 1st December—Finer weather since last message. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited), 3rd December—Rain has fallen heavily. Trinidad (Per favour of Messrs. Joseph Marryat & Sons), 11th November—Every prospect of rain continuing for some days. 30th—Rainfall general. (Per favour of Messrs. Gregor Turnbull & Co.), 20th November—Good growing weather. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited), 20th November—Weather showery and suitable for cultivation. 5th December—Showery and favourable for cultivation. (Per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), 7th December—Weather showery, very favourable and general. Barbados (Per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), 20th November—Fine rains generally throughout the Island. 4th December—Seasonable weather but rain still wanted. Antigua—Good rains are reported by mail 25th November.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

SHIPMENTS TO THE WEST INDIES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1894

| Destination    | Tons         | Value        |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| British Guiana | 1,200        | 1,200        |
| Trinidad       | 1,200        | 1,200        |
| Demerara       | 1,200        | 1,200        |
| Surinam        | 1,200        | 1,200        |
| Other          | 1,200        | 1,200        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>5,000</b> | <b>5,000</b> |

Gold. 100  
Silver. 100  
Copper. 100  
Iron. 100  
Steel. 100  
Wool. 100  
Cotton. 100  
Sugar. 100  
Rice. 100  
Wheat. 100  
Barley. 100  
Oats. 100  
Hemp. 100  
Flax. 100  
Linen. 100  
Cordage. 100  
Ropes. 100  
Sails. 100  
Canvas. 100  
Tarpaulins. 100  
Mats. 100  
Rugs. 100  
Blankets. 100  
Clothing. 100  
Furniture. 100  
Tools. 100  
Miscellaneous. 100

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# WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

January, 1895.

**SUGAR PRODUCTION**—It is well-known that the Sugar Industry of the world, Beet as well as Cane, is at present face to face with a crisis of the most serious description, and it is of the greatest importance to all concerned that the causes which have brought about this crisis should be thoroughly understood and recognised; and it is of equal importance that in any attempt to provide a remedy, the various Governments whose interests are concerned, should avoid taking steps which, if ill-advised, may aggravate the crisis instead of relieving it.

To make the causes of the crisis quite clear, it is necessary to review the production of the world for some years past. The following are the figures:—

|                             |      | TOTAL PRODUCTION. |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                             |      | 1880-1            | 1885-6    | 1890-1    |           |
| Beet                        | Tons | 1,630,000         | 2,223,000 | 3,710,000 |           |
| Cane                        | " "  | 2,200,000         | 2,140,000 | 2,500,000 |           |
|                             |      | <hr/>             |           |           |           |
|                             |      | BEET COUNTRIES.   |           |           |           |
|                             |      | 1891-2            | 1892-3    | 1893-4    | 1894-5    |
| Germany                     | Tons | 1,198,000         | 1,225,000 | 1,393,000 | 1,900,000 |
| Austria                     | " "  | 786,000           | 803,000   | 842,000   | 1,100,000 |
| France                      | " "  | 650,000           | 588,000   | 579,000   | 830,000   |
| Russia                      | " "  | 551,000           | 455,000   | 660,000   | 630,000   |
| Belgium                     | " "  | 180,000           | 197,000   | 235,000   | 285,000   |
| Holland and other Countries | " "  | 126,000           | 160,000   | 186,000   | 230,000   |
|                             |      | <hr/>             |           |           |           |
|                             |      | 3,501,000         | 3,428,000 | 3,895,000 | 4,975,000 |
| Cane Production             | " "  | 2,784,000         | 2,760,000 | 3,046,000 | 2,904,000 |
|                             |      | <hr/>             |           |           |           |
| Total do.                   | Tons | 6,285,000         | 6,188,000 | 6,941,000 | 7,879,000 |

From these figures it will be seen that whilst the Beet production has increased from 2,223,000 tons in 1885-6 to 4,975,000 tons in 1894-5, or 124 per cent., the Cane production has only increased from 2,140,000 tons in 1885-6 to 2,904,000 tons in 1894-5, or say 36 per cent.

It will be further seen that the total production of 1894-5 shows an enormous increase over that of the previous year, practically 1,000,000 tons, entirely due to increased production of Beet Sugar. During recent years the consumption of the civilized world has continued at an annual average increase of about 150,000 tons. It will therefore be noticed that the excess Beet production for 1894-5 was sufficient to provide for four years increase of consumption at the above rate.

The effect of this large supply has naturally been to lower the price, and present prices are the lowest which have been known during the present century. The following have been the prices realized in January of the last five years for what is known as Beet 88 % analysis, which is generally taken as a relative standard of selling value:—

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| January 1891 | 12s. 6d. |
| " 1892       | 14s. 0d. |
| " 1893       | 14s. 2d. |
| " 1894       | 12s. 4d. |
| " 1895       | 8s. 8d.  |



The question now arises, what has been the cause of this large and continued increase of the Beet Crop? There can be little doubt that the most important factor has been the Bounties granted by European Governments with the view of stimulating their Sugar Industries.

The effect of the stimulus, thus given by the bounties, has been to largely increase the supply beyond the requirements of the world, and, in consequence, the price has been reduced to a point which does not repay the cost of production; in fact it can be shown that had there been no bounty given last season, and no increase of the Beet Crop, not only would Foreign taxpayers have been saved the very large amount they are compelled to contribute to the Sugar Industry, but the Sugar Industry itself would have been a gainer by many millions sterling.

In 1893-4 the Beet crop was, in round figures, 4,000,000 tons, and we may take it on the whole, that it cost £10 per ton to produce. In 1894-5 the crop was 5,000,000, and it is possible that being a larger crop it cost slightly less per ton to produce, probably £9 per ton is a near enough figure. We thus have 4,000,000 tons costing £10 ... .. £40,000,000  
 Realizing at £12 10s. per ton ... .. 50,000,000  
 Leaving a profit of ... .. £10,000,000

The following year 5,000,000 tons were made, costing £9 per ton to produce ... .. £45,000,000  
 Realizing at £8 15s. per ton ... .. 43,750,000  
 Leaving a loss of ... .. £1,250,000

It is therefore seen that instead of a profit of £10,000,000, the increased crop has resulted in a loss to the Industry of £1,250,000.

The annual contribution, on the basis of the present bounty by Foreign Governments and which has brought about this disastrous result is as follows:—

|         |     |     |     |     |     |                   |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Germany | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £812,000          |
| France  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,075,000         |
| Austria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 403,000           |
| Belgium | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,000,000         |
|         |     |     |     |     |     | <u>£4,290,000</u> |

It must be remembered, that in addition to this sum, a considerable bounty is obtained from the taxpayers direct, under the system of duties and drawbacks adopted in some countries. In Germany, for instance, this bounty amounts to about £400,000. We have also not reckoned the bounties given by Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and some other countries which are not large producers. It can, however, be safely estimated that the bounty system is costing the Continental taxpayer £5,000,000 per annum, with the result as shown above of an enormous present loss to the Industry.

Let us now see what will happen if bounties are increased sufficiently to encourage an equally large crop being produced next year.

It requires very little knowledge of the Market to be assured that a production of Beet Sugar next season equal to that of the present one, will reduce the price still further, and this reduction, though difficult to estimate, would hardly be less than £2 per ton. It will thus be seen that given such a bounty as would enable the European growers to produce 5,000,000 tons of Sugar without loss next season would require a further contribution of at least £10,000,000. In other words, to induce the world to consume such a crop next year, in addition to the large excess of supply in the present



year, the European Industry (or the Governments) would have to contribute above £16,000,000 sterling. This estimate is made up as follows:—Present bounty, (say) £5,000,000. Loss on present crop, £1,250,000. Further loss if market falls £2 per ton, £10,000,000 Total, £16,250,000.

The most immediate and obvious remedy for the present state of things is the abolition of the bounty system altogether. This would bring about a more natural condition of the Industry and lead to a reduced crop of Beet being sown during the coming season. We have already shown that a crop of 4,000,000 tons will realize a larger sum by many millions than a crop of 5,000,000 tons. In other words, the Beet-growers, if they produce a crop of 4,000,000 tons without bounty will be much better off than if they again produce 5,000,000 of tons with a bounty.

The next remedy, but one which will necessarily take longer to be effective, is an increased consumption, and it depends entirely on the European Governments now giving bounties to bring this about on a very extended scale. In Europe generally the duties levied on Sugar are so exorbitantly high that Sugar is an article of luxury to the masses, with the result that the consumption is on an extremely small scale as compared with Great Britain and the United States, where Sugar is largely consumed by the general population. The following figures show this very clearly.

|                  |     |     | LBS. CONSUMED PER<br>HEAD OF POPULATION. |     | AMOUNT OF DUTY<br>LEVIED PER TON. |
|------------------|-----|-----|--|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Great Britain... | ... | ... | 73 lbs.                                  | ... | <i>Nil.</i>                       |
| United States... | ... | ... | 70 "                                     | ... | About £4                          |
| France           | ... | ... | 28 "                                     | ... | " 24                              |
| Germany          | ... | ... | 26 "                                     | ... | " 9                               |
| Austria          | ... | ... | 17 "                                     | ... | " 9                               |
| Belgium          | ... | ... | 20 "                                     | ... | " 18                              |

It will thus be seen that there is an enormous scope for increased consumption in Europe, and it will be admitted that with this increased consumption and the abolition of bounties a largely-reduced duty could be levied without any loss of revenue.

The Foreign Governments might be reminded that, in August, 1888, they signed a Convention in London, "to take such measures as shall constitute an absolute and complete guarantee, that no open or disguised bounty shall be granted on the manufacture or export of Sugar." This agreement has never been carried out, but what was then recognised as a great evil requiring a remedy is still more urgent to prevent a continuance of the present state of things so ruinous to all concerned. It is not too much to say that had the agreement been carried out the existing crisis could not have arisen, and the present recipients of bounty would have been better off than under the present system of large bounties.

We submit that the above statements of opinion and fact irresistibly enforce the conclusions that the abolition of bounties would diminish over production, whilst a reduction of taxation would increase consumption and the effect of such measures—the speedier if combined—would establish the trade on its natural and therefore on a sound basis. So long as bounties stimulate production and taxation restricts consumption, market values will prove unstable, and recurrent crises ensue. Thus distrust and diminished credit will be engendered, loading the Beet Sugar Industry with a financial disadvantage which existing bounties cannot compensate and increased bounties would further aggravate. Our statement as to the trade of the past year fully demonstrates this conclusion.

N. LUBBOCK,  
*Chairman.*

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

14th January, 1895.

**SUGAR PRODUCTION.**—The following correspondence with the Foreign Office is reported. The Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley, K.G., 31st December, 1894. "My Lord: We have the honour to call your Lordship's attention to the crisis which now exists in the Beet Sugar industries of the Continent of Europe, brought about, as has happened before, by the over-production of Beet Sugar in consequence of the bounties given by the Governments of those European Sugar-producing countries. Our reason for addressing your Lordship arises from the fact, that in consequence of the bounty system, the conditions as to the market price for British and Foreign Colonial Sugar in British markets depend largely upon Foreign legislation. In France and Germany the existing position is a very serious one, both for farmers of roots and manufacturers of Sugar. The only remedy apparently suggested in those countries is the granting of increased bounties on export. Such a policy can only aggravate the evil by stimulating over-production, and could only tend to depress still further the price of Sugar. The true policy would seem to be to suppress bounties, and reduce the internal duties on Sugar, thus increasing the consumption in France and Germany, and reducing the excess of production. We are writing to your Lordship in the hope that you will be pleased to call the attention of the British Embassies to the matter, with the view of their being induced to forward to your Lordship the earliest information as to proposed legislation in France and Germany on the Sugar question, and of pointing out to foreign Governments the obvious fact that it is owing to bounties the present crisis has arisen, and that any increase of those bounties can but render the crisis more acute. It is hoped, also, that when the opportunity arrives, Her Majesty's Government will proffer their good offices for the promotion of any international arrangement which might facilitate the termination of the present mischievous system of bounties."

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

The following is the reply:—

"FOREIGN OFFICE, 5th January, 1895.

"The Chairman,

"Sir,—I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo respecting the present condition of the Sugar industry in European countries, more particularly in France and Germany. His Lordship fears that it would serve no practical purpose for Her Majesty's Diplomatic Representatives in the countries in question, to call the attention of the Governments of those countries to the economic fallacies of the systems they pursue, and to which you attribute the present crisis. Such a course would only be regarded as an intrusion in matters which fall within the scope of internal policy, and in which it is unusual for a Foreign State to interfere. You are aware of the circumstances which led to the last Sugar Convention becoming inoperative, and having regard to those circumstances, Her Majesty's Government could hardly, at the present moment, take the initiative in proposing a further International Conference to discuss the question. Lord Kimberley will, however, not fail to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and Berlin to send home the earliest information they may be able to obtain with regard to any legislative measures affecting the Sugar industry in France or Germany.

I am, &amp;c.,

(Signed) E. GREY.

In continuation of the above the Foreign Office send (9th January) extract from a despatch dated, Berlin, December 22nd, 1894, as follows:—"I have the honour to report that in the sitting of the Reichstag on Friday, December 14th, a debate of some interest arose on the policy of the Government with regard to Sugar Bounties. The discussion took place on a question asked by a member of the National Liberal Party, as to what measures the Government proposed to take to remedy the depression in German agriculture, and especially in the sugar industry. It was urged that the cultivation of beet-root was now the last refuge of the German agriculturist, that the German bounties had been lowered, whilst the Austrian bounties had remained stationary, and those in Russia and France had actually been raised. The increased protection adopted by the United States had been a heavy blow to German agriculture. No undue advantages were claimed, but merely the opportunity of competing on equal terms with foreign nations, and this equality could only, it was urged, be obtained by increasing the bounties on the exportation of German Sugar to compel foreign competitors eventually to lower theirs. The Imperial Secretary of Finance, Count von Posadowsky, replied on



He expressed great sympathy with the agricultural interests, and maintained that a crisis in the Sugar industry would be even a more serious matter than the fall in the price of wheat, on account of the great number of small land-owners who had sunk capital in the cultivation of beet-root. The law of 1891, of which the chief feature was the taxation of raw beet-root, fell with peculiar heaviness upon the small manufacturer, who could not afford to bring the same expensive processes for extracting and refining as the larger capitalist, to bear upon the raw produce. But undoubtedly the American duties were the chief cause of the depression. Germany, it is true, enjoyed the most favoured nation clause, but in addition to the *ad valorem* duty, she had to pay a differential duty on bounty sugar, which, in view of the comparative smallness of the bounties given in Germany, fell more heavily on the German than on the foreign cultivator. In reply to some remarks from Count Kanitz, Baron von Marschall rose and entered into a detailed account of the negotiations which had been carried on between the Imperial Government and the Government of the United States. The main object of the negotiations had not been to combat the *ad valorem* duty, which was common to all imported sugar, but to obtain the removal of the one-tenth per cent. differential duty on sugar which received a bounty on export. At present he could make no definite statement, but must content himself with reading an extract from the President's message, in which was advocated the removal of the differential duty on German sugar. The debate was concluded on Saturday the 15th."

(It is proposed at once to call a meeting to decide upon further action, and to compile a statement giving the points of the case for Parliamentary and general use. The West India Association of Glasgow are likewise moving in the matter).

#### A YEAR'S SUGAR SUPPLY, U.K. (BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS).

|                                |          |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>BEET ROOT SUGAR—</b>        |          | 1893.            | 1894.            |
| Refined                        | ...      | 576,329          | 694,879          |
| Unrefined                      | ...      | 422,222          | 368,610          |
| <b>Total Beet Supply</b>       | ... Tons | <b>998,551</b>   | <b>1,063,489</b> |
| <b>CANE SUGAR—</b>             |          |                  |                  |
| British West Indies and Guiana | ...      | 61,282           | 84,700           |
| British East Indies            | ...      | 52,633           | 63,412           |
| China and Hongkong             | ...      | 79               | —                |
| Mauritius                      | ...      | 12,225           | 13,333           |
| <b>Total British Cane</b>      | ... Tons | <b>126,219</b>   | <b>161,445</b>   |
| <b>FOREIGN CANE—</b>           |          |                  |                  |
| Spanish West India Islands     | ...      | 4,148            | 11,529           |
| Brazil                         | ...      | 20,308           | 23,495           |
| Java                           | ...      | 75,258           | 29,192           |
| Phillipine Islands             | ...      | 91,380           | 59,337           |
| Peru                           | ...      | 26,152           | 16,576           |
| Other Countries                | ...      | 37,112           | 46,102           |
| <b>Total Foreign Cane</b>      | ... Tons | <b>254,358</b>   | <b>186,231</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL SUPPLY.</b>           |          |                  |                  |
| Foreign Beet                   | ...      | 998,551          | 1,063,489        |
| British Cane                   | ...      | 126,219          | 161,445          |
| Foreign Cane                   | ...      | 254,358          | 186,231          |
| <b>Total Sugar Imports</b>     | ... Tons | <b>1,379,128</b> | <b>1,411,165</b> |

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—It is understood that the question of Government advances upon next crop is being considered by the Secretary of State. It is hoped that his lordship may see his way to approve a practicable scheme, the details of which, it is believed, are now receiving attention. The West India Committee have been unremitting in their efforts to support the views which have been received from the Colony.



TRINIDAD.—At a meeting of the representatives of the Sugar Industry held in Trinidad, certain proposals were formulated as to relief in the form of a modification of the House, Land, and Immigration Taxes. The decision of the Council upon these questions is being awaited for some course of action to be decided upon here.

SUGAR CANE PLANT.—The following is an extract from Circular No. 2, June, 1886:—  
 "Under date 30th November, 1885, Colonial Office was requested to move Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica to take action to improve Sugar Cane. Committee suggested that each Government should set apart 100 acres of land on which cane should be grown, and that a careful selection of the best plants from year to year should be re-sown, the object being, by careful selection, to produce the finest plants, constantly improving in size, prolificness, early maturity, and saccharine quality. Letter referred to Kew. Mr. Morris, by desire of Mr. Dyer, writes, May 13th, 1886, recapitulating efforts made to supply fresh varieties of cane to West Indies, and suggesting that all that was necessary had been done. Committee replied 8th June, to Lord Granville, that sufficient had not been done, and strongly urging again their proposal of November 30th, 1885, as it is not the mere addition of varieties that is required, but a careful selection of the best specimens of varieties now cultivated, and the steady cultivation of these." The importance of this question has not since been overlooked, and the Kew authorities would probably now admit that their action in 1886 was not sufficient to obtain satisfactory results in planting selected canes. Considerable attention, however, has since been given to Sugar Cane disease, and the question now is, whether the Colonial Governments should be again urged to undertake the experimental planting recommended in 1885-6. Mauritius has been well to the front in this matter, for at their Exhibition of 1893, the collection of Sugar Canes was said to be the best ever brought together. There were 70 varieties more or less established in the Colony. (See "Kew Bulletin," March, 1894). The discussion between Mr. Lubbock and Mr. Jenman in the Demerara "Argosy" of December, 1888, has a very practical bearing upon the question of improving the Sugar Cane by means of selection. Some useful extracts will be given in the next Circular, if possible, of what was then written. The subject is well worthy of the attention of the Colonial Governments.

ST. LUCIA.—Referring to last Circular, it is now to be reported that the Secretary of State, while not thinking the matter to be one for Imperial aid, has referred the proposed measures of relief, other than those which his lordship had already agreed to, to the Governor of the Windward Islands for his report.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 26TH DECEMBER, 1894.

|                 |      | SUGAR.<br>Tons. | RUM.<br>Puns. | COFFEE.<br>Lbs. | COCOA.<br>Lbs. | ASPIALTP.<br>Tons. | GOLD.<br>Ozs. |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| British Guiana, | 1894 | 83,989          | 15,767        | —               | 46,259         | —                  | 114,714       |
|                 | 1893 | 90,219          | 18,723        | —               | 3,528          | —                  | 126,388       |
| Trinidad,       | 1894 | 46,654          | 700           | 13,520          | 18,882,890     | 98,744             |               |
|                 | 1893 | 44,182          | 675           | 8,960           | 16,986,570     | 86,815             |               |
| Barbados,       | 1894 | 64,711          |               |                 |                |                    |               |
|                 | 1893 | 64,980          |               |                 |                |                    |               |

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—In France the present crop is practically over, and the question of future sowing is the great question of the moment, in view of the low prices, which may cause an important diminution in sowings. In Germany and Austria-Hungary, too, the fabrication is very advanced. German cultivators are still doubtful as to the extent of their sowings in 1895, upon which the legislative proposals will have considerable effect. In Russia there may be a reduction of the culture. Messrs. Clark de Silva & Co., say, that if Sugar is again to be placed upon a sound basis, a reduced production of 10 per cent. for at least one season is necessary; and if the present low prices are allowed to have their proper effect from producers, there can be no doubt that some such reduction will take place. Such will largely depend upon German legislation. "Mr. Licht gravely advocates that the Government should increase the home consumption tax to enable them to pay higher bounties without loss of revenue." The present bounties are 9d. per cwt. on refined and 6d. per cwt. on raw, and they were to cease altogether in August, 1897. The abolition of the bounties and the reduction of the heavy internal duties are recommended by Messrs. Clark as likely to be of the greatest benefit to producers, especially in preventing lower prices next season. The total Cane for 1894-5 is estimated at 2,904,000 tons against 3,046,000 in 1893-4, and Beet 4,975,000 against 3,895,000, making a total Sugar production of 7,879,000 against 6,941,000. Mr. Czarnikow reports, 10th January, that owing to closing of inland navigation on Continent, a firmer tone prevailed during the early part of this week. There has since been a slight re-action. A premature advance in prices Mr. Czarnikow deprecates as likely to revive the hopes of Beet producers, and might only lead to a continuance of the over-production.





**PRODUCTION DU SUCRE.** — Il est bien averé aujourd'hui que l'industrie sucrière du monde, tant pour les sucres de canne que pour la betterave, est arrivée à une crise très sérieuse, et il est d'importance vitale que tous les intéressés se rendent bien compte et comprennent les causes qui ont amené cette crise. Les Gouvernements qui, par suite de cet état de choses, se trouvent gravement intéressés, devraient, de leur côté, dans leurs efforts pour enrayer cette crise éviter d'avoir recours à des mesures, qui, au lieu d'atténuer le mal, tendraient seulement à l'aggraver.

Pour bien éclaircir les causes de la crise, voyons la production du monde durant ces dernières années. Voici les chiffres :

| PRODUCTION TOTALE            |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                              | 1880-1                  | 1885-6                  | 1890-1                  |                         |
| Betterave : Tonnes           | 1,030,000               | 2,223,000               | Tonnes 3,710,000        |                         |
| Canne „                      | 2,200,000               | 2,140,000               | „ 2,500,000             |                         |
| PRODUCTION DE BETTERAVES     |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|                              | 1891-2                  | 1892-3                  | 1893-4                  | 1894-5                  |
| Allemagne ...                | 1,198,000               | 1,225,000               | 1,303,000               | 1,900,000               |
| Autriche ...                 | 786,000                 | 803,000                 | 842,000                 | 1,100,000               |
| France ...                   | 650,000                 | 588,000                 | 579,000                 | 830,000                 |
| Russie ...                   | 551,000                 | 455,000                 | 666,000                 | 630,000                 |
| Belgique ...                 | 180,000                 | 197,000                 | 235,000                 | 285,000                 |
| Hollande, etc. ...           | 136,000                 | 160,000                 | 186,000                 | 230,000                 |
|                              | <u>3,501,000</u>        | <u>3,428,000</u>        | <u>3,805,000</u>        | <u>4,975,000</u>        |
| Production de sucre de canne | 2,784,000               | 2,760,000               | 3,046,000               | 2,904,000               |
| <b>Total ...</b>             | <u><b>6,285,000</b></u> | <u><b>6,188,000</b></u> | <u><b>6,941,000</b></u> | <u><b>7,879,000</b></u> |

Ces chiffres montrent que la production des sucres de betterave a augmenté de 2,223,000 tonnes en l'année 1885-6 jusque 4,975,000 tonnes en l'année 1894-5, c'est-à-dire de 124 pour cent, tandis que la production des sucres de canne a seulement augmenté de 2,140,000 tonnes en 1885-6 jusque 2,904,000 tonnes en 1894-5, soit de 36 pour cent.

Ces chiffres montrent encore que la production totale pour l'année 1894-5 accuse un excédant énorme comparé à l'année précédente, environ 1,000,000 de tonnes, et que la production des sucres de betterave est seule responsable de cette situation. Durant ces dernières années, la consommation du monde civilisé s'est accrue dans une proportion moyenne d'environ 250,000 tonnes par an. L'excédant dans la production des sucres de betterave pour l'année 1894-5 aurait donc seul pu suffire à couvrir une pareille augmentation dans la consommation durant quatre années consécutives.

Le résultat immédiat de cette trop grande production a naturellement été une forte baisse sur les prix, les prix actuels étant les plus bas connus du siècle. Les prix suivants ont été pratiqués dans le courant du mois de Janvier des cinq dernières années, en se basant sur les 88° f.o.b. Hambourg.

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Janvier 1891 | 12s. 6d. per cwt. |
| „ 1892       | 14s. 9d. „        |
| „ 1893       | 14s. 2d. „        |
| „ 1894       | 12s. 4d. „        |
| „ 1895       | 8s. 8d. „         |

Quel a été le motif de cette grande et continuelle augmentation dans la récolte des sucres de betterave ? Il est peu douteux que le facteur le plus important en a été le système de primes accordées par les Gouvernements européens en vue de stimuler leurs industries sucrières.



L'effet naturel de ces primes a été de créer une production dépassant de beaucoup la capacité de consommation du monde, et de réduire les prix à un minimum qui ne couvre plus les frais de la production même. Si dans la campagne écoulée il n'y avait pas eu de primes accordées, ni d'augmentation dans la récolte des sucres de betterave, les payeurs de contributions en Europe auraient non-seulement bénéficié des grandes sommes qu'ils sont forcés d'allouer à leurs industries sucrières, mais encore ces industries mêmes y auraient gagné des millions.

En 1893-4 la récolte des sucres de betterave se chiffrait à 4,000,000 de tonnes et l'on peut estimer le coût de production à £10 par tonne. En 1894-5 la récolte atteint 5,000,000 de tonnes et il est probable que celle-ci étant plus grande, son coût soit moindre soit £9 par tonne.

Voici donc d'un côté :

|                                |     |     |     |     |     |                    |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 4,000,000 de tonnes à £10      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £40,000,000        |
| réalisées à £12 10s. par tonne | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50,000,000         |
| donnant un bénéfice de         |     |     |     |     |     | <u>£10,000,000</u> |

de l'autre côté :

|                               |     |     |     |     |     |                   |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 5,000,000 de tonnes à £9      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £45,000,000       |
| réalisées à £8 15s. par tonne | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43,750,000        |
| laissant une perte de         |     |     |     |     |     | <u>£1,250,000</u> |

ce qui prouve clairement que, au lieu de donner un bénéfice de £10,000,000, l'augmentation de la récolte a produit une perte à l'industrie de £1,250,000.

Les sommes payées annuellement par les Gouvernements d'Europe—calculées sur la base des primes en cours—et qui ont amené ce désastre, opérant de la même manière sur exportation et quantités consommées à l'intérieur, se répartissent comme suit :

|  |     |     |                   |
|--|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Allemagne, 12s. 6d. par tonne sur 1,850,000 tonnes | ... | ... | £1,156,250        |
| France   | ... | ... | 2,000,000         |
| Autriche   | ... | ... | 400,000           |
| Belgique   | ... | ... | 1,000,000         |
|  |     |     | <u>£4,556,250</u> |

Nous n'avons pas tenu compte des primes payées par la Russie, la Suède, le Danemark et d'autres pays qui ne sont pas grands producteurs. Toutefois l'on peut estimer hardiment que le système total des primes coûte annuellement £5,000,000 au contribuable du Continent, avec le résultat entrevu plus haut, d'une perte immense causée à l'industrie.

Examinons maintenant ce qui arrivera si les primes sont augmentées d'une façon suffisante pour encourager la production d'une récolte également grande pour la campagne prochaine.

Il ne faut pas une très grande expérience du marché pour pouvoir affirmer qu'une production pareille ferait baisser les prix davantage, et que cette nouvelle réduction, quoique difficile à évaluer, ne serait pas moins de £2 par tonne. Donc, étant donnée une prime suffisante pour faire produire par la culture européenne 5,000,000 de tonnes de sucre de betterave sans perte immédiate pour la culture, il faudrait une somme de £10,000,000. En d'autres mots, pour faire consommer ou pour liquider une récolte pareille dans la campagne prochaine, à laquelle s'ajouterait encore le surplus de la récolte 1894-5, l'industrie européenne (ou les Gouvernements) auraient à faire face à £16,000,000 répartis comme suit :

|                             |     |     |                     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| Prime actuelle en cours     | ... | ... | £ 5,000,000         |
| Perte sur la récolte 1894-5 | ... | ... | 1,250,000           |
| Perte £2 par tonne, 1895-6  | ... | ... | 10,000,000          |
|                             |     |     | <u>£ 16,250,000</u> |

Le remède le plus simple et le plus immédiat à la situation actuelle est l'abolition du système de primes, qui amènerait une condition plus saine pour l'industrie et nous donnerait des ensemcements sur

une moins grande échelle dans la campagne prochaine. Nous avons vu déjà qu'une récolte de 4,000,000 de tonnes donne des résultats financiers beaucoup plus avantageux qu'une récolte de 5,000,000 de tonnes, et certainement la culture se trouvera mieux en produisant 4,000,000 de tonnes sans primes que 5,000,000 avec primes.

Un autre remède, mais dont les effets seraient moins immédiats, serait une consommation plus grande, et les Gouvernements payant des primes actuellement, pourraient grandement aider à amener ce desideratum. Les impôts levés sur les sucres en Europe sont en général tellement élevés, que l'article est resté un objet de luxe pour la grande masse de la population, et que par conséquent la consommation compare très mal avec celle du Royaume-Uni et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique où le sucre est très largement employé. Les chiffres suivants montrent cela clairement :

|              | Consommation<br>par tête | Impôt<br>par 1,000 kilos. |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Royaume-Uni  | 36½ kilos                | Zéro                      |
| Etats-Unis   | 35 „                     | Environ fr. 100           |
| France       | 14 „                     | „ „ 600                   |
| Allemagne... | 13 „                     | „ „ 225                   |
| Autriche ... | 13½ „                    | „ „ 225                   |
| Belgique ... | 10 „                     | „ „ 450                   |

et démontrent que la consommation en Europe pourrait s'augmenter d'une façon considérable. On voudra bien admettre que l'abolition des primes et une augmentation dans la consommation permettra aux Gouvernements de réduire de beaucoup les impôts prélevés actuellement, sans perte d'aucune sorte sur le revenu.

On peut rappeler aux Gouvernements étrangers qu'en Août 1888 ils ont signé une Convention à Londres, stipulant " de prendre telles mesures qui constitueraient une véritable garantie, à ce qu'aucune prime, soit ouverte, soit déguisée, ne soit allouée pour la fabrication ou l'exportation des sucres ". Cette Convention n'a jamais été exécutée ; mais si à cette époque on considérait que cet état de choses demandait un remède immédiat, il est certainement plus urgent aujourd'hui d'y trouver une solution. Si la Convention avait été exécutée, la crise que nous subissons n'aurait jamais pu se produire, et les encaisseurs de primes d'aujourd'hui se trouveraient dans une situation meilleure que celle qui leur est faite par le système de primes en vigueur.

L'absurdité de ces primes est plus frappante en France qu'ailleurs. Les chiffres énumérés plus haut ne comprennent pas les fortes sommes payées aux fabricants comme " drawback " sur les mélasses, ni les primes dont bénéficient les producteurs coloniaux.

Le contribuable français sacrifie plus de soixante millions de francs par an afin d'assurer aux fabricants une exportation de 400,000 tonnes, c'est-à-dire que sur la base des prix actuels, le contribuable paie une somme à peu près égale à la moitié de la valeur brute des sucres exportés.

En résumé on doit convenir que les opinions et les chiffres mis en avant imposent la conclusion qu'une réduction d'impôt amènerait une plus grande consommation, et qu'une abolition des primes diminuerait le trop dans la production ; de même que l'effet de pareilles mesures serait de remettre le marché sur une base naturelle et saine. Aussi longtemps que les primes pousseront à la production et que les impôts arrêteront la consommation, nous ne pouvons nous attendre à des prix stables et serons toujours sous le coup d'une crise. Dans ces conditions il est naturel que la méfiance et le discrédit se mettront dans les affaires, et que la grande industrie des sucres de betterave souffrira sous un désavantage financier, que les primes existantes ne peuvent compenser et que des primes plus fortes pourraient seulement aggraver. L'aperçu de la situation pendant la campagne écoulée le démontre pleinement.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

11th February, 1895.

**SUGAR PRODUCTION MEMORANDUM.**—Copies of this Paper, in English, French, and German, can now be had on application at this office. A supply has been sent to the Foreign Office for the use of British Embassies abroad. Copies have also been sent to Lord Salisbury, recalling his Lordship's attention to the Convention signed by him in August, 1888, with the Foreign Powers interested in Sugar production, and providing for the abolition of bounties, suggesting to his Lordship that had that agreement been carried out, the present general crisis in the Sugar Industry of the world could not have arisen.

**SUGAR LEGISLATION.**—The following correspondence with the Foreign Office, in continuation of previous Circular, is reported. The Secretary of State forwarded to the Committee the following despatch from Sir Julian Pauncefote, dated Washington, January 7th, 1895:—"My Lord;—I have the honour to report that Mr. Hengelmuller, the newly-arrived Austro-Hungarian Minister, has made a formal protest against that provision of the Customs Tariff Act which imposes a discriminating duty of one-tenth of one cent. a pound on Sugar coming from Austria. A similar protest was made some time ago by Germany, and the President, in his recent message to Congress, having recommended the repeal of the clause in the law imposing the duty, a bill has been brought in by Mr. Wilson with that intention, but has not yet advanced beyond the preliminary stages. On August 31st last, the Secretary of the Treasury decided, in reply to an inquiry from the Collector of Customs at Baltimore, that Germany and Austria-Hungary were granting direct bounties on Sugar, and Mr. Carlisle at the same time suggested, that under the operations of the laws of France, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands (providing for the remission of internal revenue taxes on beets used in the production of sugar), indirect bounties might apparently be earned by the exporters."

The following acknowledgment was sent:—"The Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley, K.G., 23rd January, 1895—My Lord, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bertie's letter of the 22nd instant, in continuation of previous correspondence, transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington on the subject of the discriminating duty levied in the United States on Sugar imported from Austria and Germany. In commenting upon Sir Julian Pauncefote's despatch, we beg to say that there is no possible doubt (indeed, the fact is admitted by the countries concerned) that not only Austria-Hungary and Germany, but also France and the other countries mentioned, grant direct or indirect bounties upon the export of their Sugars. We are preparing a Memorandum showing the amount of these bounties and their effect upon the general selling value of Sugar, which we will place in your Lordship's hands in a few days, in the hope that your Lordship would be pleased to transmit a copy for the information of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, and also for the information of Her Majesty's Ambassadors in Berlin, Vienna, Paris and Brussels. In the meantime, we trust that Sir Julian Pauncefote will continue to give his attention to the Bill now before Congress, which proposes to abolish the differential duty on bounty Sugar, and to place British Colonial Sugar, receiving no bounties, upon the same footing as the Sugar receiving considerable bounties. We think that the Favoured Nation Clause (if such exists in its entirety with the United States), under its provisions for equal terms with other countries, did not contemplate such a great and unfair disadvantage to British interests as would be involved in bounty and non-bounty Sugar being received upon the same terms in the markets of the United States, and we



trust that any representations which may be made by Sir Julian Pauncefote will be effective in securing the maintenance of the provisions, or, at least, the reasonable application of the spirit of the Favoured Nation Treaties. (The Foreign Office reply that the only Favoured Nation Treaty with the United States is dated 1815, which expressly confines Favoured Nation treatment to British Possessions in Europe.)

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*"

**RUM SALES.**—The following letter was addressed to the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P., Home Secretary, on January 16th, 1895:—"Sir,—On behalf of Importers and Merchants interested in the Rum Trade, I have the honour to call your attention to the following matter.—Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts it is provided that Rum (and other Spirits) may be reduced by the retailer to a strength not below 25 degrees under proof. We are informed that when prosecutions against Publicans take place under these Acts, the Hydrometer is relied upon as proof of the strength of the Rums in question. It is a well-known fact that Rum has invariably a certain amount of what is known as obscuration, which is usually from 2 to 3 per cent., but is sometimes as high as 9 per cent. This obscuration arises from the presence of colouring matter, and it is in reality the difference between the real strength of the Rum, and the strength as shown by the Hydrometer. A Hydrometer is, in fact, an instrument for ascertaining the specific gravity of a liquid, and in the case of a liquid composed of pure alcohol and water, is a reliable test of the strength of such spirit. But in the case of Rum, which consists of a mixture of Alcohol and water with colouring matters and essential oils, the Hydrometer ceases to be a reliable test of strength, and this has been for many years recognised by Her Majesty's Customs, who have discarded the Hydrometer as a test for the purpose of levying duty. In consequence, we are informed, of numerous convictions of Publicans on the evidence of the Hydrometer strengths, which convictions may be entirely illegal, Publicans and the Trade generally are averse to buying Rum which has a high obscuration, and latterly this has caused much loss to Importers. A Rum with a high obscuration is quite as valuable as a similar Rum with a low obscuration, but in view of a probability of an illegal conviction for undue watering in the case of such Rums, they are very heavily and unreasonably depreciated in the Market. As we understand that these prosecutions are instituted by Municipal authorities, we are led to believe, Sir, that the matter is one which would come under the consideration of your Department, and we venture to hope that steps may be taken to ensure that such evidence should be given which would establish the true strength of the Rum which may be the subject of any further prosecutions."

(Signed) N. Lubbock, *Chairman.*"

The Home Secretary referred the matter to the Inland Revenue, from which Department the following letter has been received:—"Somerset House, 2nd February, 1895. The Chairman—Sir, The Board of Inland Revenue having had before them your letters of the 16th and 26th ultimo, I am directed to acquaint you, in reply, that from the results obtained from the examination of samples of spirit referred to this Department under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, the Board believe that the Public Analysts, as a whole, are well aware that any obscuration has to be removed by distillation before determining the strength of the spirits submitted to them, and remove it accordingly. It must, however, be borne in mind that publicans and dealers mainly depend upon the Hydrometer for determining the strength of spirits received into and sent out of stock. In the case of obscured spirit, they can only rely upon the good faith of the person selling it to them; and, when it is considered that a great part of this obscured spirit is diluted before being sent into consumption, and generally close to the limit of strength mentioned in the Act of 1879, it will be understood that highly obscured spirit is more difficult to manage than spirit which has little or no obscuration, and whose strength can be determined roughly by the Hydrometer. The demand for highly obscured spirit is, therefore, likely to be less in consequence of the extra risks run in its dilution for sale. I am to add that, although the Food and Drugs Act of 1875, section 22, empowers magistrates trying such cases to refer, in their discretion, disputed samples for analyses to this Department, where the obscuration of spirits is well understood, yet very few samples have been so referred.

W. B. HEMERDEN, *Secretary.*"



**BRITISH GUIANA.**—23rd January.—With regard to Spirits Ordinance, 1896, the Department is not enforcing the Act in its entirety, and it is reported there are few complaints of late. The proposed extension of Sugar Bounties in Germany was discussed in Combined Court on a motion by Mr. Luard, which met with the unanimous approval of the Elective Members. Mr. Duncan moved a resolution in favour of the erection of large Central Factories, and that the Government should guarantee interest at 3 per cent. per annum on a capital sum of £400,000, to erect and equip a Pioneer Central Factory, with the necessary railway, rolling stock, wharf, &c., on a site on the East Coast. As there was a division of opinion, the motion was withdrawn. The application for immigrants for 1895-96 amounts at present to only 1,840.

**TRINIDAD.**—Government financial arrangements, especially with regard to Immigration, bearing on the cost of Sugar production, are making progress. The Legislative Council have adopted the report of a Committee, recommending that two-thirds of the cost of Immigration should, for a period of three years, be paid out of the General Revenue, and that the house and land tax be reduced by one-half. The Customs Tariff has been revised. The Committee also proposed that the Immigration Tax for the ensuing year be not collected. It is understood that the necessary provisions for carrying out these proposals were adopted by Council, and that they would be consequently approved by the Secretary of State; no action in respect of them has been yet adopted by the West India Committee. But all communications from Trinidad proprietors and merchants will be welcome.

**ST. LUCIA.**—A Meeting was held at Castries on 16th January. Reference was made to the interview with Lord Ripon, and the representations then made by English Proprietors and Merchants. It was decided that the Government should be asked to sanction the raising of a loan of £50,000 to £60,000, to be lent out to planters on terms to allow a sinking fund to repay at the end of 30 years. All interests in the Colony, in addition to Sugar, were to participate. The matter was placed before Sir C. Bruce on 17th January as the result of the public meeting. The Island was absolutely dependent upon agriculture. Exceptional public works had given temporary employment, but the financial position was alarming. Exports were valued in 1894 at £175,000, and the total general revenue was £55,000, or about 30 per cent. But how was revenue to be raised in future if agriculture were not promoted? Capital was required, and Government agency could obtain it at moderate interest. This was necessary for the maintenance of the large Sugar Factories. The late storm and flood had largely aggravated the position. A loan could be raised in England at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 per cent., and the money could be lent at 6 or  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., on an estimate of half the value of the property. The Proprietors and Merchants in St. Lucia have now put forward the above proposals, and it is understood that they have been laid before Lord Ripon in despatches from Sir C. Bruce.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Legislative proposals in Germany have been suggested, but nothing has been yet done to bring those proposals into effect. The mere raising of the bounty from 12s. 6d. to £2 per ton will not compensate growers or fabricants for reduced prices, and there is yet a good prospect of reduced sowings. Mr. Czarnikow says:—(1) With the aid of an increased home duty of 3s. per cwt.; (2) Of a progressive tax on the larger factories; and (3) Of an annual grant up to £500,000 from the Imperial Exchequer to form a fund of nearly £2,500,000 for paying an export bounty of 2s. on Raw and 2s. 6d. Refined, instead of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. Raw and 1s. Refined, as hitherto; but it is proposed, to somewhat check them by the tax on manufacture, viz.: Of 2s. per cwt. on any quantity exceeding by over 5 per cent. the normal 75 days' work, any new factories being admitted at the normal average quantity; (2) Of 1s. per ton Sugar on the first 500 tons exceeding 2,000 tons (which are free), and an additional 1s. per ton for every one of five additional series of 500 tons up to a total output of 5,000 tons, when the progressive rate is raised to 2s. per ton and series, the maximum being 40s. per ton Sugar. Beyond the normal quantity the fabricant gets no bounty (instead of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. hitherto), but he is not fined either, and is evidently so much better off that transgression will have no terrors for him, especially not for the larger one, against whose expansion the law was directed;



everybody will sow liberally in order to provide against the possibility of missing the full bonus through bad harvest or quality. Some modifications will probably be introduced, the factories do not want the tax on manufacture, and justify the higher bounty—especially by the French premiums, which, at 30 fcs. above 7½ per cent. yield, will probably be over 25. 3d. per cwt. Raw Sugar. Belgium is estimated to pay considerably more, but Austria pays fl. 1.50 per bag on a maximum export of only 3,125,000 bags, and the prospect of getting nothing on any excess has not prevented sowings to produce an export quantity of 7,000,000 to 7,500,000 bags, thus bringing the average bounty down to 7d. per cwt. on export (on home consumption the actual bounty calculates higher), notwithstanding the increased cost of transport to Hamburg. The Austrian producer will now be trebly justified in clamouring for a higher bounty, and though everybody knows that another crop of 5,000,000 tons (barring Colonial failures) may be worth little over £35,000,000, whilst a crop of 4,000,000 tons would easily fetch £40,000,000 and more, yet the difficulty, as with standing armies, is to come to an understanding. Germany has, even under a low bounty, increased her production proportionately more than other countries, and the increase (and probably more), if adopted and backed up by sowings, will go into the pockets of the English and American consumers, in addition to the millions to be sacrificed for our sake all over the Sugar-growing globe, including, unfortunately, our own Colonies, until some countries retire from the struggle." (In France there seems a prospect of reduced sowings).

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88% (C. Czarnikow, 7th February), 95. 13d. against 131. for the same time, 1894.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConuell & Co.), 22nd January.—Weather continues wet with intervals of fine days. (Per favour of Colonial Co., Ltd.), 14th January.—Heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation. (Per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.), 20th January.—Weather showery. Trinidad (per favour of Colonial Co., Ltd.), 16th January.—Showery and unsettled. 28.—Fine with occasional light showers. (Per favour of Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.), 22nd.—Weather is still unfavourable for commencing Crop. 5th February.—Weather favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 15th January.—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island. 29.—Light partial showers.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1895, 69,461 tons, against 56,562; deliveries, 61,343, against 67,960; Stocks 67,152, against 67,076.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(C. Czarnikow, 7th February). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 2,029,236 tons, against 1,530,195; United States, 124,000, against 79,780; Cuba, 129,000, against 142,000. Total 2,282,236 tons, against 1,751,975.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(Note.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY



February, 1895.

**ZUCKER-PRODUCTION.** — Es ist bekannt, dass die Zucker-Industrie der Welt, sowohl Rübenzucker als Rohrzucker, sich augenblicklich in einer sehr ernstern Crisis befindet und es ist für alle Beteiligten von der grössten Wichtigkeit, die Factoren gründlich zu erkennen, welche diese Crisis herbeigeführt haben. Ebenso wichtig ist es, dass die verschiedenen beteiligten Regierungen verhüten, dass durch unrichtige Schritte die Crisis verschärft anstatt gehoben wird.

Zur Erklärung der Crisis ist eine Uebersicht der Weltproduction der letzten Jahre erforderlich, die Zahlen stellen sich wie folgt :

| GESAMMT-PRODUCTION.       |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                           | 1880-81             | 1885-6              | 1890-1              |                     |
| Rübenzucker ... ..        | 1,630,000 Tons      | 2,223,000 Tons      | 3,710,000 Tons      |                     |
| Rohrzucker ... ..         | 2,200,000 „         | 2,140,000 „         | 2,500,000 „         |                     |
| RÜBENZUCKER-PRODUCTION.   |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|                           | 1891-2              | 1892-3              | 1893-4              | 1894-5              |
| Deutschland ... ..        | 1,198,000 T.        | 1,225,000 T.        | 1,393,000 T.        | 1,900,000 T.        |
| Oesterreich ... ..        | 786,000             | 803,000             | 842,000             | 1,100,000           |
| Frankreich ... ..         | 650,000             | 588,000             | 579,000             | 830,000             |
| Russland ... ..           | 551,000             | 455,000             | 660,000             | 630,000             |
| Belgien ... ..            | 180,000             | 197,000             | 235,000             | 285,000             |
| Holland und andere Länder | 136,000             | 160,000             | 186,000             | 230,000             |
|                           | <u>3,501,000</u>    | <u>3,428,000</u>    | <u>3,895,000</u>    | <u>4,975,000</u>    |
| Rohrzucker-Production     | <u>2,784,000</u>    | <u>2,760,000</u>    | <u>3,046,000</u>    | <u>2,904,000</u>    |
|                           | <u>6,285,000 T.</u> | <u>6,188,000 T.</u> | <u>6,941,000 T.</u> | <u>7,879,000 T.</u> |

Es ergibt sich aus diesen Zahlen, dass die Rübenzucker-Production sich von 2,223,000 T. in 1885-6 auf 4,975,000 T. geschwungen hat, eine Vermehrung von 124 %, wohingegen sich die Rohrzucker-Production nur von 2,140,000 T. in 1885-6 auf 2,904,000 T. in 1894-5 gesteigert hat, eine Vermehrung von 36 %.

Ferner ist ersichtlich, wie sehr die Gesamt-Production von 1894-5 gegen das Vorjahr zugenommen hat, nämlich ungefähr 1,000,000 T. lediglich zufolge vermehrter Rübenzucker-Production. Während der letzten Jahre hat der Consum der civilisirten Welt um ungefähr 250,000 T. per Jahr zugenommen, sodass der Ueberschuss der 94-95er Rübenzucker-Production einer vierjährigen Consum-Zunahme im genannten Verhältniss gleichkommt.

Die Wirkung dieser grossen Versorgung war naturgemäss eine Preisreduction und gegenwärtige Preise sind die niedrigsten dieses Jahrhunderts. Die folgenden Preise wurden in den Monaten Januar der letzten 5 Jahre für Rübenzucker-Basis 88 % erzielt :

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Januar 1891 | 12s. 6d. per cwt. |
| „ 1892      | 14s. 9d. „        |
| „ 1893      | 14s. 2d. „        |
| „ 1894      | 12s. 4d. „        |
| „ 1895      | 8s. 8d. „         |

Es tritt nun die Frage auf, welchen Gründen diese bedeutende und fortwährende Zunahme der Rübenzucker-Ernten zuzuschreiben ist; und da unterliegt es keinem Zweifel, dass der Haupt-Factor in den Ausfuhr-Prämien besteht, welche europäische Regierungen gewähren behufs Forderung ihrer Zucker-Industrien.

Die unmittelbare Wirkung der Ausfuhrprämien ist die grosse den Geldbedarf übersteigende Versorgung und dadurch ein Preisfall, welcher die Productionskosten nicht mehr deckt. In der That, es steht fest, dass ohne Ausfuhrprämien und ohne Zunahme der Rübenproduction während des letzten Jahres den continentalen Steuerzahlern der sehr bedeutende Betrag erspart wäre, welchen sie für die Zucker-Industrie beitragen mussten und dass ausserdem die Zucker-Industrie selbst dabei viele Millionen Sterling profitirt haben würde.

In 1893-4 war die Rübenzucker-Ernte rund 4,000,000 Tons und wir nehmen an, dass der Durchschnitts-Productionspreis £10 per Ton betragen hat. In 1894-5 hat die Ernte 5,000,000 Tons betragen, und es ist möglich, dass bei einer so guten Ernte die Productionskosten geringer waren, vermuthlich ist £9 per Ton der annähernde Preis.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |                            |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------|
| Es kosten also 4,000,000 Tons à £10           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £40,000,000                |
| und lösen à £12 10s.                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50,000,000                 |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>                      |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Gewinn ... .. £10,000,000  |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>                      |
| Im folgenden Jahre kosten 5,000,000 Tons à £9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £45,000,000                |
| und lösen à £8 15s.                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43,750,000                 |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>                      |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Verlust ... .. £ 1,250,000 |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>                      |

Sodass also die grössere Ernte anstatt £10,000,000 Gewinn, der Industrie einen Verlust von £1,250,000 bereite.

Der jährliche Zuschuss (auf Basis heutiger Prämien) vertheilt sich auf jedes Land wie folgt:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Deutschland (12s. 6d. per Ton auf 1,850,000 Tons) ... | £1,156,250 |
| Frankreich ... ..                                     | 2,000,000  |
| Oesterreich ... ..                                    | 400,000    |
| Belgien ... ..  | 1,000,000  |
|   | <hr/>      |
|   | £4,556,250 |

Wir haben die von Russland, Schweden, Dänemark und einigen wenig producirenden Ländern gezahlten Ausfuhrprämien nicht berücksichtigt, doch kann man annehmen, dass das Ausfuhrprämien-System den continentalen Steuerzahlern £5,000,000 per Jahr kostet und zwar mit dem Resultate, dass die Industrie dadurch schweren Schaden erleidet.

Wir wollen nun untersuchen was geschehen wird, wenn Ausfuhrprämien genügend erhöht werden sollten, um eine ebenso grosse Ernte im nächsten Jahre zu erzielen.

Es gehört nicht viel Verständniss des Marktes dazu, um einzusehen, dass eine gleich grosse Production den Preis weiter herabdrücken muss. Dieser Rückgang, welcher schwer zu schätzen ist, wird kaum weniger als £2 per Ton betragen. Es würde also ein weiterer Steuerzuschuss von £10,000,000 nothig sein, um es den Rüben-Producenten zu ermöglichen, eine Ernte von 5,000,000 Tons zu produciren und ohne Verlust unterzubringen. Mit anderen Worten, um die Welt zu veranlassen, eine solche Ernte, zuzüglich der Ueberschüsse der letzten Ernte im nächsten Jahre zu consumiren, müssten die Zucker-Industrie, bezw. die Regierungen, mehr als £16,000,000 contribuiren.



Nämlich :

|                               |     |     |     |                    |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Jetzige Ausfuhrprämien        | ... | ... | ... | £5,000,000         |
| Verlust auf diesjährige Ernte | ... | ... | ... | 1,250,000          |
| Weiterer Marktrückgang        | ... | ... | ... | 10,000,000         |
|                               |     |     |     | <u>£16,250,000</u> |

Die klarste und dringendste Abhülfe ist unter gegenwärtigen Verhältnissen die gänzliche Abschaffung des Ausfuhrprämien-Systems. Dieses würde die Industrie in einen natürlicheren Zustand versetzen und eine verringerte Rüben-Aussaat im nächsten Jahre herbeiführen. Wie gesagt, eine Ernte von 4,000,000 Tons bringt viele Millionen mehr als eine Ernte von 5,000,000 Tons, so dass Producenten mit einer Ernte von 4,000,000 Tons ohne Ausfuhrprämie sich weit besser stehen, als bei abermaligen 5,000,000 Tons mit Ausfuhrprämie.

Die nächste Wirkung, die sich indessen langsamer fühlbar machen würde, ist eine Consum-Zunahme und diese hängt allein von den Prämien zahlenden Ländern ab. Die in Europa auf Zucker lastenden Steuern sind so enorm, dass Zucker für die Massen ein Luxus-Artikel ist, und der Consum gering im Vergleich zu Grossbritannien und den Vereinigten Staaten, wo der Verbrauch bis in die untersten Classen geht. Folgende Zahlen weisen dieses deutlich nach :

|                    |     |     |     | Consum in lbs.<br>per Kopf. |     | Steuer-Betrag<br>per Ton. |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Grossbritannien    | ... | ... | ... | 73                          | ... | keine                     |
| Vereinigte Staaten | ... | ... | ... | 70                          | ... | ca. £4                    |
| Frankreich         | ... | ... | ... | 28                          | ... | „ 24                      |
| Deutschland        | ... | ... | ... | 26                          | ... | „ 9                       |
| Oesterreich        | ... | ... | ... | 17                          | ... | „ 9                       |
| Belgien            | ... | ... | ... | 20                          | ... | „ 18                      |

Es ist also in Europa sehr viel Raum für eine Consum-Zunahme und es ist klar, dass mit der Consum-Zunahme und der Ausfuhrprämien-Abschaffung eine wesentlich geringere Steuer die Staats-Einkünfte noch ungeschmälert lassen würde.

Die ausländischen Regierungen sollten daran erinnert werden, dass sie im Jahre 1888 in London eine Convention unterzeichneten, wodurch sie sich verpflichteten, Massregeln zu ergreifen zur Verhütung von offenen oder versteckten Ausfuhrprämien. Diese Convention ist niemals zur Ausführung gelangt, aber was schon damals als ein grosses Uebel, der Abhülfe bedürftig, angesehen wurde, ist heute noch viel dringender, und ein Fortbestehen der jetzigen für alle Beteiligten ruinösen Zustände sollte verhütet werden. Es ist sicherlich nicht zu viel gesagt, dass die Ausführung der Convention die jetzige Crisis verhindert haben würde und dass die Empfänger der Ausfuhrprämien besser daran gewesen wären, als unter dem gegenwärtigen System grosser Ausfuhrprämien.

Zum Schluss stellen wir die Behauptung auf, dass eine verminderte Steuer den Consum vermehren würde, während die Abschaffung der Ausfuhrprämien die Ueberproduction vermindern würde und die Wirkung beider Massregeln — um so grösser, wenn sie gleichzeitig genommen werden — würde den Zuckerhandel auf eine natürliche, also eine gesunde Basis bringen.

So lange Ausfuhr-Prämien die Production stimuliren und Steuern den Consum reduciren, werden Marktwerte grossen Schwankungen unterworfen bleiben und Crisen wiederkehren, Misstrauen und verlängerter Credit werden die Folge sein und die Rübenzucker-Industrie in emer Weise benachtheiligt, für welche gegenwärtige Ausfuhr-Prämien kein Equivalent bieten und welche höhere Prämien nur verschärfen könnten.

## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

11th March, 1895.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.—The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (20th February) has forwarded copies of the paper on Sugar Production to Her Majesty's Representatives in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Washington, and Brussels, with instructions to communicate them unofficially to the Governments of those countries. The Foreign Office have more recently asked for additional copies in French, which have been duly supplied. The paper has attracted general attention on the Continent, several thousand copies in French and German respectively having been distributed in influential quarters. The matter has also been taken up by the Foreign Press, and it is hoped that there will be a disposition, instead of entering upon a further ruinous war of bounties, to agree to a Conference either in London or Brussels, upon the basis of the Convention of 1888, or with such modifications of the same as would be generally acceptable, for the abolition of bounties and the reduction of internal duties on consumption. English Sugar papers have supported this proposal; the *Produce Markets Review*, for instance, advocates an International arrangement to reduce bounties, expresses its warm approval of the West India Committee paper and further says—"Continental critics will doubtless reply that the Committee represent interested parties, and this is of course obvious. The question, however, is whether or not their statements and arguments are true or correct, and of that there can be no doubt whatever. As a matter of fact, precisely the same views are entertained by all well-informed members of the Austrian Sugar industry, as exemplified by the published difficulties of important Sugar Factories. Besides announcing the failure of the Dollsplasser Sugar Manufactory, the newspaper telegrams (28th Feb.) say the Sugar industry in Austria has suffered from various adverse influences (obviously over-production and competition with Germany), and lately a number of prominent industrial Sugar enterprises have been unable to fulfil their engagements. In this state of things the Austrian Government has been applied to for further assistance as regards duty, taxes, and export bonuses, and it might appear that the time has surely come for Austria to agree to a resumption of the negotiations of 1887-8, in which she expressed her readiness to abolish bounties, a policy which, if it had been carried out, would have prevented the present crisis and certainly saved the Austrian Sugar industry from the painful and ruinous circumstances in which it is now placed. The West India Committee are now anxiously considering what is the proper action to be taken here. The resumption of the Convention proceedings of 1888 is of course the obvious and perhaps the only practicable policy. But how far it would be wise in the interests of the West India Colonies to embark upon a public agitation in this country, such as was carried on some years ago, is a matter for very serious consideration, and can only be dealt with after hearing all views. With regard to France, a Reuter's telegram (March 6th) states—"The Government has agreed in principle upon the measures which it will propose to Parliament for the settlement of the Sugar question. If the German Parliament enacts an increase in the German bounties on Sugar exports, the French Government will submit to Parliament a Bill making a corresponding increase in the French surtax on foreign Sugars imported into France, so as to protect the French market from German competition. It will, further, if necessary, propose an export premium on French Sugars intended for export in order to enable them to compete with German sugar, even in foreign markets."

SUGAR QUESTION IN UNITED STATES.—The Foreign Office has forwarded to the Committee, copy of proceedings in the House of Representatives on the demand of Germany for the abolition of the discriminating duty of one tenth of a cent per pound on Sugar imported under an export bounty. The discussion raises the whole question of the bearing of the Favoured Nation clause in the Treaty between the United States and Prussia, of May, 1828. These papers were referred, by the Chairman, to Mr. Wallwyn Poyer B. Shephard, M.A., of Lincoln's Inn. Mr. Shephard has been good enough to forward an opinion (which will be sent, with his permission, to the Foreign Office), but which cannot now be printed in full for want of space. Mr. Shephard particularly deals with the bearing of this question upon the Sugar of non-bounty giving countries imported into the States, and says: "But if Germany grants an export bounty, and the United States admit the bounty-aided produce without neutralization by discriminating duty, then all other countries possessing such a Treaty engagement with the United States are forced either to give export bounties, or suffer the very mischief which the most-favoured-nation clause, by excluding differential treatment, was intended to prevent. Such export bounty by Germany absolutely diminishes the value, and is capable of neutralizing the whole value of the most-favoured-nation article in every treaty entered into by the United States. . . . I think, therefore, that it would be most proper, in the interests of Great Britain, that H. M. Government should



**CIRCULAR NO. 118**  
 invite the Government of the United States to consider the injurious operation of the Continental system of export bounties on the trade of all other countries with the United States, and especially on such countries as are entitled to the most-favoured-nation treatment in the territory of the United States. On these grounds, I think, Great Britain is entitled to ask for every advantage the most-favoured-nation treatment would give British produce in the United States market, and that the Continental bounty system should not be allowed to cause displacement of British produce on the markets of the United States."

(Note.—It does not appear that the Bill abolishing the discriminating duty passed the Senate before Congress adjourned.)

**DELIVERY OF RUM OBSCURATIONS.**—The following correspondence is reported.

"Customs to West India Committee, 8th February, 1895:—

"The Chairman,

"Sir,—I am directed by the Board of Customs to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 3rd December last, that they have no objection as an experimental measure, for three months, to a test for obscuration at import of samples from selected casks of Rum in a mark, on condition that a proper application be made by the importer in each instance, in accordance with the Standing Regulations, nor will the Board offer any objection to a mixture made up from two or more casks in a mark—the usual written request being made—being similarly tested. The selection of casks in each instance is to be made by the importer or his representative. All casks of Rum, entered for clearance for home consumption, or which would, under existing regulations, require to have the obscuration definitely ascertained will, however, still require to be tested for that purpose. Casks of Rum separately sampled and tested at import as above described would not, of course, require to be re-tested.

"(Signed) R. T. PROWSE."

"W. I. C. to Customs, 28th February,

"The Secretary,

"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Prowse's letter of the 8th inst., informing us that the Board of Customs have no objection, as an experimental measure for three months, to a test of obscuration at import of samples from selected casks of Rum in a mark, on condition that a proper application be made by the importer in each instance, in accordance with the Standing Regulations. I am to thank the Board for consenting to the above arrangement, and so facilitating the delivery of obscurations for the purposes of the importers and the trade, as soon after landing as possible. We duly note that all casks of Rum, entered for clearance for home consumption, or which would, under existing regulations, require to have the obscuration definitely ascertained will, however, still require to be tested for that purpose.

"(Signed.) N. LUMBOCK, Chairman.

**LEEWARD ISLANDS.**—A meeting of proprietors and merchants was held in Billiter House, on February 25th, 1895, to consider certain points to be brought before Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., the newly appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands. Mr. Arthur Lee, in the chair, referred to the present depressed condition of the colony, and to the absolute necessity of reducing expenditure to the lowest possible limits consistent with proper administration. He pointed out that in recent years expenditure had been constantly increasing, without passing any opinion whether it was justified or not. Relief to the planting interest by all possible means was absolutely necessary to enable it to live. The Sugar industry was the sole support of Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and almost entirely so of Montserrat. The lightening of the burdens of the planters had been recognised as necessary by the passing of a recent ordinance in St. Kitts, under which the Land Tax, the Parochial Tax and Statistical Tax, amounting to about £7,350 had been remitted in the present year. To meet this, the amount standing at the credit of the Immigration Fund, about £11,000 without taking into account interest which had been actually received, had been voted to the General Revenue; but since then, the planters had strongly protested against the appropriation of this special fund, which had been raised from themselves for a specific purpose, in consideration of such partial relief. Further assistance would be probably required, and to the balance of the fund the planters were in all equity entitled. This was one of the first points to which they should ask His Excellency to give his consideration. The planters in Antigua were at the present time urging the Government for similar relief. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that in the passing of the McKinley Tariff, import duties on food and other supplies coming from the United States had been remitted. Since the alteration of the American Tariff these duties had in other British West India Colonies been re-imposed. Passing to Sugar manufacture, Mr. Lee pointed out that the methods in vogue in the Leeward Islands were very antiquated, and that by the substitution of large factories equipped with the most modern improved machinery, the Sugar output of Antigua alone would be increased in value by about half as much again. Such factories were an absolute necessity if the industry was to continue, a necessity emphasised at the present time by the



planting interests of Barbados, Demerara, and elsewhere; and as private capital could not be reckoned upon to provide what was necessary, owing to a variety of causes, it was the duty of the Government to supply, if possible, the necessary funds or guarantee. Otherwise, in the near future the sugar industry would perish, and the inhabitants, unless they deserted the Islands, would be driven to live (or starve) from hand to mouth. His Excellency's predecessor, Sir W. Haynes Smith, had already recognised the necessity of special legislation and State aid. Attention was specially directed to the fact that, under the large factory system, great encouragement would necessarily be given to peasant cane-growers; and that this system, if developed, would go far to solve some of the most difficult labour problems in the British West Indies, and also largely increase sugar production. Mr. Lee pointed to recent legislation in Queensland as a precedent to Government aid to sugar planters. By way of summary, he insisted that the three most pressing matters which His Excellency would have to consider were—curtailment of expenditure, relief of planters, and the establishment of large factories by Government aid. Captain Berkeley pointed out that in the establishment of factories, the interest of the whole planting community would have to be considered, especially that of planters lying outside of factory areas. Dr. Freeland forcibly pointed out that large factories must be provided, that they would be an enormous benefit to the colony, and that the funds necessary must be obtained, or guaranteed from the only possible source, if the Islands were to be saved from imminent bankruptcy.

(It was proposed that the above Minute should be made the basis of a formal representation to Sir Francis Fleming.)

BRITISH GUIANA.—In reference to the Committee's letter to Lord Ripon, of December 3rd, 1894, Mr. Wingfield writes:—"28th February, 1895, Sir—I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd of December, written on behalf of the British Guiana proprietors, in which you urge that the period of the redistribution of the cost of immigration between the Colonial Government and the planters, proposed by the Combined Court of British Guiana, and sanctioned by his Lordship, should be extended from three to five years. (2.) Lord Ripon desires me to say that he has given his careful consideration to your representations, but that he is unwilling to commit the Colony to this additional expenditure for a longer period than three years. If, however, at the end of that time similar reasons for this particular form of relief should be found to exist, and the Colonial Government and the Combined Court should recommend its continuance, his Lordship does not think it likely that Her Majesty's Government would withhold its consent. (3.) I am to add that his Lordship has, at your request, deferred his reply to your letter in view of the contingency of his receiving a communication on the subject to which it relates from the Governor, but that no such communication has been received." Another letter from the Colonial Office, dated 9th February, enclosing copies of official papers from the Government of British Guiana, was received. Its tenour will be gathered from the following reply:—"27th February. My Lord Marquess,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir R. H. Meade's letter of the 9th instant, written by your Lordship's direction, enclosing copy of official papers from the Government of British Guiana, relative to the Sugar industry of the colony, with special reference to the letter of the West India Committee to your Lordship of the 6th of October last. (2.) I am, in reply, to thank your Lordship for the copy of His Excellency's despatch, of the 9th January, 1895, admitting that the Acreage Tax is considered as part of the planters' contribution to the cost of immigration. We have always held this view, which was our ground for objecting, as we have so frequently done, to any portion of the proceeds of that tax being diverted to purposes of general revenue. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, we notice that the item, as connected with general revenue, will disappear from the next Tax Ordinance. (3.) With regard to the question of reducing the rate of interest on Planters' Promissory Notes for Immigration Fees, we notice that it is under the consideration of the Consolidated Immigration Loan Commissioners. We can only repeat the suggestion made in paragraph ten of our letter of the 6th October last, that the interest on promissory notes should be reduced from five to four cent. The reasons for such an alteration were given in our letter above mentioned. We shall, however, be glad to be informed, if your Lordship would be pleased to favour us with the information, of the tenour of the communication which His Excellency proposed to make to you on this subject. (4.) With regard to the Minute by the Immigration Agent-General on the number of days' work lost to the planters, we are glad to notice that the subject is recognised as deserving the attention of the Colonial Government. We respectfully demur, however, to the statement that this loss of labour is, to a great extent, due to a want of proper supervision on the part of the estates authorities. We have been acquainted with the various Circulars issued by the Immigration Agent-General, and we notice that the provisions for recording lost time under the Ordinance No. 4, of 1876, were so far inoperative that they were omitted in the Ordinance of 1891. We much regret that this was so, and we do not understand why the provisions of the law of 1876 were not found workable. But we do not think that the working of Ordinance No. 4, of 1876, or the Reports of the Sub-Immigration Agents in 1880, have any bearing upon the present position of affairs. We venture to say the planters, subject to the onerous expenses of the immigration system, have done their best on their own account, and on that of the coolies, to obtain regular work from their labourers, and to pay them the wages to which they would be entitled.



If a coolie does not work, all the expenses of introduction, housing, hospital, &c., become unproductive. The immigrant who absents himself from work is a cause of loss both to his employer and himself. Our interpretation of the immigration law is that complaints for being absent without leave, and for desertion and other offences against the Labour law, must be taken before a Stipendiary Magistrate, instead of being settled by the Immigration Agent-General, or his representatives, on visiting the estates. The employers have not had recourse to the Magistrates' Courts to the extent they were entitled, for the following reasons:—(1.) Such a proceeding involves loss of time and considerable expense to an estate for its officials to attend the Magistrates' Courts. (2.) Where the offence is subject to imprisonment, upon non-payment of fine, there is a natural reluctance to punish the immigrant to such an extent. But (3) the principal reason is to be found in the fact that Magistrates in some districts are averse to enforcing the law, under the mistaken idea, as Mr. Alexander so clearly shows, that they are thereby favouring the coolie. And it must be obvious that unless the Magistrates give their support where it might be legitimately expected, in the proper administration of the labour law, it becomes almost impossible for a manager to secure the necessary amount of work from his labourers, and his influence and supervision must be largely impaired.

(Signed) N. LURROCK, *Chairman.*

**BRITISH GUIANA**—The question of Government advances on crops has been carried so far as the consent of the Government to a scheme, the details of which are generally known. But as the security required covers not only the crop but the estate itself, it remains to be seen how far such a scheme will be workable. The Planter's Association are communicating with the Government on the proposed amendments of the Patent Laws. The Association have issued a circular on the rind fungus, urging prompt measures in accordance with the advice of Mr. Thiselton Dyer, recommending burning and leaving no heaps of trash or rubbish of any kind in the fields. The two Inspectors of police and six men who were removed from the British Guiana outpost at Uruan and taken over to Venezuela returned to the colony on Feb. 14th, having been sent on from Bolivar to Trinidad by the Venezuelan authorities. It is hoped that this action will tend to bring about a settlement of the Boundary question.

**TRINIDAD**—The measures for relief of the Sugar Industry referred to in last Circular have, it is understood, in the main been approved by the Secretary of State. The mail has brought no advices regarding any further proposed measures, and it seems difficult for the West India Committee to move without such grounds as would be afforded by a combined representation by their friends in the Colony, or by some formal action in Council on behalf of the productive interests of the Colony. Sugar making is in full progress (Feb. 20th) and the yield, at first most unsatisfactory, has greatly improved. Cocoa supplies good and quality improved. Cocoa prices maintained, owing to keen competition.

**BEET PROSPECTS**—In France the weather has delayed preparations for sowing, which will (*Journal des Fabricants*) show a diminution in Europe, except, perhaps, in Germany, which does not see the danger to the general Sugar industry of keeping its own industry up to the present level by increasing export bounties. (With regard to continental countries generally, there is no information as to probable sowings.)

#### SHIPMENTS TO 20TH FEBRUARY.

|                      | SUGAR. | RUM.  | COFFEE. | COCOA.    | ASPHALTE. | GOLD. |
|----------------------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|
|                      | Tons.  | Puns. | lbs.    | lbs.      | Tons.     | ozs.  |
| British Guiana, 1895 | 12,770 | 4,279 | —       | 31,613    | —         | 8,484 |
| 1894                 | 15,423 | 6,461 | —       | —         | —         | 4,338 |
| Trinidad             | 312    | 1     | 1,120   | 4,088,210 | 9,651     | —     |
| 1894                 | 942    | —     | 960     | 3,648,850 | 13,092    | —     |

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM**—Landings for 1895, 112,382 tons, against 129,437; Deliveries, 114,449 tons, against 129,559; Stocks 56,967, against 78,367.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES**—(C. Czarnikow, 7th March). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 2,132,767 tons, against 1,549,026; United States, 130,000, against 106,566; Cuba, 189,000, against 191,000. Total 2,451,767 tons, against 1,846,592.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET**—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 7th March) 9s. 3d. against 13s. 1½d. for the same time 1894.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 7th March.—Weather dry with occasional showers but more would be acceptable. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.), 10th February.—Weather middling. 19th.—Weather favourable. 26th.—Weather favourable. 5th March.—Weather favourable. (Per favour of Colonial Company, Limited). 12th February.—Fine with occasional light showers. 26th.—Weather fine for harvesting. (Per favour of Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull & Co.) 6th March.—Having very good weather for Crop harvesting going on well. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 12th February.—No rain since last message. 26th.—No rain since last message. (There are no Antigua telegrams, but Mail reports continued dry weather.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

8th April, 1895.

SUGAR QUESTION.—The following letter to Lord Kimberley is still awaiting reply:—  
 “29th March, 1895. My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Grey's letter of the 28th February last, enclosing, for the confidential information of the West India Committee, copy of a despatch addressed by Her Majesty's Commercial Attaché for Western Europe to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris on proposed Sugar Legislation in France. I have to thank your Lordship for the copy of the despatch, which generally confirms the view we have always held, that any legislation in Germany with the view of raising the bounty, or otherwise increasing the State aid to the Sugar industry, would be met by retaliatory action on the part of France. As the crisis now affects every Sugar industry of the world, including that of the British Colonies, may we hope that your Lordship would be pleased to express the interest felt by Her Majesty's Government on the question of the general abolition of bounties, and also to cause Foreign Governments to understand that if there should be a desire to effect an International arrangement, Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to give any encouragement or facilities within their power.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK.”

There is as yet nothing definite known as to the legislative intentions of France and Germany to increase bounties, but the matter seems to be growing ripe for further pressure on our own Government to bring about an International arrangement. Sugar is not the only article of British production threatened by bounties. The enormous British and Irish interests connected with Butter and Cheese have been attacked, as the following proceedings in the House of Commons on 29th March will show. Mr. Wingfield-Digby asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, in view of the unequal competition to which the British and Irish farmers were subject through the importation of large quantities of bounty-assisted Cheese and Butter, he would induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider the propriety of neutralizing these bounty systems by imposing import duties on such goods, equivalent to the amount of the bounty. Mr. Gardner said, in reply, that this would be to embark upon a policy of retaliatory tariffs, and further said that he thought it was “generally understood,” that a duty designed to countervail bounties was in the nature of a protective duty. It is impossible to see by what process of reasoning Mr. Gardner should come to this conclusion. That the British Government can deal with foreign bounty imports is quite clear. In West India Committee Circular, No. 108, the following statement of the effect of the Treaties with Belgium and Germany by Sir E. Grey, the Foreign Under-Secretary, was quoted:—

- (1) They do not prevent differential treatment by the United Kingdom in favour of British Colonies.
- (2) They do prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of the United Kingdom.
- (3) They do not prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of each other. The first of these conclusions is apposite. France has always acted upon it in favour of her Colonies. Great Britain can do the same. France shuts out Foreign Sugar, not merely by countervailing but by protective duties. As there are no Sugar duties in England it is impossible to favour the Colonies by receiving their Sugar at reduced rates. The only alternatives, therefore, are either a countervailing



duty on Foreign Bounty Sugar, or else a direct payment, to equalize conditions, to Colonial Sugar on importation into United Kingdom. Either of these plans, according to Sir E. Grey, would meet treaty obligations. France, according to Sir J. Crowe, spends annually £2,500,000 on bounties—or, about £20,000,000 during the last ten years. The following are the French and German Sugar Import duties (*Board of Trade Journal*). France,—Moist Sugar, the estimated yield thereof at the Refinery being 98 per cent. or less: Imported directly from countries out of Europe other than French Colonies, 60 frs. per 100 Kilos of refined Sugar, or £1 4s. 3d. per cwt. of refined Sugar. Of European origin or imported from European entrepôts, plus per 100 Kilos, net, 7 frs. This is a surtax of 25 10d. per cwt. on European Sugar. Moist Sugar, of estimated yield of more than 98 per cent., 72 frs. per 100 Kilos, or £1 9s. 3d. per cwt. Refined 68 frs. per 100 Kilos, or £1 7s. 8d. per cwt. In Germany the import duties are—for Sugar, all kinds, 36 Mks. per 100 Kilos, or 18s. 4d. per cwt.; the same on Syrup or Molasses.

**SUGAR QUESTION IN UNITED STATES.**—In continuation of paragraph in last Circular under this heading, the Foreign Office (Sir E. Grey) writes, 16th March, acknowledging the letter and enclosed papers, and stating that "Lord Kimberley is not of opinion that it would be proper for Her Majesty's Government to take any action in the direction suggested." The action suggested was that the British Government should invite the Government of the United States to consider the injurious operation of the Continental system of export bounties on the trade of all other countries with the United States entitled to the most favoured nation treatment.

**THE SUGAR QUESTION IN WEST INDIES.**—The Hon. Thos. D. Foote forwards particulars of a Public Meeting held in St. John's, Antigua, and asking the support of the West India Committee to Resolutions passed at such Meeting, viz.: (1) expressing concern at proposed increase of bounties; (2) urging Governor to appeal to Secretary of State on the ground that the time had arrived when British Government should either insist on abolition of bounty system, or impose countervailing duties; (3) inviting co-operation of other West Indian Colonies for united action; (4) urging West India Committee to wait on Secretary of State. The above communication has been carefully considered, and the Committee are awaiting the views of the Colonies as a whole to support any action with the Imperial Government.

**BARBADOS**—Mr. Bovell, the Superintendent of the Botanical Station, has made a report, in which he says that the root disease is due in a great measure to the spores of the rind fungus being worked into the soil, and also to plants containing the fungus being used for replanting. Hardy varieties of cane are recommended, and planters should not take plants from diseased canes. This, no doubt, is an obvious recommendation, but it hardly seems to meet the real exigencies of the case. The Executive Committee of the Island has reported strongly in favour of an experimental central factory (or more) being established. Tobacco cultivation has also been suggested.

**BRITISH GUIANA**—Mail news reports nice showers beneficial to cultivation. Sir E. M. Shaw, late chief of the London Fire Brigade, has expressed himself favourably in regard to the local Fire Brigade after personal inspection. The manager of the Barima Development Syndicate is said to report favourably of gold-finding on the Syndicate's claims. The Agricultural Committee have agreed upon the desirability of establishing a pioneer central factory at La Penitence turning out 800 tons of Sugar per week of working. A resolution has been passed by the Combined Court in favour of promoting minor industries. The Banana and Fruit Commission is to report to the Governor. A Commission has also been appointed to consider the settlement of coolie immigrants in the Colony in lieu of back passage. A copy of the Ordinance for extending the time for the payment of promissory notes for indenture fees can be seen at this office.

TRINIDAD.—The Colonial Government have required 2,000 coolies this season. The following letter, 25th March, 1895, is still awaiting reply:—"To Lord Ripon. My Lord Marquess,—We have the honour to inform your Lordship that we have received from our correspondents in Trinidad information regarding an application to the Government of that Colony for certain measures of relief to the Sugar industry during the continuance of the present serious condition of that industry. These measures included a readjustment of the cost of immigration on the basis of two-thirds being payable by the general revenue and one-third by the planters, the abolition of the immigration tax on Sugar, and also the removal of the land tax. May we respectfully venture to inquire whether your Lordship has received any despatches containing the views of the Trinidad Government upon the above matters, and as your Lordship may not have arrived at any final decision with regard to them, we humbly trust that your Lordship would be pleased to receive a statement in support of such proposals as above-mentioned from the Trinidad proprietors in England and Scotland, either by deputation or otherwise.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*"

Mail news reports the resignation of Dr. de Verteuil as Councillor. Mr. Eugene Cipriani was nominated in his place. Mr. Bell-Smyth was re-appointed Member.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—In France rains have retarded the work in the fields. No precise estimate of probable sowings yet available. In the other countries the field work has been likewise delayed. No report as to sowings, but opinions are put forward suggesting a small diminution, say five per cent. At present this of course is mere guess work. Any German legislation can hardly affect coming crop, even if a Bill continuing present bounties, or perhaps slightly raising them, be passed. The insurrection in Cuba may affect Sugar output. Mr. Czarnikow reports that probably 15,000 tons have already been destroyed. The Java crop reports continue favourable.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(C. Czarnikow, 4th April, 1895). Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 2,113,977 tons, against 1,405,810 in 1894; United States, 147,000, against 232,090; Cuba, 305,000, against 253,000. Total 2,565,977 tons, against 1,890,900.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings for 1895 (13 weeks), 152,160 tons, against 183,300; Deliveries, 164,963 tons, against 190,109; Stocks 46,318, against 69,230.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 4th April) 9s. 3½d. against 12s. 6d.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—No copies of Demerara telegrams have been received since last circular. Trinidad, 19th and 27th March (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.)—Weather favourable. 27th (Per favour of the Colonial Company)—Weather fine for harvesting. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 12th and 26th March—Good reaping weather.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

6th May, 1895.

**SUGAR QUESTION.**—In regard to the letter to Lord Kimberley printed in last CIRCULAR, an acknowledgment of the same has been received (April 22nd), with the intimation that the matter is receiving the careful attention of Her Majesty's Government. Now that formal expressions of the opinion of the various Colonies are being forwarded to the Imperial Government, on the subject of Continental bounties and their possible increase, it is proposed to arrange a deputation to Lord Kimberley, or to Lord Ripon, or to both Ministers, as may be decided upon, in support of the Resolutions, copies of which have been received from the Colonies or observed in the Colonial newspapers.

**THE SUGAR QUESTION IN WEST INDIES.**—The Resolutions passed at the meeting in St. John's, Antigua, forwarded by the Hon. Thos. D. Foote, were printed in last Circular. In those Resolutions the co-operation of the West India Colonies generally was desired. An influential and interesting meeting was held at Basseterre, St. Christopher, on March 28th. Some of the speakers seemed to think that any endeavour to neutralize bounties was "protection," it being really in the truest interests of free trade to do away with bounties, by any legitimate means, either by expostulation with Foreign Governments, or by placing a duty, equivalent to the bounty, on Sugar imported into the United Kingdom, enjoying substantial money assistance from the Government (or the taxpayers) of the country where it is produced. It is not necessary to print here the St. Kitt's Resolutions. They protest against any proposed increase of bounties, and strongly urge that the British Government should take action on behalf of British Colonial interests now suffering so much injury and practically threatened with extinction. The effect of the present state of things on the industrial population of the Colonies is very strongly brought out. The important Colony of British Guiana has taken the matter up. The Planters' Association, through the Colonial Government, have sent to Lord Ripon (28th March) the following Resolutions:—"That this Association views with the greatest concern the proposed increase of Sugar bounties by the Governments of European countries, as such increased bounties, if granted, must tend to the extinction of the staple industry of this Colony. That this Association respectfully urges upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the great unfairness of the competition created by the system of bounties, and would ask that the British Government take such steps as may be necessary to protest against any increase of Sugar bounties by foreign countries, or to pass such legislation as would enable Sugar from this Colony to compete on fair terms in British markets with Sugar imported from countries giving export bounties. That His Excellency the Governor be requested to forward this Resolution to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies."

**BRITISH GUIANA.** The question of Government advances against crop was considered at a meeting in Georgetown on 28th March.—The opinions expressed were rather divergent, and the Government conditions were felt to be unduly onerous. But a Resolution in favour of the scheme was unanimously passed. From letters received, however, it does not appear that opinion in the Colony is in favour of the scheme as, under present Government conditions, it is considered difficult to work.

**BRITISH GUIANA RAILWAY EXTENSIONS.**—The proprietors in London, Liverpool and Glasgow agreed to a Resolution passed at a meeting held on 10th April, as follows:—"That the Secretary of State be respectfully requested—in consideration of the present critical condition of British Guiana, and the undesirability of the Colonial Government involving the Colony in any additional expenditure—to secure the postponement for at least one or two years of the carrying out of the proposed extension of the railway system." The Secretary of State, in reply, refers to the Resolution of the Combined Court of 28th February, and says:—"The negotiations on the subject with the Demerara Railway Company are not yet concluded, so that it is impossible for Lord Ripon to say at present when the railway extensions are likely to be proceeded with." (It is understood that the railway extensions—or the more important of them—are not likely to be proceeded with at present, although some letters from the Colony suggest that the present is a good time for proceeding with the West Coast Railway. On the other hand it is urged that this might raise the price of labour, especially considering the reduced immigration).

**TRINIDAD.**—Lord Ripon sanctions (letter to W. I. C., 5th April) the reduction by two-thirds during the present year of the export taxes on Sugar, Molasses and Rum. In his Lordship's opinion, the circumstances of Trinidad cannot be fairly compared with those of British Guiana, which Colony is dependent upon the one industry of Sugar to a much larger extent, and where the failure of any considerable number of Sugar Estates might seriously cripple the resources of the general community." The relief to the Trinidad Sugar Industry is of course quite inappreciable. The decision is based upon an extraordinary despatch sent by the Governor, Sir Napier Broome. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council had been appointed to consider the depression of the Agricultural Industries of the Island. They proposed some substantial relief measures. The minority report of Mr. C. Mitchell carries no weight. The immigration system has always been considered as promoting the general agricultural interests, and especially the interests of the industrial population of the Island. But the Governor thinks that any relief to agriculture, by which the whole Colony is benefitted, is in the nature of the Continental bounties granted to Beet Sugar. The Governor can only suggest that Sugar Estates should go out of cultivation. As for the reduction of immigration expenses being of the nature of a Continental bounty, to put forward such a suggestion is to show an entire ignorance of the question. There is, of course, no parallel between the two cases. The matter will not be allowed to rest upon the ground the Governor puts it. He was appointed to introduce reforms and to reduce public expenditure. He has done nothing to these ends. The waste of money, the duplication of offices, the whole system of administration, urgently demand reform; but, meanwhile, there seems a disposition on the part of the Colonial Government to cripple the principal industry of the Colony. The whole matter must be placed before Lord Ripon, for in the Secretary of State seems the only hope of a Government policy suitable to the present condition of the Colony.

**ST. LUCIA.**—A public meeting was held at Castries on the 16th January last, on the loss of crops caused by the hurricane, and a deputation waited on the Governor to propose that the Government should sanction the raising of a loan of £50,000 to £60,000, to be lent out to planters at as low a rate of interest as would be consistent with repayment, by means of a sinking fund, at the end of 30 years. Lord Ripon, however, has not approved of the scheme.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 17th APRIL.

|                | Sugar,<br>Tons. | Rum,<br>Puns. | Coffee,<br>Lbs. | Cocoa,<br>Lbs. | Asphalt,<br>Tons. | Gold,<br>Ozs. |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA | ... 1895—18,104 | ... 6,409     | ...             | 45,800         | ...               | 25,058        |
| Do.            | ... 1894—20,821 | ... 7,378     | ...             | none           | ...               | 23,408        |
| TRINIDAD       | ... 1895—16,800 | ... 648       | 13,120          | 11,076,570     | 18,451            | ...           |
| Do.            | ... 1894—18,190 | ... 4         | 2,160           | 7,598,290      | 31,579            | ...           |



**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Mr. Licht (27th April) says the estimate of the total decrease of 5 per cent. in Beet growing in Germany, as against preceding year, is variously considered too low, 10 and 15 per cent. being mentioned. A 10 per cent. decrease would mean, with last year's yield, a German crop of 1,650,000 tons, or 200,000 tons less than 1894-5. Taking a five years' average of yield, the crop would be 1,475,000. Weather in April was too cold in Germany. In France the weather has favoured the field work, and sowing is rapidly proceeding. Generally speaking, the Beet culture in Europe is estimated, as against last year's area, at a reduction of between 5 and 10 per cent.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Licht, 27th April). Europe 1,953,451 against 1,150,075; United States, 196,000 against 257,725; Cuba, 350,520 against 309,880; Floating to North America, 30,171 against 33,445. Total 2,530,142 tons against 1,751,125. (Czarnikow, 2nd May). Total Visible Supplies, 2,507,852 against 1,751,781.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings for 1895 (17 weeks), 236,104 tons, against 236,807; Deliveries, 218,793 tons, against 249,667; Stocks 77,154, against 65,598.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 2nd May) 9s. 7½d. against 11s. 8¼d.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—British Guiana, 1st May (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell and Co.)—Weather very dry and rain much wanted. Trinidad, 23rd April (per favour of The Colonial Company, Ltd.)—Weather fine for harvesting. (Per favour of Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley and Co., Ltd.)—Weather favourable. 29th—Weather favourable. 3rd May (per favour of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.)—Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily. Barbados. (Per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller)—9th and 22nd April. Good reaping weather.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

3rd June, 1895.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—The most important proceedings have recently taken place in Germany. A temporary Bill has been passed by the Reichstag continuing the present export premiums, and at the same time international negotiations have been opened between Germany and Austria for a mutual reduction or abolition of export premiums. The German Bill contains a provision empowering the Federal Council to lower or abolish those premiums in case other nations did the same. The Foreign Office have forwarded to the W. I. Committee the following documents. (1) A despatch, 18th May, from Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Kimberley enclosing copies of the German Bill by which the existing bounties on exportation, which, according to the present law would have been reduced on the 1st August next, are to be continued to 31st July, 1897. This Bill is only a temporary measure, as the Government intend, in the next Session of the Reichstag to introduce a measure remodelling the whole Law relating to the taxation of Sugar and providing for an increase in the bounties on exportation. (2) Copy of the Bill as follows:—"In the place of the 1st and 2nd clauses of Section 68 of the Law relating to the taxation of Sugar of 31st May, 1891, it is enacted as follows: for the duration of a transitional period up to 31st July, 1897, bounties shall be granted out of the receipts from the Sugar Tax, for Sugar of the qualities enumerated in Section 67, Clause 1, under A. B. and C., when exported beyond the frontier or deposited in a public bonded warehouse or in a private warehouse under official seal, in quantities not less than 500 kilos. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton), these bounties shall amount to—in Class A., M. 1.25; Class B., M. 2.00; Class C., 1.65 per 100 kilos. (3) The Exposé des Motifs attached to the Bill is as follows:—"According to Law 68, 31st May, 1891, the bounties up to 31st July, 1895 were fixed in Class A. Raw Sugar, containing at least 90 per cent., and refined Sugar containing from 90 per cent. to 98 per cent. of pure Sugar, M. 1.25. In Class B., best refined and crystallized Sugar, M. 2.00. In Class C., other varieties of Sugar, containing at least 98 per cent. of pure Sugar M. 1.65 per 100 kilos. The bounties were to be reduced from 1st August, 1895 to, in Class A., M. 1.00, in Class B., M. 1.75, in Class C., M. 1.40 per 100 kilos., and after 31st July, 1897, they were to cease altogether. At the end of July next, therefore the bounties would be reduced by 18 to 15 of their present amount, and this would hit the German Sugar industry at a moment when, in consequence of the unfavourable condition of the market, it is struggling against an undeniable depression. The price of Sugar has fallen in recent years up to the beginning of the present year, and is now so depressed that, even with low prices of Beetroot, the cost of production cannot be covered. Nor is there any prospect in the immediate future of an adequate rise in prices. As the cultivation of cereals has become from year to year less remunerative, agriculturists have been forced into growing Beetroot, and consequently the production of Beet Sugar has increased to such an extent that home consumption cannot keep pace with it. The foreign market also affords no adequate vent for this excess of production, especially as the Sugar Industry of the competing States, some of which grant very high bounties, can more easily support the depression of the price of Sugar in the general market than the German Sugar Industry can. In addition to this, the United States who, until lately were, next to Great Britain, the principal buyers of German Sugar, have recently subjected it to a specially unfavourable customs treatment. Under these circumstances



it appeared desirable, in accordance with the assurance given during the debates in the Reichstag which led to the passing of the Sugar Taxation Act of the 31st May, 1891, to submit the question of the continuance or increase of the present Sugar bounties to a careful examination. The investigations which have been made on this subject have shown that the present depression of the Sugar Industry, and the agricultural production connected with it, cannot be permanently relieved merely by an increase of the bounties, and without a thorough change in the law relating to the taxation of Sugar. It is doubtful, however, whether the necessary reform of taxation could be carried out during the present Session of the Reichstag, as the views of the parties interested in the matter are at present widely divergent. It is all the more important therefore that the assistance afforded by means of bounties to the Sugar Industry to enable it to compete in the general market, should not be allowed to fall away before the question is finally regulated. The amendment to the Law relating to the taxation of Sugar now proposed provides, therefore, in case no further changes in the law should be possible before 1st August, 1895, at least for a temporary maintenance of the bounties at their present height." Further despatch from Sir E. Malet, Berlin, 21st May: reports that the Bill for maintaining the present bounties was passed in second reading by 101 votes to 35. The following paragraph was added. "The Federal Council is empowered to reduce the above bounties either temporarily or permanently, or to suspend entirely the provision for the payment of bounties, whenever other Countries which produce Beetroot Sugar and at present grant bounties on the manufacture or exportation of Sugar shall reduce or abolish them. The decision of the Federal Council in this respect shall be laid before the Reichstag at once, if it is in Session, or as soon as it next meets. Upon the demand of the Reichstag this decision must be rescinded."

W. I. C. to the Earl of Kimberley, 20th May, 1895:—"My Lord,—Referring to recent correspondence upon the present condition of the Sugar industry, and especially to our letter to your Lordship of the 8th April last, wherein we conveyed the hope that your Lordship would be pleased to express the interest felt by Her Majesty's Government in the question of the general abolition of bounties, and also to cause Foreign Governments to understand that if there should be a desire to effect an international arrangement, Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to give any encouragement or facilities within their power; we have now the honour to ask whether it would be convenient to your Lordship to receive a Deputation in support of the above proposed action in the latter part of June. We have been encouraged to request this favour by the acknowledgment of Sir Edward Grey, dated 22nd April, of our letter of the 8th April, in which it is stated, by your Lordship's direction, that the matter was receiving the careful attention of Her Majesty's Government. Should your Lordship be pleased to grant the interview, we propose to present a Memorial drawing your Lordship's special attention to Resolutions and Memorials adopted by the Legislatures, and other public bodies in British Guiana and the West Indian Colonies, praying that Her Majesty's Government would take such action as would facilitate the general abolition of bounties by Foreign Powers. In view of the serious effect of these bounties upon the interests and welfare of the British Sugar-producing Colonies, we are confident that your Lordship would be disposed to attach importance to such expressions of Colonial opinion. May we also ask whether it would meet with your Lordship's approval that we should address the Marquess of Ripon, who, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, has received officially, through the Colonial Governments, copies of the Resolutions and Memorials above-mentioned, with the view of requesting that his Lordship should, if convenient, be present at the interview. (Sd.) N. Lubbock, Chairman. The above letter was acknowledged by the F.O., and the following further letter was addressed to the Under-Secretary of State. 29th May, 1895:—"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, transmitting by the direction of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs copy of a despatch from Sir Edward Malet, forwarding copy translation of a bill which had been laid before the German Reichstag, for continuing the present bounties on the exportation of Beetroot Sugar, until 31st July, 1897. I have also to acknowledge



the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, containing a further communication from Sir E. Malet, on the same subject. We beg that you will convey to the Secretary of State our respectful thanks for the above important papers. The provision empowering the Federal Council to lower or abolish the export premiums, in the event of other nations doing the same, combined with the reported negotiations between Germany and Austria for an International arrangement, and also with the admission in the Exposé des Motifs attached to the German Bill that 'the present depression of the sugar industry, and the agricultural productions connected with it, cannot be permanently relieved merely by an increase of the bounties,' would seem to bring about such a position of affairs as would justify Her Majesty's Government in communicating with Foreign Powers, with a view of offering facilities and encouragement to the movement for the general abolition of bounties. It is in support of this suggested action of Her Majesty's Government that we ventured to ask for an interview with the Secretary of State in the latter part of next month."—(Sd.) N. Lubbock, Chairman.

**RETAIL SALE OF SUGAR.**—Sir Walter Foster, M.P., Secretary to Local Government Board, and Chairman of Select Committee of House of Commons on Food Products, has been asked (28th May) if the Select Committee will receive evidence on (1) the colouring of Beet Sugar Crystals with an aniline dye so as to resemble Demerara and other Cane Crystals and sold as such; (2) the operation of the Merchandize Marks Acts and the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts upon the retail sale of Sugar, and especially upon the common practice of selling Beet Sugar instead of Cane Sugar when the latter is asked for, and (3) whether any strengthening of any of the above-mentioned Acts, or the enactment of similar provisions to those contained in the Margarine Act, would be desirable, with the view of securing to the consumer the exact article he requires and pays for.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—A letter was addressed to the Colonial Office on 10th May, explaining a portion of the Committee's letter of the 27th February, relating to the action of Magistrates in the cases of Coolies brought before them for non-performance of work. The correspondence will be given in next Circular; also a letter about to be addressed to the Secretary of State on the Draft Ordinance for Sea Defences, published by the British Guiana Government for general information.

**ST. LUCIA.**—The Secretary of State (21st May) having received from the Governor in chief of the Windward Islands representations as to the serious prospects of industry in St. Lucia, has decided to authorize advances being made to Sugar Estates in accordance with the principles recently sanctioned in the case of British Guiana.

**BEET PROSPECTS.** (Licht, 25th May).—The Beet planting was finished in Germany, by the second week in May, while it is not possible to give the exact figure of the cultivated area; there will be a probable minus in Germany in Beet-growing of about 10 per cent., perhaps  $12\frac{1}{2}$  to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Should  $12\frac{1}{2}$  happen to agree with the actual facts, then, according to the yield of the last crop, the minus in the sugar yield would amount to about 240,000 tons, and after the average of the last 5 years, even to about 450,000 tons in Germany alone. In Austria the weather had generally been more favourable than in Germany. The state of the Beet fields is generally satisfactory. The minus might be estimated at 12 to 15 per cent. Sugar Beets have been sown much less than formerly, and some agricultural reports give the minus as ranging from 15 to 40 per cent., but the minus must not be judged too large. France complains of weather delaying the shooting of the sown Beet kernels. It is reported that the manufacturers have contracted for about 10 to 14 per cent. less of beets than last year. The minus in the sowings is said to range between 5 and 10 per cent., the lower figure being nearest actual state of things. In Belgium and Holland up to about 15 per cent. less of Beet-growing is expected. In Russia there will not be any important minus. For the whole of Europe, if there should be a decrease of about 10 per cent. of the cultivated area, this would show a



minus of about 485,000 tons, and with an average crop a minus of 700,000 tons. The minus in cultivation will not be made good by better crop yields. On the contrary, according to the laws of probabilities it might be expected that the minus caused by the decrease in the sowings may become still more decided by an inferior crop yield, since the results of the previous campaigns were extraordinarily high ones.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES**—(Licht, 25th May). Europe 1,751,611 against 982,153 tons; United States 272,000 against 267,329; Cuba 335,280 against 314,960; Floating to North America 20,882 against 18,148. Total 2,379,773 against 1,582,590. Mr. Czarnikow (30th May) gives the totals at 2,368,140 against 1,578,224.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM**.—21 weeks Landings 307,023 tons, against 205,540 tons; Deliveries 276,777 against 301,775; Stocks 89,889 against 72,242.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET**.—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 30th May), 10/1½ against 11/0.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS**.—British Guiana, (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell and Co., Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co., and The Colonial Company, Limited). 11th May—Rains are commencing generally. 14th—Rainy Season has set in. Rain has fallen heavily. 17th—Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message. 20th—A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable. 24th—Fine rains have fallen generally since last message. 24th—No rain for some days: rain is falling generally to-day. 24th—Showery and unsettled. Trinidad—(per favour Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited, Messrs. Gregor Turnbull & Co., and The Colonial Company, Limited). 7th May—Weather fine for harvesting. 7th—Favourable. 15th—Weather too dry. 15th—Very good weather for crop. 22nd—Weather too dry. 22nd—Fine for harvesting. 28th—Fine with occasional light showers. 28th—Weather favourable. Barbados—(per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 7th May—Fine rains generally throughout the Island and appearance of more. 21st—Dry. Antigua 30th May—Good rains have fallen generally, 4 inches since last mail.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

1st July, 1895.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—The Foreign Office write, 10th June:—"The Chairman, Sir, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acquaint you that His Lordship has carefully considered—in communication with the Board of Trade and the Colonial Office—the request conveyed in your letter of the 20th ultimo, that he should receive a deputation during the latter part of the present month, respecting the question of foreign bounties on Sugar. I am now to inform you that, bearing in mind the difficulties which arose in 1889, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to take any initiative in summoning another conference, and that they cannot suggest any basis for a satisfactory international arrangement which is likely to be accepted. It does not, therefore, appear to His Lordship that any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject. (Signed) F. GREY." It is a matter for consideration what further steps can be taken, especially in view of a new Government. The movement on this side is not sufficiently supported by the Colonies, and some difficulty has been caused by certain opinions having been expressed in memorials and speeches urging the abolition of bounties on the ground of what is known as "fair trade." The abolition of bounties has always been advocated here as purely a free trade measure, having no connection with any "fair trade" or "protective" opinions and parties.

**CANE SUGAR AND BEET.**—Mr. Lubbock gave evidence on 18th June before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Food Products Adulteration. He said that Demerara and other Cane Sugars of the West Indies, had acquired a reputation in the various markets, and there was much and increasing demand for them by retail consumers. The reputation thus enjoyed, had induced imitations, which were made by taking cheaper white Beet Crystals, and dyeing these with an aniline dye, so as to produce a deceptive resemblance to Demerara Crystals, and obtaining the increased price of the latter. Chemically, the white crystals showed originally, as high an analysis of actual Sugar contained in them as the genuine Demerara, but when coloured, their analysis was inferior, and they were of less price value than Demerara. This was obviously a fraud upon the public, and Mr. Lubbock detailed the various prosecutions of Grocers which had taken place, resulting in conviction and fines, and in one case heavy costs as well. This was satisfactory, but some amendment of the Law was wanted to give greater security to the purchaser. The imitation Sugar was undoubtedly an infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act of 1887, as being a false trade description, and came within the penal provisions of the Act, but to set these in operation, it was necessary, in the opinion of Mr. Poland, Q.C., that the false trade description should be actually applied to the package sold, which should be labelled "Cane" or "Beet" or "Mixed." By thus labelling Sugar according to its quality, as Cane or Beet, it would be placed under similar conditions of sale as Coffee, Butter and Margarine. Grocers would be anxious to have the Law made clear, as in the main they are innocent distributors. The honest Grocer of course suffers from dishonest practices of competitors.

**A GERMAN FACTORY.**—One of the best factories, Korbisdorf, reports as follows:—The Capital consists of, Shares, £135,000; Mortgage, £109,900; Preference Debentures, £18,375; total, £263,275. The total area of farm is 5,035 acres, about half being the property of the Company and half rented. 1,520 acres are in beet and seed, the remainder in other roots and cereals. 27,641 tons of



roots were grown, showing 18 tons to the acre, and 26,606 tons were bought. These are all charged at 21/- per ton, the yield in Sugar being a little over 12 % on roots. The loss on the Sugar made was £5,080; against this a profit from other sources is shown of £15,000. Deducting general expenses, interest, &c., the actual result is shown of £1,000 being written off, and £1,350 carried forward.

**BRITISH GUIANA RAILWAY EXTENSION.**—It is matter of common knowledge that the Demerara Railway Company have arrived or nearly so, at a conclusion of the long-continued negotiations with the Crown Agents on the extension question, and it may be assumed that the West Coast portion of the scheme is in a fair way of being carried out, supposing the present circumstances of the Colony to allow of it. There is no desire on this side to hinder unduly the execution of these works, and the request for a year's delay has been much misunderstood. The West Coast Extension will probably pay its expenses, but it is doubtful if the Berbice extension will do so, and present circumstances would seem to indicate the prudence of only proceeding with one of the extensions at a time, and also that the one to be proceeded with first should be the one most likely to be remunerative.

**ST. KITTS-NEVIS.**—Letter to Lord Ripon, 22nd June, 1895. "My Lord Marquess.—I am desired by Proprietors and Merchants, in England, connected with St. Kitts-Nevis, to draw the serious attention of your Lordship to the Memorial which your Lordship has just received from that Presidency. In the year 1855, an Immigration Fund was formed by the imposition of Export duties on produce. It has been fully recognised, as a sound and indispensable principle, that export duties in the West Indies should only be levied as a contribution from the Planters for the specific purpose of introducing immigrants: they have always for such purpose been carried to a separate account, and have not been available for general revenue. The St. Kitts' Act expressly provided that the money thus raised should be applied to immigration, and under the provisions of the Act a considerable sum of money accrued, which money was beyond the control of the Government, and properly stood as an amount to the credit of the planters in the Immigration Fund. Early in the present year (1895) when the large expenditure of the preceding years had impoverished the Treasury, Sir W. Haynes Smith applied for the use of this money (about £11,400) for general purposes, promising to the planters in exchange for the grant the suspension for a year of the Land Tax, Parochial Tax, Statistical Tax and Water Tax. The Statistical Tax had been imposed in consequence of the arrangement with the United States of 1891, and would (as in other colonies) have properly ceased when that arrangement came to an end in 1894, leaving the Colonies open to resume their former tariffs. The Council, relying entirely on his Excellency's assurance that the above-mentioned taxes would be remitted, accepted the plan proposed by him, and the same was embodied in an Ordinance (No. 2 of 1895) and submitted to your Lordship. The Ordinance has been disallowed, but your Lordship in your dispatch of 9th April last, to Sir Francis Fleming, the present Governor, says that the second section, and the suspension of the Statistical Tax, should be re-enacted by a fresh Ordinance. If this be done the whole of the Immigration Fund will be appropriated to general revenue, while the remission of taxes, in consideration of which alone the Council assented to such appropriation, will be almost entirely disallowed. Under these circumstances, I beg respectfully, at the desire of those whom I represent, to echo and adopt the Memorial above referred to. The staple industry of St. Kitts-Nevis—that of sugar planting—is in a most critical condition, brought about by unfavourable seasons, and by extremely low prices, directly due to the foreign bounties on sugar, and I would therefore humbly beg to press upon your Lordship that on the grounds of necessity and equity alike, the immigration money should be applied, or at least the greater portion of it, to relieve the planters in their present trying position, and to assist them in finding employment for the labourers by the cultivation of their estates; and I would respectfully submit that the compromise, embodied in Ordinance No. 2 of 1895, would acceptably accomplish the object of the Memorialists. With regard to the Water Tax, I am requested strongly to endorse the Resolution of the



Council passed on 3rd May, last, as follows:—That the Secretary of State be requested to reconsider his decision in respect of the remission of the Water Taxes, inasmuch as the levying now of a Tax believed to have been remitted by the Government, and which is largely paid by the poor classes, will cause serious disaffection and distress among a large portion of the community." I am further humbly to refer to Par. 8 of your Lordship's despatch of 9th April last, and to endeavour to meet the proposition therein contained. Adopting the figures of the despatch, it may be pointed out that if the remission of taxation provided for by Ordinance 2 of 1895, be carried out and the capital of the Immigration Fund, as well as the estimated surplus of the Budget of the present year, be applied in reduction of the total deficit made up of the deficit in revenue account of 1st January, 1895, and of the amount of the remitted taxes, the result would be that the deficit in revenue account on 1st January, 1896, would stand at £9,482, an amount two-fifths less than the deficit on 1st January, 1895, viz.: £9,256. This, after a year of exceptional depression, will be a very satisfactory result, and constitute a great advance towards sounder finance, while at the same time a grave injustice, as it appears to those interested in the Immigration Fund, will be avoided. It is submitted that these considerations show that the compromise contained in the Ordinance may be carried out with safety to the finances of the Colony. In conclusion, I am humbly to ask the favour of an interview for a small deputation, with your Lordship, if it should suit your convenience, in order to explain more fully to your Lordship the urgent necessity of the Sugar Industry of St. Kitts-Nevis obtaining the above relief.—(Sd.) N. Lubbock, Chairman.

## SHIPMENTS TO 12th JUNE.

|                          | Sugar,<br>Tons | Rum,<br>Puns | Coffee,<br>Lbs | Cocoa,<br>Lbs. | Asphalt,<br>Tons. | Gold,<br>Ozs |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA ... 1895— | 24,288         | 7,998        | —              | 68,885         | —                 | 46,708       |
| Do. ... 1894—            | 24,729         | 8,286        | —              | 3,000          | —                 | 46,702       |
| TRINIDAD ... 1895—       | 38,000         | 1,348        | 14,720         | 17,000,000     | 29,744            | —            |
| Do. ... 1894—            | 25,000         | 204          | 6,800          | 9,000,000      | 38,000            | —            |
| BARBADOS ... 1895—       | 17,000         | —            | —              | —              | —                 | —            |
| Do. ... 1894—            | 38,860         | —            | —              | —              | —                 | —            |

**BEET PROSPECTS.** (Licht, 22nd June).—The weather in Germany (with rains) has proved very beneficial, with the present favourable weather the work in the Beet fields is going on steadily; a continuance of warm weather will still more improve roots. France and Austria also send favourable reports. The acreage growing in 1895 is reported by the "Statistic Union," to be less by 12.75 per cent. than 1894. If this is correct and yield is same as last year, the minus in the total Beet Sugar production would be 615,000 tons, with 10 per cent. less sowings the minus would be 485,000 tons. The revolution in Cuba may affect Cane supplies.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Licht, 22nd June). Europe 1,505,395 against 827,586 tons; United States 294,000 against 286,307; Cuba 309,880 against 243,840; Floating to North America 22,746 against 24,383. Total 2,132,021 against 1,382,116. Mr. C. Czarnikow (27th June,) gives totals at 2,125,527 against 1,344,707.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—25 weeks Landings 389,973 tons, against 365,211 tons; Deliveries 340,062 against 362,054; Stocks 109,754 against 81,614.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 27th June), 9/6 against 12/3

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—British Guiana (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell and Co. Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co., and The Colonial Company, Limited). 7th June—Favourable for cultivation, heavy showers alternately with hot sunshine. 11th—Heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation. 20th—Weather all that could be desired, nice showers with fine days intervening.







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CIRCULAR No. 120.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

29th July, 1895.

LORD RIPON.—The Chairman to the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., 3rd July, 1895. My Lord Marquess,—I am desired by the West India Committee, representing Proprietary, Banking, and Mercantile interests in the United Kingdom, connected with British Guiana and the West Indies, to take the opportunity of your Lordship retiring from the Office of Secretary of State for the Colonies, most respectfully and sincerely to thank your Lordship for the very kind and considerate attention which you have always given to the matters which have been brought before you affecting the welfare of those Colonies. The unflinching courtesy with which your Lordship has received numerous Deputations has been much appreciated, and the real desire which you have shown to render every possible assistance to the Colonies during a period of great depression will be always most gratefully remembered. (Signed) N. LUMMOCK, Chairman." Lord Ripon in reply (9, Chelsea Embankment, S.W., 6th July) expresses his thanks for the letter, and says that he has received it with much gratification.

THE BOUNTY QUESTION.—A Conference (says the *Deutsche Zucker-industrie*) has been held at Vienna between representatives of the German, Austrian and Hungarian Governments. All eventualities were fully considered, and a report will be submitted to the respective Governments. The *'Cologne Gazette'* however, thinks that the negotiations have had no result, although it admits that the abolition of bounties is everywhere, and especially in Austria-Hungary, said to be desirable. One proposal before the Conference was to continue the present bounties with successive reductions until extinction. Both the Austrian Government and Sugar fabricants appear to be agreed upon this view, the latter desiring to have an understanding with the German Government, binding Austria and Germany not to increase the present bounties except after mutual agreement. Whatever motive may be influencing Austria, whether it be to delay legislation or tie the hands of Germany, her view seems in favour of International negotiations. The *Deutsche Zucker-industrie* strongly opposes this view, but thinks Germany should continue free to increase her bounties, without regard to other Countries, if it is to the interest of her Sugar industry to do so. It says "so long as these bounties are given in the various countries, the Sugar market is a seat of war, and it is only after one of the combatants has been conquered that peace will be declared." And again, "it is only with sufficiently high bounties that we can struggle against and conquer France—that disturber of the peace in the sugar market—and raise her to the point of reasonableness reached by the German fabricants, who think the principle of giving bounties entirely wrong, but are compelled to ask for them by the higher bounties given by competing Countries. (Note.—The above shows the different views discussed, and is on the whole favourable to a solution of a question which is considered very urgent by the Sugar Powers. The desire of Austria not to increase her bounties, and the existence of a powerful party in Germany opposed to bounties are two important factors in the question, pending the report of the recent Vienna Conference.)

Sugar legislation is also proposed in Belgium. The *prise en charge* in sugar factories was raised in 1887 to 1,500 grammes, and to 1,650 in 1889, and two superior classes of raw sugar for exportation were created. These measures were not successful in fixing the legal minimum. It is proposed to suppress the two superior classes and to raise the *prise en charge* another 50 grammes. Before 1880-90 the *prise en charge* did not average more than 93,000,000 kilos. (or 93,000 tons), since then it has risen to 200,000 tons. This increase in production does not give the expected revenue, even with the retention of three francs per 100 kilos. of the drawback given on sugar exported, imposed to make up the deficit of revenue. But this attempt to provide for the deficit causes perturbation to the industry. It is proposed to raise the *prise en charge* to 1,750 grammes. The minimum of sugar receipts is to be raised to 6,500,000 francs. The credit allowed to sugar makers is limited to two months. The drawback on candy sugar is to be diminished from 59-66 to 58 francs. The Government is to have power to modify the surtax on foreign sugars within certain limits, according to the extent of the bounties granted by other countries. The Bill provides for a duty and drawback



of 28 francs per 100 kilos of first-class sugar, and 5.70 second-class. The yield in refined is based on 88 per 100 kilos of raw second-class. In addition to the Customs and Excise duties, a surtax is imposed on cane and foreign beet of from 10 to 15 per cent. of those duties. The *prise en charge* is raised to 1,750 grammes for 1896-7. The minimum revenue from sugar duties to be 6,500,000 francs, any excess to be carried to the account of next year's Excise. Any deficit to be recovered from the fabricant.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

The above movements on the Continent are fairly in the right direction, and matters seem ripe for the intervention of the English Government in favour of an International settlement. It is proposed to put before Lord Salisbury the same proposals for the exertion of English influence that were placed before Lord Kimberley. The revival of the Convention of August, 1888, in its existing or in a modified form, should meet with Parliamentary approval if submitted by the Government. There are two further encouraging signs. Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has expressed his interest in developing the resources of Crown and "Plantation" Colonies; and Mr. Balfour has brought into great prominence the necessity of remedying unfair trade competition. The difficulty found by the West India Committee in moving effectively is the almost utter want of support from the Colonies themselves, and the misconceptions which are put forward there of the true bearing of the question. Mr. Howell Jones' speech against supporting the Anti-bounty movement, delivered at the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana in June, has excited much surprise, considering that the present condition of the Colony, and the losses on the cultivation of Sugar estates are entirely due to the overproduction of Beet Sugar, caused by bounties. It seems hopeless to point out to Mr. Jones that the removal of bounties is essentially a free trade measure. If he is content with the present state of things no one can object, but he has no right to misrepresent the question, or to attempt to discourage a movement which has a much better chance now of securing the sympathy of the English Parliament and people than it ever had before.

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES—16th July, 1895. To the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies. "Sir, I have the honour to inform you that the British Guiana Proprietors represented by this Committee have had under consideration the Bill published for general information by the Colonial Government, to make better provision for the maintenance of the Sea Defences of the Colony. (2) This Bill is no doubt the result of representations which have been made to the Secretary of State in past years upon the unsatisfactory position of the matter; but we venture to urge some important objections to the proposed Bill, and to respectfully request that it may not be approved in its present shape. (3) Referring to Clause 3 of the Bill we think that too much power is vested in the Colonial Civil Engineer, who is practically made the sole authority as to the construction and maintenance of Sea Defence works. We humbly submit that it is reasonable that the Estates which may be affected should have some voice in the matter. (4) With regard to clause 16 empowering the Board of Works Department to prepare a scheme of Sea Defence having one uniform line for the District, the Works to be constructed in a solid and durable manner, we have to remark that there is no proper and effective check provided as to the details of such scheme, or the cost, or appropriate time of carrying it out, especially as a scheme might very possibly be proposed which would be in excess of the value of the property protected, in illustration of which we would instance the recent works at Plaisance. The time of notice allowed (one month) for objections to be made is much too short, excluding the possibility of all reference to Proprietors away from the Colony at the time. And there would apparently be no probability that any objection would be successful, the Governor in Council being bound to act, or, at all events being entirely dependent upon the advice of the Public Works Department. In the proposals we venture to make later in this Letter we respectfully suggest the kind of provision that should be made upon this point. (5) Clause 19 is objectionable because it makes the Commissioner (*i.e.* the Colonial Civil Engineer) the sole judge as to new work required to be begun in a district. (6) Section one of Clause 20 appears to be somewhat too arbitrary in its character, while Section 2 confers unduly large and peremptory powers upon a single Department, and the interests or wishes of the Owner of the Estate are not sufficiently guarded. Under Section 3 unduly large powers are conferred with respect to the wood and material which the Department are empowered to take from any plantation. The cutting down of the Courida groves in front of an Estate might expose it to grave damage. Section 4 in its present form, giving power to the Department to interfere with sluices, kokers and other works of drainage on a plantation is not likely to be tolerable in practice. A rearrangement of drainage, sluices and kokers might easily involve many thousands of pounds. (7) We venture respectfully to suggest that a Bill should be drafted upon the following lines:—

- (a) That Districts should be formed for (1) Essequibo; (2) West Coast; (3) East Coast, to include Coast between Georgetown and Mahaica; (4) From Mahaica to Berbice River; (5) Berbice—but for these two latter no provision is necessary at present.



- (b) The expense of maintaining Sea Defences to be borne in equal parts by the Colonial Revenue and the District in which the expenditure is incurred; the second moiety to be assessed on Sugar Estate, according to area of cultivation, length of facade, and liability to attack, and equitably upon Villages and Property of all other kind protected. River Estates being excluded from assessment. The final assessment to be made by a tribunal to be appointed by the Governor, and who shall give all the Estates concerned an opportunity of objecting to the proposed assessment.
- (c) Assuming the appointment of a Commissioner with modified powers, there should be formed a Board of Proprietors or their representatives, not less than three members being elected for each district in operation; the Board to report to the Governor in Council as to construction and maintenance of proposed works, and, in any case, where the Board disagree from the Commissioner, no work shall be done except under the authority of the Court of Policy.

(8) In reference to the above suggestions, we would again urge that the matter should be taken up as one affecting the whole Colony, the comfort, convenience and safety of its inhabitants, as well as connected with the maintenance of public roads and railways, which would be submerged by the breakdown of the sea defences. The safety of the city of Georgetown, too, has been and is dependent upon the maintenance, at great private cost, of the sea-wall upon a contiguous estate, and we think it only reasonable that Georgetown should devote a portion of its municipal revenues to the continuance of this security. We may also point out that even in regard to estates that have not been appreciably subject to attacks from the sea, these are dependent upon their neighbours maintaining their front dams, and it does not seem unreasonable that such estates should contribute towards the expense of work which indirectly provides for their security. And, further, we do not think it justifiable to vest, as is proposed in Clause 36 of the Bill, the property of all works in a district exclusively in the Commissioner. In conclusion, it will be seen that one of our principal contentions being that the whole power of planning, construction and maintenance, and consequently expense of the works and assessment is conferred by the Bill upon the Public Works Department, the election of the Board of Owners is necessary to make the scheme acceptable. We are aware that the above is a bare outline of a scheme, and that many important details will have to be considered before a satisfactory ordinance can be framed, but these can be dealt with in the Colony, where there are available most competent men, thoroughly experienced in regard to all questions connected with Sea Defences.

(9) We beg to add, that while we think the question is one that should be settled at a favourable opportunity, we do not urge an immediate settlement, considering the depressed condition of the Colony, and the absence of any pressing necessity for Sea Defence works, and we should especially deprecate any increase of departmental expenses for such purpose. We think, however, that the above proposals are worthy of consideration, not as suggesting a final scheme but as affording a basis for discussion at an early convenient date in the Colony.—(Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman.

(NOTE.—A letter from Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co. was enclosed in above, stating that they were opposed to the draft ordinance, and also did not approve the above plan of assessment.)

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.—C. O. to W. I. C., 13th July, 1895. "Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Office of the 28th of June, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that the Memorial referred to in your letter of the 22nd of June has not yet been received, but that a copy of your letter will be sent to the Governor of the Leeward Islands by the out-going mail for his report thereon; pending the receipt of which Mr. Chamberlain does not think that any advantage would result from an interview. I am to add that Lord Ripon agreed to the suspension of the Water Tax in St. Kitts-Nevis and that the Governor was so instructed by the mail of the 19th of June. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

COCOA.—Trinidad exported to 10th July over 19,000,000 lbs., against 14,000,000 lbs. same time last year. Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. say there were no signs of increased supplies, and as prospects in Europe are more hopeful, competition is active and prices firmly maintained. Taking the exports from October to date, they were 123,800 bags against 104,145. In London there is more general inquiry and the market firm. Good to fine red Trinidad, 54- to 58-. Superior, 64- to 66-. Messrs. C. M. & C. Wodehouse report market quiet, fair enquiry for Ceylon, a strong demand for Arriba Guayaquil for export.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings 29 weeks, 461,526 tons, against 437,938 tons; Deliveries 397,425 against 426,266; Stocks 123,944 against 90,169.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Czarnikow, 25th July). Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,338,270, against 653,455 tons; United States 304,000, against 355,523; Cuba 271,000, against 30,781. Total 1,913,270, against 1,039,759.



PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 % (C. Czarnikow, 25th July), 9/10½ against 11 4.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—In France conditions are now favourable for growth, and the tardiness of some portion of the crop will be remedied. The situation is as satisfactory as possible, considering difficulties at outset. There is great inequality in Germany in the development of fields. The German yield is expected to be less than last year, but nothing certain yet. In Austria-Hungary the crop will leave something to desire, and in Belgium complaint is made of the resowings. On the whole, the European crop is less advanced and less regular than last year. But the alternations of sun and rain do much to ameliorate the present situation. Mr. Czarnikow states German Government officially confirms 15 per cent. short sowings. The visible excess prevents stronger market, even with Cuban troubles. Owing to previous absence of rain, last year's weights per acre seem out of the question in Germany; same with Austria and France.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—None from Demerara and Trinidad. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 2nd July.—A few light showers have fallen, but more would be acceptable. 16th July.—Weather dry, rain wanted.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the Office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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CIRCULAR No. 121.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

26th August, 1895.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—The question of a deputation to Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain has received the most anxious consideration, and it will be arranged as soon as possible consistently with an effective result. It is understood, from the best sources, that ministers would prefer to receive the deputation a little later in the year, and it is of course desirable that no premature or ineffective action should be taken. The matter is receiving constant attention, and in the meanwhile it is necessary that Memorials or Legislative Resolutions in support of the movement here should be received from the Colonies, especially from those Colonies, such as Barbados and Jamaica, which have expressed no opinion recently in support of a movement intended to benefit their sugar industries. The Belgian law referred to in last Circular has been postponed.

**CUSTOMS PENALTIES, UNITED STATES.**—On the 28th August, 1894, the new duty on Sugar came into force in the United States. This duty is 40 per cent. *ad valorem* with  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a cent. per lb. additional on Sugars above No. 16, Dutch Standard. The 40 per cent. duty is partly based upon the invoice value, which must be the market value in the country of shipment. Should the Invoice value be less, in the opinion of the United States Customs authorities, than the true market value, or what is considered to be such, and should the increase (or difference) so appraised exceed 10 per cent. of the Invoice value, a penalty is imposed, based upon a calculation of double the excess. Thus, if the increase value is appraised at 11 per cent. above the Invoice value, the penalty would be 22 per cent. over and above the correct duty, on the basis of 2 per cent. penalty for each succeeding 1 per cent. of value, and on the same basis the penalty in the case of 15 per cent. added value would be charged at 30 per cent. It might be thought that the fixing of an *ad valorem* duty would have properly secured the duty according to the quality of the Sugar as ascertained by the usual tests applied by the Customs authorities. But it appears that an Act was passed in 1890 (when there were no duties on Sugar) known as the Customs Administrative Act which contains rules for Customs Officers in determining values. The unexpected application of this Act to Sugar, to which it was never intended to be applied, has caused much confusion, giving power to a Customs Officer to increase the import charges on Sugar to an extent sometimes approaching its whole value, and this system, if continued, must be absolutely prohibitive of the trade of the West India Islands to the United States. It is possible the shipper, while honestly desiring to render a true Invoice value, may err through ignorance, especially in those Islands where there is no local market or market values in the usual sense of the term, or any means of testing the Sugar by polariscope. The price ruling in New York as advised by public telegram on the day of shipment (after properly deducting freight, insurance and shipping charges) is generally taken as the Invoice value. That price might possibly be higher on arrival, but this should not be taken into account. If it is lower the United States Customs make no



allowance. Sometimes the Sugar by drainage becomes improved on the voyage, but its quality can be easily tested for duty purposes, and there can be no suggestion of any desire to mislead the United States Government. The heavy fines, or the loss of interest until they can be recovered, add seriously to the difficulties from which the West India Planters are suffering. The following is an illustration of the working of this new system of penalizing :—

Entered value, cent. 1.70 per lb. packed.

Appraised value, cent. 3.938

Advance in value, 14 per cent., which exceeding 10 per cent., incurs a penalty of 28 per cent.

The ordinary duty amounts to \$761.20 ;

And the penalty to \$532.84.

On the above shipment of 44 tons the duty amounted to £3 10s. per ton, and the penalty to no less than £2 10s. per ton.

The matter is one which might properly be brought before the Government. But at the same time, it must be remembered that the system of penalizing in the United States for presumably incorrect invoice values is applicable to all goods, and the same system is actively in force in all European countries. Penalties already incurred may be remitted in due legal course, and the greatest care should be taken in every shipment to keep the invoice value as nearly as possible to what might be the appraised value, and certainly within the limits of the 10 per cent. difference allowed.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.—The Secretary of State offered an interview, but for reasons stated in a letter to the Colonial Office, it was postponed. The material part of the letter (10th August), was as follows :—“ On the 27th June last, a statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Colony was presented by the Administrator to the Legislative Council. This statement discloses apparently so different a financial condition of affairs from that to be gathered from the returns previously furnished and embodied in Lord Ripon's despatch of 9th April to His Excellency Sir Francis Fleming, that I feel no good results would follow from an interview until we have further details and explanations from the Colony. Meanwhile, the fact remains that under Lord Ripon's despatch of 9th April (par. 11), a direction is given that the Immigration Fund be appropriated to General Revenue, while the promised remission of taxes is not to be granted. This policy is strongly opposed by the Un-official Members of the Council and it seems plainly contrary to justice. Under these circumstances I beg respectfully to suggest that the Deputation be received later and that the Secretary of State should suspend his decision in this matter until further information is received and the statement of Liabilities and Assets above referred to be explained. This statement has, no doubt, been now received by the Secretary of State. (It is published in the *St. Christopher Advertiser* of 9th ulto). Lord Ripon remarks in the despatch above referred to that he had not then received it and my Committee was in ignorance of the facts therein stated. (Signed for the Chairman) ARTHUR M. LEE.” The following reply was received :—“ Colonial Office, 13th August, 1895.—The Chairman,—Sir, I am directed by Mr Secretary Chamberlain, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to inform you that in view of the urgent necessity of providing funds to meet the accrued deficit in the finances of the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis, he considers it essential that the legislation necessary for the appropriation of the Immigration Balances to General Revenue should be proceeded with immediately, and that he has instructed the Governor of the Leeward Islands accordingly, authorising him to insert in the Bill for that purpose a proviso to the effect that if at any future time funds are required for Immigration purposes, they shall be provided out of General Revenue to an amount not exceeding the amount of the Balances now proposed to be appropriated. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.”

(NOTE.—At present the published official accounts of St. Kitts-Nevis, are so confused that it is difficult to understand them, and further information is awaited. In the meantime a draft letter criticising the existing financial condition is being considered, but in order to do any effective work it is necessary that correspondents in St. Kitts should send all official papers, council minutes, &c., with all other information likely to be useful.)

**BRITISH GUIANA CENTRAL FACTORIES.**—A letter has been received from the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society upon the desirability of erecting Central Sugar Factories with a view to the reduction of the cost of manufacture. The Society ask for the views of the West India Committee on the desirability of erecting a Central Factory on the East Coast of Demerara, and generally for any information on the subject.

#### SHIPMENTS TO 8th AUGUST.

|                          | Sugar,<br>Tons | Rum,<br>Puns. | Coffee,<br>Lbs. | Cocoa,<br>Lbs. | Asphalt,<br>Tons. | Gold,<br>Ozs. |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA ... 1895— | 31,301         | 9,543         | —               | 106,802        | —                 | 65,369        |
| Do. ... 1894—            | 37,502         | 9,377         | —               | 29,501         | —                 | 66,958        |
| TRINIDAD ... 1895—       | 48,626         | 1,748         | 31,200          | 21,500,000     | 46,344            | —             |
| Do. ... 1894—            | 43,723         | 700           | 8,800           | 15,350,000     | 58,770            | —             |
| BARBADOS ... 1895—       | 30,430         | —             | —               | —              | —                 | —             |
| Do. ... 1894—            | 61,672         | —             | —               | —              | —                 | —             |

**COCOA.**—Dry weather is reported (August 7th) from Trinidad. Cocoa deliveries limited (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co.) and no prospect of appreciable increase for some time, but prices firmly maintained in Colony. Venezuelan arrivals unimportant. London market slow, with limited business. Sales, Tuesday 20th, showed Trinidad in excess of demand, one-half being sold at about previous rates. Jamaica sold readily at an advance of 2 - to 3/-, prices ranging from 44/- to 46/6.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Seasonable weather is reported from France and other countries. A good yield is expected, the estimated deficit resulting from less sowings. Licht's Circular not yet received, and estimates of production unavailable. Mr. Czarnikow says, doubtless crop prospects have improved, but to prognosticate an important increased yield of sugar in the face of reduced sowings seems to be misleading.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES** (Czarnikow, 22nd August).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,138,995 tons, against 472,812; United States, 270,000 against 343,208; Cuba, 242,000 against 20,847. Total, 1,650,995 against 836,867.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 per cent. (C. Czarnikow, 22nd August), 9s. 4½d. to 9s. 6d., against 12s. 1½d. to 12s. 3d.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. and Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.). August 6th.—Showery. 10th.—Fine rains have fallen generally since last message. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). August 12th.—A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable. 23rd.—Fine rains generally throughout the Island with appearances of more.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

23rd September, 1895.

**SUGAR BOUNTIES.**—The question of a deputation to Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain will be discussed at a full meeting of the West India body to be held as soon as possible. The Colonies are still apathetic, the only information (derived accidentally from a Barbados newspaper) being that a joint address from the Assembly and the Council is in contemplation, but no formal intimation of the kind has been received at this office. The Foreign Office say, that the Conference held in Vienna, in July, between the representatives of Austria-Hungary and Germany on the subject of Sugar Bounty legislation in those respective countries was confidential, but it is believed that no definite arrangements were concluded.

**CUSTOMS' PENALTIES, UNITED STATES.**—This matter has continued to receive attention. Her Majesty's *Charge d' Affaires* had been instructed (28th August) to invite the favourable consideration of the United States Government to the subject. In the meantime, it is desirable to obtain all possible information, especially upon the point of the Invoice valuations in the Colonies being in accordance with the market rate as reported in the Colonies from New York on the date the invoices are made up. Apparently, the invoice price in the Colonies is based on 87%, with an allowance of 5 cents for each degree below and 2½ for each degree above. Accordingly, the local market quotation of \$1.70 for that test was taken as a standard. But the appraised value in New York, worked out per lb., exceeded by 1% the 10% limit, and a penalty of 22% was imposed. Taking into account the difficulties sometimes experienced in the West India Islands in obtaining an absolutely true test of the quality of the Sugar, and the increase in the value of that quality which often takes place during the voyage, and also the fact that the value is determined by the arbitrary decision of a Customs Officer in New York, a demand for the relaxation of the penalty system is justifiable, especially when such a system, although perhaps nominally existing is never enforced in England; nor, so far as can be ascertained, is it enforced in other European countries, except under very special circumstances.

**BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.**—The Secretary of State has approved (12th September) of this Bill being postponed for the present.

**BRITISH GUIANA STATUTE LAWS.**—The best thanks of the West India Committee are due to the British Guiana Government for forwarding, for the use of the Committee, the five volumes of the revised edition of the Statute Laws.

**ST. KITTS-NEVIS.**—It will be seen that the Secretary of State has arrived at an important decision regarding the finances of the Leeward Islands. No information is ever forwarded from the Colony to this office, but all information received was carefully considered by representative firms in London, and the following letter was addressed to the Under-Secretary of State, on August 31st. "Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, announcing that the Secretary of State had authorized the appropriation to General Revenue of the Immigration Fund in St. Kitts-Nevis, with the proviso that the amount should be refunded if required in the future for Immigration purposes. I would respectfully point out that the need for Immigration



in future is extremely improbable, and that in effect the appropriation directed is an absolute one. I am to suggest that to meet the plain justice of the case, the proviso, whether in the original or an amending ordinance, should enact that the amount now to be appropriated should be refunded from General Revenue and applied for the benefit of the Planting body (by whom and for whose benefit it was originally raised), in remission or in lieu of any taxation falling or likely to be imposed upon that body; unless the proposed ordinance is modified in this sense, we believe that it will meet with the unanimous opposition of the unofficial members of Council. The statement of Assets and Liabilities, the non-receipt of which was the subject of complaint by the Marquess of Ripon, in his despatch of the 9th April last, has been now presented by the Administrator to the Council, and has doubtless been received by the Secretary of State; but the accounts so set forth are most confusing and unsatisfactory, they seem to disclose a deplorable condition of financial affairs, and point to very radical faults in the method of keeping and presentation of the Public Accounts. Owing to delay in the publication of the Leeward Islands Blue Book, it is impossible to compare the statement of Revenue and Expenditure of St. Kitts-Nevis in 1894, which would be contained in the Blue Book, with the similar statement of the Administrator for the same year. If, however, the statements for the years 1891-2-3, as appearing in the respective Blue Books and in the Administrator's statement be compared, serious apparent discrepancies present themselves, as follows:

|      |     | ADMINISTRATOR'S STATEMENT. |                | BLUE BOOKS. |                       |
|------|-----|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1891 | ... | Deficit about              | £8,000         | ...         | Deficit about £1,611. |
| 1892 | ... | " "                        | 3,952          | ...         | Surplus ... 725.      |
| 1893 | ... | " "                        | 694            | ...         | " ... 1,279.          |
| 1894 | ... | " "                        | 4,090          |             |                       |
|      |     |                            | <u>£16,736</u> |             |                       |

If from the total of £16,736 the sum of £5,923, 'afterwards transferred to the Loan Account,' according to the Administrator's statement, be deducted, there remains a deficit for the four years, 1891-4 of £10,813, which is difficult to reconcile with the figures of the Blue Books, even though the statement of deficit or surplus for 1894 is lacking. In any case the divergence between the figures of the previous three years, as given by the Administrator and the Blue Books demands serious consideration and explanation. It is evident from the Administrator's statement that for a considerable series of years, loans raised for specific purposes have been largely applied to meet the exigencies of Public Revenue. On 31st December, 1894, General Revenue appears to have been still indebted to the loan of 1891 in the sum of £5,564 4s. 7d., and to the loan of 1893 in the sum of £9,134 14s. 10d. The sum of £3,196 8s. 4d. belonging to the Immigration Fund seems also to have been similarly appropriated. I am respectfully to inquire under what authority these several transfers were made, and to point out also the apparent impossibility of extracting from the Blue Books the information that such aids to General Revenue had been adopted. It is observed that, according to the Administrator's statement, 'Wharfage Fund about £3,500' is 'absorbed.' This sum is not included in liabilities, but the entry, though somewhat meagre, suggests at least an appropriation resembling those above referred to.

I am desired to submit respectfully to the Secretary of State that such a system of account keeping be insisted upon as will furnish as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, a plain statement of the actual Revenue and Expenditure of the past year, and of assets and liabilities, intelligible to ordinary persons conversant with accounts, and that such statement should be published in the Colony and forwarded to the Secretary of State without delay. It would seem especially necessary to show—(1) in case of a deficit, how the adverse balance has been carried over, whether by a previous surplus, loan from bankers, or



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other means; (2) when expenditure, for which a loan has been or is to be raised, is temporarily met from current revenue, that this is the case; (3) in the case of loans, what has been expended for the authorised purposes of the loan, and how the balance not expended for those purposes, as well as any sinking fund stands or is invested (this might be shown in the 'Remarks' column of the Public Debt Account in the Blue Books); (4) whether any portion of a loan raised for specific purposes has been applied in aid of General Revenue, and the amount so applied. Also what authority exists for such appropriation; (5) carefully framed estimates of Revenue and Expenditure should be published before or at the commencement of the financial year. According to present practice serious delay occurs, and the necessary financial control is considerably impaired. It is submitted that if these suggestions were acted upon, the recent serious financial surprises in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis would have been impossible. In St. Kitts-Nevis the taxpayers are suddenly confronted with a deficit amounting to at least three-fifths of the ordinary revenue. In Antigua a loan of £50,000 was recently raised for the improvement of the harbour of St. John's. £31,000 has been spent, and a balance of £19,000 should be still available. This sum has been applied to other works, and money must now be raised from some other quarter, or the incomplete harbour works be stopped. (See Message of Sir F. Fleming, the present Governor, to the Legislative Council of Antigua, 25th July, 1895, printed in *Antigua Standard*, of 3rd August, 1895.) Reverting to the present financial condition of St. Kitts-Nevis, the most rigid economy is an absolute necessity, and the current revenue should be made to meet ordinary current needs. And expenditure not absolutely required, should, it is submitted be at once curtailed. Certain items in the last published Budget and in the Administrator's statement suggest at least the possibility of some retrenchment in this direction. (Signed) ARTHUR M. LEE." The following is the substance of the reply:—"C. O., 17th September, 1895. The Secretary of State must adhere to the terms of the proviso with regard to the repayment of the sum appropriated from the Immigration Fund to the general revenue of St. Kitts-Nevis. He has decided to send out a member of this Department to act for a time as Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, to investigate and report upon the financial position of the several Presidencies, and on the system of accounting and audit therein."

• COCOA.—Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. report (Trinidad, September 4th), limited supplies. Next crop will be late and no prospect of important deliveries for some time. Local prices maintained. Shipments from last October to date 142,500 bags, against 120,930 for same period last year. New Venezuelan crop will be late owing to dry weather. Although heavy showers more rain was wanted in Trinidad for general cultivation. London public sales (September 17th) went off slowly. Trinidad sold at previous rates, but sometimes easier for fine.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—In France it seems doubtful if the hot, dry weather has promoted saccharine richness, which will vary in notable proportions according to weather. Many factories are at work. In Germany and Austria rains have improved the state of the crop. For the whole of Europe the cultural yield is less than last year, while the saccharine strength is better at the present time than same time last year, subject to the next month's weather. No estimates of production yet possible. The upward movement of the market generally has been attributed to a belief in Paris that there will be an ultimate important deficiency in the Beet-root crop. How far this is justified remains to be seen. Mr. Czarnikow reports (19 September) an increased trade demand, which can only be supplied by buyers submitting to an advance. The statistical position is said to be improving, but importance is attached to the quantities of new crop Beet sugar which will appear during the next few weeks, and the effect they will have. In the absence of crop news, no estimates can be formed. With regard to Cane, Cuban news remains as before; the effect of the insurrection upon crops, while said by some authorities to be serious, or likely to be so, requiring confirmation. Java telegrams report a firm market and a late crop.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Czarnikow, 19th September), Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 1,020,210 tons, against 347,077; United States 214,000, against 228,298; Cuba 212,000, against 17,414. Total 1,446,210 tons, against 592,789.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings 37 weeks, 597,850 tons, against 522,440; Deliveries 520,573, against 531,830; Stocks 137,220, against 69,067.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—(Czarnikow), 88 per cent. 9s. 11½d. against 11s. 1½d.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara none. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. Gregor Turnbull & Co. and the Colonial Company, Ltd.). August 27th.—Heavy rains. 28th.—Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation. 18th September.—Weather too dry. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 26th August.—Rains have continued since our last cable. 2nd September.—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island. 10th.—Weather all that could be desired. Antigua (per favour of G. G. MacAndrew (deceased) Estate). 5th September.—Good rains generally to the extent of 7 inches since last mail.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

21st October, 1895.

**THE SUGAR QUESTION.**—The proposed representations to Ministers are being strongly supported in the Colonies. British Guiana has sent home a most important and influential memorial, having no less than 672 signatures. The Legislature of Barbados, in a joint address from the Council and Assembly, have also officially represented the matter to the Secretary of State. Mr. Chamberlain's recent despatches to British Guiana contained suggestions for its development, and admitted that the depressed condition of the Colony is owing largely to the effect of foreign bounties.

**SUGAR.**—Several estimates of the Beet crop have been put forward, showing considerable variation, but all considerably under the previous production. Mr. Licht (21st September) summarizes these estimates, the total ranging from 3,830,000 tons to 4,150,000 tons against 4,846,000 in 1894-5. Taking a mean of 4,000,000 tons, this shows an expected deficit of 846,000, fairly equivalent to the extinction of the large excess of visible supplies, which has had such a depressing influence upon the Market.

Another estimate which has attracted much attention is that of Mr. Gieseker, the Belgian statistician. On September 29th, he issued the following estimate:—

|                     | 1895-6<br>Tons.  | 1894-5<br>Tons.  |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| France ...          | 592,000          | 792,000          |
| Belgium ...         | 207,000          | 285,000          |
| Holland ...         | 108,000          | 85,000           |
| Germany ...         | 1,320,000        | 1,845,000        |
| Austria Hungary ... | 740,000          | 1,060,000        |
| Russia ...          | 590,000          | 620,000          |
| Others ...          | 130,000          | 160,000          |
| <b>Total ...</b>    | <b>3,687,000</b> | <b>4,847,000</b> |

This shows a deficit of 1,160,000 tons, but it would be safer to take lower figures. There is no doubt that in consequence of less sowings, the Beet crop of 1895-6 will be considerably less than 1894-5. Weather has also had a considerable part in this result. The rains reported in France, for instance, can hardly recompense for the long dry season. There is no doubt that in France, the yield per acre of roots is reduced, but the yield of Sugar from the roots has been well maintained. The *Journal des Fabricants* estimates that the French Sugar crop will be 25 per cent. less than 1894-5. In all European countries the acreage sown, and the weight of roots per acre, is less, although as above stated, the yield of Sugar is good. The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, therefore, (October 9,) contemplates a general reduction of Beet Sugar production of 1,000,000 tons.

At the same time, the weather has a considerable influence, and the above estimates must be taken as tentative. They had the effect of a considerable improvement in prices for the time. Owing however to the dulness of the Market this week, (October 16th,) a quantity of Trinidad and Barbados has been bought in.

In Germany the *Deutsche Zucker-Industrie* (October 11th) reports changeable weather, and there is no material change in crop prospects. The rains favoured an increase of weight in roots, but without much injury to quality. There may be a smaller yield per acre, but even a better quality than last year may be, in many districts, expected. There are still many large areas to be reaped, and it is doubtful if accurate estimates can yet be formed. Austria Hungary's production in the two first months of crop 1895-6 show a decided decrease as against 1894-5.

Messrs. H. Clark, de Silva & Co., (Liverpool, 8th October,) report an active demand in United States for both raw and refined. Reports from Cuba are to the extent of 500,000 to 700,000, against over 1,000,000. (Even if the crop is only 250,000 tons less, the effect on the general supply must be material.) The Louisiana crop is late, and said to be 20 per cent. less than last year. "According to present appearances (Messrs. Clark say,) a deficiency of 300,000 to 400,000 in Cane crop must be expected." The return to normal values is being discussed as to the effect on future sowings, but on the whole the future looks favourable for prices.

The total crops are given as follows:—

|                     | 1894-5<br>Tons.  | 1893-4<br>Tons.  |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cane ... ..         | 3,022,000        | 3,043,000        |
| Beet ... ..         | 4,842,000        | 3,890,000        |
| Total Cane and Beet | <u>7,864,000</u> | <u>6,933,000</u> |

VISIBLE SUPPLIES. (Clark, 8th October)—

|                                     | 1895.<br>Tons.   | 1894.<br>Tons. |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Europe and afloat for Europe ... .. | 912,000          | 339,000        |
| United States ... ..                | 190,000          | 187,000        |
| Do. afloat to ... ..                | 96,000           | 73,000         |
| Cuba ... ..                         | 194,000          | 18,000         |
| Total ... ..                        | <u>1,392,000</u> | <u>617,000</u> |

Mr. Czarnikow (17th October) ... .. 1,156,989 ... .. 481,819

CUSTOMS PENALTIES, UNITED STATES.—In continuation of previous correspondence the following Letter is printed. "W. I. C. to Foreign Office. 26th September, 1895. The Under-Secretary, Sir,—With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the practice in force in the United States of penalizing consignments of Sugar from the British West India Islands, I beg respectfully to inquire whether any information has been received from Her Majesty's *Charge d' Affaires* at Washington. It has already been pointed out to you that Shippers, with the intention of being as accurate as possible, have sometimes not the means of obtaining a sufficiently close analysis by which they can estimate the value of their Sugar upon its arrival at New York. From a careful consideration of a number of invoices which have been submitted to us, we are convinced that every means is taken to secure a correct estimate of the value based on the polariscope test and the New York quotation of the-day, there being no local markets, in the ordinary sense, as a guide to value. We have been informed that the Customs officers simply take the duty paid price, without due allowance for charges, and without testing the Sugar. Might we ask that the Treasury Department at Washington should be requested to issue a Circular stating distinctly what charges are dutiable and non-dutiable respectively? Also that the test value of the Sugar tested in the Islands before shipment be taken by the Customs so that the Sugar may be fairly appraised, in all particulars. Apart from the above, however, what Shippers strongly complain of is that when the assessment in New York, arbitrarily



arrived at as far as we know, is found to exceed the invoice amount by 10 per cent. heavy penalties are inflicted, and so frequent have been these penalties that they threaten to put a stop to the Sugar trade between some of the West India Islands and the United States. We think it may be assumed that the penalties imposed by the Legislature were intended to check fraud, and were never intended to punish honest shippers doing their best to conform to the law. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

The above has been forwarded by the Foreign Office to the British Embassy at Washington. In the meantime the matter has been considered by the Board of Appraisers in New York, and according to the latest information kindly forwarded by a London West India house, 14th Oct., founded upon a letter from their New York house, dated 5th Oct., "it is now certain that all penalties where the excess in value is caused by too low an invoice test, will be remitted." The Foreign Office are about to send to the West India Committee, the result of the representations made by the British Embassy to the United States Government. An important case is pending in the Courts, which will show whether declarations to the effect that the goods are of such a description, or "as may be found so on examination in the port of arrival." In the meantime the Secretary has been favoured with an extract from the *Journal of Commerce* of New York recapitulating the personal and other communication, which was held some months ago by the sugar importers of New York, with the Treasury Officials in Washington, and stating the bearing of the law upon this subject. All this information is important and will be useful in case of any further proceedings by the West India Committee.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Copy has been received of Surgeon General's Circular (17th September) on Dietary and Medicines in Estates' Hospitals; also copy of regulations for the proper arrangement and management of certified hospitals on estates, under the Immigration Ordinances of 1891 and 1894. The Mail reports (1st October) weather very dry. The Secretary of State has sent a despatch urging the making of roads in the N.W. district, additions to the police force, and a Maxim gun for frontier defence. He is strongly in favour of the development of the gold industry, and he says (7th September) that "inquiries have been made on this side as to the possibility of inducing capitalists here to consider the subject" of gold development. The Combined Court decided that it was premature to provide for the police and gun as specifically suggested by the Secretary of State. The whole matter, especially as so much attention is being devoted to the Boundary question, will, no doubt be further developed. Mr. Chamberlain is at Madrid, and expected back in London at the beginning of November.

SHIPMENTS TO 3RD OCTOBER.

|                | Sugar<br>Tons. | Rum,<br>Puns. | Coffee,<br>Lbs. | Cocoa,<br>Lbs. | Asphalt,<br>Tons. | Gold,<br>Ozs. |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA | 1895—35,043    | 11,696        | —               | 118,290        | —                 | 83,963        |
| Do.            | 1894—41,470    | 11,132        | —               | 36,389         | —                 | 86,885        |
| TRINIDAD       | 1895—51,000    | 1,749         | 50,720          | 22,838,000     | 63,011            | —             |
| Do.            | 1894—45,942    | 700           | 12,800          | 17,060,000     | 77,527            | —             |
| BARBADOS       | 1895—36,223    | —             | —               | —              | —                 | —             |
| Do.            | 1894—64,708    | —             | —               | —              | —                 | —             |

COCOA.—Mincing Lane supplies moderate, with steady tone. Trinidad met a good steady demand, chiefly sold at firm prices, to slightly dearer for low and medium. Small Grenada supply sold at recent advance. Other kinds steady. Trinidad sold at 5rs. and 5s. to 6os. and 67s. for superior. Trinidad reports (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.) practically no deliveries. Owing to recent dry weather, next crop will be late. Limited supplies probable for some time. Weather on Mainland very dry, and Venezuelan deliveries very restricted.





**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

18th November, 1895.

**THE DEPUTATION.**—Mr. Chamberlain received at the Colonial Office, on 14th November, one of the largest and most influential West India Deputations (including representatives of Engineering and Chemical Manure firms) that ever waited upon a Colonial Minister. A full report and list of names will be issued later on. Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., introduced the Deputation. Mr. Neville Lubbock explained, upon the basis of the Memorials which had been addressed to the Secretary of State by all the Colonies, the present unsatisfactory condition of the British Cane Industry, and declared that it was a great injustice that such an industry should be governed by the Legislation of Foreign Countries. Sugar was the staple industry of the Colonies and the means of the subsistence of the population. He drew attention to the following letter addressed by the West India Committee to Lord Salisbury, 25th October.—“My Lord Marquess. In previous correspondence with Her Majesty's Government, we have called attention to the important and influential Memorials which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Government by British Guiana and the West India Islands upon the effect of the Sugar Bounties granted by European Powers. The effect of those bounties has been to cause an enormous over-production of Beet Sugar in the year 1894-5, resulting in a great depression of prices below the cost of production. This has not only affected the Cane Sugar Industry, but has been extremely injurious to the Beet Sugar Industry itself. We beg again to call attention to the evident desire of Germany and Austria to come to an understanding with regard to the question of Bounties, especially as to their reduction and final abolition. To this end, Belgium and Holland will no doubt co-operate, the only obstacle to a settlement being apparently France. As the most important Sugar Powers of Europe are thus negotiating between themselves as to their future policy with regard to Bounties, and as in the interest of their own Finances and their own Sugar Industries, it is evident that there is a disposition on the part of Germany and Austria to reduce and eventually to abolish the granting of Bounties, may we hope Her Majesty's Government, representing and responsible for the interests of the British Sugar producing Colonies, will do all that is possible to encourage this movement on the part of Foreign Governments, by assuring them of the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government in bringing about such a desirable settlement; and of the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to take part in any negotiations for a Conference to be held in such central part as may be determined upon for the purpose of assisting at any common agreement that may be possible for the general abolition of Bounties. (Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman.”

Mr. Lubbock said the above letter contained the wish of the Deputation, and he strongly urged that Mr. Chamberlain should, in accordance with the memorials he had received from the Colonies, induce Her Majesty's Government, by laying the matter especially before Lord Salisbury, to encourage the negotiations now going on between Foreign Powers for the mutual reduction and abolition of bounties. Mr. Sandbach Parker, on behalf of the West India Association of Liverpool, confirmed the statements in the British Guiana memorial as to the Sugar Industry. Mr. Greig (of Messrs. Gregor Turnbull & Co.) approved, on behalf of Trinidad proprietors in Scotland, of the statements which had been made regarding the Sugar Industry. He was followed by the Hon. Sir George C. Pile, President of the Legislative Council of Barbados, and by the



Hon. W. K. Chandler, Member of the Legislative Council of that island, explaining the entire dependence of the exceptionally large population of Barbados upon the Sugar Industry. Mr. A. M. Lee referred at length to the condition of the Sugar Industry in the Leeward Islands, and a St. Lucia representative was present to speak on behalf of that island.

Mr. Chamberlain expressed his dissatisfaction with the operation of the Bounties. He referred to the possible establishment of other industries, although it was pointed out to him that Sugar, from natural conditions, and the enormous amount of capital invested in it, was the main staple. With regard to trade relations with the United States, on a preferential basis as against Foreign Countries, but not as against the United Kingdom, he thought the Favoured Nation Treaties with Germany and Belgium were an obstacle. He said that, as the United States, by Customs penalties and other restrictions, had hindered importations into the United States, why should not the West Indies make a preferential arrangement—as was within their power—with Canada. (The explanation given to him was that no risk could be incurred with respect to the United States market: that Canada could not possibly take the entire produce of the British West Indies: that negotiations took place some years ago for a trade relation between Jamaica and Canada, but that this fell through because Lord Derby insisted upon the whole of the West India Colonies being included, which would, of course, take away all the advantages of the arrangement, besides risking retaliatory action on the part of the United States.) Mr. Chamberlain referred to the Gold Industry of British Guiana, and said that he "had placed at his disposal" a large amount of capital for the development of this industry, or at all events, capital could be obtained. He referred to the present system of "placers" and "surface washings" and said that with proper capital a proportionate result could be obtained. (He was reminded that the £500,000 of gold exported, cost that amount to obtain, and that with regard to railways, roads, and other means of communication, it was not fair to place the expense upon the Sugar Industry, although everyone connected with the Colony thoroughly approved of the development of the Gold Industry, and would assist it as far as possible.) Mr. Chamberlain made some remarks on the incidence of taxation in British Guiana, (and he was reminded that the Colony was essentially a Sugar Colony, and that the whole population were dependent upon it.) With regard to the Bounty question, he would communicate with his colleagues to see what could be done. He did not think the present Parliament, any more than the last one, would approve of countervailing duties. (It was pointed out to Mr. Chamberlain that the existing negotiations between Germany, Austria, and other Powers, did not involve countervailing duties, nor did the Convention of 1888.) Mr. Chamberlain promised to communicate with his colleagues as to influencing the negotiations now proceeding between Foreign Powers.

**CUSTOMS PENALTIES—UNITED STATES.**—The following is the latest communication from the Foreign Office:—The Chairman, Sir,—With reference to the letter from this office, of the 2nd instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Washington has received a reply to his representations respecting the practice in force in the United States of imposing a penalty upon consignments of sugar in certain cases, to the following effect. The Secretary of the United States Treasury states that the question whether additional duty under Section 7 of the Act of Congress of August 20th, 1894, is properly imposed when the increase of the value of the unit is due to a change of condition during the voyage of importation, and the further question whether an invoice is legal when the value is stated, therein, conditionally with reference to the increase or decrease of polarization and weight to be determined at the port of destination, are now pending in the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, but that while the imposition of penal (additional) duty under the said law, pending the decision of this question, is imperative, the United States Treasury Department has availed itself, in all proper cases, upon application, of its power to remit such penalties. (Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.



SUGAR PROSPECTS.—Mr. Licht has estimated the Beet crop at 4,000,000 tons. Mr. Giesecker still continues his estimate of a deficiency of 1,000,000 tons. The Cane crops (principally Cuba) show a deficiency of 375,000 tons.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Czarnikow.) 1,273,555 tons against 744,582 tons.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 % (Czarnikow.) 10 4 against 9 7.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited, Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., Messrs. John McConnell & Co.) 22nd October.—Too dry. 31st October and 5th November.—Too dry. 13th November.—Partial showers have fallen Trinidad (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited.) 6th November.—Showery and favourable for cultivation. Barbados (per Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller.) 5th November.—Good showers, but partial.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration ; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 125.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

16th December, 1895.

THE DEPUTATION.—The following letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State.  
 "21st November, 1895. Sir,—I have the honour to thank you for your kind reception of the Deputation from this Committee on Thursday last. Our main object was to ask you, Sir, to induce Her Majesty's Government to influence, if possible, the negotiations now proceeding between the Foreign Sugar Powers on the question of bounties, as we feel sure that no arrangement can ever be arrived at except with the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government, which we believe would be considered essential by every one of the Governments concerned. In the *Standard* of to-day it is announced that the Sugar Tax Reform Bill has been laid before the Federal Council of Germany by the Prussian Government. It provides that the Sugar bounties should be raised from 1.25 Marks to 4 Marks the 100 kilos, provided the International negotiations for the total abolition of bounties fall through. Although this is perhaps only a local expression of opinion on behalf of the Prussian Government, its tendency is obvious. Such an aggravation of the war of bounties as is proposed would be disastrous to all concerned, and especially to the British Sugar industry, and we would humbly urge upon you, Sir, that the time has arrived for the exercise of the good offices of Her Majesty's Government towards a settlement of the question. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman."

Further information published in the *Times* of November 28th and 30th, shows that the proposed Bill for increasing the bounties was premature and subject to much hostile criticism, and that even the Prussian Council of Ministers are not unanimous in its favour, and there is a feeling against "compensating the landlords interested in beet-root out of the pockets of the general taxpayers." The Bill proposes to increase by about one-third, *i.e.* by 31,500,000 M., the present yield of the consumption tax, but of this increase only 11,500,000 M. are to go to the Treasury, the remaining 20,000,000 being intended to increase export bounties. There are certain limitations to check over-production; the general effect of the measure being to raise the actual market price of retail sugar about 20 or 25 per cent. The increase of bounties, therefore, is bound to become a heavier burden upon the finances of Germany, and is consequently unpopular. All these movements show how opportune the time is for the intervention of the British Government, and it is hoped the opportunity will not be missed.

The question now arises as to further steps by the West India Committee. Mr. Chamberlain told the Deputation that the present House of Commons would refuse to impose countervailing duties. It remains to be seen whether the present House will allow the extinction of a great Colonial Industry to be brought about by foreign bounties. Even the last House, with a Liberal Government in power, passed a Resolution against the importation into the United Kingdom of subsidized (or prison-made) goods, and it has been determined to test the opinion of the present House of Commons by inviting Members who have shown an interest in the subject to a Conference at the Westminster Palace Hotel, at the time of the meeting of Parliament for next Session. By this means it is intended that pressure should be put upon the Government to show a practical interest in the bounty question, at least by negotiation and offers of co-operation with the Sugar Powers who have expressed themselves desirous of abolishing bounties.



TRINIDAD.—A great deal of information has been acquired with regard to the inefficiency of the coolie labourers, and the reasons why it is possible that the statutory wages may not in all cases be earned. One reason is that the coolies often prefer to cultivate their rice fields rather than work on estates. Another is the ineffectual character of the medical inspection both before embarkation in India and upon arrival in Trinidad. The provisions of the Trinidad Law in regard to absence from work. The question of the consolidation of the Agencies in India has been often discussed, especially in regard to increased efficiency in recruiting, and the selection of emigrants both eligible and capable. But this question rests with the British Guiana and Trinidad Legislatures. An amendment of the law in Trinidad is being considered, and as a new Protector of immigrants is shortly to be appointed in Trinidad, it might be well to await his appointment, when the whole question can be thoroughly considered.

The public expenditure, including the enormous and utterly disproportionate expense of officialism in Trinidad, is also a matter of great anxiety, and will be brought to the attention of the Secretary of State as effectively as possible at the earliest opportunity.

ST. LUCIA.—It is reported, but not yet officially confirmed, that the Secretary of State has sanctioned a Loan of £150,000 on the credit of the St. Lucia revenues, for the purpose of advances being made to the sugar plantations of the island, on the security of the lands, buildings and machinery.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A copy of the Blue Book for 1894-5 has been received. Also the Immigration Agent-General's Annual Report, which will be noticed in a later circular.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Messrs. Gillespie, Brothers, New York

refers to the weakening of the United States Market on account of the reported increase of the German bounties. But, as previously explained, there is great doubt whether this will be a serious matter. The Beet estimates are still 800,000 tons below last year, and, speaking with no very particular authority, it is well known that Beet has been purchased for a profitable rise in every month throughout the whole of next year. According to Messrs. H. Clark & Silva & Co., all December Stocks in United States are falling, and the probable deficiency in the Cuban Crop must also be taken into account. What is really wanted is an increase of consumption on the continent, and this will come about naturally if bounties and excise duties are reduced. Martinique appears to be dissatisfied with her present "bomification" system with France. And the French Beet Sugar industry do not seem disposed, according to the *Journal des Fabricants*, to agree to any change of the present law and simply preach a solidarity of interest with the French Colonies against the German war of bounties. It is evident from all this, that the whole settlement of the question lies between Germany and France, and the British Government is the proper, and likely to be the most effective, intermediary.

The weather has been mild in France, but there has been a "general tempe t." The French crop is estimated, in raw sugar, at 630,000 tons, against 821,000 in 1894-5. In Germany the weather has been favourable, and Mr. Licht maintains his estimate at 1,475,000 tons in raw sugar, against 1,814,586 in 1894-5. For the whole of Europe 3,802,000 tons, against 4,807,000 in the provisionally accepted estimate or just above 1,000,000 tons as compared with 1894-5. Messrs. Clark give the following figure for Mr. Licht's, 4,090,000 tons 1895-6, against 4,806,000 in 1894-5.

COCOA.—(Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., Trinidad, 27th November). Supplies restricted, owing to heavy rains. There will be no further pickings of consequence until March, and competition

is active. The crop on the main land is late. The supplies in Mincing Lane are moderate, with a rather dull market tone. Trinidad was firm, realizing for superior marks from 63/ to 67/. It seems likely that after Christmas the cocoa market will be stronger.

**SUGAR, VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. Clark, 9th December.) Europe and afloat to Europe, 1,466,000, against 941,000 tons; United States and afloat to 226,000, against 240,000 tons; Cuba 137,000, against 14,000 tons. Total Stocks 1,829,000, against 1,195,000 tons. (Czarnikow, 12th December.) Total visible supplies 1,974,560, against 1,323,438.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Total landings at four principal ports to 7th December, 764,568, against 674,354 tons. Deliveries 710,737, against 695,210 tons. Stocks 113,774, against 57,607 tons.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET ROOT.**—88 % (Czarnikow). 10 8½ to 10'9, against 8 7½.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co., and the Colonial Company, Limited), 30th November and 4th December. —Heavy rains generally. 10th December.—Rainy season has set in. 11th.—Fine, with occasional light showers. 11th.—Showery and favourable for cultivation. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 2nd December.—Heavy rains generally throughout the island.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration: also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 126.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

13th January, 1896.

The Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that your letter of the 25th October on the subject of Foreign Sugar Bounties has been considered in consultation with the other Departments of Her Majesty's Government do Government continued in the same sense as before.

From the above communications it is clear that Her Majesty's Government will not at present accept the decision of Her Majesty's Government, so far as the present position is concerned, is given in the following communications:—

1. Reply to the British Guiana Petition. British Guiana Government to R. G. Duncan, Esq., F.R., and other signers of the Sugar Bounty Petition. Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 9th December, 1895:—"Gentlemen,—I have the honour by desire of the Acting Governor, to inform you that the Secretary of State for the Colonies in acknowledging the receipt of the Memorial from the Planters, Merchants and others, on the subject of Foreign Sugar Bounties, has requested that the Memorialists may be informed that he has given the most careful consideration to their application, and has also had the advantage of receiving a full further statement of the case from the Members of the West India Committee, representing the Sugar Planters in all the West Indian Colonies. That Her Majesty's Government are deeply sensible of the disadvantages under which the industry has so long laboured in consequence of the bounties given by some Foreign Countries. That there is some reason to believe that these Countries are themselves becoming aware of the mischievous effects of this Policy on their own revenues and interests, and in accordance with the expressed wish of the Deputation above referred to, Her Majesty's Government will take advantage of any favourable opportunity to bring home to the mind of the Powers concerned, the inadvisability of continuing a system which is not only injurious to the Petitioners, but is also disastrous to the true interests of the Countries in question. With regard to the increase of Government expenditure referred to in paragraph 22 of the petition, Mr. Chamberlain desires that you should be reminded that it has largely been incurred in assisting Indian Immigration to provide labour for the Sugar Planters. (Signed) FRANCIS VILLIERS."

2. Letter of Colonial Office to Chairman West India Committee, 18th December, 1895:—"Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, and to inform you that, in accordance with what he understands from that letter to be the wish of the Deputation, whom he received on the 14th ultimo, he has addressed representations to the Marquis of Salisbury in the sense indicated in his speech on that occasion. Mr. Chamberlain desires me at the same time to convey to you the assurance that he is fully alive to the force of the arguments against the present system of Sugar Bounties, but that he is of opinion that the best prospect of relieving the Sugar Industry from the artificial competition from which they suffer, lies in bringing home to foreign Governments the fact that their present policy confers a benefit on the sugar consumers of this country at the expense of their own taxpayers. (Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD."

West India Committee, 31st December, 1895:—"Sir,—I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that your letter of the 25th October, on the subject of foreign sugar bounties, has been considered in consultation with the other Departments of Her Majesty's Government concerned in the question. Her Majesty's Government do not think that any good purpose would be served by proposing at the present time the resumption of international negotiations for the suppression of these bounties. (Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE."

From the above communications it is clear that Her Majesty's Government will not at present take any steps to influence the abolition of bounties by Foreign Powers. It is not proposed to accept this decision, involving as it does such grave injustice to the British Sugar Colonies. As soon as Parliament meets in February, a meeting will be arranged at the Westminster Palace Hotel between Members of Parliament and all who are engaged in the British Colonial Sugar Industry, with a view both of action in the House of Commons, and of a Parliamentary and West Indian deputation to Lord Salisbury in the early part of the Session.

**BOUNTIES.**—In Austria-Hungary the total amount distributed by the State in the form of Sugar Export bounties must not exceed the sum of £416,000 in any one year. Any excess must be refunded to the Treasury according to a *pro rata* calculation. In 1885-4 the State paid £416,393, and in 1893-4, £808,892; but of this latter amount, £392,000 is reported as having been refunded to the State. As to France, Sir J. Crowe, who is said to be an influential member of the Cobden Club, gives the following particulars: The bounties given to Sugar producers are indirect, the duty being on the basis of 6 Kilos of refined Sugar to 100 Kilos of Beetroot. There must therefore be an enormous bounty obtained; in 1887-8 this amounted to 48 millions of francs, or say £2,000,000 sterling. Subsequent arrangements were made, but it seems quite clear that the French Sugar Industry is in the receipt of two millions sterling. With regard to Germany the direct bounties on exportation were 1.25 marks per 100 Kilos. These bounties are still existing, subject to any further legislation, which contemplated the increase from 1.25 to 4 marks per 100 Kilos. No great dependence can be placed upon any proposed reduction of bounties by Foreign Powers in the absence of any interposition by the British Government.

**THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.**—A paper was recently read at the Colonial Institute on the Sugar Industry. The importance of the meeting centred in Mr. Davison's speech, which unfortunately cannot be reproduced in this Circular, as intended, but must be left over for another opportunity.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Sir Augustus W. L. Hemming, K.C.M.G., has been appointed Governor of British Guiana in succession to Sir C. C. Lees, K.C.M.G. Arrangements will be made for an interview between our British Guiana Members and His Excellency before his departure for his Government in February.



TRINIDAD.—The appointment of Commander Coombs, R.N. of the Indian Survey, to the Protectorship of Immigrants in Trinidad, has been received with a general feeling of satisfaction, as he is reported to be well acquainted with the languages, character and customs of the Indian Coolies.

A YEAR'S SUGAR SUPPLY, U.K. (BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS).

| BEET ROOT SUGAR—               |                  |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Refined ...                    | 694,879          | 707,368          |                  |
| Unrefined ...                  | 422,222          | 368,610          | 433,344          |
| <b>Total Beet Supply ...</b>   | <b>1,117,101</b> | <b>1,075,978</b> | <b>1,160,712</b> |
|                                |                  |                  |                  |
| CANE SUGAR—                    |                  |                  |                  |
| British West Indies and Guiana | 61,282           | 84,700           | 84,659           |
| British East Indies            | 52,633           | 63,412           | 53,106           |
| China and Hongkong             | 79               | —                | —                |
| Mauritius                      | 12,225           | 43,333           | 6,608            |
| <b>Total British Cane ...</b>  | <b>126,219</b>   | <b>161,445</b>   | <b>144,373</b>   |
|                                |                  |                  |                  |
| FOREIGN CANE—                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Spanish West India Islands     | 4,148            | 11,529           | 8,395            |
| Brazil                         | 403,000          | 334,955          | 32,904           |
| Java                           | 75,258           | 29,192           | 62,579           |
| Phillipine Islands             | 91,380           | 59,337           | 71,415           |
| Peru                           | 26,152           | 16,576           | 36,109           |
| Other Countries...             | 37,112           | 46,102           | 41,295           |
| <b>Total Foreign Cane</b>      | <b>637,050</b>   | <b>597,691</b>   | <b>252,697</b>   |
|                                |                  |                  |                  |
| TOTAL SUPPLY.                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Foreign Beet                   | 1,117,101        | 1,075,978        | 1,160,712        |
| British Cane                   | 126,219          | 161,445          | 144,373          |
| Foreign Cane                   | 637,050          | 597,691          | 252,697          |
| <b>Total Sugar Imports</b>     | <b>2,080,370</b> | <b>1,835,114</b> | <b>1,557,782</b> |

SHIPMENTS TO 24TH DECEMBER.

|                | Sugar, Tons. | Rum, Puns. | Coffee, Lbs. | Cocoa, Lbs. | Asphalt, Tons. | Gold, Ozs. |
|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA | 1895—79,087  | 18,499     | —            | 132,956     | —              | 112,374    |
| Do.            | 1894—83,989  | 15,767     | —            | 65,465      | —              | 119,224    |
| TRINIDAD       | 1895—51,000  | 1,749      | 110,600      | 25,367,365  | 84,103         | —          |
| Do.            | 1894—45,942  | 700        | 13,520       | 18,882,890  | 98,744         | —          |
| BARBADOS       | 1895—36,223  | —          | —            | —           | —              | —          |
| Do.            | 1894—46,768  | —          | —            | —           | —              | —          |

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—The *Journal des Fabricants* says that the prices contracted for roots will be higher than last crop. The 1895-6 crop of Beet and Cane is likely to show a deficit of 950,000 as against preceding crop. Mr. Licht now estimates the deficiency of Beet at 663,000 tons. At all events the Beet crop will be under 4,000,000 tons for 1895-6, as against 4,847,000 in 1894-5. This is only Beet, without, of course, taking into account the reduction in the Cuba crop, which some estimates put at 50 per cent. Messrs. Clark de Silva & Co., 8th January, estimate the total deficiency, including Beet and Cane, of 1,138,000 tons. At the same time, the continued excess in the visible supplies must



4  
be borne in mind. Mr. Czarnikow (9th January) says that a conspicuous feature has been the withdrawal of American orders from this and other markets. But, in view of Cuban advices, this must be only temporary.

**SUGAR, VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. Clark, 8th January.) Europe, 2,235,000, against 1,383,000 tons; United States 149,000, against 160,000 tons; Africa to United States 65,000, against 45,000 tons; Cuba 90,000, against 16,000 tons. Total 2,539,000, against 1,804,000 tons. (Mr. Czarnikow, 9th January), Europe 2,312,101, against 1,776,075 tons; United States 139,000, against 136,772 tons; Cuba 90,000, against 16,000 tons. Total 2,541,101, against 1,948,847 tons.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—(First week, 1896.) Imports 9,744, against 8,459 tons. Deliveries, 12,970, against 8,076 tons. Stocks 106,594, against 59,417 tons.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (Czarnikow). 10 9 against 8 8½.

**COCOA.**—Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse report a total of imports of 42,666,852 lbs. against 39,115,963 in 1894, and 32,982,005 in 1893. Stocks accumulated, but since September there has been a gradual reduction. Out of the above total of imports for 1895, 24,484,502 lbs. were for home consumption against 22,441,058 in 1894. There were exported 11,879,060 against 7,886,257. Stocks 26,063,465 against 21,935,539. Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. (24th December), report deliveries on liberal scale, weather suitable for picking and drying. Advices from consuming centres caused a rather weaker feeling. Arrivals from Venezuela were limited.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—British Guiana (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co., and the Colonial Company, Limited) 21st December.—Favourable for cultivation generally, but too dry in Berbice. 21st.—Moderate rains continue. 23rd.—Showery and unsettled. 10th January.—Too dry for the cultivation. 11th.—Weather dry and rain wanted. Trinidad (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited, Messrs. C. Tennant, Sims & Co., and Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited). 3rd January.—Has been too dry, but is now favourable. 9th.—Rain has fallen heavily. 11th.—Heavy rains continue. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 17th December and 1st January.—All that can be desired.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

10th February, 1896.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.—A Meeting will be held at this Office on Thursday, 13th February (instant) to which all Members are invited, to consider the arrangements to be made for the proposed Conference with Members of Parliament at the Westminster Palace Hotel on some early day in March. The matters for consideration will be:—

- 1. The recent correspondence with the Government, pointing out:—
  - (a).—The effect of the bounties in an enormous over-production of Beet Sugar in 1894-5, causing a reduction of price injurious to the Beet industry itself, but still more so to the non-bounty British Cane industry.
  - (b).—The attention given to the bounty question by Germany and Austria, and the proposals for raising the bounties in these countries to meet the excessively bounty-fed competition of France.
  - (c).—The expressed desire, however, of Germany and Austria to abolish their bounties if they can do so with safety to their Sugar industries.
  - (d).—The opportunity thus afforded to the British Government to act as mediator, or at least to encourage a common agreement, which would not be likely to be arrived at by the bounty powers themselves, for the mutual abolition of bounties. No such result could be arrived at without the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, and the time seemed particularly opportune for such movement, without raising any question of countervailing duties in the United Kingdom or protective or retaliatory action of any kind.
  - (e).—That if a Conference should be called, Her Majesty's Government, having regard to their past proceedings in the matter, extending over many years, and culminating in the International Convention signed in London in August, 1888, should express their willingness to attend such Conference, and assist in the movement for the abolition of bounties.

2.—The above is a short summary of the case as presented to both Lord Kimberley and Lord Salisbury. The former, when Foreign Secretary, would not move, but it was expected that Lord Salisbury, whose Government had assumed office upon the basis of promoting the interests of the Colonies, would have consented to use the influence of Great Britain towards a settlement of the question. But Lord Salisbury says that "Her Majesty's Government do not think that any good purpose would be served by proposing at the present time the resumption of international negotiations for the suppression of these bounties." Mr. Chamberlain admits that he is "fully alive to the force of the arguments against the present system of Sugar bounties, but that he is of

opinion that the best prospect of relieving the Sugar industry from the artificial competition from which they suffer, lies in bringing home to Foreign Governments the fact that their present policy confers a benefit on the Sugar consumers of this country at the expense of their own taxpayers." The above attitude is wrong for the following reasons:—

- (a).—It admits that Germany can not only intervene in British Colonial affairs for political reasons (as in South Africa), but that a foreign country has a right to interfere with and practically destroy a trade connection between England and her Colonies, and substitute her own produce for that of British Possessions.
- (b).—It ignores the fact that for matters of State policy, Germany finds it desirable to subsidize her agricultural industry, the most important department of which (in the present price of wheat) is Beet for Sugar manufacture. By this means both Germany and France keep large industrial populations in employment and political contentment.
- (c).—The bounties are therefore continued for purely selfish reasons, and not for the benefit of the English consumer; the interests of the British consumer are subject to the capricious action of these Foreign Powers, to any legislation those Powers may determine upon for their own reasons, and, in the near future, to an inevitably higher price for this article of food; a price which will be much more injurious to the British consumer than the maintenance of an average price based upon free imports without subsidies or bounties.

3.—Austria-Hungary gives Sugar Bounties to the extent of £416,000 a year; France £2,000,000; Germany £800,000; Belgium and Holland £1,000,000; that is upwards of £4,000,000 sterling annually. The employment of this money constituting a direct attack upon British industries.

4.—By means of these bounties, Germany and the other bounty-giving powers have taken almost entire possession of the English markets. In the year 1893 there were imported into the United Kingdom 998,551 tons of Beet Sugar; 1894, 1,063,489 tons; 1895, 1,160,712 tons. The imports of British Cane Sugar have practically remained stationary, viz.—125,219 tons in 1893; 161,445 in 1894, and 144,373 in 1895. The same may be said of Foreign Cane, viz.—254,358 in 1893; 186,231 in 1894, and 252,697 in 1895. The 1,500,000 tons of Sugar therefore consumed by the United Kingdom (at the rate of about 70 lbs. per head of population) is to an overwhelming extent supplied by Beet, and hence arises the constant complaint that the demand for the better and more nutritious and useful Cane Sugar cannot be satisfied by the grocers of the United Kingdom.

5.—This matter is therefore one for the attention of Parliament:—(a) in legitimate defence of British Colonial interests; (b) in furtherance of the principles of absolute, as against one-sided free trade; (c) in promotion of the real interests of the consumer, which lie in the maintenance of a settled price based upon the only true foundation, the natural cost of production.

6.—The above points are to be submitted to a meeting of Members of Parliament, to be held on a date to be announced later, for the purpose of bringing the matter before the House of Commons, or otherwise influencing the Government to take some action to induce Foreign Powers to abolish bounties, not only for their own agricultural and financial interests, but in accordance with the legitimate claims of British Colonies to be treated in the markets of the Mother Country upon the same footing as Foreign Countries.



BRITISH GUIANA.—Mr. Chamberlain says, in a despatch, 31st December, 1895, that, with regard to minor industries, rice and coffee are the most promising. He is not disposed to favour the establishment of an unofficial Board of Agriculture over which the Government can have no effective control, and he objects to a large loan of \$1,000,000 for the encouragement of minor industries. With regard to expenditure for general purposes, and for immigration (Mr. Chamberlain having said that the increase of expenditure was largely due to immigration), the Planters' Association have sent to the Secretary of State the following figures:—In 1871 the total expenditure was £338,000; in 1882, £428,971; and in 1894-5, £586,482. The Colony's share of immigration was, in 1871, £28,465; in 1882, £30,502; and in the year 1894-5, £44,717. It will thus be seen that whilst the Government expenditure has increased from £338,000 in 1871 to £586,482 in 1894-5, or £248,000, the additional expenditure during the same period on immigration has only been £16,252. The Immigration Fund Account for the financial year 1894-5 only shows the Colonial contribution of one-third, instead of one-half, as agreed upon with Lord Ripon, for three years. This matter is one for serious consideration.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.—Mr. Davson's speech at the Royal Colonial Institute is reprinted as an Appendix to this Circular. Mr. George Carrington's speech is worthy of attention, and will be considered for reproduction later.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—A suggested deficit of 900,000 tons in Cuba crop is still being discussed. Whether this enormous deficit could be readily made up by an increase of Colonial and Beet Sugar is very doubtful, and the prospects of a strong market, with good crops in British Guiana and the Islands are very good. There is no doubt of an increase of sowings on the Continent. Mr. Czarnikow says that 400,000 tons is mentioned as the maximum yield in Cuba, should quiet be restored quickly, which is not likely.

TRINIDAD.—The year 1895 (according to the Governor's Minute), began with a credit balance of pecuniary assets amounting to £82,192. The Revenue for 1895 was £591,584, and the expenditure £602,000. The Revenue for 1896 is estimated at £580,000, and the expenditure at £620,000, "which leaves an estimated balance of £31,906 for any supplementary expenditure, and to carry over to 1897." The medical expenditure shows an increase from £64,997 to £66,142. The taxation of the Colony would seem to have reached its limit, and might, through the reduction of establishments (which are greatly in excess of requirements) be considerably reduced, to the relief of the taxpayers of the Colony. The large expense of the medical establishment is particularly notable, and it is proposed to call the attention of the Secretary of State to the overgrown taxation and expenditure of the Colony. The very fact of a proportionately large surplus shows that there is unnecessary taxation, and there is no doubt that taxation could be much reduced consistently with an increased efficiency in Administration.

SUGAR, VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Czarnikow 6th February.) Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe, 2,524,064, against 2,038,586 tons; United States 130,000, against 123,864 tons; Cuba 52,000, against 128,789 tons. Total 2,706,064, against 2,291,239 tons. (The noticeable features in the above are the gradual reduction of total stocks, and the small stock in the United States. The stock in United Kingdom is still comparatively large, but really small having regard to total consumption, being 113,947, against 66,970.)

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—(Five weeks.) Imports 79,170, against 69,551 tons. Deliveries 73,488, against 61,302 tons. Stocks 113,947, against 66,970 tons.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (Czarnikow). 11/9 against 9/2.

COCOA.—At the sales on February 4th there was a fair demand, at steady rates. There were liberal supplies good to fine red Trinidad selling by auction 53/- to 57/-. Demerara, 15 bags were

partly sold, fermented 44/-. Private sales report fine to superior Trinidad at 56/6 to 67/- Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. (Trinidad) report, 22nd January, falling off in deliveries and supplies which will continue on a moderate scale until March, when the bulk of the crop will commence to mature. But advices from Europe and America have caused prices to decline. Venezuelan Cocoa was coming in very limited quantities, and readily bought up.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—British Guiana (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited, Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 15th January. Too dry. 21st.—Fine rains have fallen generally since last advices. 22nd.—Some showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted. (The latest news of Demerara weather is apparently by Mail, 22nd January. Some rain, not over two inches, but more is much needed, especially in Berbice where only about an inch has fallen.) Trinidad, (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited, and Messrs. William F. Burnley & Co., Limited.) 24th January. Fine, with occasional light showers. 31st January and 5th February. Favourable. Barbados, (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 28th January. Seasonable.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 128.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

9th March, 1896.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.—At a Meeting specially called to consider this question, the whole situation was carefully discussed, and it was decided to postpone the proposed Parliamentary Conference until a later date, when it might be more effective. In the meantime, assurances have been received from several members of Parliament indicating support to any movement that may be made on the basis of the statement printed in the last Circular. The matter is receiving every attention, and in the meantime the following letter has been addressed to Lord Salisbury :—“4th March, 1896. My Lord Marquess,—In continuation of previous correspondence we would respectfully request that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to reconsider their intention of abstaining from using their good offices in support of any proposals which might be made by Germany and Austria for International negotiations on the subject of the mutual reduction of Bounties on Sugar, or at least the prevention of any increase of those bounties. (2) We feel that we are justified in asking Her Majesty's Government to move in the above sense, by the fact that one of the avowed objects of the policy of the Government is the promotion of the interests of the British Colonies. (3) The interests of all the British Sugar Colonies are concerned in securing a free and open market in the United Kingdom, of which for a long time past they have been deprived by the bounties granted on export by Germany, Austria, France, Belgium and Holland. (4) Her Majesty's Government have entered into negotiations with Germany with regard to prison-made goods, and they are supporting a Bill in Parliament to restrict or prevent the importation of such goods. The reason for this action can only be that such goods—receiving practically a State subsidy—compete with English home-made products upon unfair terms. The same argument applies to Sugar imported into the United Kingdom under Bounty, the disadvantage to British industries in the Colonies being enormously greater. (5) We beg to direct your Lordship's attention to the enclosed paper (W. I. C. Circular, 127) showing the present position of British Colonial Sugar, as compared with Bounty Sugar from Foreign Countries, in the markets of the United Kingdom; and we would humbly pray that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to take the earliest opportunity of co-operating with Germany and Austria in any International movement for the reduction and ultimate abolition of bounties. (Signed) N. Lubbock, Chairman.”

GERMAN SUGAR DUTIES' BILL.—This Bill is now before the Imperial Diet. One of its objects is to raise the bounty to meet the competition with France. There seems, however, so much opposition to this measure that it is doubtful if it will pass.

COFFEE DUTIES.—There has been a movement by merchants and brokers in Mincing Lane, principally interested in Foreign Coffee, in favour of the abolition of the duties. Of course, this was not to be expected unless tea and cocoa were similarly dealt with, and the reply of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in the negative, although he promised to consider some

improvements in the bonding system. As the question had been raised, the following letter was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and acknowledged by him. "26th February. Sir,— We notice that you have been requested to receive representations from persons engaged in the import trade in Coffee, in favour of the abolition of the duties on that article. Although such a measure would principally benefit Foreign producers, we beg, as representing the interests of Jamaica Coffee producers, to express the hope that you will be favourable to such proposal. But we beg humbly to point out that the duties on Coffee cannot be abolished without at the same time giving a similar relief to Cocoa. Representations have been made to Her Majesty's Government in past years as to the desirability of abolishing the Cocoa duty, but we have always been given to understand, in reply, that this could not be done without also considering the claims of Tea and Coffee. We shall be prepared, should you, Sir, desire it, to state our case more fully with regard to Cocoa, which is a most important industry in the British Colony of Trinidad; and if the duties are abolished on Coffee we feel that we have an equal claim upon Her Majesty's Government for a similar measure in regard to Cocoa. (Signed) N. Lutibdek, Chairman."

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—An influential correspondent calls attention to the Guiana Rice Company, capital £250,000 in 25,000 shares of £10 each. The list of Provisional Directors includes the Hon. E. C. Luard, the Hon. W. A. Wolseley, R. G. Duncan, Esq., and Harry Garraway, Esq. Fifty copies of the Prospectus have been received at this office, and they can be had on application. Our correspondent writes: "My request to you is that you will kindly place the matter before your Committee with the view of its members being made fully cognisant of the objects of the Company. As an investment there seems little doubt that it will succeed, especially as returns will be quick. It will also, directly and indirectly, be of great benefit to the East Indians, and will materially help to keep them domiciled in the Colony instead of being sent to India at great expense." There has been no time for the Secretary to receive any instructions from the Chairman and Committee in the matter. This paragraph is printed simply for the general information of members.

**THE ESSEQUEBO RAILWAY.**—Messrs. Sproston, Sons, and Co. forward a telegram received by them on 4th March, announcing "Five miles Essequibo Railway laid."

**DOMINICA.**—The Secretary of State has passed through the House of Commons, after a division, a vote for £15,000 in aid of the finances of Dominica, and to provide money for new public works. Mr. Chamberlain made at the same time a speech in favour of the development of Crown Colonies, as productive Estates belonging to the Empire. Whether the money is well spent in regard to Dominica it is impossible to say, but there are other Islands, of a really productive value, upon which much capital and enterprise have been expended, which might deserve the attention of the Secretary of State. A grant of £15,000 to Dominica, where there is little agricultural productiveness, is not considered by people connected with both the Leeward and Windward Islands, as fully carrying out the promise of Mr. Chamberlain to give Imperial aid to the development of the Crown Colonies generally.

**ST. KITTS, NEVIS.**—There has been, according to private letters, some disturbance in this Colony, but nothing more can be said pending official information. An application has been duly made to the Colonial Office for any information.

**ST. KITTS-NEVIS.**—All members and others interested in this Colony are requested to attend a Meeting here on Tuesday, March 10th (to-morrow), at 11.30; to discuss what measures should be adopted in consequence of recent reported disturbances in St. Kitts-Nevis.



**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Up to the end of February there seemed a prospect of strengthening markets, owing principally to the Cuba crop being a nominal one, and the prospect of a possible shortage in the Beet-root crop, but an increase in the sowings of Beet, perhaps to the extent of 20 per cent., is now reported, although the best authorities consider it doubtful. In France the weather conditions lead to the expectation that the sowings can be made in good time, which will probably be equal to the last two years. In Germany there will be an increase of sowings, but so much depends upon the Sugar Law now under discussion, which involves an increase in bounty but restriction of output. In other countries there also seems prospect of increased sowings. The Beet figures may now be considered fairly complete. They are given by Mr. Licht as follows:

|                        | 1895-6.          | 1894-5.          |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Germany ... ..         | 1,610,000        | 1,844,586        |
| Austria ... ..         | 770,000          | 1,055,821        |
| France ... ..          | 670,000          | 792,511          |
| Russia ... ..          | 750,000          | 615,058          |
| Belgium ... ..         | 230,000          | 243,957          |
| Holland ... ..         | 110,000          | 84,597           |
| Other Countries ... .. | 130,000          | 156,000          |
| <b>Tons</b>            | <b>4,270,000</b> | <b>4,792,530</b> |

The crop just finished thus shows a deficit of 523,000 tons against preceding year. Mr. Czarnikow, March 5, while reporting fluctuations, seems on the whole to anticipate a stronger market during the next few months.

**SUGAR, VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Czarnikow, March 5th). Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe, 2,435,245 tons, against 2,153,071; United States, 123,000, against 130,469; Cuba, 46,000, against 188,649. Total, 2,604,245, against 2,472,189. This is an appreciable reduction in visible supplies and stocks.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—(Nine weeks). Imports, 157,965 tons, against 112,069. Deliveries, 137,267 against 114,313; Stocks, 128,863 against 56,877.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (Czarnikow) 12/3 against 9/3.

**COCOA.**—(Gordon, Grant & Co.) Deliveries moderate until bulk of new crop matures when liberal supplies are looked for. Weather favourable, and markets fairly strong, after fluctuation caused by dull consuming market in Europe and America. There was a dull tone in last public sales (March 3). Trinidad, good to fine, 51/- to 62/-; superior, 66/-; Grenada, common, 37/6 to 40/-; good, ordinary to fine, 44/- to 48/-. Dominica, 40/6 to 44/6. Demerara, 42/- to 45/6. Considerable sales take place of Cadbury's Cocoa Butter.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—British Guiana (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.) 17th February.—Weather dry, no rain since last message (8th). 4th March.—A few light showers have fallen but more rain much wanted. Trinidad (per favour of the Colonial Company, Ltd., and Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.) 20th February.—(1) Weather favourable. (2) The dry season has set in. 26th.—Favourable. 3rd March.—(1) Weather fine for harvesting. (2) Favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 12th February.—Seasonable. 25th February.—Seasonable.





# WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

May, 1896.

## SUGAR BOUNTIES.

On January 11th, 1888, Lord Salisbury said, in a speech at Liverpool, after referring to the efforts of the Baron de Worms in favour of abolishing bounty upon Sugar:—"What does bounty on Sugar do? It favours the consumer, undoubtedly it does; and what I may call your freetrader presumes that everything that favours the consumer, whether it be legitimate or whether it be not, must be sanctioned by the doctrine of free trade, and so you see people writing that because it is good for the consumer it ought to be encouraged. They do not see that advantages to the consumer secured by illegitimate means are only transitory in their character, and that when they have served the purpose of destroying the industry against which they have been levelled, the advantage to the consumer will cease."

The markets of the United Kingdom have been practically closed, not only against British Colonial Sugar, but against all Cane Sugar--the same being produced without bounty or State assistance.

The British West Indies are not only concerned, but the effect of the foreign bounties has been also felt by the Sugar Industries of Queensland, South Africa and Mauritius.

Lord Salisbury, as above quoted, was referring to the negotiations then proceeding between England and Foreign Sugar-producing Powers, for the abolition of bounties generally.

In August, 1888, a Convention (the proceedings of which were entirely conducted by the British Government, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies being the President of the Conference) was agreed to, binding the Powers "to take such measures as shall constitute an absolute and complete guarantee that no open or disguised bounty shall be granted on the manufacture or export of Sugar."

The Convention of 1888, however, while it did not really involve any additional charge to the consumer, was not confirmed by Parliament. The Convention simply gave freedom to Sugar Powers to take certain defensive measures in the case of one or more of the Contracting Powers continuing to give Bounties to the detriment of the rest. Of course, no neutralizing or countervailing duties could be imposed in England without an Act of Parliament, and the absolute discretion of Parliament in the matter was not fettered in any way.

### TOTAL PRODUCTION OF SUGAR.

|          | 1880-1         | 1885-6         | 1890-1         |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Beet ... | Tons 1,630,000 | Tons 2,223,000 | Tons 3,710,000 |
| Cane ... | " 2,200,000    | " 2,140,000    | " 2,500,000    |

### BEEET COUNTRIES.

|                             | 1891-2         | 1892-3    | 1893-4    | 1894-5    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany ...                 | 1,198,000      | 1,225,000 | 1,393,000 | 1,900,000 |
| Austria ...                 | 786,000        | 803,000   | 842,000   | 1,100,000 |
| France ...                  | 650,000        | 588,000   | 579,000   | 830,000   |
| Russia ...                  | 551,000        | 455,000   | 660,000   | 630,000   |
| Belgium ...                 | 180,000        | 197,000   | 235,000   | 285,000   |
| Holland and other Countries | 136,000        | 160,000   | 186,000   | 230,000   |
|                             | 3,501,000      | 3,428,000 | 3,895,000 | 4,975,000 |
| Cane Production ...         | 2,784,000      | 2,760,000 | 3,046,000 | 2,904,000 |
| Total do.                   | Tons 6,285,000 | 6,188,000 | 6,941,000 | 7,879,000 |

From these figures it will be seen that whilst the Beet production has increased from 2,223,000 tons in 1885-6 to 4,975,000 tons in 1894-5, or 124 per cent., the Cane production has only increased from 2,140,000 tons in 1885-6 to 2,904,000 tons in 1894-5, or say 36 per cent.

Attention is directed to the following points :—

1. The recent correspondence with the Government, pointing out :—

(a)—The effect of the bounties in an enormous over-production of Beet Sugar in 1894-5, causing a reduction of price injurious to the Beet industry itself, but still more so to the non-bounty British Cane industry.

(b)—The attention given to the bounty question by Germany and Austria, and the proposals for raising the bounties in these countries to meet the excessively bounty-fed competition of France.

(c)—The expressed desire, however, of Germany and Austria to abolish their bounties if other countries would do the same, if they could do so with safety to their Sugar industries.

(d)—The opportunity thus afforded to the British Government to act as mediator, or at least to encourage a common agreement, which would not be likely to be arrived at by the bounty powers themselves, for the mutual abolition of bounties. No such result could be arrived at without the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, and the time seemed particularly opportune for such movement.

(e)—That if a Conference should be called, Her Majesty's Government, having regard to their past proceedings in the matter, extending over many years, and culminating in the International Convention signed in London in August, 1888, should express their willingness to attend such Conference, and assist in the movement for the abolition of bounties. Germany and Austria have already done so.

2.—The above is a short summary of the case as presented to both Lord Kimberley and Lord Salisbury. The former, when Foreign Secretary, would not move, but it was expected that Lord Salisbury, whose Government had assumed office upon the basis of promoting the interests of the Colonies, would have consented to use the influence of Great Britain towards a settlement of the question. But Lord Salisbury says that "Her Majesty's Government do not think that any good purpose would be served by proposing at the present time the resumption of international negotiations for the suppression of these bounties." Mr. Chamberlain admits that he is "fully alive to the force of the arguments against the present system of Sugar Bounties, but that he is of opinion that the best prospect of relieving the Sugar industry from the artificial competition from which they suffer, lies in bringing home to Foreign Governments the fact that their present policy confers a benefit on the Sugar consumers of this country at the expense of their own taxpayers."

The above attitude is wrong for the following reasons :—

(a)—It admits that a foreign country has a right to interfere with and practically destroy a trade connection between England and her Colonies and substitute her own produce for that of British Possessions.

(b)—It ignores the fact that for matters of State policy, Germany finds it desirable to subsidize her agricultural industry, the most important department of which (in the present price of wheat) is Beet for Sugar manufacture. By this means both Germany and France keep large industrial populations in employment and political contentment.

(c)—The bounties are therefore continued for purely selfish reasons, and not for the benefit of the English consumer; the interests of the British consumer are subject to the capricious action of these Foreign Powers, to any legislation those Powers may determine upon for their own reasons, and, in the near future, to a possibly higher price for this article of



food, a price which will be much more injurious to the British consumer than the maintenance of an average price based upon free imports without subsidies or bounties. Mr. Gladstone said, in 1879, "My desire is that the British consumer should have both Sugar and every other commodity at the lowest price at which it can be produced, without arbitrary favour to any of those engaged in the competition; but I cannot regard with favour any cheapness which is produced by means of the concealed subsidies of a foreign State to a particular industry, and with the effect of crippling and distressing capitalists and workmen engaged in a lawful branch of British Trade."

3.—Austria-Hungary gives Sugar Bounties to the extent of £416,000 a year; France £2,000,000; Germany £800,000; Belgium and Holland £1,000,000; that is upwards of £4,000,000 sterling annually. The employment of this money constituting a direct attack upon British industries.

4.—By means of these bounties, Germany and the other bounty giving powers have taken almost entire possession of the English markets. In the year 1893 there were imported into the United Kingdom 998,551 tons of Beet Sugar; 1894, 1,063,489 tons; 1895, 1,160,712 tons. The imports of British Cane Sugar have practically remained stationary, viz.—126,219 tons in 1893; 161,445 in 1894, and 144,373 in 1895. The same may be said of Foreign Cane, viz.—254,358 in 1893; 186,231 in 1894, and 252,697 in 1895. The 1,500,000 tons of Sugar therefore consumed by the United Kingdom (at the rate of about 70 lbs. per head of population) is to an overwhelming extent supplied by Beet, and hence arises the constant complaint that the demand for Cane Sugar cannot be satisfied by the grocers of the United Kingdom.

5.—This matter is therefore one for the attention of Parliament:—(a) in legitimate defence of British Colonial interests; (b) in furtherance of the principles of absolute free trade; (c) in promotion of the real interests of the consumer, which lie in the maintenance of a settled price based upon only true foundation—the natural cost of production.

The following is the last letter received from the Foreign Office, showing an important change in the attitude of Her Majesty's Government:—"Foreign Office to West India Committee, March 16th, 1896. The Chairman, Sir.—I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., requesting that Her Majesty's Government would reconsider their decision, conveyed to you in my letter of the 31st December last, to abstain from proposing at the present time any resumption of International negotiations for the suppression of bounties on Foreign Sugar. In reply, I am to state, that although Her Majesty's Government could not take the initiative in the matter, they would not refuse to consider on their merits any suggestions for International action which might be made by a Foreign Power. At present, however, they have not been made acquainted with any such intention on the part of any Foreign Government. (Signed) George Curzon." The above letter, conveying as it practically does, an invitation to Foreign Governments to obtain the good offices of the British Government in a general settlement of the Bounty question, was forwarded to the "Deutsche Zucker Industrie," and printed by that paper, with the following observations:—"20th March, 1896. As our readers are aware, Great Britain which had the management of the Bounty negotiations of 1887, took no part in the efforts made last summer by the Austrian and German Governments towards abolishing the Sugar Bounties; it was thought that the Bounty question no longer interested the English Government. The following letter, however, which we received from a highly respected correspondent in London, puts England's views in a different light. Foreign Office to West India Committee, March 16th, 1896.' [Letter quoted.] From the German Sugar manufacturers' point of view any suggestion in the direction of the International abolition of Bounties is to be gladly welcomed. They have always declared their preference for a free rivalry in trade between competitors on an equal footing, rather than highly favoured conditions. Hand in hand with this willingness of the manufacturers to give up the bounties, goes the desire of the German government to abolish these bounties altogether. But both the government and the industry are agreed that at present all efforts are useless while Germany's competitors enjoy a much higher bounty than she does. There will be a more promising basis for International negotiations once the German bounties have been suitably increased by the Bill now before the Reichstag. Our competitors will thus have to choose between raising their bounties higher or abolishing them in common with Germany. The mere announcement of our intention to increase our bounties has, so far, had little effect on France, but the passing of the Bill will no doubt make more impression there. It appears that out of Germany it has not been sufficiently borne in mind that, both according to the present law and the Bill now before the Reichstag, the German Sugar Bounties can be reduced or entirely abolished as soon as the same takes place abroad, by the Federal

Council alone, without concurrence of the Reichstag, and therefore a new law for the purpose would not be necessary. When France, Austria, Belgium and Holland realize that the German Bounties have been increased, and that we will lower or do away with them altogether without much ado as soon as our competitors show that they are in earnest in the matter, the Bounty question will probably assume a very different complexion, and, in view of this, the support of the English Government, which, as appears from the above letter, may be depended upon, is of great value and deserving of thanks; and Mr. Lubbock in particular is to be thanked for bringing the promise of the London Cabinet to the knowledge of those interested in the matter."

In connection with the above, Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Canada Dinner, on March 25, 1896, may be quoted:—"A true Zollverein for the Empire, a free trade established throughout the Empire, although it would involve the imposition of duties against Foreign Countries, and would be in that respect a derogation from the high principles of free trade and from the practice of the United Kingdom up to the present time, would still be a proper subject for discussion and would probably lead to a satisfactory arrangement if the Colonies on their part were willing to consider it. \* \* \* I want especially to point out that the advantages of such a proposal are so enormous to the Colonies, as they would undoubtedly lead to the earliest possible development of their great natural resources, would bring to them population, would open to them the enormous market of the United Kingdom for their products, their food, their timber, their sugar; the advantages, I say, are so enormous that it appears to me that the Colonies themselves would be bound to give any suggestion of this kind, at all events, a careful reconsideration."

It need hardly be said that to neutralize the effect of bounties, and to open the English Market on equal terms to British and Foreign Sugar alike, would be in accordance with, and no derogation from the principles of Free Trade.

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman of West India Committee.*

JAMES L. OHLSON, *Secretary.*



CIRCULAR No. 129.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

6th April, 1896.

**THE SUGAR QUESTION.**—The following letter has been received from the Foreign Office, showing an important change in the attitude of Her Majesty's Government.—“Foreign Office to West India Committee, March 16th, 1896. The Chairman, Sir.—I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., requesting that Her Majesty's Government would reconsider their decision, conveyed to you in my letter of the 31st December last, to abstain from proposing at the present time any resumption of International negotiations for the suppression of bounties on Foreign Sugar. In reply, I am to state, that although Her Majesty's Government could not take the initiative in the matter, they would not refuse to consider on their merits any suggestions for International action which might be made by a Foreign Power. At present, however, they have not been made acquainted with any such intention on the part of any Foreign Government. (Signed) George Curzon.” The above letter, conveying as it practically does, an invitation to Foreign Governments to obtain the good offices of the British Government in a general settlement of the Bounty question, was forwarded to the “Deutsche Zucker Industrie,” and printed by that paper, with the following observations:—“20th March, 1896. As our readers are aware, Great Britain which had the management of the Bounty negotiations of 1887, took no part in the efforts made last summer by the Austrian and German Governments towards abolishing the Sugar Bounties; it was thought that the Bounty question no longer interested the English Government. The following letter, however, which we received from a highly respected correspondent in London, puts England's views in a different light ‘Foreign Office to West India Committee, March 16th, 1896.’ [Letter quoted.] From the German Sugar manufacturers' point of view any suggestion in the direction of the International abolition of Bounties is to be gladly welcomed. They have always declared their preference for a free rivalry in trade between competitors on an equal footing, rather than highly favoured conditions. Hand in hand with this willingness of the manufacturers to give up the bounties, goes the desire of the German government to abolish these bounties altogether. But both the government and the industry are agreed that at present all efforts are useless while Germany's competitors enjoy a much higher bounty than she does. There will be a more promising basis for International negotiations once the German bounties have been suitably increased by the Bill now before the Reichstag. Our competitors will thus have to choose between raising their bounties higher or abolishing them in common with Germany. The mere announcement of our intention to increase our bounties has, so far, had little effect on France, but the passing of the Bill will no doubt make more impression there. It appears that out of Germany it has not been sufficiently borne in mind that, both according to the present law and the Bill now before the Reichstag, the German Sugar Bounties can be reduced or entirely abolished as soon as the same takes place abroad, by the Federal Council alone, without concurrence of the Reichstag, and therefore a new law for the purpose would not be necessary. When France, Austria, Belgium and Holland realize that the German Bounties have been increased, and that we will lower or do away with them altogether without much ado as soon as our competitors show that they are in earnest in the matter, the Bounty question will probably assume a very different complexion, and, in view of this, the support of the English Government, which, as appears from the above letter, may be depended upon, is of great value and deserving of thanks; and Mr. Lubbock in particular is to be thanked for bringing the promise of the London Cabinet to the knowledge of those interested in the matter.” The Sugar Bill will be again before the Reichstag on April 17th. There are so many different interests concerned that it seems doubtful if the Bill will pass. It is, however, obviously the idea of the German Government that the raising of the Bounty (which Bounty could be reduced or abolished by the Federal Council without any fresh law) would bring France and other competing countries to realize the necessity of reducing bounties, and it is evident that in the case of negotiations between Germany and other powers, the intervention and co-operation of the British Government would be very valuable and effective. It is possible the matter might be accelerated by Mr. Chamberlain's recent statement.

**MR. CHAMBERLAIN ON IMPERIAL FREE TRADE.**—The following is an extract from Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Canada Dinner on March 25. After referring to the desirability of Commercial Union between England and the Colonies, he said:—“A true Zollverein for



the Empire, a free trade established throughout the Empire, although it would involve the imposition of duties against Foreign Countries, and would be in that respect a derogation from the high principles of free trade and from the practice of the United Kingdom up to the present time, would still be a proper subject for discussion and would probably lead to a satisfactory arrangement if the Colonies on their part were willing to consider it. \* \* \* I want especially to point out that the advantages of such a proposal are so enormous to the Colonies, as they would undoubtedly lead to the earliest possible development of their great natural resources, would bring to them population, would open to them the enormous market of the United Kingdom for their products, their food, their timber, their sugar; the advantages, I say, are so enormous that it appears to me that the Colonies themselves would be bound to give any suggestion of this kind, at all events, a careful reconsideration." The following points arise:—(1) The Colonies in their dealings with England are only to charge sufficient duties for purely revenue purposes. (2) In their dealings with Foreign Countries, the Colonies may impose additional duties on produce from Foreign Countries. (3) It would follow as a matter of course that the United Kingdom should treat Colonial produce in a similar manner, and give to it a preferential advantage over foreign produce. (4) In such case, Colonial Sugar would be affected in two ways: 1st, a duty might be imposed upon Foreign Sugar generally imported into the United Kingdom in response to the reduction or abolition of duties on United Kingdom produce imported into the Colonies; and 2nd, a duty could be imposed upon Foreign bounty-aided Sugar, equal to the bounty received, thus bringing about absolute free trade. Mr. Chamberlain's statement is the most important which has been made for many years affecting the Commercial policy of this Country in regard to a differential treatment between the Colonies and Foreign Countries.

**THE SUGAR QUESTION. PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE.**—A meeting of the West India Committee was held on the 19th March: Mr. Lubbock in the chair. There was a large attendance, and the presence of Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P. was much appreciated. The Parliamentary Meeting was fixed for Thursday, 7th May, at 4.30 in Conference Room of the House of Commons, which Mr. Lawrence kindly promised to obtain for the meeting. The basis of the statement to be issued for the occasion will be that contained in W. J. C. Circular No. 127, with any alterations that may be decided upon.

**THE SUGAR QUESTION. CIRCULAR 127.**—There has been a great demand for this paper, and few copies are left. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs applied for additional copies, by direction of Lord Salisbury. Representatives of the Queensland Sugar Industry have also been furnished with copies, at their request, and the following letter was received from a very influential gentleman connected with the Sugar interests of Natal:—"21st March, 1896. The Chairman.—I shall be very glad to co-operate with your Committee as far as I am able, but I must tell you that I regard the question of the importation of Sugar from Foreign Countries as bound up in the much larger question, 'what are to be the future trade relations between the different portions of the British Empire?' If I may say so with all respect, your Committee appears to have cast their net too wide, and to concentrate too much attention on the action of Foreign Governments which give bounties on the export of Sugar to this Country. That policy has paid Foreign Countries very well; it was necessary to the creation of that large Sugar industry which could not have attained its present dimensions without it. But Foreign Bounties on Sugar exports could not have injured our Sugar-growing Colonies, or the Refining industry in this Country, without the connivance of the British Parliament, and it is within the power of that Parliament to apply the remedy for its own wrong. I believe the day is coming when England's fiscal system will be revised, with a view to alterations to meet the changed circumstances of the times, and that day cannot come too soon. You are, of course, aware of the enquiries relating to Colonial Trade, which have been addressed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to the Governors of Colonies; also of the Marquess of Salisbury's letter to Sir Howard Vincent, of the 5th instant. What is now wanted is that your Committee, and other organizations, such as the Empire Trade League, &c., &c. should join hands and urge upon Her Majesty's Government either to convene a Conference or appoint a Royal Commission, including Colonial Representatives, to enquire into, and report upon the best means of securing a larger measure of British Trade for the British."

[NOTE.—Mr. Chamberlain's speech above quoted has a direct bearing upon the question raised by our correspondent, and the points he raises will be carefully considered. We hope to have his co-operation in any further movements, although we think, apart from the general question, we have a perfect case, on the principles of free trade, in favour of a special intervention of our Government for the settlement of the bounty question.]

**ST. KITTS-NEVIS.**—Several meetings of proprietors have been held in regard to recent disturbances. A copy of Sir Francis Fleming's despatch, 28th February, forwarded by the Colonial Office, can be seen at this office. The following letter was addressed to the Chairman of the St. Kitts-Nevis Agricultural Society by last mail.—"The Hon. Edward Todd, 24th March, 1896. Dear



Sir, I am requested to inform you that meetings have been held at this office, attended by proprietors of Sugar estates in St. Kitts-Nevis, to consider questions arising out of the recent disturbances there. I am to express the hope that the disturbances have now ceased, and that there will be no recurrence of disorder; and I am to request you, as Chairman of the Agricultural Society of the Presidency, to invite the serious consideration of the planting body, to the following suggestions:—

"In view of the organized riots and strikes for higher wages which have recently occurred, it seems most desirable that proprietors should organize themselves for mutual protection and resistance to unjust demands on the part of the labourers. Some common agreement among the representatives of the proprietors as to the rate to be paid for the various descriptions of work in and out of crop season, would go far to secure this result."

"Further, some measure of insurance on growing crops, to indemnify individual proprietors against loss by incendiarism, seems to us essential. The burning of canes being intended to intimidate proprietors, the fact of a guarantee against loss, should be a material safeguard against this danger. Such insurance might be effected either by a mutual guarantee between the proprietors themselves, or through the medium of the regular Insurance Companies, who have been approached, and are prepared to undertake the business under conditions which regulate their liability according to the stage of maturity of the canes. If the mutual guarantee be adopted, it is obvious that it must be accompanied by an agreement for the regulation of wages. As to the question of defence and security against the recurrence of disorder, this seems to be a matter for the Colonial Government, and we trust that in an increase of the police force, and the establishment of a militia and volunteer force, such a means of security will be found. We should highly esteem the opinion of yourself and your fellow planters on the above matter, and I will ask you kindly in view of the importance of the matter, to communicate such opinion to me at the earliest opportunity. (Signed) E. Luxmoore Marshall, Chairman, St. Kitts-Nevis Committee."

[NOTE.—The despatch of the Governor raises an important question as to the employment of labour, which will, no doubt, be made the subject of representations to the Secretary of State.]

**SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR AND TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC.**—The following letter has been addressed to the Foreign Office: "The Under Secretary of State, 24th March, 1896. Sir, We have been requested by some members of this Committee who are interested in the Sugar Industry of Natal, to ask whether you would be pleased to give us information upon the following point: It is stated that a Treaty arrangement exists between Portugal and the Transvaal Republic by which Sugar from the Portuguese Territories in South Africa is admitted into the Transvaal free of duty, while Sugar from the British Colonies in South Africa is subjected to a duty, alleged to be at the rate of £3 10s. per ton on its introduction into the Transvaal. It is also stated that a similarly onerous duty is imposed upon British South African Rum. We, therefore, respectfully beg to inquire, assuming the above statements to be well founded, whether there is any arrangement between Her Majesty's Government and the Transvaal Government by which British Colonial produce could claim most favoured treatment upon its introduction into the Republic. We venture, Sir, to write to you upon this subject, instead of to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as we believe that all matters connected with Commercial Treaties would be within the province of your Department.—(Signed.) N. Lubbock, Chairman."

**SUGAR IN QUEENSLAND.**—This Colony contains 5,000 square miles, or 32,000,000 (32 millions) acres of land suitable for tropical and semi-tropical produce. Only 80,000 acres are at present cultivated, and Sugar is reported to be the most thriving and prosperous of the agricultural industries. The small planter cultivates, and the large mill-owner manufactures. The average yield of Cane per acre is about 25 tons, and the price of Cane, delivered on the railway or at the mill, is 13s. or 14s. per ton. A well-equipped mill requires a capital of £30,000 to £60,000. Some years ago the Government erected two large mills, and passed them over to Companies formed to work them. One of these crushed during 1894 28,313 tons of Cane, yielding 3,463 tons of Sugar, or very nearly eight tons of Cane to one ton of Sugar. The average cost of Cane was 14s. 8½d., and the average cost of manufacture, including all charges, was £2 10s. The total cost of the production of Sugar was thus £8 10s. 7d. per ton; it was sold f.o.b. at £12 5s.; thus making a profit of £3 14s. 5d. per ton, or a total net profit for the year of £12,889. These mill owners re-pay to the Government the total cost of the erection of the mills within 20 years, and for five years up to 1893 or 1894 (it is not certain which), the instalments were duly paid, as well as five per cent. interest on the unpaid balance. These results encouraged the Government to pass the "Sugar Works Guarantee Acts of 1893 and 1895," authorising groups of planters to form Companies, and to borrow from the Government the total cost of their plantations sufficient for the erection of mills, re-paying the loan in 15 years at five per cent. interest on the unpaid portion. A number of Companies were formed and many new mills erected. Besides local consumption, the Sugar exported in 1894 was 64,910 tons. The following are some of the principal points of the law of 1893:—Company may issue debentures at five per cent. for defraying cost of Sugar works, debentures paid off in 15 years by equal annual instalments. It must give full



particulars of cost of buildings and machinery. Sufficient suitable land must be secured to keep works employed. Government guarantees payment of debentures, both principal and interest. In case of default, such payment to be made out of the Consolidated Revenue. Company shall give first mortgage to Government of works and land, up to a value double the total sum for which the Government becomes liable under the guarantee. Government takes priority of existing mortgages, consent of such mortgagees being obtained. Payment of debentures and interest to be a first charge on profits, in default, price of purchased Cane to be fixed by Government until arrears are discharged; and further, Government may take over works and land, and either conduct the same until the whole Government liability is discharged, or sell same by auction. Provisions for inspection, insurance, publication of statements, and notices of arrears. The Act of 1895 empowers Government to purchase debentures out of moneys provided by Parliament. Total guarantee or purchase by Government, under both Acts, not to exceed £500,000. [NOTE.—It remains to be seen how far this scheme has been injuriously affected by the low prices of 1895, consequent upon the great over-production of Beet Sugar under bounty in 1894-5. The above particulars are given in consequence of numerous inquiries.]

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Owing to holidays the latest information cannot be printed. Sowings were proceeding in March, and Mr. Licht (March 21st), estimates an increased cultivation of about 10 per cent.; but much depended upon the German Sugar Tax Bill. From Austria, France, Belgium and Holland, there is no trustworthy information, but estimates of a 10 per cent. increase of Beet area are put forward, with more or less confidence. The actual area sown in beet has yet to be definitely ascertained. The main feature in the situation is the reduction of general stocks, which reduction is rapidly increasing.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Licht, 21st March.)—Europe, 2,177,766 tons, against 2,069,447; United States and Cuba, 223,435 against 407,139. Total, 2,401,201, against 2,476,586. (Czarnikow, March 26th.) Total, 2,447,934 against 2,529,870. (Czarnikow, April 1st.) 2,447,259 against 2,561,364.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—(13 weeks.) Landings, 206,250 tons, against 152,478. Deliveries, 183,554 against 165,058; Stocks, 132,506 against 46,454.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88%  $\frac{12}{5}$  against 94.

**COCOA.**—Prices for Trinidad Cocoa were fairly steady at auction, 31st March. Market generally reported dull. Mail reports as to production not received at time of printing.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co., and Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 13th.—A few light showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted. 20th.—Some acceptable rains in Mahaica and at Plantation Skeldon. Elsewhere some light showers have fallen, but more rain wanted. 26th.—Rain is falling generally. 28th.—Fine rains have fallen generally since last advices. Trinidad (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited, and Messrs. Wm. F. Burnley & Co., Limited). March 17th.—Weather fine for harvesting. Weather favourable. 24th.—Favourable. 31st.—Harvesting going on well. Favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 24th.—Good Reaping weather.

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 130.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

18th May, 1896.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, 7th May.—A large number of Members of Parliament were communicated with. Fifty Members promised to attend, subject to their Parliamentary duties. Twenty-four Members actually attended, and great interest was shown in the question. Owing to the condition of Parliamentary business, there did not seem to be much prospect of a debate this Session, but the fact that so many Members of Parliament met for the purpose of considering the question, was a good augury for future Parliamentary action. What, however, is really wanted now, is a deputation to Lord Salisbury to support him in his offer to take part in International negotiations if an opportunity occurs. The German Bill, raising the bounties, is practically passed, subject to its revision, if the other Powers agreed to abolish their bounties. All West Indians have expressed themselves much indebted to Mr. Lubbock for his statement of the case at the Parliamentary Conference, and he was supported by representatives from the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow.

CABLE COMMUNICATION.—The following statement by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the House of Commons, was made on April 23rd, 1896, in reply to Mr. Tomlinson, M.P.—“I have received communications from the West India Colonies representing the importance of establishing improved telegraphic communication between this country and those colonies for the purposes of Imperial Defence as well as for commercial purposes. I have no reason to think that there are any insuperable constructive difficulties in effecting such communication. Proposals on the subject are under consideration, and I hope that they may result in a cable being laid at no distant date.”

In consequence of the above, a meeting of the London firms on the West India Committee has been held, and the following Resolution was ordered to be sent to the Secretary of State:—“The West India Committee, representing Proprietary, Mercantile and other interests in the United Kingdom connected with the British West Indies, have observed with much satisfaction the statement recently made in the House of Commons that proposals for a Cable Communication with these colonies via Halifax and Bermuda have been made. The Committee are of opinion that any such alternative Cable, entirely British, would be a great boon to the West India Trade, inasmuch as the proposed line would largely reduce the present onerous charge for telegrams between those Colonies and the Mother Country, the charge for telegrams between British Guiana and the United Kingdom being higher than that for telegrams from any other part of the world. The Committee trust that the proposals of the Halifax and Bermuda Company will receive the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.”

SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR AND TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC.—The following letter has been received in reply to that printed in last circular:—“Foreign Office to West India Committee, May 7th, 1896. The Chairman, Sir,—The Marquess of Salisbury, has been in communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies in regard to the admission into the South African Republic, free of duty, of Sugar from Portuguese Territories in South Africa. In reply I am directed by his Lordship to state, for the information of the West India Committee, that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, though under Article 25 of the Pretoria Convention of 1881, now replaced by Article 13 of the London Convention of 1884, British Colonial produce was and is entitled to most favoured Nation treatment, Earl Granville, then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at the time when the Portuguese Transvaal Treaty of 1875 was ratified, specifically waived any claim to exemption from duty for British produce arising out of the provisions of that treaty; Article 5 of which reciprocally exempted from duties the products of the Transvaal, and of the Portuguese Possessions of Mozambique. Lord Granville, on that occasion, in a despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon on May 2nd, 1882, to be found at page 18 of Parliamentary Paper C. 3410, stated that Her Majesty's Government had no intention of claiming the benefit of similar exemption, but that they considered the stipulation for reciprocal exemption should be retained in the Treaty looking to the difficulty of collecting duties on the extended land frontier of the Portuguese Possessions and the Transvaal. This



stipulation is regarded as still holding good, but Her Majesty's present Government is debarred by the declaration above referred to from claiming equal treatment in this respect." The above shows the value of the Favoured Nation Clause. It can be set aside at any moment, and a whole trade paralysed, because to carry it out would cause some local difficulties in the Custom House regulations of the Portuguese Possessions and the Transvaal. The following points arise: (1) A Treaty has been made, and exists, between Portugal and the Transvaal. (2) Under that Treaty, British produce (claiming favoured Nation treatment) should go into the Transvaal on the same terms as produce from the Portuguese Possessions. (3) Lord Granville gave up the right of the Favoured Nation Clause because of some local difficulties. (4) And, in accordance with that unofficial understanding, the whole of British South African produce is charged with heavy duties and compelled to seek an outlet elsewhere, whilst Portuguese products are admitted into the Transvaal free of duty. And our present Government feel themselves bound to continue this arrangement.

COLONIAL TRADE.—The following letter, by Mr. N. Lubbock, appears in the *Times*, April 22nd:—"I feel sure that most of our colonies will be of opinion that Mr. Chamberlain has rendered good service to the Empire by showing, as he has done, that the grounds of commerce are those to which we must first look—preliminary to all others—as a means of permanently binding the various members of the Empire one to another. My present object of writing to you is, however, to show how, under such a system as that suggested by Mr. Chamberlain, not only would the bonds which hold the colonies to the mother country be drawn more closely, but the several colonies would be drawn *inter se* into closer union and benefit mutually by such an arrangement. I allude more particularly to the largely-increased trade which would result between Canada and the West Indies. The English market should be thrown open to West Indian sugar. At present it is prevented from coming to Great Britain, with the exception of a small quantity of specially-prepared sugar, which suits the tastes of a certain class of consumers. The bulk of our West Indian sugar goes to the United States, that being the only free, or approximately free, market for it; and to keep this market the West Indian colonies have had to adapt their fiscal regulations in such a way as not to cause offence to the United States. The result is that the large trade in lumber and food stuffs is almost entirely in the hands of the United States. But if the British market were restored to the West Indies there would be nothing to prevent these colonies giving favoured treatment to Canada, and the increased trade which Canada would thereby secure would be very considerable. Canada has more than once proposed a favoured trade with the West Indies, but she cannot provide a sufficiently large market for West Indian sugar, and the West Indies cannot afford, under present conditions, to lose the United States market. Although, therefore, they would naturally wish to favour a sister colony rather than a foreign country, they are at present prevented from doing so by the supineness of the mother country in allowing the English market to be closed to West Indian sugar by the operation of foreign bounties."

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.—The Secretary of State has been pleased to forward copy of a Report by the Commander of H.M.S. "Tartar." Everything was quiet, and there did not appear to be the slightest probability of any further riots. A volunteer force was being organized, and the constabulary immensely improved. All the "Tartar's" men were withdrawn on the 20th March. Everything was perfectly quiet; there were no more cases of Cane burning, and the labourers were working on all the Estates.

BRITISH GUIANIA.—The Planters' Association forward copy of Memorial in course of signature, urging an early settlement of the Boundary question, and that no part of the Colony be given up which England holds under treaty and settlement. The Memorial informs the Secretary of State that a large addition of English and Foreign capital is ready to be invested in the Mining industry, if the Boundary question is finally settled.

SUGAR PROSPECTS (Messrs. Clark, De Silva & Co., 8th)—The absorption of raw by America is telling upon supplies for United Kingdom. Consumption shows a steady increase, and threatens, unless promptly checked, to create a serious scarcity before the new crops can become available. The six months to March show an increase of consumption amounting to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The Cuban crop was estimated at 125,000 tons, and owing to the neglected state of the fields the prospects of the next crop are very unfavourable, probably not exceeding 300,000 tons. The total Cane and Beet crops for 1895-6 are given by Messrs. Clark at 6,399,000 against 7,853,000 in 1894-5. (*Journal des Fabricants*, 13th).—Weather for growing Beet crop propitious, but on the whole the crop sowing is behind last year. The sowings up to the 1st of May are estimated:—Germany, 420,000 hectares, against 373,000 in 1895, or nearly  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. increase; Austria-Hungary, 347,000 hectares, against 289,000, or over 20 per cent. increase; Belgium, 70,000 hectares, against 58,500, or nearly 20 per cent. increase; Holland, 44,000 hectares, against 33,000, or 33 per cent. increase; France, 240,000 hectares,



against 205,000, or 17 per cent. increase. Including other countries, the total sowing of the European Beet crop is 1,500,000 hectares, against 1,340,000 in 1895, or practically, an average increase of about 12 per cent. in sowings for the crop of 1896-7. (Czarnikow, 14th).—The statistical position has not improved so much as expected. Stocks should show a more rapid decline. The leading provisions of the German Sugar Bill seem to have passed Parliament. These are—A home duty of 10s. 6d., instead of 9s.; a drawback on a production not exceeding 1,700,000 tons of 1s. 3d. instead of 7½d. raws, and 1s. 6d. instead of 1s. granulated. This is said to operate against excessive sowing, unless market price is high. The weather is fairly good, but the whole crop begins late. Warm rains are wanted. (NOTE.—On the whole there seems a prospect of a maintenance of prices, with perhaps strengthening).

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(Czarnikow 14th). Total, 2,221,461, against 2,540,246.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Stocks, 121,006, against 82,307; Landings, 279,704, against 269,837; Deliveries, 268,454, against 247,373.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 per cent. (Czarnikow) 12s. 2d., against 10s. 3d.

COCOA.—Auctions on May 12th, prices quiet, but large quantity disposed of. Fine Trinidad in demand at steady rates. The large supply of Grenada met a steady demand, and was nearly all sold at slightly lower rates. Guayaquil and African all bought in.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 29th April—Weather dry and rain wanted. 12th May—Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County. 14th.—Occasional showers; more rain wanted. Trinidad (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited, and Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Limited). 28th April, and 12th May—Harvesting going on well. Weather favourable. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 21st April.—First part of fortnight dry, latter rainy. 5th May.—Bad reaping weather.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 131.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

15th June, 1896.

CHANGE OF OFFICE.—A more convenient office has been taken on the second floor of this house. It is easily approachable by lift, which is reached either from the entrance in Billiter Square, or that in Billiter Avenue.

SUGAR BOUNTIES SUBSCRIPTIONS.—It has been ascertained that subscriptions are being collected on behalf of an "Anti-Bounty Association." This proceeding is not connected with the West India Committee and has not been authorized by them.

SUGAR BOUNTIES IN PARLIAMENT.—Sir C. E. Howard Vincent, who continues to show much interest in the matter, and proposes further to question Ministers as to the operation of the German and Austrian Laws, elicited from Mr. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade, a statement that Government had previously made representations to Germany on Bounties, but he did not think any further negotiations would have any good effect. (Regarding Mr. Ritchie's long connection with this question and especially his chairmanship of the Sugar Industries Parliamentary Committee, his present attitude is observed with some disappointment.)

THE GERMAN BOUNTIES.—The Sugar Tax Amendment Bill has come into force. The following is extracted from the "Times":—"Prior to 1887 the German sugar tax was calculated on the amount of beetroot employed by the different sugar factories in Germany, the assumption being that a given weight of roots would invariably yield an approximately stable proportion of raw sugar. For a while this rough-and-ready system of taxation seems to have worked satisfactorily, but improved machinery and the employment of beetroot of a superior quality resulted in the extraction of a vastly increased percentage of sugar from the quantity of roots forming the unit of taxation. No duty was paid on this surplus, which, as it was sold at the same price as other sugar, represented a proportionately greater profit for the producer. But manufacturers of sugar intended for export were entitled to an indemnity ostensibly equivalent to the duty paid upon the raw material. Thus, 20 cwt. of green roots being calculated to produce 1 cwt. of raw sugar, and each cwt. of sugar being liable to 50 pf. duty, the Government paid indemnities to all exporters of sugar at the rate of 50 pl. per cwt. But as 20 cwt. of green roots were ultimately made to yield from 1½ cwt. to 2 cwt. of raw sugar, exporters received bounties ranging between 25 to 50 per cent. of their indemnities—a circumstance which, while it led to a rapid development of the sugar industry, completely extinguished the revenue accruing to the State from the sugar tax.



"In 1869 a vain attempt was made to remedy this abuse by lowering the unit of taxation from 20 cwt. of green roots to 12½ cwt. By 1887 things had come to such a pass that the State was actually paying a bounty of 4½ marks on every 100 kilogrammes of sugar exported. It therefore became imperatively necessary to modify the system of taxation. A new duty was introduced, based on the consumption of sugar, and the export bounty was fixed at 2½ marks per 100 kilogrammes. The new arrangement, however, proved to be hardly less unsatisfactory than the old, and in 1891 the Imperial Diet decided further to reduce the bounties to 1 m. 25 pf. per 100 kilos. as a preliminary to their entire abolition on July 31, 1897, provided that in the meantime other-bounty paying countries—namely, Austria and France—should agree to do likewise. But, as the German Government failed to obtain the consent of those countries, it became necessary to regulate anew the question of the sugar bounties. Hence the present law, which re-establishes the 1887 export bounty tariff of 2½ marks per 100 kilos, and fixes the duty on raw sugar intended for home consumption at 21 marks, instead of 18 as heretofore. It further introduces a graduated tax on production, beginning with 10 pfennige per 100 kilos for the first 4,000,000 kilos produced in a given factory, with a 25 per cent. increase in the duty on every additional million kilos."

(NOTE.—Particulars of the proposed new Austrian Law have not yet been received.)

TRINIDAD.—An interesting account has been received of the Queen's Birthday Parade of the Trinidad local forces. The proceedings reflect the highest credit upon the Commandant, the Hon. Colonel Alexander Man. His energy and his great ability in organisation are well known and much appreciated by all who have interests in Trinidad. The parade included Yeomanry Cavalry, Mounted Police, Field Artillery Volunteers, Light Infantry Volunteer Battalion, Police Infantry Battalion, with Cyclists, Maxims, Ambulance and Transport Detachments. The approximate numbers give a total of 929 men, with 115 horses and mules. The Brigadier was Colonel Man, the Brigade-Major was Major Todd, and the Aide-de-Camp was Major Shine Wilson, of the Trinidad Yeomanry Cavalry, of which Captain Lange was the commander. There were two field batteries of the Trinidad Volunteer Artillery, commanded by Captain Rust. The Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers were commanded by the Hon. Colonel D. Wilson, C.M.G. There is no space to give the other particulars of the Parade, but the great interest taken by influential men in the Colony in the establishment of a protective force is a proof of the public spirit which exists in Trinidad.

GRENADA.—The first issue of the Hand Book, Directory and Almanac of Grenada has been received. It is for 1896, and is a most useful compilation, with photographic illustrations. It is edited by Mr. Drayton, Colonial Secretary, and will be much appreciated by all who are interested in the island. The information it gives will make this Colony and its resources better known.

BRITISH GUIANA BANK.—In consequence of the statements connected with the disappearance of Mr. Sproston, Junr., the Chairman of the British Guiana Bank, a meeting of the Combined Court was held, and the Government was authorised to guarantee the payment of all Bills of Exchange drawn or accepted by the British Guiana Bank, the guarantee extending to the 31st December, 1896, with certain limitations and restrictions, the aggregate not to exceed £100,000, and security as to repayment provided for. The action of the Government and Legislature in thus preventing financial difficulties in the Colony is both prompt and effective.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.—The letter addressed to the Hon. Edward Todd, printed in Circular, No. 129, has been acknowledged, and a letter in reply is on its way. In the meantime, it is noticed that a Meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society has been held in Basseterre. There appears to have been no unanimity in regard to proprietors agreeing to a Mutual Insurance Fund, or to a mutual agreement as to the rate of wages. A resolution was passed, however, in favour of the

Government establishing a protective force. Whether a petition for such protective force has reached the Secretary of State is not known, but it probably has not yet been received. It is hoped that next mail will bring some indication of the planters' feeling in regard to the questions relating to Mutual Insurance and Rates of Wages.

COMMERCIAL UNION.—The following is an extract from Mr. Chamberlain's speech to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce, on 9th June.—“ I admit that, if I understand it correctly, I find the germs of such a proposal in a resolution which is to be submitted to you on behalf of the Toronto Board of Trade. What is that resolution? Again I say I hope that I am correctly explaining it. That resolution I understand to be one for the creation of a British Zollverein or Customs Union, which would establish at once practically free trade throughout the British Empire, but would leave the separate contracting parties free to make their own arrangements with regard to duties on foreign goods, except that this is an essential condition of the proposal—that Great Britain shall consent to replace moderate duties upon certain articles which are of large production in the Colonies. Now, if I have rightly understood it, these articles would comprise corn, meat, wool, and sugar, and perhaps other articles of enormous consumption in this country, which are at present largely produced in the Colonies, and which might, under such an arrangement, be wholly produced by British labour. On the other hand, as I have said, the Colonies, while maintaining their duties upon foreign importations, would agree to a free interchange of commodities with the rest of the Empire, and would cease to place protective duties on any product of British labour. That is the principle of the German Zollverein, that is the principle which underlies federation in the United States of America; and I do not doubt for a moment that if it were adopted it would be the strongest bond of union between the British race throughout the world.”

SUGAR.—The *Journal des Fabricants*, 10th June, says: Germany armed by premiums of war, attempts to expel French Sugars from the general market. There are so many interests concerned (the wine and cider industries amongst them) in the raising of the price of Sugar by increased excise duties and bounties, that the Sugar question in France presents great difficulties. The economic position of the French Colonies is far from brilliant, and anything which tends to raise the price of Sugar and restrict consumption, must tell upon the demand for French Colonial Sugar which now comes into France to the extent of 75,000 tons. The hot weather, followed now by rains, appears to be good for the roots in France. In many parts, however, the rains have been insufficient. The weather has also been good in Germany and Austria, and complaints are less urgent. In the above countries, if the weather continues favourable, the fears caused by the dryness and the preceding frosts will be dissipated. With 17½ per cent. increased sowing over last year, and with an equal yield, the production of Beet Sugar will be 5,000,000 tons. (This estimate, of course, is only really founded upon possibilities.) Messrs. H. Clark de Silva & Co. (8th) explain that the slow decrease in visible supplies is due to supplies of Cane being hurried forward, and to causes connected with the statistics of German stocks, and that the real decrease is not yet apparent. There is nothing in the position to justify the decline which has taken place. Consumption is undiminished and a serious deficiency in supplies is possible before the new crops. Rains have stopped grinding in Cuba, and exports are expected to range under 200,000 tons. Messrs. Clark repeat an increase of general beet sowings of 17½ per cent., with an out-turn of 5,000,000 tons, but, with the Cuban reductions, this will not be too much for consumption. Mr. Czarnikow (11th) anticipates that the next four months' consumption in England and America will be larger than ever. The proposed Austrian Law contemplates keeping of the present drawback at 1.60 fl. for raw and 2.30 fl. for refined, but the maximum amount of bounty is to be raised to 9,000,000 florins, allowing an export of 560,000 tons raw at full rates of drawback or bounty. Again, calculations based on last year's extraordinary yield may be disappointed.



**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Clark, 8th) Europe, and alloat for Europe, 1,736,000 tons against 1,787,000. United States, 243,000 against 299,000. Aloot to United States, 90,000 against 82,000. Cuba, 70,000 against 320,000. Total 2,139,000 against 2,488,000. (Czarnikow, 11th) Totals 2,000,847 against 2,359,612.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 per cent. (Czarnikow.) 10/6 against 9 9.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.** 23 weeks. Landings, 332,021 against 353,054. Deliveries, 318,695 against 312,346. Stocks, 123,145 against 100,551.

**COCOA.**—The last public sales were on a smaller scale than usual, and only a small part of Trinidad was disposed of at previous rates. The moderate supplies of Grenada showed an advance of 6d., and the general tone of West Indian was firmer. Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co. (Trinidad), 27th May).—Only moderate supplies available. The long dry weather will diminish crop as compared with last year, deficiency being estimated at 20,000 bags. Prices are firmly maintained. A considerable quantity goes to the United States. The total exports from 1st October to date were 86,698 bags, against 107,334. Venezuelan Cocoa was coming in freely, and readily bought up.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co., Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and the Colonial Company, Ltd.). 18th May.—Rain has fallen heavily. 21st.—Fine rains have fallen generally since last message. 22nd.—Wet weather continues. 28th.—Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation. 4th June.—Showery and favourable to cultivation. 4th.—Favourable for cultivation and grinding. 8th.—Weather all that can be desired, nice showers with fine days intervening. 12th.—Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd., and the Colonial Company, Ltd.). 27th May.—The rainy season has set in. 27th.—Favourable. 3rd and 10th June.—Too wet. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 19th May.—Bad reaping weather. 2nd June.—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 132.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.

13th July, 1896.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—This question has continued to receive the anxious consideration of the Committee. It has been thought that the Colonies so largely concerned should again memorialise Her Majesty's Government ; with a view to a discussion of the question on the Foreign Office vote Members of Parliament were communicated with, and a considerable amount of influential support was promised. There has been, however, up to the present, no opportunity for discussion, owing to the reluctance of the Government to take the initiative in negotiations for the abolition of bounties. The attention of the Government, however, is being kept alive to this question, and acknowledgments are due to Mr. J. Parker Smith, M.P., Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. Cross, M.P., Sir Howard Vincent, M.P., and Sir George Baden Powell, M.P., for the interest they have shown. There seems an impression in Parliament that the raising of the Continental Bounties can only be the prelude to their abolition, as the burden must be felt to be too great, and France, apparently, still hesitates as to further burdening her taxpayers. In the meantime the Foreign Office sends us a letter which will be read with interest : Sir Edmund Monson, British Ambassador, to Lord Salisbury, dated Vienna, June 15th, 1896.—“ My Lord,—Although the Delegations are now in session at Budapest, a special sitting of the Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath was held on Saturday last for the consideration of the new law regarding Sugar Bounties. In view of recent legislation in Germany on the subject, the Imperial Government appear to have been of opinion that it was indispensable, in the interest of the sugar industry of Austria, to introduce a Bill, the main provision of which is that the maximum total sum to be permitted as Bounties on sugar is to be increased from five to nine million florins a year, while the Inland Sugar Tax is to be raised from 11 to 13 florins per hundred kilogrammes. The Bill in question, which is, however, merely of a provisional character, and only to remain in force for one year, pending further legislation on the whole subject of Sugar taxation was met, as was to be expected, with considerable opposition, the opponents of the Government measure contending that the consumers in this country would be obliged to pay a still higher price for their sugar, in order that the limited class of sugar manufacturers might be still further benefited, and that, in consequence of the over-production which was sure to ensue, the only other persons who would gain any advantage were the consumers in England and America, where the prices would be still further reduced. The Minister of Finance, however, in replying to these objections, stated that, in consequence of the system of bounties in Germany, it was absolutely necessary to raise the bounties in this country, unless they were prepared to abandon all idea of further competition. The additional Inland Tax, moreover, which was



proposed, was but infinitesimal, when compared with the great interests that were at stake, in saving from ruin a highly developed industry, upon which hundreds of thousands depended for their existence. The debate, which was carried on in a thin house, was brought to a conclusion yesterday, when the Bill was carried by a majority of 48, including the members for Galicia, Bohemia, and the representatives of the great landed estates, while the German Liberals, the German National Party and the Anti-Semites voted against the measure."

The general body of French fabricants and refiners are pressing their Government to take action in consequence of the German Bounties. They propose that the bounty should be  $4\frac{1}{2}$  francs for refined and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  for raw. The  $4\frac{1}{2}$  francs would represent about 2s. per cwt. or £2 per ton. The duty on foreign Cane Sugar is to be raised from 7 francs to 10.50. Supplementary measures will be taken to facilitate the working of refineries in obtaining their raw material. A Government Commission is to be appointed. M. Meline, the Minister for Agriculture, has been discussing the War of Bounties, but it does not appear that the French Government are anxious to place heavier burdens upon their taxpayers. All the information from France tends to show that the French revenue is largely injured by bounties, and that the French Sugar Industry, from bad cultivation and inferior juice, cannot exist without a bounty of from £2 to £3 per ton. France would be in a better position if she abolished bounties, accepting the challenge of Germany and Austria. It almost seems clear that the present war of bounties cannot go on, for it does no good to anybody, and is simply suicidal for the Countries concerned.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—The reports from France are only partly satisfactory. A large part of the crop in France is very backward, and only a middling crop is expected. The crop prospects are certainly inferior to those in Germany. The German crop is reported to be in a fairly satisfactory state. So far as the total crop is concerned, it may reach 4,750,000 tons. There are no trustworthy estimates as yet with regard to 1896-7 crop; and the 5,000,000 tons, sometimes so confidently spoken of, may not be realized, and with nearly 1,000,000 tons less in Cuba, the market must be stronger. Messrs. H. Clark de Silva & Co. say that with a deficiency in the Beet, and 861,000 tons less in the Cane supply, we have still to reckon with a total deficiency in supplies of about 1,384,000 tons. Consumption is increasing on the largest scale ever known. The total Cane and Beet crops for 1895-6 are given at 6,469,000 against 7,853,000 in 1894-5. Mr. Czarnikow attributes present depression to pressure to realize speculative purchases.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Clark). Europe and afloat to Europe 1,492,000 against 1,545,000. United States and Cuba 408,000 against 586,000. Total 1,900,000 against 2,131,000. (Czarnikow) Total 1,806,581 against 2,106,033. These figures appear more satisfactory than any for sometime past.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (Czarnikow)  $9/9\frac{3}{4}$  against  $9/10\frac{3}{4}$ , 1895.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—27 weeks. Imports 397,925 against 440,016. Deliveries 373,757 against 374,098. Stocks 132,421 against 125,039.

**COCOA.**—The Market has been dull, 2,461 bags Trinidad bought in, middling to good 47/- to 51/-, fine to superior 53/- to 64/-, Grenada sold from 41/- to 45/6 for good to fine red. Cocoa butter (Cadbury's) sold at  $12\frac{3}{4}$ d. to  $13\frac{3}{4}$ d.

**COCOA BUTTER.**—There are apparently no statistics as to the imports of Cocoa Butter, duty free, into the United Kingdom. The question is one of difficulty, as Cocoa Butter, wherever manufactured, must lead to a demand for genuine Cocoa, of which it is mainly composed. But when this composition (no doubt extensively used by some English Chocolate makers) not only comes in duty

free, but with an export bounty granted by the German Government of M.37.50 per 100 Kilos. (or at least 18 - to 19 - per cwt.) the effect upon the Market in England for genuine Cocoa will be at once seen. Accordingly the Chancellor of the Exchequer has included the following in the Budget Bill:— "The duty of Customs now payable on cocoa or chocolate, ground, prepared, or in any way manufactured, under the provisions of the Act 42 and 43 Vic, c. 21, s. 3, shall be payable on that product of the Cocoa bean which is generally known as Cocoa butter." Out of every cwt. of raw Cocoa about 86 lb. of Cocoa butter was manufactured. It is gratifying to find that "this protection of the Foreigner against the Englishman," according to Sir Michael Hicks Beach, has led at once to a readjustment of duties to secure equal competition. The same argument applies to Sugar under bounty, if our Government had the courage and the wisdom to do an act of justice to our Sugar producing Colonies. The duty on Cocoa butter is finally fixed at 1d. per lb.

GRENADA.—Attention has been called to the great increase of the Public expenditure of this Island, which is not justified by any corresponding increase in Production or Trade. In the year 1880, the expenditure was £38,000; in 1887, it was £44,569 and in 1894, it was £59,594. The burden of taxation, notwithstanding the increase of population, has become heavier, and the accounts for 1895, with a decreased production of Cocoa, and a depression of price for that produce, will probably show a more unsatisfactory result. A considerable portion of the Revenue is raised from Import Duties, and the Imports (no doubt temporarily) fell off to such an extent that 10 per cent. additional on the Customs Duties has had to be imposed. The expenditure in 1880, as above stated, was £38,000, and the value of the Exports on the average was £190,000. In 1888 the Expenditure was £51,122, and the Exports averaged £270,000. In 1894, the value of total Exports dropped (for that year) to £189,614, with a Public Expenditure of, in round numbers, £60,000; the Production and Trade of the Colony, therefore, has not increased. A considerable amount is spent on the Police Force, to which no objection could be taken if the Force were generally considered efficient. The Public Debt of the Colony has increased from £12,140 in 1880 to no less than £96,100 in 1894. It is possible the money has been well spent in developing the resources of the Island, but this remains to be shown by the Local Government. The Expenditure for Government House should be examined, and the large outlay for roads and bridges, about £50,000, has also to be defended upon its results. No objection, of course, could be taken, if proportionate results could be shown. With a debt equal to one half of the value of its yearly export, it might be expected that some attention should be given to this matter, both by the Local Government and the Secretary of State. The expenses of the Civil and Judicial Establishments might be considerably reduced. The Chief Justice, for instance, is paid handsomely, but has very little work to do. Each of the Windward Islands has apparently a Chief Justice to itself. The time must come when a more economical and equally efficient arrangement will be made. The Local Town Boards have a Loan Debt of £20,599, with current liabilities of £1,689, and a sinking fund of £247. The first requisite for Grenada and for other Islands is a thoroughly sound system of finance, and not a policy of drifting into expenditure, the end of which can only be too clearly foreseen.

ST. VINCENT.—Attention has been given to representations made by Members connected with the Island; what is wanted however, in order to complete a case for the Secretary of State, is that full information should be received from the Colony as to its finances, production, taxation and trade for 1895. It is requested that full information should be forwarded to the Secretary of the West India Committee.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.). 3rd July.—Continues wet. 8th.—Favourable for cultivation. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.). 8th.—Too wet. Barbados (per Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). 30th June.—Rains have continued since our last cable (on 16th).



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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

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## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.

10th August, 1896.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—A letter was received from the Foreign Office, 8th July, stating that the French Government were said to be preparing a Bill for the protection of the Sugar Industry in France, in consequence of recent legislation in Germany and Austria, and enclosing an extract from the *Temps*, giving a summary of the measures proposed. (Later French advices report that this Bill has been postponed till the autumn, but a decree has been issued imposing a surtax on Foreign Sugars in France, with the view of excluding bounty-fed German and Austrian Sugars. This decree operates from August 1st, when the increased bounties in Germany and Austria came into force.) In acknowledging the Foreign Office letter of the 8th July, the Committee wrote, 16th, "We believe, from the general tendency of information received, that the French Government are very reluctant to impose additional burdens upon their taxpayers and consumers of Sugar by still further raising their bounties and excise duties, and we venture to hope that this opportunity will be taken by H. M. Government to approach the French Government, with the view of preparing the way for more general negotiations with the Sugar powers, respecting the abolition of a system which is now acknowledged to be an excessive burden upon the treasuries, taxpayers and consumers of the countries concerned." Mr. George Curzon writes in reply, 29th July, "I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to refer you to the correspondence with this department in December, 1895, and March last, and to add that in his Lordship's opinion any steps that might be taken by H. M. Government at the present moment, with a view to bringing about the abolition of Sugar Bounties, would not lead to any practical result." Of course no statement is made as to the reason of this opinion. The British Government shut the door, but apparently do not lock it. Every form of argument has been exhausted on this side, and it remains now for the Colonies, by their memorials, to bring about a more favourable attitude especially by Mr. Chamberlain.

The following letter, by Mr. Henry K. Davson, appears in *St. James's Gazette* of July 30th, "Sir,—Your able and exhaustive article on Foreign Bounties published in your issue of the 21st inst. has been read with great interest by all who are connected with the great English industries attacked. The attempt by Germany, Austria, and France to bring about the ruin of the British sugar-producing colonies has been of such persistency and has extended over such a long period that it has almost become a familiarly accepted fact. But now that similar attacks are being made by bounties on shipping, threatening the gravest injuries, not only to the great maritime transport industry of this country, but to English agriculture and commerce generally, the time has surely arrived when serious attention should be given to the matter by the Government and Parliament. The British shipping industry is engaged in the carrying trade of the world, and the attack made upon it will not be felt by itself alone, but must injure British commerce to a vital extent; for when the shipping trade is paralyzed, freights will be in foreign hands and would be capable of being raised to any extent. A more flagrant interference by foreign countries with English trade could not be imagined. At present the Shipping Bounties are being used to reduce English freights and to force foreign goods upon the



English consumer to the displacement of our home productions. Wheat and dairy produce, imported in subsidized foreign bottoms, must tell largely upon our agriculture, and no limit could be placed upon the import of foreign manufactures to the detriment of all our important centres of industry and the large populations engaged therein. Thus will be repeated the experience of the Sugar Bounties, which have driven British colonial produce out of English markets and entirely destroyed our home refining industry, which at one time so largely employed labour both in England and Scotland. All classes are concerned in serious consideration being given to the matter. Our consumers will fall into the hands of foreign manufacturers, who will be able to regulate prices as they please; English manufactures will be displaced by foreign goods; the English shipping trade will be made more unprofitable than it is at present, and the British farmer will look with still more gloomy eyes than at present upon his wheat and dairy produce. Is it not time for all the great interests concerned to combine in resisting these insidious, dangerous, and far-reaching foreign schemes? Why should not representatives of the shipping, agricultural, and manufacturing industries combine to form a plan of campaign? We pride ourselves on our Free Trade policy. Shall we calmly submit to foreign countries taking advantage of it by unfair methods to oust us from our own market? There is plenty of experience in connection with the Sugar Bounties to throw light upon the effects of the bounty system and to make clear the only possible remedies."

TRINIDAD.—As there were at present so many representatives of the Trinidad Sugar Industry in England, it was thought desirable to approach the Secretary of State, especially in view of the new Immigration Ordinance. The following points were therefore put before Mr. Chamberlain. 1.—That there should be a more prompt and efficient administration of the Labour Law by the Magistracy, with regard to the imposition of small fines, inadequate punishment, and postponement of decisions, causing doubts as to the law, and much expense and inconvenience to estates. 2.—That greater care should be taken in the collection of the immigrants in India, as only suitable and healthy people should be embarked. This subject had already been referred to the Trinidad Emigration Agent at Calcutta, and in a letter to the Secretary of State, 29th June, 1896, Mr. O. W. Warner defends the quality of the emigrants embarked. Upon arrival in Trinidad, however, dissatisfaction was expressed by the Protector of Immigrants, and from a statement made by the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, printed in *Trinidad Royal Gazette*, of 19th March, 1896, it appears that "all sorts and conditions of the lower classes, besides agricultural labourers, are sent." A large number of the people introduced are found to be physically unfit for ordinary field labour. 3.—When it is necessary to bring immigrants before the Magistrates, it would be more proper and less invidious that the conduct of such cases should be in the hands of the Immigration Officers, having first satisfied themselves of the propriety of such prosecutions. In any case, the manager of the estate should be relieved from prosecuting after submitting the case to the Protector. 4.—Clause 70 of the new ordinance, prohibiting an estate from receiving coolies when 15 per cent. of the indentured coolies earned less than 12 cents per day is unworkable, the said average being quite misleading as to the wages earned or possible. It is suggested that in future 280 days, instead of 365, should be the basis of the calculation, and also that deduction should be made of deserters and hospital patients, and also in case of an epidemic. Such clause does not appear in the British Guiana Law. It is understood that the Secretary of State will consent to a revisal of the Law, if after 12 months' further experience it should be found still unworkable. In the meantime, it is understood that the clause will not be retrospective so as to deprive estates of new immigrants during the present season. 5.—It is suggested that possibly the time might have arrived, owing to greater cheapness of living, when the minimum wages for a full day's work might be reduced from 25 to 20 cents per day in future immigration contracts. The 25 cents rate was established a considerable number of years ago, and it is generally admitted that 20 cents now would go much further than 25 cents when the latter was fixed. 6.—The hours of labour should be the same as in British Guiana, viz. 10 hours in the buildings, and the lost days should be easily and practically



recoverable at the nominal close of the indenture. There is a general impression now among the coolies that when the actual five years is completed, they are not responsible for the generally large amount of time which they have lost. In justice to the estates, there should be a real means of obtaining the number of days work agreed upon in the contract. The Law with regard to harbouring deserters should be made more complete. In addition to the heavy fine now inflicted for wilfully harbouring a deserting immigrant, the Manager, Overseer, or other person becoming acquainted with such deserting immigrant, should be bound under a penalty to inform forthwith the police or the immigration authorities of such deserter. 7.—The Immigration Department should take steps to collect the free Passes given to Immigrants. (See Letter on this point to Secretary of State). 8.—The Protector's proposal that fortnightly returns of the whereabouts and earnings of Coolies, and that extra time worked should be fairly paid for, is approved, although the proposal as it stands seems hardly sufficiently elastic. 9.—The planters are anxious that the indentured Coolies should earn more than they do at present, as this would be altogether to the advantage of the immigrant. In this policy the planters believe they are in accordance with the wishes of the Secretary of State.

TRINIDAD IMMIGRATION.—West India Committee to Colonial Office, 30th July, 1896. "Sir,—Among the important points relating to the administration of the Labour Law in Trinidad, to which it is desired that the attention of the Secretary of State should be drawn, is that of the general circulation of free passes originally issued by the Immigration Department to Coolies who have completed their indentures or who are otherwise entitled to such papers. We are informed that there are in circulation a number of such passes which have become invalidated by the death or departure from the Colony of their original and proper owners. These papers are, it is believed, transferred, to a considerable extent, from hand to hand, with the consequence of much confusion and fraud. There is no effective means of identifying the person possessing such a pass at the time of its fraudulent use, and Coolies are able to desert from Estates, travel about the Country, and avoid altogether the work which under their own indentures they are bound to perform. We beg to suggest that as far as possible these invalid passes should be collected and their further use rendered impossible. There has evidently been great laxity in this matter on the part of the Immigration Department, and no doubt some trouble will be caused to the Department to make up for this laxity, but it seems to us important that the indiscriminate use of free passes now illegal and out of date should be entirely prevented. We believe that in Demerara lapsed passes are always collected and desertion is almost unknown. (Signed, N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*). Note.—The above letter has been referred to the Governor of Trinidad. (C. O. August 4th.)

TRINIDAD TONNAGE DUES.—West India Committee to Colonial Office, 29th July. "Sir,—On behalf of Proprietors and Merchants connected with San Fernando, Trinidad, I have been requested to acknowledge the receipt of your letter addressed to Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co. of the 21st May last, relating to a Petition signed by San Fernando Firms on the subject of the imposition of dues on Vessels loading or landing cargo at that Port for the improvement of the Harbour of Port of Spain; and stating that the Governor of Trinidad had been instructed to reconsider the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1896: which imposes dues on cargoes landed or loaded elsewhere than at Port of Spain. We venture respectfully to hope that on the grounds stated in the Petition a decision has been arrived at exempting the Port of San Fernando from such dues. The matter has assumed an urgent form as the existing or probable imposition of such dues renders Vessels trading between that Port and the United States liable to the payment of tonnage dues in the Ports of the United States, according to the Law of that Country. (Signed, N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*).

(The Colonial Office reply 6th August, "after carefully considering the objections raised, Mr. Chamberlain has decided that the provisions of the ordinance which impose dues on cargoes loaded or landed elsewhere than at Port of Spain, may be allowed to remain in operation for a year, in



order that the incidence of the taxation levied under them may be observed and reported on. It is to be remembered that the port of San Fernando will be directly benefited by the lighthouses which are being constructed out of the loan for the redemption and payment of interest on which these dues are to be levied. I am to add that the law of the United States granting immunity from tonnage dues to vessels coming from free ports to which you refer, has been repealed.")

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—In France rains have been general and abundant, improving the roots, and the situation is for the moment satisfactory, except in the case of the late sowings and re-sowings. A good yield is expected. In Germany the crop, although less advanced than last year, shows good prospect. In Austria-Hungary the situation is improved, but the development of the root is notably behindhand: same in Russia; Belgium and Holland satisfactory. On the whole the state of the European crop is better than could have been expected after the long drought. Mr. Czarnikow reports a firmer market tone, owing to increased Home and American demand, likely to continue for some time. Stocks in consumers' hands are unusually low. "Any important advance, especially in new crop Beet, is to be deprecated, taking into account the present favourable crop prospects, and we must not lose sight of the fact that the actual level of prices is quite sufficient to give Continental producers, under their bounty system, a satisfactory profit."

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Czarnikow 6th). Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe 1,204,009 tons against 1,347,430. United States 285,000 against 285,856. Cuba 57,000 against 254,489. Afloat to United States 13,726 against 19,738. Total 1,650,635 against 1,907,513.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Landings to August 1st, Raw Sugar, 482,829 against 496,533. Deliveries 430,672 against 429,839. Stocks 162,176 against 126,537.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 % (Czarnikow) 10 - against 9/10½.

**COCOA.**—Market remains quiet. Messrs Gordon, Grant & Co., Trinidad, 22nd July, report limited deliveries, no important increase yet looked for. Weather favourable, and fairly good supplies expected later in the year. A good demand maintained and prices firm. Total Trinidad Shipments from October last to date, 111,298 bags, against 130,505 previous year. Colonial Company report June crop practically closed. New crop in market middle of October. Price firm, \$8.75 to \$10.50, according to quality.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS**—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.) August 5th—Dry with occasional showers. Trinidad (per favour of Messrs. W. F. Burnley & Co., Ltd.) August 5th—Weather good for growing canes. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). July 29th—Seasonable.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 134.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

7th September, 1896.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—A Parliamentary Paper has been issued giving the official account, by Embassies, of the recent Sugar Legislation in Germany and other Countries. The information contained in this paper has already been given in previous Circulars.

Mr. Ernest E. Williams, the author of "Made in Germany" has followed up an excellent article in the *St. James's Gazette*, on Sugar Bounties, by an equally effective one in the *Saturday Review*, especially referring to the injury caused to the Home industry of Sugar Refining. This article has been followed by an important series of letters in the *Review* showing how the bounties affect the Colonies, the English and Scotch Refining Industry, and the consumer. The vigour with which a countervailing duty is recommended by independent critics is remarkable as showing how far the question has advanced. If the bounties are advantageous to the consumer, why not take the whole of such advantage by a duty, and let every taxpayer in the United Kingdom share in the relief, instead of only accepting just as much as the foreigner chooses to give us for his own purpose of keeping open our market for his sugar? The letters in the *Review* have been of a highly representative character. Those of the Chairman of the West India Committee, and of the Vice-President of the (late) Anti-Bounty Association, Mr. T. O. Easton, of Liverpool, will be read with special interest, as will be those of Mr. Jager and "Carbon." The point of view is very varied and there has been brought together such an amount of statistical and general argument as will be extremely serviceable. It should also be recorded that the *Times* in a recent money article commented strongly upon the interference, by foreign bounty giving countries, with British Trade, and even *Punch's* cartoon of "the German cutting-off the sleeping old lady's petticoat" is not without its meaning as showing the bent of public opinion.

WEST INDIA MEMORIALS.—The circular letter issued by the West India Committee to Agricultural and Commercial Authorities in the West Indies is producing good result. A very striking Memorial is being signed in British Guiana, printed copies of which can be had at this office. Reference to the bounty question, and action thereupon, is made in the Report for 1895-6 of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce. The Antigua branch of the Leeward Islands Agricultural and Commercial Society (Mr. Francis Watts, Hon. Secretary) have addressed all the other West India Colonies, proposing a delegate from each Colony being sent home to lay Colonial views before the Imperial Government and Parliament. A public meeting has been held in St. John's, Antigua, the Hon. T. D. Foote, Chairman. The speeches were excellent and very earnest. The Hon. Messrs. H. O. Bennett, J. J. Camacho, C. A. Shand, F. Holborow, M. W. White, and J. F. Foote had charge of the Resolutions, among which was one inviting the West India Committee to form a deputation to the Colonial Secretary in favour of prompt action. The Hon. C. J. Simmons writes from St. Vincent, promising to take action. All these signs of practical interest by the Colonies are very encouraging. Mr. Francis Watts writes from Antigua, 18th August, on the following points:— (1) That a Leeward Islands Bill should be passed on the lines of the Queensland Sugar Works



Guarantee Act of 1893. (2) Recommending further improvements in manufacture, as with fertile soil and cheap labour, sugar can be cheaply produced. Estates Mills are inefficient and old, and there is no double crushing. Improved machinery (obtained with Government help) is required. The proposal as to the Queensland Act will be carefully considered by the West India Committee as requested by Mr. Watts. (3) If Colonial finances are not strong enough, Imperial assistance should be asked for. NOTE.—The whole question is an important one and will be carefully dealt with.

RUM SURTAX.—The following letter was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on April 10th, 1896. "Sir,—We beg respectfully to call your attention to the Surtax upon Rum imported from the Colonies as distinguished from the duty upon home-made spirits, and we venture to hope that the protective duty in favour of producers in this country, so detrimental to the British Colonial producers, who are equally entitled to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, especially in accordance with the recent statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies as to trade relations with the Colonies, will be modified in connection with the Budget arrangements of this year. We have so often explained to Her Majesty's Government the injustice of imposing upon Colonial Rum a differential duty in favour of home-made spirits, that we need not trouble you now with any detailed statement. Up to the year 1881 the excise duty on British Spirits was 10s. and the Customs duty on Colonial Rum was 10s. 2d., the additional amount being intended to compensate for alleged expenses incurred in connection with the excise regulations. It has been officially admitted that 2d. per gallon is more than sufficient to countervail the expense of Excise regulations. Indeed, there is sufficient proof that, in the opinion of the Customs and Excise authorities, the differential duty of 2d. per gallon operated largely as a protective duty in favour of home-made spirits. But in 1881 the tax imposed upon imported Colonial Rum was raised from 10s. 2d. to 10s. 4d. per gallon, and the tax on foreign spirits was reduced from 10s. 5d. to 10s. 4d. per gallon. The foreign producer of Beet and Potato Spirit (flavoured with a Rum essence) was benefited, but in the result the home producer of Whiskey and Gin was favoured with an enormous protection against all imported spirits, no regard being had, as in former legislation, to the products of British Colonies. We would therefore pray, that, if it is considered desirable for the benefit of home distillers that a countervailing duty should be levied on Colonial Spirits, such compensating duty should not exceed the amount admitted by the Customs and Inland Revenue Authorities, viz., 2d. per gallon, to be ample for such a purpose, and even this amount, we do not hesitate to say, is simply preposterous. We venture to put this before you, as there is no doubt that, under the present system of taxation, an exorbitant protection is given to British distillers as against Colonial distillers, and this is manifestly unjust, at any rate as far as the Crown Colonies are concerned. (*Signed, N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.*)"

The Chancellor of the Exchequer delayed his answer for four months and three days. Then a letter was received from the Treasury, 13th August, stating that "the question of the Surtax levied on Rum imported into this country has again been carefully examined by their Lordships in communication with the Revenue Departments. I am now directed to acquaint you that My Lords see no reason to take a different view of the question from that which has been communicated to you on various occasions since 1881. They are satisfied that the existing rate of 4d. a gallon represents, with as much accuracy as the circumstances will allow, the average cost of the restrictions imposed on the distillers in this country by the Excise laws and regulations, and they see no prospect of being able to recommend any alteration in the amount. (*Signed, FRANCIS MOWATT.*)" From the above it appears that the great injustice to Demerara, Jamaica, the Leeward and other Islands involved in the huge protection of nearly a million sterling enjoyed by home distillers, is continued for the present. A further letter to the Government, which Government came into office mainly on the principle of justice to the Colonies, is being prepared and will be submitted to the West India Committee as soon as a meeting can be called.

**CANE SUGAR DISTRIBUTION IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—A communication has been received from a well-known gentleman claiming a large influence with the Co-operative Societies of the country. He thinks that if 500 tons of Cane Sugar weekly could be guaranteed to his Association, the same could be sold (under the mark of his Association) profitably for all concerned. The matter is quite new, and there has been no time for consideration, but a meeting will be called as soon as possible. One important element in the case is a proposed co-operation with the fruit growers in regard to the manufacture of Jam. The Secretary of the West India Committee will be glad to show papers to any members calling from 1 o'clock to 3 on any day.

**TRINIDAD TONNAGE DUES.**—In continuation of correspondence in last Circular, an application was made to the Foreign Office for information as to the repeal of the United States Reciprocal Law on Tonnage Dues exemption. In reply (11th August), copy of a despatch by Sir J. Pauncefote (March 17th) was received, enclosing extract from *Congressional Record*, reporting that the House of Representatives had passed a Bill abolishing the exemption from Tonnage Dues now enjoyed by Germany, the Netherlands, and certain British Colonies, in the case of vessels arriving in the United States from ports of those countries. A further clause in the Bill reduces the Tonnage Dues from 3 cents to 2 cents per ton on the trade between the United States and ports of North and Central America, including the West India Islands, &c. The Secretary of the United States Treasury reports in favour of abolishing the Reciprocal Exemptions, as the United States surrenders annually £20,000 in return for a benefit worth less than £2,000 to American vessels. Both the above despatch and the *Congressional Record* only refer to proceedings in the House of Representatives. No information was possessed by our Government as to the actual passing of the law, and Lord Salisbury has directed (17th August) Her Majesty's Charge des Affaires at Washington to inquire and report. This report the West India Committee will receive from the Foreign Office as soon as it arrives. In the meantime there seems no doubt that the San Fernando Tonnage Dues will be exacted for a year under Ordinance 1 of 1896. Of course, if the United States have abrogated their law of Reciprocal Exemption, nothing further can be done. San Fernando has become an important port for Sugar, Pitch and general trade. The Christall Line of Steamers have already charged primage on account of these Tonnage Dues, imposed for the especial benefit of the Port of Spain harbour improvements. Of course, the West India Committee are equally anxious to promote harbour facilities at Port of Spain, although a large proportion of the produce of the Island is shipped from San Fernando. So far as the West India Committee are concerned, the matter must remain open until the report from the British Embassy in Washington is received.

**BARBADOS EMIGRATION.**—The Secretary, West India Committee, has had under notice a mass of papers relating to this subject, including a Report of the Emigration Commission (forwarded by Demerara), signed by Mr. Bovell and others of Barbados. The Report brings out the great reluctance to emigrate on the part of the Barbadian population. The people willing to emigrate are not of the class required. No scheme resembling colonization, or settlements on a large scale, is therefore feasible. But various agencies are proposed, especially in Trinidad and Jamaica. The Commissioners seem to be reluctant to advise Government assistance in emigration, but a number of detailed recommendations are made, which there is no time now to consider. The object, however, is one that, as far as Barbados is concerned, deserves every support.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—Mr. Licht gives the following cheerful list of root enemies in the German fields as to which complaints are made. He is responsible for the Latin terms. "Grubs, wireworms, nematodes, poppy mites, caterpillars of the turnip moth (*agrotis segetum*), sugar beet flies (*anthomyia conformis*), carrion beetles (*silpha atrata*), shield bugs (*cassida nebulosa*), pith rot caused by *phoma betæ* and *fusarium beticola*, and of root rot owing to *rhizotomia violacea*." The roots in August



developed foliage at the expense of sugar contents. The state of the fields in Germany is an average one, with a prospect of a smaller yield unless warmer weather returned. Mr. Licht seems to speak rather well of Cuba, suggesting (but in a hesitating way) 400,000 to 500,000 tons of Sugar. The Beet campaign of 1895-6 is reported as 4,270,000, against 4,792,550, or less by 523,000 tons than 1894-5. Mr. Licht (August 25th) gives the total stocks as 1,376,725, against 1,659,258. All these figures ought to show a stronger market, except the Cuban, which are very doubtful. The *Journal des Fabricants* reports that the root has gone too much into leaf, and a less abundant crop is expected. The real fact is that the French industry could not exist at all but for the bounty exacted from the French taxpayers. Mr. Licht, of Magdeburg, has issued no figures as to crop 1896-7. There are no figures, speculative or otherwise, as to the 1896-7 Beet crop. The *Journal des Fabricants* can only estimate from the crops in the ground. It shows, from an average of annual yields, 4,889,000 tons of raw Sugar. With an increase of 16 per cent. of sowings it is said that there will be an increase of 676,000 tons over 1895-6. But this, of course, has yet to be proved. Upon the whole there may be 4,700,000 tons of Beet Sugar produced, but these figures are, of course, entirely speculative.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—Europe and Cargoes afloat to Europe 1,059,344 tons against 1,130,524. United States 284,000 against 239,498. Cuba 51,000 against 222,268. Afloat to United States 5,068 against 6,893. Total 1,399,412 tons against 1,608,183.

RAW SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings 35 weeks 532,529 against 566,591. Deliveries 483,904 against 493,490. Stocks 157,444 against 133,044.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 % (Czarnikow) 9 - to 9/0 $\frac{3}{4}$  against 9 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

COCOA.—Moderate supply went off quietly at last auction. Trinidad met with inoderate demand at about recent decline. Grenada sold steadily. Trinidad crop practically over. New crop begins middle of September, but deliveries inconsiderable until November. Trinidad shipped to August 19th, 16,924,200 lbs. against 21,818,000 in 1895.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 3rd September—Showery and favourable for cultivation. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), August 25th—Some rain would be acceptable.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

CIRCULAR No. 135.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

5th October, 1896.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.—A special Circular is to be issued showing present position and future proceedings. In the meantime Mr. Lubbock's letter to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, suggesting that France is responsible for the failure of International agreements has caused much interest and discussion in Sugar circles in that Country. Referring to memorials, the mail brought copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad.

TRINIDAD TONNAGE DUES.—The following letters show the present position of this matter :—" West India Committee to Colonial Office, 22nd September, 1896. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th August last, informing us that the Secretary of State had decided that the provisions of the ordinance which impose dues on cargoes loaded or landed elsewhere than at Port of Spain may be allowed to remain in operation for a year, in order that the incidence of taxation under them may be observed and reported on. After a reference to the Lighthouses you proceed to say 'I am to add that the law of the United States granting immunity from tonnage dues to vessels coming from Free Ports, to which you refer, has been repealed.' As there still seemed to be some misapprehension upon this latter point, we ventured to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for the latest information, and we are now informed by his Lordship that the Bill for the abolition of the exemption from tonnage dues enjoyed by vessels coming to United States Ports from certain countries was passed by the House of Representatives, read twice in the Senate and referred to a Committee. We are further informed that the Bill may pass the remaining two stages during the ensuing Winter Session, but that if it should fail to become law before next March, when the present Congress expires, it would have to be introduced *de novo*. We venture, therefore, respectfully to say that as far as the Legislation of the United States is concerned, the position remains the same, and the imposition of tonnage dues at San Fernando, under the Trinidad Ordinance, deprives that Port of all the benefit of the United States Law of exemption. (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman." The following is the reply :—"Colonial Office, 27th September. The Secretary of State regrets that he was misinformed as to the Law of the United States, under which ships coming from Trinidad have hitherto been exempted from Tonnage dues, having been repealed. The repealing Bill had, in fact, only been passed by the House of Representatives, and has not yet, as you point out, been passed by the Senate. Under these circumstances the Secretary of State for the Colonies will ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inquire whether the Trinidad Ordinance, No. 1 of 1896, would be held to deprive vessels coming from Trinidad, of the exemption from tonnage dues under the existing law of the United States. (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON."

SURTAX ON RUM.—A letter is being addressed to the Treasury on this subject. It will be printed in next Circular.



ST. LUCIA.—An important letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State on the establishment of a Land Credit system in this Island. It will be printed in next Circular.

ST. VINCENT.—A letter to the Secretary of State is being prepared on the basis of Sir C. Bruce's recent address to the Legislative Council. A more economical administration and the amalgamation of offices will be heartily supported; but Sir C. Bruce's proposed interference with Estates Proprietors in the management and disposition of their property will be subject to a strong protest, and indeed it is impossible to conceive that such a confiscatory plan could be approved by the Home Government.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—The heavy rains have had their effect upon the market in fluctuating prices. No trustworthy estimates of Beet crop for 1896/7 have yet been issued. Everything really depends upon the weather. At present the report is that the saccharine is inferior, and that the 5,000,000 tons may not be realised. If any increase, say of 12s. 6d. per ton in the bounty, can lead to a reduction of at least £2 in the price, there can be no doubt as to the present artificial condition of affairs, and as to the interest of the Continental Sugar Powers in abolishing their bounties. If wheat improves, the chances of making favourable contracts for roots of course decrease in importance.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—No one fully understands how these returns are made up, especially as to the stocks in Hamburg and other German Sugar centres. One of the latest is: Europe 842,166 against 913,359. United States 319,000 against 189,594. Cuba 50,000 against 194,016, making up a total with Cargoes afloat of 1,214,431 against 1,311,387.

RAW SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings 563,193 against 618,433. Deliveries 533,217 against 554,636. Stocks 139,695 against 123,470.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 % 9/- against 10/9.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara, 26th September, (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.)—Favourable for cultivation and grinding. Barbados, 22nd September, (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller.)—Seasonable, but rain still wanted.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

PRINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WESTMINSTER.

CIRCULAR No. 136.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER HOUSE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

16th November, 1896.

**SUGAR QUESTION.**—The West India Memorials constitute such a body of information upon the condition of the Colonies, and such an earnest appeal to the Government, that great hopes are entertained of a decision that might lead to an amelioration. Never, during the last 50 years, has such a simultaneous representation, and one of such strength and earnestness, been made. And an important fact is that the English press, both in London and the Provinces, have widely discussed the matter, largely from the point of view of inducing the Government to move, either in the direction of an early conference, for which the Sugar Powers would apparently be themselves prepared, or else in stopping the bounties on Sugar imported into the United Kingdom by a countervailing duty. A Bill is now before the French Chambers involving an increase of the bounties. The West India Committee have circulated (through the British Embassy and influential friends) in France a very large amount of information showing the unwisdom, loss and utter uselessness of the Bounty System. It is true that Lord Salisbury writes, 3rd November, that "further communications between Her Majesty's Embassy and the French Government are not in contemplation," but as Mr. Chamberlain signalled his assumption of office by a desire to promote the interests of the Crown Colonies, it is hoped that his great influence with the present Cabinet will be exerted to bring about a just settlement of this Bounty question.

**MEMORIALS.**—(1) British Guiana has sent home a Memorial and also Resolutions passed at a large and representative meeting in Georgetown, held under the Presidency of the Mayor. All the interests of the Colony were most effectively represented at this gathering, and the proceedings certainly created a great impression in England. (2) The Trinidad Agricultural Society addressed the Secretary of State in September. (3) Antigua sends forward Resolutions of a Public Meeting, presided over by the Hon. T. D. Foote. (4) St. Kitts—Nevis forwards copy of a Memorial to the Secretary of State. The Public Meeting was presided over by Mr. W. R. Boon. (5) St. Vincent, through the Hon. C. J. Simmons, sends Copy of a Memorial to the Secretary of State. No papers seem to have come from St. Lucia, Barbados or Jamaica, but, with regard to the latter Colony, a correspondence is in progress between the Committee and Mr. Robert Craig, the Chairman of the Jamaica Sugar Planters' Association.

**SUGAR IMPROVEMENTS.**—Sir C. Bruce, in his lately-published Reports on the Windward Islands, recommends improved machinery as his solution of the question, just as if planters in the Islands would make a large investment of additional capital at the risk of all benefit therefrom being swept away by the bounties. With regard to British Guiana, Mr. Lubbock writes as follows to the *Daily Graphic* newspaper:—"You accuse British Guiana of being in the same position as St. Lucia and St. Vincent in not having erected improved machinery capable of turning out a superior quality of Sugar at a reduced cost of production. Permit me to say that British Guiana has acquired a reputation



for the exceptionally fine quality of its Sugar in every grocer's shop in England, where it is known as Demerara Sugar. So great is its reputation that yearly many thousands of tons of Refined Sugar are artificially coloured with aniline dyes to imitate it. And as regards cheapness, I think I may safely defy you to point to any country where Sugar is grown more cheaply. Want of enterprise, skill, and pluck cannot reasonably be laid to the charge of British Guiana."

**RUM SURTAX.**—"West India Committee to Treasury, 16th October, 1896. My Lords.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Francis Mowatt's letter of the 13th August last, acquainting the West India Committee that your Lordships see no reason, in connection with the Surtax on imported Rum, to take a different view of the question from that which has been communicated to us on various occasions since 1881, and adding that your Lordships are satisfied that the existing countervailing duty of 4d. per gallon on Foreign and Colonial Spirits represents with as much accuracy as the circumstances will allow, the average cost of the restrictions imposed on the distillers in this country by the Excise Laws and Regulations, and that your Lordships see no prospect of being able to recommend any alteration in the amount. (2) We venture in reply respectfully to remind your Lordships that all imported Rum, which mainly comes from non-self-governing British Colonies, is subject to excise restrictions in the country of its production, restrictions imposed by the authority of the British Government through the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Such produce is therefore manufactured for marketable purposes under the same authority and the same conditions as British Spirits, with the additional disadvantage of an expensive voyage, loss in transit, cost of insurance and charges of Dock or Bonded Warehousing on arrival. We fail, therefore, to understand upon what grounds any countervailing duty is levied at all, especially one so heavy as to amount to fully one-third of the present bond value of the Rum. Indeed, taking both the Surtax and the above items into account, the amount of protection enjoyed by home distillers against Colonial Rum cannot be less than 7d. per gallon, the present bonded value of Rum being from 9d. to 10d. per proof gallon. (3) As practical distillers under strict Government supervision in the Colonies, we venture to state from our experience that 4d. per proof gallon is absolutely unreasonable, as an estimate of the expense of excise restrictions. In the case of plain spirits, if the regulations are carried out judiciously, as we do not doubt they are in this country, it is very questionable if they involve any appreciable expense to the distillers at all. They certainly need not amount to any appreciable burden. In the case of compounded spirits there must be some expense, but we submit that one ½d. per gallon would be more than enough to countervail this expense. (4) We are confirmed in this view by the fact that prior to 1881, the Surtax upon Colonial Rum was only 2d. per proof gallon, when the cost of production of British Spirits was far higher than it is at present. We have seen nothing to invalidate the report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue upon the duties under their management C. 82, 1870, at the time it was made, when the circumstances of production and prices were very different from what they are now. The compilers of the Report felt it then necessary to explain the reason of the difference in duty between Home-made and Colonial Spirits. They remarked upon the tendency of legislation to reduce the difference between the duties on Home-made and Colonial Spirits, it being decided, after the most minute examination, that an allowance of 1 ½d. on plain Spirits, and a somewhat higher rate for compounded or rectified Spirits, was sufficient compensation for the Excise restrictions; but a general difference in duty of 2d. was agreed upon. Formerly, Colonial Rum, which is a genuine and perfectly natural spirit, was distinguished, by a lower rate of duty, from Foreign Spirits, which consisted partly of imitations of genuine Rums formed by a mixture of potato or beet spirit, with Rum essences, and sold as genuine Rum. But the distinction between these two classes of Spirits, viz., genuine Colonial Rum and Foreign Spirits, was abolished by Mr. Gladstone when he reduced the duty on Foreign Spirits by 1d. per gallon, and increased that on Colonial Rum by 2d. per gallon, making both subject to a 4d. surtax. We are satisfied that there was no intention to violate the principles of Free Trade,



but no more open protection to a prosperous British Home Trade, strong in political influence, was ever shown. 5.—The next point is what this supposed cost of restriction to distillers actually works out at, and this is easily ascertained, as the calculation is a very simple one. At 4d. per gallon on the total output of British and Irish Spirits, which appears to be 46,000,000 of gallons, the result of the protection would be equivalent to a sum of £766,600. This is, on the face of it, a contention which is absolutely untenable. When we bear in mind that there is no other industry in the United Kingdom which is protected, this enormous protection to one of our most prosperous home industries is quite unique. 6.—Considering the great gravity of this question, as affecting Home Legislation and its bearing upon a British Colonial Industry, we venture to ask that the Reports upon which your Lordships have come to the decision conveyed to us, may be published in continuation of the Reports published in previous years. (*Signed*) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*"

EXPORTS FROM GRENADA AND THE GRENADINES.—Messrs, Jonas Browne & Son favour us with the following figures :

| CROP.<br>1st Oct. to 30th Sept. | COCOA.<br>Bags. | SPICE.<br>Packages. | COTTON.<br>Bales. | COTTON-SEED.<br>Bags. | COFFEE.<br>Bags. | LOGWOOD.<br>Tons. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1891-1892                       | 44,833          | 2,341               | 1,432             | 13,533                | —                | —                 |
| 1892-1893                       | 49,627          | 2,361               | 1,282             | 11,149                | —                | —                 |
| 1893-1894                       | 55,665          | 1,854               | 1,093             | 8,636                 | —                | —                 |
| 1894-1895                       | 42,827          | 5,495               | 1,021             | 7,778                 | —                | —                 |
| 1895-1896                       | 46,504          | 2,913               | 885               | 5,738                 | 80               | 396               |

DISCLAIMER.—From a recent article in the *Port of Spain Gazette* there seems to be an impression that the views of the West India Committee are expressed in some notes apparently published by a paper called the *European Mail*. No member or official of the Committee communicates with the *European Mail*, and the paper has not been seen at this office for a number of years past. If the *Port of Spain Gazette* chooses to take it as representing West Indian opinion in London it must do so at its own discretion.

GRENADA.—The former attempt to impose export duties in this Island seems to have been revived. The most strenuous opposition will be given to such a measure, which is entirely contrary to the policy hitherto adopted by the Home Government. To further hamper the produce on which the Colony depends is, of course, suicidal, and especially in view of the present gloomy outlook of the Island finances, such a measure should not be adopted. If official expenses cannot be cut down, it is quite impossible that, with recent prices for Cocoa, the agricultural interest should be further burdened.

JAMAICA FRUIT.—Information has been collected with regard to Fruit imports into the United Kingdom. There is every desire to support this trade as much as possible, and it is hoped that it will soon be put upon a proper footing, especially through the shipping agency of Messrs. Anderson, Anderson & Co., Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., and other shipping firms.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—The *Journal des Fabricants* seems rather to rejoice at the condition of the West Indies. It actually says that the Beet Industry is not responsible for this state of things. It says that the bounty system is not the only cause of the low prices; but, on the whole, it seems to approve of the proposal to abolish bounties from the 1st September, 1898, if the other Powers agree. In the meantime, the condition of the French agriculturists and fabricants is admitted to be increasingly deplorable, it recommends a brief delay in granting larger bounties, although there seems to be a disposition to grant them, with low prices and mediocre saccharine. Of course, the Government resources for the payment of these premiums is an anxious question for the Budget Committee. There must be increased consumption taxes, although there seems a disposition to give increased "détaxes" to French



Colonial Sugar. The whole question in France, upon the basis of the new "Projet de Loi" is still awaiting settlement, and it is hoped that the ruinous effect of the bounties will become so apparent as to stimulate the demand for a Conference, with a view to general abolition. Messrs. J. W. de Silva & Co. report (9th November) that the advance in Wheat and the Presidential Election would cause replenishing of stocks and an improvement in price. The French bounties, although already double those in Germany are about to be increased (as proposed) by about 1s. per cwt., the home consumption duties being raised proportionately to defray the expense. Different estimates have been formed as to the new Beet crop, Mr. Licht giving the highest at 4,960,000 tons, and M. Sachs the lowest at 4,516,000. It remains to be seen whether recent weather will reduce Mr. Licht's estimate. Mr. Czarnikow notices an improved tone in prices, owing partly to a decrease in invisible supplies. No doubt there is a greater demand both in Europe and America. A decrease of sowings is still expected. On the whole, the Cane Market has slightly improved,

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(De Silva & Co., 9th November.) Europe and afloat to Europe 715,000 against 812,000. United States 306,000 against 160,000. Afloat to United States 40,000 against 124,000. Cuba 40,000 against 146,000. Total 1,101,000 against 1,242,000. (Czarnikow, 12th.) Europe 928,447 against 951,244. United States 299,000 against 159,520. Cuba 40,000 against 144,478. Afloat to United States 5,955 against 15,403. Total 1,273,402 against 1,270,645.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—45 weeks. Landings 664,802 against 702,915. Deliveries 629,736 against 648,114. Stocks 144,786 against 114,744.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88% (Czarnikow.)— $9\frac{1}{2}$  against  $10\frac{3}{4}$ .

COCOA.—The market seemed on the whole steady, especially for Trinidad. New Grenada met a good demand and Dominica sold firmly.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—British Guiana, November 10th, (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.)—Three inches of rain have fallen in Essequibo. Barbados, 2nd November, per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller.)—Good showers, but partial.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



will notice the report of an interview by M. Graux with the French Government. The statements of M. Graux are submitted to the Commission by the French Government. The following points: (1) That negotiations (now pending) are proceeding between the French and Austrian Governments in view of a Convention for the abolition of export bounties. (2) That in the numerous deliberative action must be taken by France against the German and Austrian laws. France must go to a Conference with the same purpose in its hands as its advantages: clearly pointing to the granting of an export bounty to the French industry has indicated the Commission's view. Upon the above we have to remark that the French bounty has indicated that it will be given in a restricted, and not by means of a direct premium upon export. The latter course is now suggested in addition, with the avowed object of entering a Convention with a view to the abolition of export bounties in return for similar concessions by Germany and Austria with a view to the abolition of the duties on the industry arising from the present system of duties. We would humbly beg that Lord Salisbury would be pleased to draw the attention of the British Government to the proposed export bounty to France, and its avowed object, which is a direct premium upon export.

**CIRCULAR No. 137.**

**WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**

**BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,**

**LONDON, E.C.,**

**14th December, 1896.**

**THE SUGAR QUESTION.**—The appointment of a Commission to visit the West Indies, and to suggest remedial measures, has been effected in order to enable the Secretary of State to go before Parliament with the fullest information, confirmed by a report founded on an independent inquiry. The names of the Commissioners are not definitely known, but they may now be published at any moment. In the meantime it is very important that information should be arranged, tabulated, and put in such a form as to give the Commissioners a clear view of the condition of the Sugar Industry, its results for previous years, and its immediate prospects.

The interest shown by the press in all parts of the United Kingdom in the question still continues, and an amount of public feeling has been aroused which cannot fail to be a great factor in the settlement of the question. Colonial representations have largely contributed to bring the question under public notice on this side, and the Petition from British Guiana, now on its way home through the Governor, will no doubt increase that interest. The Petition, containing nearly 5,000 signatures, is 181 feet in length. Letters from other Colonies are received in London by every mail, showing that movements are taking place in nearly all the Colonies in support of the efforts that are being made here to bring about a settlement of the bounty question. As these efforts increase in importance, the Continental Sugar Manufacturers, who are dependent upon the bounty, are becoming alarmed, and have even formed an Association in London to watch the progress of matters, and to take any steps they may decide upon in their own interest. So far as the French increase of bounty is concerned, matters are not very much advanced; the Government endeavouring to keep the bounty increase as small as possible, while the agricultural and manufacturing interests have been bringing pressure to bear upon the Tariff Committee for a considerable increase of bounty. The West India Committee have distributed many hundreds of circulars on the Continent, in English, French and German, showing the uselessness of bounties, and the loss they cause in over-production. In Germany and Austria the position remains about the same, so far as legislation is concerned. Reverting to the attitude of France, some of our members who are closely watching it, see a prospect of the French Treasury shovelling many more millions of francs into the Beet fields. The latest proposal is an export bounty in addition to the existing large bounties on production. The following letter to Lord Salisbury will throw light upon the immediate motive of this proposal. The M. Graux mentioned is in direct communication with the Foreign Beet Association referred to above as having been formed in London.

**“West India Committee to Foreign Office:—**The Under Secretary, Sir,—I beg respectfully to enclose copy of a bulletin issued by the Agence Nationale on the present Sugar Crisis. You



will notice the report of an interview by *Le Matin* newspaper with M. Georges Graux, a member of the Commission appointed by the French Chambers to examine and report upon the *projet de Loi*, submitted to the Commission by the French Government. The statements of M. Graux contain the following points: (1) That negotiations (*pour parler*) are proceeding between the French, German and Austrian Governments in view of a Congress for the abolition of export bounties. (2) That in the meantime defensive action must be taken by France against the German and Austrian laws. France must go to a Conference with the same weapons in its hands as its adversaries: clearly pointing to the granting of an export bounty in France. This view is confirmed by the extract from the *Economiste Français*. Upon the above we have to remark that the French bounty has hitherto been given, and still is given, upon production, and not by means of a direct premium upon export. This latter course is now suggested in addition, with the avowed object of entering a Conference with a view to the abolition of such export bounty in return for similar concessions by Germany and Austria, while retaining in France all the benefits to the industry arising from the present system of bounties on production. We would humbly beg that Lord Salisbury would be pleased to draw the attention of the British Ambassador to the proposed export bounty in France, and its avowed object, inasmuch as it would obviously create a serious difficulty in regard to the basis upon which a Conference could be called together, seeing that a bounty on production is a bounty on export in disguise, and it would be obviously futile to enter into the contemplated discussions unless the scope of the Convention was sufficiently enlarged so as to include the abolition of bounties whether on export or on production.—(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*. In reply, Lord Salisbury says that he has sent the above letter to the British Ambassador in Paris, with instructions to report upon any such legislation.

**STORMS.**—The Committee regretted to receive from the Colonial Office, under date 3rd December, copy of a telegram from the Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands, reporting serious floods in Montserrat, resulting in the loss of 75 lives and the destruction of roads and bridges. Mail due in London 23rd December, will contain particulars. There is at present, no information in London to confirm certain rumours as to damage alleged to be caused in other Islands.

**ST. LUCIA.**—Important representations have been addressed to the Secretary of State upon the question of the Immigration Taxes in this Island, and their being placed upon a proper footing, suitable to the present position of Immigration.

**MAURITIUS.**—A letter (11th December) has been received from Mr. A. G. Dick, informing us that "the Delegates appointed by the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture to support the movement against the Sugar Bounties, have in turn appointed a Sub-Committee composed of Lord Stanmore, Mr. H. J. Jourdain, C.M.G., Mr. George W. Davidson, and Mr. Maurice Ulcoq, to confer with the West India Committee." A meeting will consequently be held on Thursday 17th instant, at 3 o'clock, to consider the appointment of a Sub-Committee to confer with the Sub-Committee of the Mauritius Delegates.

**SUGAR REFINERS.**—A meeting was held at this Office (by consent of the Chairman) on 4th December, at the request of Mr. William Macfie, Hon. Secretary, the Lancashire Sugar Refiners' Association. There were present or expected: Mr. Easton, Mr. Jaeger, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Grosfeld, Mr. Macfie, Mr. Lyle, and Mr. Tate. No official or representative of the West India Committee was present. It is understood that a Sub-Committee was formed to watch the movement against Sugar Bounties, but no active steps were agreed upon at present.



**ENGINEERS.**—The principal Engineering firms have consented to attend a Meeting, at some early convenient date, to support the West India Committee in their movement against bounties.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—The warmer temperature and frequent rains have been prejudicial in France. It is difficult to estimate the loss of raw material and of sugar. To keep the roots remaining to be worked is very difficult, and yields may retrograde. Of course, the working of the roots is closed in a great many factories, and the general yield seems to have justified estimates. The European production is variously estimated. Some French authorities give it at 4,675,000 tons. This also seems to be the figure given by M. Giesecker, of Belgium, but other authorities go as high as 4,845,000 tons, or 500,000 tons over 1895-6 crop. Mr. Licht's estimate is 4,960,000, against 4,323,000 1895-6, and 4,792,000 in 1894-5. Mr. Czarnikow suggests that probably present unremunerative rates will restrict next crop sowings, as in some of the Continental Beet Countries the effects of over-production are being felt.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(Messrs. J. W. de Silva & Co., 8th December.) Europe 1,421,000 against 1,466,000. United States and Cuba 328,000 against 363,000. (Mr. Czarnikow, 10th December.) Europe 1,668,320 against 1,686,429. United States 265,000 against 141,666. Cuba 36,000 against 134,528. Afloat to United States 8,082 against 31,794. Total 1,977,402 against 1,994,417.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Imports 49 weeks 711,037 against 764,282. Deliveries 684,615 against 710,922. Stocks 134,716 against 112,481.

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88%.  $\frac{5}{8}$  to  $9\frac{5}{8}$ .

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 9th December (per favour of the Colonial Company, Limited).—Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation. Barbados, 2nd December (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller).—Heavy rains generally throughout the Island.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR No. 138.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

25th January, 1897.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—"The depressed condition of the Sugar Industry in my West Indian Colonies has seriously affected their prosperity, and I have appointed a Commission to investigate its causes, and if possible to suggest means for its amelioration."

THE SUGAR COMMISSION.—The Commissioners, Sir Henry Norman, Sir David Barbour, and Sir Edward Grey sailed by R.M.S. "Don," on 13th January to visit the West Indies. They were accompanied by an excellent and able Secretary, Mr. Olivier of the Colonial Office, who has before paid a visit to the West Indies on Official business. Although the whole of the necessary information might have been obtained in this country, the appointment and prompt dispatch of the Commission has been regarded with satisfaction. Before their departure a large amount of valuable but necessarily confidential evidence was put before them. The West India Committee compiled a list of witnesses representing all the Colonies, and the condition of every Colony was fully laid before the Commission. When this list was communicated to the Colonial Office, of course the matter of evidence went out of the hands of the West India Committee who are not responsible for any proposed witnesses who were not invited to give evidence by the Commission. British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbadoes, the Windward and Leeward Islands and Jamaica were, however, fully represented. Among the most important of the witnesses were Mr. Nevile Lubbock, Chairman, and Mr. Quintin Hogg, Deputy Chairman, of the West India Committee.

With regard to the appointment of Dr. Morris, of Kew, as a kind of expert on alternative industries, a strong feeling has been aroused. There are professional men in the Colonies who are equally competent, possessing practical information to a later date, and it is felt that these should not have been passed over in favour of a gentleman who, however efficient in his present position, has often minimized the importance of the Sugar Industry, of the condition of which he cannot be considered an authoritative exponent. Alternative industries would employ little labour, attract little capital, and while they are maturing all the immense capital invested in sugar would be lost, and sugar, which is and can only be the principal product of the West Indies, would be represented by abandoned Estates, unused Machinery, and a labouring population without wages and the necessary means of subsistence. It is hoped, therefore, that every effort will be made in the Colonies to represent the true position of affairs to the Commissioners.

It appears that some commercial bodies in the West Indies are in communication with the London Chamber of Commerce, and it is understood that, upon the basis of those communications, a hostile organization had been formed, under the auspices of and in the name of the Chamber, to go before the Commissioners. Although our Chairman was a member of the Council, nothing was formally submitted to it, and it was only by accident the movement was discovered. Our Chairman at once sent in his resignation, and the Secretary was instructed to advise all members of the West India Committee to withdraw from the Chamber. Matters were, however, arranged and no movement was made by the section of the Chamber, which, notwithstanding no weight could be attached to it,



might have been a sufficient reason against any remedy that might be suggested by the Commissioners. It is, therefore, requested that all communications from Commercial bodies in the Colonies should be sent to the West India Committee who possess the fullest and most practical knowledge of the bearing of all such questions, and who are alone able to deal effectively with the information and views forwarded to this Country from the West Indies.

**FRENCH BOUNTIES.**—The West India Committee (18th January) wrote to the Foreign Office acknowledging receipt of particulars of new French proposed Law. The Committee's letter of 20th October last was fully confirmed as to the proposed granting of a direct bounty on export to meet the increased German bounties (*primes de Guerre*) and to constitute a weapon for negotiations in view of an International Conference. Mr. Austin Tice (of the British Embassy in Paris) has furnished the Committee (through the Foreign Office) with the following summary of the proposed Bill:—

"Article I. provides that, from September 1st, 1896, to September 1st, 1898, native and colonial sugars, and sugars refined from raw native and colonial sugars, temporarily admitted, shall receive the following bounties:—4fr. per 100 kilos of refined sugar for raw sugars in powder or crystals yielding at least 98 per cent. for beetroot sugars or at least 97 per cent. for colonial sugars. 3fr. 50c. per 100 kilos of refined sugar for raw beetroot sugars yielding 65 to 97 per cent. or colonial sugars yielding 65 to 97 per cent. 4c. 50c. per 100 kilos nett weight on candies and refined sugars in loaves or broken. 4fr. per 100 kilos nett weight on refined sugars in powder or crystals yielding at least 98 per cent.

"By Article II. a rebate (*deluxe de distance*) of 2fr. 25c. per 100 kilos will be allowed to refined sugars imported from the French Colonies on the Atlantic, and 2fr. 50c. to sugars imported from other Colonies.

"Article III. provides that 2fr. per 100 kilos will be allowed on raw French sugars sent from the French ports on the North Sea and in the Channel to refineries in French ports on the Atlantic and Mediterranean, and the same rebate to any sugars forwarded from manufactories distant at least 250 kilometres.

"Article IV. provides:—(1.) That a *surtaxe* of 2fr. 50c. shall be imposed for the period terminating September 1st, 1898, on refined sugar of all kinds liable to duty. (2.) That a refining duty of 1fr. 75c. per 100 kilos. on refined sugar shall be imposed on candies, refined sugars, pieces, etc., and, (3.) That a duty (*droit de fabrication*) of 1fr. shall be imposed on the manufacture of raw sugars.

"The Bill is preceded by the Report of the Customs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. It begins by stating that in order to compete with the new bounties granted in Germany and Austria, bounties must be granted to French sugars, unless the sugar industry is to be in future confined to the home market, and all idea of an export trade abandoned.

"The Report adds that Austria has proposed an International Congress to examine the gradual abolition of bounties, but that before France can go into this Congress, she must raise her bounties to the same level as those of foreign countries.

"The new law is defined as an act of defence against the attempt of other countries to destroy the French sugar industry, and as a measure (*de retaliation*) against the recent German and Austrian laws, and a reply to the German fighting bounties (*primes de guerre*).

"The Government have limited the duration of the law to September 1st, 1898, in order to show its willingness to take part in an International Congress and its desire to see this Congress arrive at results which will be accepted by the sugar producing countries of Europe.



"The Report then states that the proposed law has a double object:—Firstly, to protect the home market against foreign sugars, and, secondly, to favour the exportation of native sugars.

"To obtain this two-fold result, it is proposed to raise the Custom duties on sugars and to grant bounties to sugars exported.

"The Commission calculate that the new bounties, rebates, &c., will entail an outlay of 18 million francs, which will be met by raising the Excise Duty (*droit de consommation*) from 60fr. to 62fr. 50c. per 100 kilos, and by imposing duties on the manufacture and refining of sugars.

"The Report sums up as follows the stipulations to which the Government and the Customs Commission have agreed to ask the consent of the Chamber of Deputies. 1.—To vote a provisional law allowing France to join an International Congress for the defence of the Sugar Industry. 2.—To grant bounties to all sugars exported from France. 3.—To raise the Customs duties on foreign sugars, and to extend the *surtaxe* to sugars coming from foreign countries. To facilitate the use of native and colonial sugars in the refineries in the ports by granting to them rebates (*détaxes de distance*), and 5.—To vote the resources necessary for the payment of these bounties and rebates, by establishing a *surtaxe* 2fr. 50c. per 100 kilos on refined sugar.

"The Commission, however, ask the Chamber to vote higher bounties than the Government propose and to provide for the increased expense by raising, not only the excise duty (*droit de consommation*) but also by establishing duties on the manufacture and the refining of sugar; and the Report states that the Government now acknowledge that the law the Commission proposes has the advantage of placing in their hands a more effective weapon for negotiation.

"The Report gives the history of the Sugar Legislation in Germany, as well as of that in France, and discusses at great length the various provisions of the new Bill with regard to the rates of bounties, duties and rebates proposed.

"The annexes to the Report include a summary of all foreign regulations with regard to sugar, with more especial reference to the recent German and Austrian legislation, and also a table showing the sugar production of the various French and foreign colonies, including those of Great Britain.

"Paris, 24th December, 1896. (Signed) "H. AUSTIN LEE."

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN. — West India Committee to Foreign Office, 10th January, 1897. — "The attention of the West India Committee has been drawn to the recently-published reports of a proposed Reciprocity Treaty between Spain and the United States by which it is understood that Cuban sugar will be imported free of duty into the United States. As the United States affords practically the only available market for the sugar of the British West Indian Colonies, such an arrangement would obviously result in great disadvantage to them owing to the 40 per cent. *ad valorem* duty imposed upon their produce, while Cuban sugar will be imported free. We humbly beg that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would be pleased to obtain information with regard to the negotiations between Spain and the United States, and in the event of any arrangement being made for the free admission of Cuban sugar into the United States we would pray that his Lordship would instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador in Washington to take steps to obtain a similar remission of duty in connection with sugar imported from the British West India Colonies. — (Signed) QUINTIN HOGG, ACTING CHAIRMAN."

THE CHAIRMAN. — At a Meeting held on 7th January, 1897, the West India Committee passed a most cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Nevile Lubbock, in view of his departure on a visit to Trinidad, for his great ability and energy in connection with the interests of all the West India Colonies.



Mr. Barr, in proposing the resolution, wished Mr. Lubbock every happiness on his intended visit, and the resolution was seconded, in the most cordial terms, by Mr. George Carrington, on behalf of Barbados and the Islands.

DEMERARA SUGAR.—The Vestry of Islington, in North London, are prosecuting a number of grocers, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, for selling as Demerara a sugar which was not of the nature, substance and quality demanded by the purchaser. Mr. Bramall, the Vestry Clerk, said that this was the first prosecution of the kind in London. Demerara sugar was the finest moist sugar, but now beet sugar was being dyed to imitate Demerara sugar, and beet sugar was being sold as such. In London lately there had been started a number of factories for the dyeing of beet crystals, which came from Russia, Germany, and France and the beet sugar was then passed off as Demerara. The case was one of considerable importance both to the sugar trade and to the public. Both the genuine sugar trade and the consumers were defrauded by the imitation. On the case of Eliza Sergeant being gone into, Miss Penelope Clarke and Sanitary Inspector Mernagh proved the purchase, and Mr. Bramall produced the certificate of the public analyst, which stated that the sample consisted of dyed beet crystals. Mr. Quintin Hogg, sugar importer, of 23, Rood Lane, said that he had had 30 years' experience of the sugar trade, both in England and at the sugar plantations in Demerara. Mr. Bramall.—What is Demerara sugar? Witness.—Raw cane sugar, imported from Demerara, of a yellow, lemon, or gold colour. Mr. Bramall.—Is it dyed? Witness.—Certainly not. Mr. Hogg went on to say that the difference between the cane and beet sugar could be detected by a simple test. Witness had submitted 14 samples taken by the inspector on this particular day to this test, and only two of them proved to be genuine Demerara or cane sugar. The rest were imitations, or beet crystals dyed to make them represent Demerara crystals. Mr. Bros.—Which sugar is the most valuable? Witness.—The cane. There is a difference of £1 per ton. Cane sugar must be used for the making of jam, wines, &c. In these manufactures cane sugar preserves, while beet sugar turns the manufactures bad after a time. Dr. Teed, public analyst for Islington, formally proved his certificate. He arrived at the same result as Mr. Quintin Hogg did, but from a chemical examination. Mr. Edward Kynaston, a sugar broker, of Mincing Lane, corroborated Mr. Hogg's evidence. The hearing of the case was subsequently adjourned. In the case of Alfred Shrimpton, Mr. A. J. Ford, solicitor, appeared for the defence. Mr. Ford cross-examined Mr. Quintin Hogg at some length, the witness denying that there was any insect matter in genuine Demerara sugar. There would certainly be none in the beet sugar. He would not say that the dye on the beet sugar was injurious to health, but what he did hold was that for economic purposes beet sugar was not so good as cane sugar. The ordinary buyer would be unable to detect the difference. Mr. Ford submitted to the witness three samples of yellow sugar, one of which Mr. Hogg pronounced to be beet sugar; the other two were cane sugars. Some of the sugars were then placed in tumblers of water, and the simple test which Mr. Hogg had mentioned in his evidence in the other case was found to verify Mr. Hogg's opinion. In re-examination, the witness said that the dyeing of beet sugar was doing a large amount of damage to the Demerara trade, and the public were being deceived. In cross-examination by Mr. Ford, Mr. Kynaston said that the appearance of the beet sugar was much better than that of the cheaper sorts of Demerara. The latter might be got at the same price or even less than the price of the beet, but the public would not be satisfied with the appearance of the cheaper cane sugar. Other evidence having been given, the whole of the cases were adjourned.

BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION.—It is generally considered desirable that the Immigration system should be maintained, in view of having sufficient labour to carry on the cultivation under the improved prospects likely to be opened up by the Report of the Commissioners. The following is a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—"9th January, 1897.—"Sir, the West India Committee have received a letter from the British Guiana Planters' Association



intimating that it was probably the intention of the British Guiana Government not to advertise for Coolie immigrants in the season of 1897-98. It was pointed out by the Planters' Association to the Colonial Government, that the term of indenture of about 5,000 immigrants, out of a total indentured population of about 20,000, would shortly expire, and that railway construction works would employ a considerable body of labourers? It was, therefore, urged that a small supply, say of 2,000 immigrants, should be arranged for. I am desired by the British Guiana Proprietors to express the hope that this might be arranged on the terms settled in 1894, and in force at present. The proprietors do not overlook the existing circumstances of the Colony in making this request, and they trust that for the reasons given above, and the following reasons, a moderate immigration for 1897-98 will be approved. The stoppage of immigration for a year would disorganize the establishment in Calcutta, while the expenses of maintaining the Agency and staff would still be charged to the Immigration Fund without any beneficial result. And further, the recruiters employed by the Agency would lose their special work in connection with British Guiana, a fact which would render it more difficult to resume immigration at a later date. A heavy financial loss must arise if the Calcutta establishment is broken up, and I am respectfully to express the hope that you will be pleased to authorize the usual applications for immigrants from those estates which require them: confining the number to be so introduced to 2,000, if the same can be done without penalty under the terms of the Shipping Contract. But in any case I am desired to point out that the cessation of immigration would have a strong tendency to bring about that which we believe you, Sir, and certainly those connected with the Colony are so anxious to avoid, viz., the cessation of the Sugar industry, and, with or without bounties, a cessation of Coolie immigration would, within a very moderate period, result in the abandonment of the Sugar Estates from the inability to carry on the cultivation.—(*Signed*) QUINTIN HOGG, *Deputy Chairman.*"

MAURITIUS.—The West India Committee received a request from gentlemen connected with the Sugar Industry of Mauritius, that an interchange of views should take place between the Committee and the Mauritius representatives. Accordingly a Sub-Committee was appointed by the West India Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Deputy-Chairman, and Messrs. Hales, Marshall and Rutherford.—The Mauritius Sub-Committee consisted of the Right Hon. Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., Mr. H. J. Jourdain, C.M.G., Mr. George W. Davidson and Mr. Maurice Ulcoq. Mr. Alf. G. Dick and Mr. James L. Ohlson were the Secretaries to the joint Sub-Committees. Two meetings were held at the West India Committee Office, one on 22nd December, 1896, and one on the 11th January, 1897. At the first meeting, Lord Stanmore being in the chair, it was agreed that a countervailing duty was the remedy which would probably prove the more acceptable to Parliament. At the meeting on the 11th January, which was attended by Lord Stanmore (chairman), Mr. Lubbock, Mr. Hogg, Mr. Jourdain, and the other members of the joint Sub-Committees, with some French gentlemen interested in the colony, the Mauritius Memorial, with 10,000 signatures, was read and considered. It was decided to present the same to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on Friday, 15th January, by a Mauritius deputation. The following is the report of the interview: "The deputation presented to Mr. Chamberlain, on behalf of the islanders, a petition signed by 10,000 persons. The document called attention to some of the hardships and disadvantages with which the petitioners had to contend, and, having dealt with some instances in detail, prayed the Government to take steps to ameliorate their lot, but without indicating in any way the method by which they considered it possible to do so, merely asking that they might be enabled to compete in British home and foreign markets with beet sugar from other countries. Lord Stanmore, in introducing the deputation, pointed out that the position of Mauritius, in the event of the failure of the sugar industry, would be worse than that of the West Indies, as the colony had no other industry to fall back upon. Mr. H. J. Jourdain, C.M.G., Mr. Victor Romons, of Paris, and Mr. John Patterson also addressed a few observations. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, assured the deputation that the Government was fully aware of the gravity of the situation and



sympathised with the hardships, which were not the result of natural causes but of artificial interference. He could give no indication of the course the Government might think fit to pursue until the Commission lately sent out to the West Indies had reported, which it was expected to do in about three or four months' time."

**MONTSERRAT FLOODS.**—The Secretary of State, acting upon despatches from the Governor of the Leeward Islands, suggested the formation of a Committee at the Colonial Office to organize a fund for relief, the amount required, being £2,500. For full particulars see Special Circular.

**A YEAR'S SUGAR SUPPLY, U.K. (BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS)**

|                                | 1893.     | 1894.     | 1895.     | 1896.     |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>BET ROOT SUGAR—</b>         |           |           |           |           |
| Refined ... ..                 | 576,320   | 694,879   | 707,308   | 735,910   |
| Unrefined ... ..               | 422,222   | 368,610   | 453,344   | 393,585   |
| Total Beet Supply... Tons      | 998,541   | 1,063,489 | 1,160,712 | 1,122,495 |
| <b>CANE SUGAR—</b>             |           |           |           |           |
| British West Indies and Guiana | 61,282    | 84,700    | 84,650    | 72,290    |
| British East Indies ... ..     | 52,633    | 63,412    | 53,106    | 81,177    |
| Mauritius ... ..               | 12,225    | 13,353    | 6,608     | 1,730     |
| Total British Cane... Tons     | 126,219   | 161,445   | 144,373   | 155,197   |
| <b>FOREIGN CANE—</b>           |           |           |           |           |
| Spanish West India Islands ... | 4,148     | 11,529    | 8,395     | 1,008     |
| Brazil ... ..                  | 20,308    | 23,495    | 32,904    | 19,760    |
| Java ... ..                    | 75,258    | 29,192    | 62,579    | 57,415    |
| Phillipine Islands ... ..      | 91,380    | 59,337    | 71,415    | 69,138    |
| Peru ... ..                    | 26,152    | 16,576    | 36,109    | 41,850    |
| Other Countries... ..          | 37,712    | 46,102    | 41,295    | 60,480    |
| Total Foreign Cane... Tons     | 254,358   | 186,231   | 252,697   | 249,651   |
| <b>TOTAL SUPPLY.</b>           |           |           |           |           |
| Foreign Beet ... ..            | 998,541   | 1,063,489 | 1,160,712 | 1,122,495 |
| British Cane ... ..            | 126,219   | 161,445   | 144,373   | 155,197   |
| Foreign Cane ... ..            | 254,358   | 186,231   | 252,697   | 249,651   |
| Total Sugar Imports Tons       | 1,379,128 | 1,411,165 | 1,557,782 | 1,527,343 |

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—(LIGHT, 16th January). The Beet working in Germany has generally passed off in a satisfactory manner, although the warm weather of December was very unfavourable to pitted beets. The following are the estimates:—

|                          | 1895-6.   | 1896-7.   |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Germany: ... .. tons     | 1,615,111 | 1,820,000 |
| Austria ... .. "         | 791,405   | 1,000,000 |
| France... .. "           | 667,853   | 765,000   |
| Russia... .. "           | 783,489   | 720,000   |
| Belgium ... .. "         | 260,050   | 295,000   |
| Holland ... .. "         | 106,829   | 165,000   |
| Other Countries ... .. " | 168,800   | 195,000   |
| Total ... .. tons        | 4,393,537 | 4,960,000 |



# MONTSERRAT RELIEF FUND.

CIRCULAR No. 134

Mr. Czarnikow says : " We do not hear of much probable reduction in German sowings, but upon the whole European outlook there may be a slight reduction. In France the future still depends on the projected new Law."

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—(LICHT, 16th January.)—2,959,031 against 2,755,654 tons. (CZARNIKOW, 21st January.)—2,991,000 against 2,742,000 tons.

Present price of Beet, 88 per cent. : 9/3 against 11/6.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—DEMERARA (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 5th January.—Weather dry and rain much wated. 13th January.—Weather continues too dry. BARBADOS (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 12th January.—Seasonable weather.

POSTING MAIL LETTERS.—Post Office to West India Committee, 23rd January, 1897. "Sir,—I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state, for the information of the West India Committee, that arrangements have been made under which letters, etc., for the West Indian Mails despatched on alternate Wednesdays, may be posted at Waterloo Railway Station up to 11 a.m. on the date of despatch, *i.e.* 15 minutes before the departure of the train by which the mails are conveyed to Southampton. A 'late fee' of 2d. should be affixed to such letters in addition to the ordinary postage.—(Signed) H. BUXTON FORMAN."

Information, corrections, &c., relating to this CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

WALTER C. LINDSAY, Chairman

# MONTSERRAT RELIEF FUND.

## Chairman of Committee.

Sir CHARLES CAMERON LEES, K.C.M.G.

## Committee.

EDWARD WINGFIELD, Esq., C.B.  
Sir REGINALD CUST.  
Sir NEALF PORTER, K.C.M.G.  
HARRY HANKEY DOBREE, Esq.

THOMAS R. TUFNELL, Esq.  
QUINTIN HOGG, Esq.  
E. LUXMOORE MARSHALL, Esq.  
PAGET A. WADE, Esq.

H. J. READ, Esq.

## Hon. Secretary.

JAMES L. OHLSON, Esq.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has recently received despatches from the Governor of the Leeward Islands reporting the occurrence of a disastrous Flood in the Island of Montserrat, causing considerable loss of life and destruction of property.

This calamity has come at a time when the depression of the staple industries had seriously crippled the resources of the colonists, who might otherwise have been able to aid the more indigent sufferers.

The Lord Mayor has kindly consented to open a Relief Fund at the Mansion House, but as the attention and charity of the Public are at present greatly engaged by the Indian Famine Fund, a Committee of gentlemen has been formed, at the suggestion of Mr. Chamberlain, for the purpose of bringing the case of the sufferers to the notice of the public generally, and especially of those who are interested in the West Indian Colonies.

The Governor reports that about £2,500 are required, in addition to the amount locally collected, to meet the necessities of those who are rendered destitute, and the Committee venture to ask for your kind and generous assistance.

Those who will be benefited by the Subscriptions collected are Members of the Labouring Classes, to whom the loss of a few pounds' worth of property is the loss of nearly all they possess. The majority of them have been deprived of their means of gaining a livelihood by the destruction of houses, tools, cattle and garden produce.

If you are willing to subscribe, I am to ask you to be good enough to send your donation to the Montserrat Fund at the Mansion House, London, E.C., or the Colonial Bank, 13, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., or to Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., Lombard Street, London, E.C.

CHARLES C. LEES,  
*Chairman.*

COLONIAL OFFICE,  
DOWNING STREET, S.W.,  
1st February, 1897.

[P.T.O.]



MONTEGERRAT RELIEF FUND.

MEMORANDUM

Presented by the Hon. Mr. J. J. ...

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

... ..

Printed by ...

### Subscriptions.

|   |     |    |   |
|---|-----|----|---|
| The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P. | £21 | 0  | 0 |
| The Right Hon. The Lord Mayor           | 5   | 5  | 0 |
| The Right Hon. The Earl of Selborne     | 20  | 0  | 0 |
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| The Colonial Bank                       | 52  | 10 | 0 |
| The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company     | 52  | 10 | 0 |
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| Hon. W. F. D. and Lady Esther Smith     |     |    |   |
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| H. W. Smithers, Esq.                    | 10  | 0  | 0 |
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| Messrs. Major & Field                   | 5   | 5  | 0 |
| Messrs. Previte & Co.                   | 5   | 5  | 0 |
| Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller            | 5   | 5  | 0 |
| Messrs. Mayer & Field                   | 5   | 5  | 0 |
| Miss Mills                              | 5   | 5  | 0 |
| Sir George Berkeley, K.C.M.G.           | 5   | 0  | 0 |
| Edward Wingfield, Esq., C.B.            | 5   | 0  | 0 |
| The Rev. Canon Bailey                   | 5   | 0  | 0 |
| Viscount Ebrington                      | 5   | 0  | 0 |
| L. M. Jackson, Esq.                     | 5   | 0  | 0 |
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| Mrs. Chalk                              | 3   | 3  | 0 |



|                                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Lieut.-General Lord William Seymour | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Sir Henry Poland, Q.C.              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Captain W. Cashman, R.N.            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| F. Church, Esq.                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| E. A. H. Jay, Esq.                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. J. Gillett, Esq.                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

(Cheques and Post Office Orders to be crossed.)

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CIRCULAR No. 139.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,  
LONDON, E.C.,

22nd February, 1897.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.—At a Meeting of the Committee of British Guiana Proprietors, held on the 18th February, 1897, a special vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Quintin Hogg, the Acting Chairman of the West India Committee for his kind exertions, in connection with the recent cases in North London, in defence of Demerara Sugars as against Beet-Coloured Crystals in imitation thereof. Mr. Edward Geo. Barr, in moving the Resolution, expressed the high appreciation felt by all British Guiana Proprietors of the services rendered by Mr. Hogg to the Sugar interests of the Colony. The Resolution was seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson, supported by Mr. Arthur Lubbock and Mr. E. L. Marshall, and carried unanimously. (A Report of Mr. Hogg's evidence, and the Magistrates' decision, is issued in an appendix to this circular).

THE COMMISSIONERS.—Arrived at Demerara, 27th January. They received a large amount of evidence, covering the public expenditure, the Colony's share of immigration expenditure, the cost of production, the effect of low prices and other points. There has been no time at present to summarize the evidence. This will be done in a later Circular. The Commissioners were to leave Demerara on the 6th February, for St. Vincent, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad.

FRENCH BOUNTIES.—Owing to the action of the Senate there has been some delay in the final passing of the Bill. The stipulations of the Bill actually passed by the Chamber are practically the same as those stated in last Circular, the export bounty being equal to about £1 15s. per ton. There are some slight changes in the means by which the expense is made up, such as a slight increase in the tax on Refineries. The price of Sugar to the consumer in France will be at least 6d. per lb. Sir Edmund Monson, writing to Lord Salisbury, on February 9th, says that the Senate in sending the Bill to a Special Committee indicates a considerable opposition to it.

BRITISH GUIANA COOLIES.—The Government have approved of 1,200 Coolie immigrants being introduced during next season, on certain conditions as regards the shipping expenses. The requisition for Trinidad has not been received, the applications not closing until the 1st March.

JAMAICA FRUIT FOR ENGLAND.—All West Indian Colonists are interested in the success of this venture, but it is difficult to obtain any particulars of the recent shipments. The "Jamaica Fruit Importing and Trading Company" has a nominal capital of £50,000, with certain well-known West Indian names among its supporters. Three vessels, the "Elderslie," the "Port Victor," and the "Port Pirie," were chartered, with refrigerating machinery for bananas. Packers have been sent out, and Mr. Jacobs, of Covent Garden, is the distributing broker. The freight is 2s. per cubic foot. The first venture, owing to an accident, was not proceeded with. The "Port Victor" (the second venture), on her arrival in England, after 17 days out, landed the oranges and bananas in good condition: a temperature having been maintained from 50 to 55 degrees. The fruit was sold at Covent Garden. The "Elderslie" carried 5,025 boxes of oranges and 6,670 crates of bananas. It is said, that owing to over-ripeness on shipment, this consignment was not a success. This, of course, is greatly to be regretted, as our Australian competitors, in sending Colonial fruit to England, are very keen in regard to all these matters. The views of the Australian fruit growers are represented in London by the *British Australasian*. It seems clear that both the packing in the Colony and the apparatus on board ship require the closest attention. The *Jamaica Gleaner* of January 23rd gives particulars of the various expenses connected with the shipment of fruit



and its distribution in London. It is not known how far these statements have been verified by experience. At all events an unsatisfactory report is given. These objections are no doubt incident to the beginnings of a new industry in the success of which, as stated above, everyone connected with Jamaica is concerned. The fruit that did arrive in good condition was excellent, and found a ready sale, as reported in the *Times* on the arrival of the "Port Victor" about the beginning of the year. There seems, indeed, no reason why the practical and mechanical difficulties connected with a new undertaking should not be overcome and a full success achieved.

**SUGAR PROSPECTS.**—There have been great rains in France, and field work has been hindered by the excess of humidity. The cultivation requires a little dryness, both for cereals and roots. As to Beetroot sugar, the markets are held in suspense by the proposed Sugar Law, and the decision of the Senate upon this Bill is anxiously awaited. There seems no doubt of a probable increase of the sowings in France. In the meantime prices diminish, and a reduction of sowings appears inevitable in Austria-Hungary, Belgium, and Holland. The German sowings are not increasing. In Russia the factories are preparing for an increase of sowings. [The above points are taken from the *Journal des Fabricants*; but, in point of fact, very little is known as to the sowings for prospective crop prospects.] Mr. Czarnikow reports (18th February) that the United States seems to be the most active market pending the settlement of the Tariff question; but, as Mr. McKinley is not yet in office, it seems idle to consider the results of Tariff changes which are yet in the future. Cuba seems to be recovering a little, and a possible crop of 300,000 tons is mentioned. In the face of all these disturbing elements, it does not seem surprising that prices are settled upon a hand-to-mouth policy. The London Sugar Market apparently keeps quite dull and inactive.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—(CZARNIKOW, 18th February).—Europe and cargoes afloat to Europe 2,728,400 against 2,450,799; United States 280,000 against 127,052; Cuba 38,000 against 48,830; afloat to United States 17,706 against 38,925; Totals 3,064,205 against 2,665,606. (The basis of the European Stocks is presumably a matter of calculation by the foreign experts; but no doubt the actual whereabouts of the Sugar could be determined).

**PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.**—88 per cent: 9 1½ against 12 7½. Granulated 11 1½ to 11 4½, against 14 0.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Imports (7 weeks) 78,840 tons against 118,966. Deliveries 94,356 against 102,910. Stocks: 117,812 against 124,321.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—**DEMERARA** (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.), February 16th.—Very dry, rain much wanted. **TRINIDAD** (per favour of the Colonial Company, Ltd.), February 11th.—Weather fine with occasional light showers. **BARBADOS** (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 9th February.—Slow reaping weather. (Messrs. Sproston, Son & Co. received on the 28th January, a telegram of the official opening of the Demerara-Essequibo Railway by the Governor).

Information, corrections, &c., relating to the CIRCULAR should be sent to the Secretary. Also subscriptions of One Guinea and upwards, entitling Subscriber to CIRCULAR for a year, and other papers. CIRCULAR is supplied to present Members free. Members receiving telegraphic advices with regard to weather are requested to inform the Secretary. Members receiving West Indian newspapers, and not desirous of retaining them, are requested to send them to the Secretary for filing at the office. Subscribers and others visiting England are requested to send their addresses to this Office.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



# APPENDIX

## TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 139.

DEMERARA AND BEET SUGAR.—Mr. QUINTIN HOGG's further evidence, as reported by the *Guardian*, February 6th, was as follows:—He said that the assertions of the scientific witnesses on the other side as to his rule-of-thumb test were not correct. It had been alleged that his test only proved the absolute purity of the beet sugar, while it showed the presence of dirt in the real Demerara. This was not so. The cloudy appearance of the water when the real Demerara was tried showed the presence of molasses. The assertion that the molasses was foreign to cane sugar was not correct. When the Demerara sugar was grained in the pan the crystals often lacked the desired yellow colour, and a small quantity of the molasses was drawn back into the pan to give the colour and the moist nature to the crystals. The presence of the molasses added to the value of the sugar. The drier the sugar the less the price that could be obtained for it. The dry Demeraras were mostly sold to be refined again. Molasses was really invert sugar. It was quite true that there was no molasses in beet sugar. Molasses was, however, present in raw beet, but the smell was intolerable, and it had to be refined until molasses had been absolutely separated and removed. Raw beet sugar, made as Demeraras were made, could not be put upon the market on account of this very objectionable smell. Sellers of beet, therefore, were unable to compete with Demerara growers except by artificial or dyed imitations of the colour which was a natural one in raw cane sugars. The beet molasses was practically given away. Ultimately he believed that it was converted into a spirit, and smuggled into France and exported from that country as brandy. Absolutely pure Demerara and absolutely pure beet sugar were chemically the same and an analysis would show that each contained 99 point something per cent. of sugar. The beet sugar might give a slightly higher figure, but it would lack the sweetening qualities of the molasses. It was a great mistake to say that Demerara crystals would not dissolve so readily as the beet crystals. He should say that the beet crystals were the harder of the two, and consequently would not so readily dissolve. As to the assertion that chloride of tin was present in Demerara, he could only say that a preparation known as "bloomer" was used in the boiling of cane sugar for the purpose of correcting the "dulling" properties of the lime used in the refining and restoring the natural colour. There was a small amount of chloride of tin in this preparation. The "bloomer" corrected the influence of other agencies rather than imparted an influence of its own. One of the constituent parts of the preparation was hydrochloric acid. Lime was used in the manufacture of all sugar, beet or cane, but immensely more so in beet than in cane. In spite of what Mr. Newlands had said, he still believed cane sugar to be vastly superior for many purposes to beet sugar, and he founded this belief on facts. For wine making he manufactured for a firm of wine growers in the Rhine Valley a special white crystal from cane sugar. He was paid £2 to £3 per ton above the market price for sugar, and the broker who gave him the order told him that cane sugar alone was of use to this firm. As to his witness's assertion that Demerara was the best for jam making, he could only quote the *Lancet*, which was considered an authority on these matters, which said that though beet sugars were being very largely used in the manufacture of jams, &c., the beet sugars had not the keeping or antiseptic properties of the cane sugars. He thought that quotation sufficiently justified the position he had taken up on the point. Cross-examined as to supplying special sugar for the making of wine, witness would not say that Messrs. Lyle and Tate did not do the same. As to "bloomer," it restored or maintained the original colour. In his judgment, Messrs. Newlands and Hehner were not correct in their assertions. A dry Demerara did not sell. But he would acknowledge that a dry sugar was not so heavy as a moist sugar. He had never heard of the "grocer's itch." Some compounds akin to "bloomer" used in Demerara were made in England and sent out to the colony: but they had only been so made during the last two or three years. Until then it could not be made anywhere but in America. Although "bloomer" was the name of this concoction, it did not mean that it imparted "bloom" to sugar, but only that it restored the natural colour which had been partially dulled by lime. It was true that in Demerara sugar there were traces of chloride of tin. "Traces" would be the correct term to use.



It was untrue to say that it was present in appreciable quantities. He could show by the analyses of eminent men that only the merest "traces" were to be found. He had said that the beet sugar was dyed. In neither case was the mode of colouring in any way injurious to health. As to witness's assertions about jam, he would not deny that beet sugar was sometimes used, but what he maintained was that jam meant for immediate consumption—*i.e.*, within twelve months—might be made of beet sugar; but if it were intended to keep the jam longer, it must be made of cane sugar.

Mr. Bros was understood to say that the defendant was summoned for selling to the prejudice of the purchaser an article which was not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded. The first point he had to deal with was—"Was Demerara asked for?" The evidence of the young woman who had given evidence for the vestry left no doubt upon his mind that Demerara was asked for. The question then arose, "What is Demerara?" They had had the experts from Mincing Lane, who said that Demerara was the sugar manufactured in the colony of that name. There were other similar cane sugars, and the experts admitted that unless they saw the bills of lading they could not tell from which country the produce came. It might be taken, however, that Demerara sugar was a sugar made according to a particular process in vogue in the West Indies. The other sugar appeared to be a sugar refined from the beet in France or anywhere else, and treated by a certain process here and then dyed. This latter sugar was sold in the trade as yellow crystals. Clearly then yellow crystals and Demerara were not the same, and it would be wrong to sell crystals when a person asked for Demerara sugar. The defendants' case was that these yellow crystals were better than Demerara. On this it was contended that the sale was not to the prejudice of the purchaser. That seemed to be a question of law, and he (the magistrate) had carefully looked up the cases bearing on the point. In the case of "Hoyle v. Hutchings," the judges appeared to have taken the views put forward for the defence, and held that there must be evidence of fraudulent sale, and that it was absurd to suggest that an article which was superior would come within the Act, but as no decision was given on this point he (Mr. Bros) was not bound by their remarks. The case of the Indian or Carolina rice really came under the Merchandise Marks Act. In this case they were not dealing with absolutely pure sugar, but with the grocery sugar of commerce made from the cane and containing molasses. There was a distinction between the two sugars. The beet sugar was dyed. The question arose, "Why were the beet crystals dyed?" It was said that it was done to please the public. But the crystals were dyed that beautiful yellow colour that was peculiar to the best classes of Demerara sugar. Clearly they were dyed to imitate the Demerara. The sugar might be of the same nature and the same quality, but it was not of the same substance. Under these circumstances it seemed to him that the complainants had made out their case. He regarded the contest more as a question arising between two sections in a trade than as an ordinary prosecution under the Act. The case was, therefore, one for a small penalty, but he had to consider the question of costs. Mr. Bramall said it was evident that Mr. Shrimpton was not conducting the case himself, and that he was being backed up by big wholesale houses. The costs had been heavy to the vestry. Mr. Ford: My client, sir, is a poor man, and my friend and his witnesses are being paid out of the rates of Islington. We have had to bring down a number of scientific witnesses. Mr. Bramall: They came in the interests of a trade they were interested in. Mr. Bros: Whether as a result of love or money, a large amount of scientific evidence has been placed before us. I shall impose the small fine of 10s. 6d., with eight guineas costs, or fourteen days. The defendant will have time to pay the money. Mr. Bramall: I should like to add, sir, that these proceedings were taken by the vestry without any communication from outside. The vestry simply wanted to establish the principle that when an article is asked for, another article must not be substituted for it. The other defendants are to appear for judgment next Thursday.



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CIRCULAR No. 140.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,  
LONDON, E.C.,

22nd March, 1897.

**UNITED STATES TARIFF.**—President McKinley in his inaugural address, in advocating revenue legislation said "the paramount duty of Congress is to stop deficiencies by restoring protective legislation," and he added; "In revising the tariff special attention should be given to the re-enactment and extension of the Reciprocity principle Law of 1890, under which a great stimulus was given to our Foreign Trade in new markets for surplus agricultural and manufactured products. The brief trial given to this legislation justifies amply further experiments and further discretionary power in making commercial Treaties, the end in view always to be the opening of new Markets for the products of our Country by granting concessions to the products of other lands which we need, but cannot produce ourselves, which do not involve a loss of labour to our own people but increase employment."

On becoming acquainted with the above announcement, the following letter was addressed to the Foreign Office, 9th March, and duly acknowledged. "The Under Secretary, Sir—We have noticed a reference, in Mr. McKinley's Inaugural Address, to the question of reciprocal trade arrangements. In the years 1884 and 1891, reciprocal arrangements were discussed as between the British West India Colonies and the United States. In 1891 a reciprocal arrangement between the Colonies and the United States was actually settled, and remained in force for some time; under Mr. McKinley's present administration the same policy is apparently to be adopted, and considering the importance to the British West India Colonies of these reciprocal arrangements we would humbly request that the attention of the British Ambassador in Washington should be called to the matter, and that His Excellency should be moved to keep the question before him and to report all the information acquired to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. (Signed) QUINTIN HOGG, *Acting Chairman.*" (A similar letter was addressed to the Government by the West India Association of Liverpool.)

From the Report of the proposed Tariff Law, it has been assumed that the ordinary duty on Sugar in the United States will amount to about 70 per cent. *ad valorem*. What the reciprocity duty would be under the Law is not quite clear. But the opening is quite sufficient for the Colonies to take advantage of it, and open negotiations at once. In this sense, and anticipating the view which will no doubt be taken by the Colonies, the West India Committee wrote as follows to Mr. Chamberlain, 13th March, 1897. "Sir, The West India Committee have noticed in the Inaugural Address of President McKinley certain references to the policy of reciprocal arrangements. It is further obvious that a highly protective tariff policy is to be adopted in the United States. The above announcements are of the gravest concern to all who are interested in the United States Market for British West India Sugar. In the years 1884 and 1891 reciprocal arrangements were discussed as between the British West India Colonies and the United States. In the latter year (1891) an arrangement was actually agreed to, the United States giving certain advantages under the Reciprocity clause of their Tariff Law, to Sugars imported from those Colonies in the British West Indies which reduced their duties on goods principally coming from the United States; such reduction of duties also being applicable to similar goods coming from other countries than the United States of America. It now appears that a similar reciprocal arrangement may be



established between the Colonies and the United States, and we humbly hope that Her Majesty's Government will do all that is possible to promote such an arrangement. It is reported that the West India Royal Commissioners will probably return to this country by way of the United States. If this is the case may we humbly suggest that the Commissioners (or one of them, or the Secretary) should visit Washington and consult Sir Julian Pauncefote upon the question of communicating with the United States Government, so that the way may be opened for the establishment of an understanding upon which a reciprocal arrangement by which special privileges may be granted to the West Indies and British Guiana, in return for corresponding advantages offered to Imports from the United States, may be based. (Signed) QUINTIN HOGG, *Acting Chairman.*"

**FRENCH SUGAR LAW.**—The latest news from the Foreign Office is dated March 9th, to the effect that the Committee to which the Senate referred the Sugar Bounties Bill is said to have adopted the Bill as passed by the Chamber of Deputies, without any modification, and the discussion of the measure would take place shortly, immediately the Budget had been voted.

**ALLIED INDUSTRIES.**—It has not been possible to convene the proposed meeting of Engineering Firms, but as soon as the Commissioners return and the matter is ripe for Parliament, it is proposed that the meeting should take place. The Manure manufacturers are also largely interested in the Bounty question. Owing to the existing depression, orders have been reduced. The matter, it is understood, has been brought before the Secretary of State by certain manufacturing firms, and Mr. Chamberlain has acknowledged the communication.

**THE NEW DUTIES IN HOLLAND.**—The British Minister at the Hague reports to Lord Salisbury as follows: "Feb. 26th, 1897.—A new Sugar Law was passed on January 29th, permitting refining in bond and providing drawbacks for Beetroot Sugar manufacturers and Sugar refiners. These drawbacks amounting to 2,500,000 florins for the working year of 1897-98 (commencing September 1st and ending on and including August 31st of the following year) are to be reduced annually by 100,000 florins until 1905-1906, for which year and all succeeding years their amount is fixed at 1,700,000 florins. This Law comes into operation on the 1st September, 1897."

The excise duty is fixed, per 100 kilos for Candy 1st class at 31.86 florins; 2nd class 28.89 florins; Loaf and Lump Sugar 27.00 florins; Raw Sugar of higher quality than 99 per cent. 27.00; of not higher quality than 99 per cent. 20.27 for every per cent. of quality, but not less than 18 florins. Bastard Sugar the same as for Raw Sugar; Melado, Molasses and Grape Sugar from 6 to 18 florins. Credit for two months is given to the importer from abroad for the excise duty on Raw Sugar. Sugar manufacturers are to give particulars of their site, buildings, &c. The excise duty for each manufactory shall be fixed by the Finance Minister. The Bounty consists of a drawback to the Beet Sugar manufacturers and refiners. For manufactories this drawback amounts to: year 1897-98 to 2,500,000 florins, annually decreasing to 1,700,000 florins in 1905-6. For Sugar refiners the drawback amounts to 500,000 florins in 1897-8, reduced annually to 250,000 florins in 1902-3. In calculating the drawback, 100 kilos of sugar of 98 per cent. or higher quality shall be reckoned as only 75 kilos. (NOTE.—What effect this provision may have is not quite known, but in any case it must still secure the bounty, as notwithstanding all the elaborate provisions, the returns of factories and refineries would no doubt be sufficient to secure the largest amount of bounty, which would amount, upon the whole, to probably about £2 per ton, on export. This is only another illustration of the attempt to keep open channels of export at the expense of the home population, who besides paying 5d. per lb. for their Sugar consumed, are taxed to support an industry which cannot stand by itself, or support itself on its own merits.)



APPENDIX

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—The Beet sowings are estimated at about the same as last year. There is little likelihood of increased crops in Cuba at present.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—The following are reported, but no one quite knows where the Sugar is located:—2,956,477 against 2,429,677. There is therefore supposed to be an excess of 500,000 tons as against last year. The whole matter is simply one of calculations, extending over a series of years.

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—115,393 against 182,901. Deliveries 144,449 against 160,314. Stocks are: 104,272 against 130,852.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 per cent : 9/2, against 12/5.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS —DEMERARA, 15th March (per favour of Messrs. John McConnell and Co.).—Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara county. TRINIDAD (per favour of the Colonial Company, Ltd.), 9th March.—Showery and unsettled. BARBADOS (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), 9th March.—Appearances of more rain.

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JAMES L. OHLSON. SECRETARY.

(The above extract from the issue of 18th March 1875 is not quite correct but it is given as it stands. It is communicating with Sugar House in the United States and is intended to keep the West India Committee informed.)



# APPENDIX

## TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 140.

### UNITED STATES PROPOSED TARIFF LAW.

SECTION 3.—That for the purpose of equalizing the trade of the United States with foreign countries and colonies producing and exporting to this country the following articles—argols or crude tartar, or wine lees, crude chicle, brandies manufactured or distilled not specially provided for in this Act, champagnes and other sparkling wines, including ginger wine, vermuth, laces of silk, mineral waters, painting, statuary, sugar, molasses, and other articles provided for in paragraph 208, Schedule E, the President is authorized to enter into negotiations with the Governments of these countries with the view of an arrangement or commercial Agreement, in which reciprocal and equivalent concessions may be secured in favour of the products and manufactures of the United States. The President is authorized to suspend during the Agreement the imposition of duties on such articles mentioned in this Act.

#### SCHEDULE E.

Sugars, not above 16 Dutch standard in colour, syrups, molasses, &c., not above 75 degrees, 1 cent per lb. (against one-eighth of 1 cent and 40 p.c. *ad valorem*), and every additional degree or fraction of degree three-one-hundredths of 1 cent additional, and sugar above 16 Dutch standard and all sugar gone through the process of refining, 1 cent  $\frac{8}{5}$  thousandths; molasses testing not above 56 degrees, 3 cents gallon (against 2 cents), testing 56 degrees and above, 6 cents gallon (against 4 cents). Sugar tank bottoms, syrups, canejuice, beetjuice, melada, concentrated melada, concrete and concentrated molasses, product of any country which pays directly or indirectly a bounty on export thereof, shall pay in addition a duty equal to such bounty, or as much thereof as may be in excess of any tax collected by such country upon such articles or upon beet or cane from which produced, provided nothing therein contained shall be so construed as to abrogate or in any manner impair or affect the provisions of the treaty of commercial reciprocity concluded between the United States and the King of Hawaiian Islands on January 30, 1875, or the provisions of any Act of Congress heretofore passed for execution of same (against one-tenth of 1 cent and 40 p.c. *ad valorem*); maple sugar syrups, 4 cents per lb. (against free); glucose or grape sugar, 14 cents (against 15 p.c. *ad valorem*); saccharine, \$2 per lb. and 15 p.c. *ad valorem* (against 25 p.c. *ad valorem*); sugar-candy, confectionery valued at 15 cents per lb. or less, and sugars refined when tintured, coloured, or in any way adulterated, 8 cents per lb. and 20 p.c. *ad valorem*; when valued over 15 cents and not over 35 cents per lb., 12 cents and 20 p.c. *ad valorem*; above 35 cents per lb., 50 p.c. *ad valorem*; all wrappers excepting outer packing case included in dutiable weight (against 35 p.c. *ad valorem* for all).

(The above extract from the *Times* of 18th March, 1897, is not quite understood, but it is given as it stands. Firms communicating with Sugar Firms in the United States are requested to keep the West India Committee informed.)

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CIRCULAR No. 141.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

19th April, 1897.

GENERAL.—Owing to the Holidays it has been found impossible to issue a full circular by this mail. It has been accordingly postponed till this day fortnight. There has been little of interest occurring since last circular, matters remaining in suspense until the Commissioners present their report. There are rumours that the Budget will provide for the abolition of the Tea, Coffee and Cocoa duties, and the imposition of a duty on Sugar so as to afford a basis for dealing with the Foreign Bounties, and enabling Her Majesty's Government to enter effectively into any negotiations. In the meantime the new Export Bounty Bill of France has been passed without any modification. An Official Copy of the Law can be seen at this office. The object of this Law is to enable France to enter into negotiations, and the Government are authorised to reduce the French export premiums, or abolish them, in accordance with similar action by the other Powers. On the whole, this seems to tend towards practical negotiations. But the low speculative prices for Beet Sugar for some months to come seems to show a continuance of the period of low prices for a time. Reciprocity with the United States is a very urgent question just now, and it is strongly felt that the Colonies should take action at once, for a Commercial arrangement with that Country. The Commissioners were expected in Jamaica on the 29th March. They will then proceed to New York on their way home, but repeated communications with the Secretary of State have hitherto failed to obtain the presence of the Commissioners at Washington, to communicate with the United States Government, through the British Ambassador, as to the basis of a commercial arrangement. Of course, the new tariff in America deals very hardly with Jamaica fruit, and it is surprising that no communications have been received at this office from the Jamaica fruit industry with regard to a matter that so largely concerns the prosperity—if not in the near future, the existence—of the Jamaica fruit business with the United States. Fuller particulars on all these matters will be given in next circular, with other information.

The weather news from Demerara continues better, some rain having fallen generally. Trinidad weather continues favourable.

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.

NOTE.—The new Blue Book on the Sugar Industry of the West Indies can be seen at this office, or copies sent to members as required.



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

26th July, 1897.

**THE CANNON STREET HOTEL MEETING.**—This Meeting on 2nd July was the largest and most representative meeting ever held in connection with the Colonial Sugar Industries. The Resolutions, as sent to the British Ministers, were as follows:—“That this Meeting, being largely interested in the production and trade of the Sugar Colonies, views with much concern the continuance of the bounties granted by Germany, Austria, France, and other countries, and this Meeting calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take the necessary action to secure for British Colonial produce an open market, and competition on equal terms with Foreign produce in the United Kingdom.” Resolution 2.—“That the continuance of the Foreign Bounty system is directly injurious to manufacturing industries in the United Kingdom exporting British goods to the Colonies.”

The above Resolutions were passed unanimously, and the question now arises what further action shall be taken? The Royal Commissioners' Report has been delayed so long that it is unlikely there should be any reference to it in the present Session of Parliament.

The above Resolutions were acknowledged by Lord Salisbury, The Chancellor of the Exchequer and other of Her Majesty's Ministers. In reply to a further urgent representation from the West India Committee, the Under Secretary of State said, “I am directed by Mr. Chamberlain to acknowledge your letter of the 8th July urging the importance of the Report of the West India Royal Commission being issued at an early date. Mr. Chamberlain understands that the Report will be published at the end of this month, or early in August, but he will cause a copy of your letter to be communicated to the Commissioners.” This, of course, was very unsatisfactory, and Firms in London and Glasgow wrote again to the Secretary of State, as no provision could be made for New Island Crops. In reply to Glasgow representations, the Colonial Office say, “The Government is aware of the circumstances mentioned in your letter, but the Report of the Commission is not yet in the hands of Her Majesty's Ministers, consequently it is impossible for Mr. Chamberlain to say what course will be pursued, and that even if the Report were before Her Majesty's Ministers, some time must necessarily elapse before any action could be taken upon it.”

There is a strong feeling that the Sugar Colonies are being very unjustly treated by the delay of the Government in procuring the issue of the Commissioners' Report, and withholding their intentions with regard to remedial measures.

**QUEENSLAND AND MAURITIUS, AND THE SUGAR QUESTION.**—It is proposed that before the Right Hon. Sir Hugh Nelson, the Premier of Queensland, and the Hon. T. J. Byrnes, Attorney General of that Colony, leave England, a Conference should be held with them. Any arrangements made will be duly announced. Communications will also be made with the Mauritius representatives in the hope that a strong committee will be formed on behalf of all the Sugar Colonies to take charge of the Sugar Question until at least the present position is terminated.



CIRCULAR NO. 104

UNITED STATES TARIFF.—Mr. Dingley's Report to the House, as to result of the Conference with the Senate on sugar duties is summarized as follows —“ As regarded the sugar schedule, which has formed one of the most contentious sections in the whole Bill, he confirmed the statement that an eighth of a cent. differential duty had been agreed upon for refined sugar, and that the Senate had abandoned the provision throwing off a tenth of a cent. on low grade sugar. Sugar above 16 Dutch standard and testing by polariscope not above 75 degrees, Mr. Dingley continued, would pay 95-100ths of a cent. per lb., and 33-100ths of a cent. additional for every additional degree, and for fractions of a degree in proportion. Sugar above 16 Dutch standard and all sugar which had gone through a process of refining would pay one cent. and 95-100ths of a cent. per lb.” Note.—The above is from the *Times*, but further details are wanting. The Commercial Reciprocity with the Sandwich Islands is retained.

The Secretary is not responsible for the statements in the following letter, but as it comes from a very well-informed correspondent it is printed for consideration. It has been sent to the Royal Commission, and acknowledged by them as raising points of “gravity” :—“ I only returned from New York last week, and was consequently only able to attend for a very short time the meeting which was held at Cannon Street Hotel by those interested in the Sugar Trade. I am consequently unaware whether any speaker brought to the attention of the meeting the movement in the United States of America which is finding expression through the new tariff for the purpose of protecting American farmers in growing Beetroot. It seems to me that the attention of the Commission and of this Government should be called to the fact that under the policy which has now been passed by the Senate of the United States, in the course of a very few years the sole remaining market for West India Sugars, namely, the United States, will probably be lost to them. You will doubtless already have noticed that the Senate have passed the tariff schedule for Sugar at a higher rate of duty even than that originally proposed in the Dingley Bill. The method by which this duty is to be collected is somewhat complicated, but I have no doubt that the members of the Committee have thoroughly understood it and I will not take up your time by referring further to this point, but what I do desire to call your special attention to is the fact that those best able to know in the United States maintain that as soon as this tariff goes into force, an enormous impetus will be given to the cultivation and manufacture of Beetroot Sugar in the United States. In order to be able to compete with European grown Beetroot Sugar, the United States farmers asked a protection equivalent to about \$1.69 per 100 lbs. of raw sugar 96°, and I think I am right in stating that the Senate has given them more than this. Furthermore, I note from telegraphic information that the retaliatory clauses of the Bill have also been passed, whereby the President is empowered to impose an extra duty on any foreign produce equivalent to any bounty which the said produce may receive from the country of its exportation. The probable effect of this policy, as pointed out by Mr. Herbert Myrick, the Editor of the *American Agriculturist*, is that although it will be too late to affect a crop for 1897, numerous large factories will be established in time to work up an increased crop in 1898, and he states that farmers are so eager to grow beets at \$4 per ton, that the agricultural question involved is no longer the uncertainty it was formerly, when factories could not get the beets. Conservative judgment is that with favourable seasons the United States Sugar product would jump from less than 300,000 tons last year, that is including cane and beet, to 500,000 tons in 1898, 800,000 tons in 1899, and 1,000,000 tons in 1900, or equivalent to about half of the total consumption of the nation. Surely this must be an additional reason why the Government of this country should give some assistance to the British Sugar-growing Colonies. It must be well known that the existing West India Sugar Planters have only been able to exist by means of the United States market, and it would seem from the figures which I have given you herein, that it will not take very many years before that market ceases to exist for them.”



SUGAR PROSPECTS.—June was exceptionally warm on the Continent. Temperature is now somewhat lower with occasional rain. The dry weather has been much complained of. The general outlook is that rain in many parts of Germany was urgently wanted. The necessary moisture is now apparently come. In France the rains have been very beneficial. From Belgium and Holland come reports of unfavourable weather. Mr. Licht (in referring to Cane Sugar) says that a meeting of some of the largest Sugar Planters in Java had requested the assistance of the Dutch Government in forming a Sugar Syndicate, to raise a Loan guaranteed by the state of Holland. It is quite clear that Java is feeling the effect of the low prices. Mr. Licht's estimate is as follows:—

|                        | 1896-7.               | 1895-6.               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Germany ... ..         | tons 1,845,000        | tons 1,615,111        |
| Austria ... ..         | " 950,000             | " 791,405             |
| France... ..           | " 750,000             | " 667,853             |
| Russia... ..           | " 735,000             | " 712,096             |
| Belgium ... ..         | " 295,000             | " 235,795             |
| Holland ... ..         | " 175,000             | " 106,829             |
| Other Countries ... .. | " 201,000             | " 156,340             |
| <b>TOTALS ... ..</b>   | <b>Tons 4,951,000</b> | <b>Tons 4,285,429</b> |

In the presence of this enormous bounty fed crop, the combination of all the British Cane Sugar Industries is more than ever required.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* discusses fully the speeches delivered at the meeting on 2nd July. The speeches of Mr. Lubbock, Mr. Tufnell, Mr. Crosfield (with his striking diagrams (*diagrammes frappant*), Mr. Brodie Hoare and others are commented upon. Particular attention is given to Mr. Lubbock's recitals of Mr. Gladstone's letters. It may be assumed that France is even more interested than England in opposing the German Bounties, and France would no doubt come into a Convention if Germany would also agree. It is important to observe that the French Chamber of Commerce says nothing on the proposal for countervailing duties. The *Journal des Fabricants* points out that "England in future is entirely tributary to the foreigner." With France, and perhaps Germany, waiting for an invitation to abolish bounties, the British Government acquiesces in the non-production of a Commission Report which has been delayed so long that it threatens to lose its full influence upon the future of the West Indies or the Sugar Colonies generally. The "Journal" 21st July, wants more rain for the Sugar crop, although it reports that other countries are fairly satisfied and on the whole the general crop is satisfactory, considering the seasons. Mr. Czarnikow continues to complain of the depression of the market. "To find a reason for this state of things," he says, "we have only to look at the bounty system on the Continent, which is responsible for the unnatural stimulus given to so important an industry as the Beet-Sugar manufacture, resulting in enormous over production, followed in due course by an unprecedented depreciation. Besides the ever increasing taxation of the article in the Beet producing countries debar millions from enjoying a cheap, wholesome and home grown food, and thus prevents consumption from attaining there a level similar to the one we have in the United Kingdom. It now remains to be seen whether this unduly fostered industry will share the distress already brought upon our own and other Cane Sugar producing Colonies."

SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.—Landings 321,182 tons against 436,506. Deliveries 373,811, against 397,787. Stocks 88,358, against 148,538. (Why do not these figures bring about a stronger market?) The answer would probably be that Sugar comes in at every point, and not only at the four principal ports governed by the return.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 per cent. (Czarnikow) 8s. 3d. against 9s. 3d.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Demerara (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.), 15th July. Weather favourable for cultivation. Barbados (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), 13th. A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable. Trinidad (per favour of The Colonial Company, Limited), 23rd July. Rain has fallen heavily.

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(NOTE.—In order to make this CIRCULAR more full and interesting, the Secretary will be glad to receive information and opinions for consideration; also particulars of any experiments in Sugar machinery, of Steamship communications, &c.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



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CIRCULAR No. 145.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

9th August, 1897.

Although a Circular was issued by last mail, it has been thought desirable to issue one on this date for the purpose of recording certain important events which have occurred, of interest to Members.

**FAVOURED NATION CLAUSE.**—The withdrawal of Great Britain from the Commercial Treaties with Germany and Belgium, which will come into effect in July, 1898, will have a very important bearing upon Commercial Arrangements between the West India Colonies and the United States. The arrangement made with the States in 1834 was rendered entirely nugatory by Lord Granville's interpretation of the Favoured Nation Clause in those Treaties, and in the negotiations of 1891 great difficulties were experienced in consequence of this clause. It is not necessary to recapitulate the whole matter now, but the omission of the Favoured Nation Clause in any future Treaties with European Countries will certainly simplify matters in regard to any Trade arrangements between the West Indies and the United States. The denunciation of the Treaties will also have an indirect but important bearing upon any question of counter-vailing duties upon bounty Sugar in England, especially as showing that Her Majesty's Government are at last prepared to deal with the interests of British industries from an impartial and indeed Imperial point of view.

**UNITED STATES TARIFF.**—The other matter of importance to be recorded is the new Tariff Act of the United States. The following are the clauses especially affecting Sugar:—

**CLAUSE 209.** Sugars not above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour, tank bottoms, syrups of cane juice, melada, concentrated melada, concrete and concentrated molasses, testing by the polariscope not above 75 deg., 95-100ths of one cent. per pound, and for every additional degree shown by the polariscope test, 35-1,000ths of one cent. per pound additional, and fractions of a degree in proportion; and on sugar above No. 16 Dutch Standard in colour, and on all sugar which has gone through a process of refining, one cent. and 95-100ths of one cent. per pound; molasses testing above 40 deg. and not above 56 deg., 3 cents. per gallon; testing 56 deg. and above, 6 cents. per gallon; sugar drainings and sugar sweepings shall be subject to duty as molasses or sugar, as the case may be, according to polariscopic test.

PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to abrogate or in any manner impair or affect the provisions of the treaty of commercial reciprocity, concluded between the United States and the King of the Hawaiian Islands on the 30th day of January, 1875, or the provisions of any Act of Congress heretofore passed for the execution of the same.

210. Maple sugar and maple syrup, 4 cents. per pound ; glucose or grape sugar,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents. per pound ; sugar cane in its natural state, or unmanufactured, 20 per cent. ad valorem.

211. Saccharine, 1 dollar and 50 cents. per pound and 10 per cent. ad valorem.

212. Sugar candy and all confectionery not specially provided for in this Act, valued at 15 cents. per pound or less, and on sugars after being refined, when tintured, coloured, or in any way adulterated, 4 cents. per pound and 15 per cent. ad valorem, valued at more than 15 cents. per pound, 50 per cent. ad valorem. The weight and the value of the immediate coverings, other than the outer packing case or other covering, shall be included in the dutiable weight and the value of the merchandise.

The reciprocity clause has also been changed to read as follows :—

#### SCHEDULE M.

SEC. 4.—That whenever the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, with a view to secure reciprocal trade with foreign countries, shall, within the period of two years from and after the passage of this Act, enter into commercial treaty or treaties with any other country or countries concerning the admission into any such country or countries of the goods, wares and merchandise of the United States, and their use and disposition therein, deemed to be for the interests of the United States, and in such treaty or treaties in consideration of the advantages accruing to the United States therefrom, shall provide for the reduction during a specified period, not exceeding five years, of the duties imposed by this Act, to the extent of not more than 20 per cent. thereof, upon such goods, wares, or merchandise, as may be designated therein of the country or countries with which such treaty or treaties shall be made as in this section provided for ; or shall provide for the transfer during such period from the dutiable list of this Act to the free list thereof of such goods, wares, and merchandise, being the natural products of such foreign country or countries and not of the United States ; or shall provide for the retention upon the free list of this Act during a specified period, not exceeding five years, of such goods, wares and merchandise, now included in said free list, as may be designated therein ; and when any such treaty shall have been duly ratified by the Senate and approved by Congress, and public proclamation made accordingly, then and thereafter the duties which shall be collected by the United States upon any of the designated goods, wares and merchandise from the foreign country with which such treaty has been made, shall during the period provided for, be the duties specified and provided for in such treaty and none other.

SEC. 5.—That whenever any country, dependency or colony shall pay or bestow, directly or indirectly, any bounty or grant upon the exportation of any article or merchandise from such country, dependency or colony and such article or merchandise is dutiable under the provisions of this Act, then upon the importation of any such article or merchandise into the United States whether the same shall be imported directly from the country of production or otherwise, and whether such article or merchandise is imported in the same condition as when exported from the country of production, or has been changed in condition by re-manufacture or otherwise, there shall be levied and paid in all such cases, in addition to the duties otherwise imposed by



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this Act, an additional duty equal to the net amount of such grant or bounty, however, the same be paid or bestowed. The net amount of all such bounties or grants shall be from time to time ascertained, determined and declared by the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall make all needful regulations for the identification of such articles and merchandise and for the assessment and collection of such additional duties.

With regard to the above Legislation, urgent representations have been made to the Committee to draw the attention of the Secretary of State and the Colonies to the question of reciprocity. There has been no time to call a meeting, but from opinions received there is no doubt that the following letter will be generally approved. Of course, the decision as to opening negotiations with the United States rests with the Colonies themselves, and it is thought that no harm could be done by calling their attention to the matter, through the Secretary of State, whether the Colonies decide or not, to entertain the question. The following is the letter to the Colonial Office:— W. I. C., 5th August, 1897. Sir, We have the honour respectfully to call your immediate attention to the Reciprocity Clause in the new Tariff Act of the United States of America. This clause would allow of a reciprocal arrangement being made between the United States and the British West India Colonies, whereby the Sugar of the Colonies would be enabled to be imported into the United States at a reduction of 20 per cent. in the duty, as against the produce of non-reciprocal countries. Should the Colonies be excluded from this arrangement, and other Cane Sugar Countries be admitted to its advantages, the only Market (practically) for West India Sugar would be closed against our Colonies. In these circumstances we have the honour to ask (1) that you, Sir, would be pleased to communicate with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, so that his Lordship might be moved to instruct the British Ambassador at Washington to approach the United States Government as to their willingness to enter into such an arrangement, and the terms upon which such arrangement could be made, and we would humbly suggest that this be done by cable; (2) we also venture to ask you, Sir, whether you would be pleased to communicate by preparatory cable and by next mail with the Governors of the West India Sugar Colonies, so that their Excellencies might submit the matter without any delay to their respective Legislatures with a view to their sending delegates to Washington for the purpose of affording to Her Majesty's Ambassador (as in 1891) any information and assistance which might be acceptable in the negotiation of such commercial arrangement. (Signed) G. Lubbock, Chairman."

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—Through the great kindness and courtesy of the Foreign Office an official copy of the United States Tariff Act can be seen at this office.

THE CANNON STREET HOTEL MEETING.—Copies of Report of this Meeting will be sent to any Members applying, either personally or by post card, for the same.

SUGAR PROSPECTS.—The weather in the Beet Countries has been fairly satisfactory, but there has been a great growth of leaves. (*Journal des Fabricants.*) There is really nothing in this week's news of any importance as to crop 1897-8. There is a firmer tone in the market, due to two causes—1st, inundations in Silesia and Bohemia; and, 2nd, the denunciation of the German Treaty, the general bearing of which is explained above.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.—Mr. Czarnikow estimates the total at 1,786,088 tons, against 1,647,489 tons in 1896.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.—88 per cent. (Czarnikow) 8s. 6d. against 10s.

WEATHER NEWS.—Barbados, 31st July (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavilar). Fine rains generally throughout the Island. (Sugar 1.35. Molasses 6 cents.)

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JAMES L. OHLSON, Secretary



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CIRCULAR No. 146.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

6th September, 1897.

THE COMMISSIONERS REPORT.—Not yet issued. The Colonial Office have promised the Committee an early copy.

UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN SHIPPING.—“ West India Committee to Foreign Office, 18th August, 1897. The Under Secretary. Sir, In respectfully asking you to convey to the Marquis of Salisbury the thanks of this Committee for the copy of the U.S. Tariff Act, I am desired to call attention to Sec. 22 (page 66). This section apparently imposes a discriminating duty of 10 per cent. *ad val.* in addition to the legal duties on all goods which shall be imported in vessels not of the United States. Section 23 provides further, under heavy penalties, that no goods shall be imported from any Foreign Port or Place, except in vessels of the United States, or in such foreign vessels as truly and wholly belong to the citizens or subjects of that country of which the goods are the growth, production or manufacture. Section 24 however states that the above is only applicable to nations which maintain similar regulations against the United States. The British West India Colonies would therefore be exempt under these latter sections. At the same time, the following points arise in the general construction of all the above sections:—(1) Will a ship owned in England, calling at a British West Indian Port and conveying cargo from thence for importation into the United States, be exempt from the additional 10 per cent. duty imposed upon such cargo in certain circumstances? (2) Would a Dutch vessel calling at Demerara for cargo intended for the United States, be liable to the additional duty upon that cargo? (3) What foreign vessels would be penalized under these clauses, and what foreign vessels would not be so penalized? As the above questions may have a very practical bearing upon the shipping trade concerned in carrying produce from the British West India Colonies to the United States, may we humbly request that his Lordship may be pleased to obtain from the British Ambassador in Washington a report upon the subject? (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.”

An important reply has been received, as follows:—“ Foreign Office, 2nd September, 1897. Sir, With reference to your letter of the 18th ult., I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that he is carefully considering the inquiries of the West India Committee with regard to the effect which the discriminating duty imposed by Sec. 22 of the United States Tariff Act will have on the Shipping Trade concerned in carrying produce from the West India Colonies to the United States. I am to add that a

further communication dealing with the several points raised in your letter will be addressed to you as soon as possible. (Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE."

**U.S.A. RECIPROCITY.**—A statement is being prepared for the Colonial Office as to the effect of the new U.S. Tariff upon West India Sugar, especially with reference to Reciprocity. The following points arise:—(1) The actual operation of the duties on the sale of West India Sugar: that is, does the classified scale ensure a proper price upon the market? Is the Sugar sold upon an open market according to its Customs value? Do the U.S. Customs assess for duty the proper value of the Sugar, and is it sold in open market according to that value, and so far as that market is concerned, is the price a fair one? In point of fact, do the duties prevent in any way the Sugar from the West Indies getting the same terms as Sugar from other Countries, subject to the same duties? (2) Section 5 imposes a countervailing duty upon Bounty Sugar equal to the amount of such bounty, in addition to the duties otherwise imposed by the Act. It may be assumed that this would have a beneficial effect as regards Non-Bounty Sugar.

Section 4 is apparently the reciprocal clause relating to Sugar. It provides for the President entering into reciprocal treaties, allowing for the reduction of the duties imposed by this Act, to the extent of 20 per cent., or may put such goods on the free list of the U.S. Tariff. There are thus three points to be considered:—(1) The exact operation of the duties upon Sugars, of different classes, imported into the United States; (2) The advantage, or expected advantage, upon Non-Bounty Sugar in connection with the countervailing duty upon Bounty Sugar; (3) The terms upon which a reciprocal arrangement might be agreed upon between the United States and the West India Colonies.

(NOTE.—The Secretary does not bind himself to the above questions. They are suggested by various Members of the Committee, and their general drift will be seen. The matter is in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary, and in the meantime most valuable information has been given by firms connected with the Committee, especially Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and Messrs. Gillespie Brothers & Co.)

**JAMAICA SUGAR.**—The Colonial Office forward to the Committee, with a request for any observations, the following copy of a despatch from Governor Sir Henry Blake: "King's House, Jamaica, 3rd July, 1897. The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State. Sir, I have the honour to enclose for your information the Report of the Second Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which was held at Montego Bay, as I was desirous of exciting local interest and enlisting the sympathy of the people of that part of the island in the work of the Society. 2. I am glad to say that the efforts of the Society are beginning to bear fruit. The membership is increasing and the local demands for advice and assistance are being multiplied. The people are, I hope, beginning to realise that improvement in their condition must depend upon their own exertions, and to emerge from the attitude of lazy expectation that Government will somehow do something to improve their position without the necessity for any action on their part. 3. In connexion with this question, I have seen quoted from a German publication on Chemistry that a process has been discovered in Java by which the carbonization of the cane juice has been cheaply effected, the result being that the formation of glucose has been lessened, and the percentage of crystallizable saccharine thus largely increased, sugar being formed instead of molasses. I do not know what the result might be in cases where rum is looked upon as a product of equal value with sugar; but it appears to me that the discovery may have a profound effect upon the question of sugar production in the West Indies. If any report on the subject has been made from our Consuls in Java, I shall feel obliged if you will kindly direct that a copy be sent to me, or any further information on the subject that can be procured."

The above Despatch and Papers were submitted to Mr. Lubbock, the Chairman, and the following reply was sent, after acknowledging the papers:—"With regard to the third paragraph in Sir Henry Blake's letter, we may mention that we have not ourselves heard of any new process having been discovered in Java



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for treatment of the cane juice, resulting in any largely increased yield. Sir Henry Blake speaks of the *carbonization* of the cane juice. We think that he must have used the word *carbonization* in error, and that probably what was intended was *carbonatation*. This would lead us to suppose that the process described as having been experimented with in Java is similar to that used for the clarification of beet juices, and consists in the use of very large quantities of lime, the bulk of which is subsequently neutralized and precipitated by means of carbonic acid gas. This process has been tried in the West Indies—many years ago—but has no advantages over that at present in use, and is, in fact, far more costly, whilst at the same time it produces no better results. Under the present system in use in the factories in the West Indies, the amount of glucose produced in the manufacture is so small as to be hardly worth consideration. No doubt under the old process of the copper wall which Sir Henry Blake may possibly have in his mind the formation of glucose in the course of manufacture was enormous. The Committee notice, with great satisfaction, the statement of Sir H. Blake that through the efforts of the Agricultural Society, 'the people are, I hope, beginning to realize that improvement in their condition must depend upon their own exertions, and to emerge from the attitude of lazy expectation that Government will somehow do something to improve their position without the necessity for any action on their part.'

(NOTE.—The above Government action is presumably quite apart from any measures that might be suggested by the Royal Commissioners for the continuance of the Jamaica Sugar Industry, and the continued employment of the labourers at good wages on the Sugar plantations.)

**SUGAR PRODUCTION AND PROSPECTS.**—Mr. George Dureau, of the *Journal des Fabricants*, finding that nothing can be definitely said about the next Beet crop, indulges in statistics. He says that Beetroot Sugar in 1887-8 was 2,407,000 tons, and Cane 2,541,000 tons. In 1896-7 Beet had increased to 4,772,000 tons, and Cane had not increased, being in that year 2,432,000 tons. He does not mention the enormous weight of the consumption tax in France, caused by the bounties, inflicted upon the French consumer. Mr. Czarnikow of course discusses the effect of the wheat deficiencies upon the Sugar production. These deficiencies could not occur at a more opportune time, inasmuch as the next Beet crop must be affected, and in anticipation a less crop of Beet will be gathered, leading as at present to more strength in the Sugar market generally. Wheat must be a strong competitor against Beet in future sowings.

**BEEET PRICES:** 88 per cent. 8s. 10½d. against 9s.

**SUGAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.**—Imports (35 weeks): 410,808, against 533,416; Deliveries: 475,375, against 482,835; Stocks: 68,493, against 158,734.

**VISIBLE SUPPLIES.**—1,491,552, against 1,400,624.

**WEATHER TELEGRAMS.**—Demerara, 19th August (per favour of Messrs. Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co.): Weather favourable for cultivation; 3rd September (per favour of Messrs. Jno. McConnell & Co.): Weather showery and favourable for cultivation. Trinidad, 2nd September (per favour of the Colonial Company): Rain has fallen heavily. Barbados, 24th August (per favour of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller): Weather all that can be desired.

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JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.



## WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,  
LONDON, E.C.,

18th October, 1897.

**COMMISSION REPORT**—This document entirely accepts, after practical observation in the Colonies themselves, the statements which have been urged for years past upon the Government, as to the critical condition of the Sugar Industry in consequence of the granting of bounties by European powers. Although in recent years cane disease has shown itself in some of the Islands, Your Majesty's West Indian possessions appear to be practically as well suited in the present day for the production of sugar, molasses, and rum as they were in former times, and the unprofitableness of the industry and the resulting general depression are due solely to the fall in the prices of these commodities, and in a special degree, of course, to the great fall in the price of sugar, which is by far the most important of them. The Commissioners then give a table showing the fall in price for a number of years. In 1881 for Refined, the price was 28.93 shillings. Various fluctuations are shown until 1896, when the price for Refined was 14.75 shillings. In the same period, Beet Unrefined dropped to 10.34, and Cane Unrefined to 10.85 shillings per cwt. In August, 1897, Beet polarizing 94 per cent. was 8s. 10½d., and Cane polarizing 95 per cent. was 9s. 3d.

Concurrently with the fall in the price of sugar there has been a heavy fall in the prices of molasses and rum. The value of Demerara rum has declined from 2s. 4½d. per gallon in 1891 to 1s. 0½d. per gallon in 1896, and the value of molasses, which in Barbadoes a few years ago was as high as 40 cents a gallon, and in Antigua not much lower, has now fallen to 6 cents a gallon or even less. This depreciation in the by-products of sugar has contributed appreciably to the present depression in the industry.

The Beet and Cane crops are thus described:—

|      | 1894—5.<br>Tons. | 1895—6.<br>Tons. | 1896—7.<br>Tons. |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Beet | 4,792,000        | 4,285,000        | 4,950,000        |
| Cane | 3,139,000        | 2,605,000        | 2,524,000        |
|      | 7,931,000        | 6,890,000        | 7,474,000        |

It will be seen that there has been a great increase in the total production of sugar, and to that increase, which has been accompanied by a progressive economy in production, must the fall in the price of sugar be mainly attributed. The chief increase has been in beet sugar, which is alleged to be the dominant factor in regulating the price in the present day. The production of beet sugar has been stimulated by the grant of bounties, and within the past year Germany and Austria have doubled their bounties on the export of sugar, and France has very largely increased hers. The bounties vary in amount at the present time from about £4 10s. a ton in France to £1 5s. and £1 15s. on raw and refined sugar respectively, in Germany. The total production of European bounty-fed sugar in 1895-96 is estimated to have been more than 60 per cent. of the total production of sugar of all kinds dealt with in the great markets of the world. The proportion of beet sugar would not have been so high in this year, but for a falling-off in the production of cane sugar in Cuba to the extent of about three-fourths of a million tons, a falling off, the effects of which are equally conspicuous in the estimate for 1896-97, which shows a still higher proportion of beet sugar.

This great fall in the price of sugar has rendered sugar-cane cultivation unprofitable for the time being and we are unable to find any good grounds for holding that any material rise in price is likely to occur in the immediate future. As a matter of fact the prices for 1897 have ranged much below those of any previous year. As to any gain by British Industries in the United Kingdom by the reduced price of sugar, such gain is too dearly purchased by the injury imposed on the West Indian Colonies. We have no hesitation in saying that the abolition of the bounty system is an object at which Your Majesty's Government should aim, if they should see their way to securing that result, and that the accomplishment of such an end is worth some sacrifice, provided always that such sacrifice would be really effective and would not involve evils out of all proportion to those which it is desired to remove.

The Commissioners find a difficulty in estimating the exact effect of the Bounties, and they give a lengthy argument upon the subject. Two out of the three Commissioners, with some apparent hesitation, will not absolutely recommend countervailing duties, but Sir Henry Norman, whose great experience in the West Indies gives his opinion special weight, thus reports:—



I agree with my colleagues in their views as to the present condition and probable future of the sugar-producing Colonies of the West Indies, and I certainly do not think that the Report underrates the gravity of the prospect. I also most fully agree with what is said in the Report as to the advantage that would arise from a relinquishment of the system of bounties on the export of beet sugar now given by several nations, and as to the inexpediency of any grant of bounties by this country on sugar produced in the British West Indies. I differ from my colleagues in their objection to the imposition of countervailing duties on bounty-aided sugar brought into the United Kingdom, and I would urge that duties should be levied on such sugar to an amount equal to the bounty that has been paid on it by any foreign Government. I am by no means insensible to the consideration that disadvantages and inconveniences may arise from the levy of such duties, as stated in the Report, nor am I blind to the possibility that countervailing duties may fail to completely restore and maintain the West Indian sugar industry, and I admit that it is possible that the imposition of such duties may lead to some retaliatory measures on the part of other countries. No measure brought under our notice seems to afford such a good prospect of helping the sugar industry in the West Indies as the imposition of countervailing duties. The object in view is so important as to justify some inconvenience and some risk, and after prolonged consideration of the subject I think that without countervailing duties, the sugar production of the Colonies in question must decline rapidly and perhaps disappear, except for the purposes of local consumption. One or two favourable seasons may help to keep the industry going, but little more than this can be hoped for without countervailing duties. Economy of production and manufacture has been earnestly carried out in some Colonies without affecting the general result, and it cannot be anticipated that much more can be done in this direction, nor, indeed, has large outlay or improved machinery or attention to cultivation led to profits sufficient to maintain the industry in the face of the bounties. The only possible remedy seems to be the imposition of countervailing duties. It is not only the actual bounty now given that oppresses the British West Indian sugar industry, but also the absolute uncertainty as to the amount of the bounty in the future. The Report shows that the amount of bounty has been quite recently raised in foreign countries, and even if, by extraordinary economy and good fortune, British West Indian sugar could be produced at a smaller net outlay than bounty-aided beet sugar, there would, in such an event, probably soon be an increase to the amount of bounty which would completely neutralise the benefit for which the West Indian producers had laboured. The interests that are affected by the decline of the sugar industry in the West Indies are of a momentous character; and I think the British public hardly realise the ruin that must follow a collapse of that industry. Such a collapse would seriously affect even the West Indian Colonies which have other industries to fall back upon, such as Trinidad and Jamaica, but British Guiana, with nearly 300,000 people, Barbados, with 180,000, and all the Windward and Leeward Islands, excluding Grenada and Dominica, and perhaps Montserrat, may be said to have nothing to export except the products of the sugar-cane. The inhabitants of those Colonies would, therefore, be without the means of purchasing imported articles of food, or of paying taxes, the bulk of which are indeed derived from Customs duties levied on imports or from excise. The planters must be ruined; many others who have drawn incomes from sugar properties will be seriously affected: the tradesmen, artisans, and labouring classes will suffer privation, and probably become discontented and restless, and the revenue will be so crippled as to render it impossible to carry on the Government, even on the most economical scale, in any condition at all approaching efficiency. Nor will it be practicable to meet obligations for interest on debt, or to provide for the relief of the poor, or to maintain the hospitals and schools, or to pay the police force, while in Guiana, and possibly in Trinidad, there would be a demand for the repatriation of large numbers of Indian coolies, to meet the cost of which measure funds would not be forthcoming. Already some of these Colonies labour under a deficit, and this deficit is probably increasing. The other proposed remedies or palliatives seem to me to be in no sense effective substitutes for countervailing duties. The establishment of central factories in certain positions may be beneficial, and of course it is desirable to have better canes and improved cultivation and manufacture, but it would be difficult to raise capital for any material outlay, and Government would incur much risk in making advances as long as bounties on beet sugar continue. In Jamaica and Trinidad, where other industries than that of the sugar cane have taken a firm hold, the collapse of the sugar industry will not cause all the misfortunes that may be expected to fall on those Colonies whose reliance rests solely upon the production of sugar with its adjuncts of rum and molasses, but if those products cease to be exported there will be much distress, and the resources even of those two islands will be severely taxed. I think the tenor of the evidence, the conclusions of the Report and the paper of Dr. Morris, than whom there is no higher authority on West Indian production, must satisfy anyone that it is impossible to expect that any industry or industries can, within any reasonable time, replace sugar, whether as affording employment and subsistence to the people, or as enabling revenue to be raised to maintain the administration. No doubt it is most important to push forward other industries and thus relieve the people from a dependence on one production only, and I most heartily support the proposals made which have this end in view, as detailed in the Report, but I also think it is essential to endeavour to maintain the sugar industry for the reasons I have already given. It must be admitted that if countervailing duties are levied, and have the desired effect, the people of the United Kingdom will have to pay more for their sugar than they do at present, perhaps to the extent of a halfpenny a pound, but it has to be borne in mind that the people of this country have been for



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many years purchasing sugar at a much lower price than that which prevails in other European countries, and that while they have enjoyed this advantage their West Indian fellow subjects have been brought to the brink of ruin owing to their not obtaining a remunerative price for their sugar. It would also, as suggested in the Report, be possible to apply the duties raised on bounty-aided beet sugar to purposes which would be beneficial to those classes which would be most likely to feel the pressure of a rise in the price of sugar. It is possible that if countervailing duties are levied in this country, India and some of the Colonies might desire to follow the example of the mother country. It seems to me that they should not be hindered from doing so if they were convinced that the levy of such duties would be to their material advantage, and as far as I know there are no treaty obligations now in existence which would prevent the imposition of such duties here or elsewhere in the Empire, though some previous notice no doubt would be proper before the duties were actually levied. I am aware that I am advocating a measure which is sure to meet with severe criticism and opposition, but I feel bound respectfully to submit my views, as there seems to be no measure except the imposition of countervailing duties which is likely to save a considerable group of British Colonies from serious disaster, or prevent obligations falling on the mother country which will be very onerous and very difficult to meet in a satisfactory manner.

The above is the weighty opinion of Sir Henry Norman, although the rise of one halfpenny per lb. in sugar consequent upon a countervailing duty, is too high an estimate. But it must be remembered that the money received into the Exchequer on account of countervailing duties will be available for reducing the duties on tea and other articles of general consumption.

The Report puts with great force the obligations of the mother country towards her West Indian Colonies and their populations. While, therefore, it is unfair to say that the cause of the depression in the West Indies is due to any act of the British Government, we cannot overlook the fact that the British people have been reaping great benefit from precisely that set of circumstances which has been a factor in bringing the West Indies to the verge of serious disaster.

The Commissioners do not agree with the proposal to Federate the Colonies under one General Government, nor do they think a combined Civil Service would result in any economy.

The following is the summary of conclusions:—

The sugar industry in the West Indies is in danger of great reduction, which, in some colonies, may be equivalent or almost equivalent to extinction.

The depression of the industry is due to the competition of other sugar-producing countries and in a special degree to the competition of beet sugar produced under a system of bounties. It is also affected by high protective tariffs, and by the competition of cane sugar, the production of which is specially encouraged by the Governments concerned. The causes of the depression may be described as permanent, inasmuch as they are largely due to the policy of foreign countries, and there is no indication that that policy is likely to be abandoned in the immediate future.

It is not due in any considerable degree to extravagance in management, to imperfection in the process of manufacture, or to inadequate supervision consequent on absentee ownership, and the removal of these causes, wherever they exist, would not enable it, generally, to be profitably carried on under present conditions of competition. In many places in the West Indies, sugar is not manufactured according to the best and latest processes, but even the estates which have introduced the best machinery suffer from the depression, and we have little doubt that the latest machinery would be much more generally employed but for the general and apparently well-founded conviction that even with the assistance of such machinery the business could not be profitably carried on. In places where large factories equipped with the best machinery cannot be established owing to local causes it is doubtful if the sugar industry could, under any circumstances, be restored to a condition of permanent prosperity, except, possibly, in localities which enjoy very special advantages in soil, climate, and labour supply.

The depression in the industry is causing sugar estates to be abandoned, and will cause more estates to be abandoned, and such abandonment is causing and will cause distress among the labouring population, including a large number of East Indian immigrants, and will seriously affect, for a considerable time, the general prosperity of the sugar-producing Colonies, and will render it impossible for some, and perhaps the greater number of them, to provide without external aid, for their own government and administration.

If the production of sugar is discontinued or very largely reduced, there is no industry or industries that could completely replace it in such islands as Barbados, Antigua, and St. Kitts, and be profitably carried on and supply employment for the labouring population. In Jamaica, in Trinidad, in British Guiana, in St. Lucia, in St. Vincent, and to some extent in Montserrat and Nevis, the sugar industry may in time be replaced by other industries, but only after the lapse of a considerable period and at the cost of much displacement of labour and consequent suffering. In Dominica the sugar industry is not at the present day of great importance. We think it right to add that in all Colonies where sugar can be completely, or very largely,



replaced by other industries, the Colonies in question will be in a much sounder position, both politically and economically, when they have ceased to depend wholly, or to a very great extent, upon the continued prosperity of a single industry.

The total or partial extinction of the sugar industry would, in most places, very seriously affect the condition of the labouring classes for the worse, and would largely reduce the revenue of the Colonies. In some places the loss of revenue could be met to a limited extent by economies, but this could not be done universally nor in a material degree in most of the Colonies. Some of the Colonies could not provide the necessary cost of administration, including the relief of distressed and necessitous persons, or of the support and repatriation (when necessary) of the East Indian immigrants, without subventions from the mother country. Jamaica, Trinidad, and Grenada may be expected to meet from their own resources the whole of the expenditure that is likely to fall on them.

The best immediate remedy for the state of things which we have shown to exist would be the abandonment of the bounty system by Continental nations. This change would in all probability enable a large portion of the sugar-cane cultivation to be carried on successfully, and would certainly reduce the rate at which it will diminish.

Looking, however, to what appears to be the policy of the United States of America, to the great cheapening of the cost of production of beet sugar, and the fact that many countries appear to have singled out the sugar industry as one which ought to be artificially stimulated in various ways, it is not clear that, even if the bounties were abolished, another crisis of a similar character might not arise in the West Indies at a future day.

The special remedies or measures of relief which we unanimously recommend are—

- (1) The settlement of the labouring population on small plots of land as peasant proprietors.
- (2) The establishment of minor agricultural industries, and the improvement of the system of cultivation, especially in the case of small proprietors.
- (3) The improvement of the means of communication between the different islands.
- (4) The encouragement of a trade in fruit with New York, and, possibly, at a future time, with London.
- (5) The grant of a loan from the Imperial Exchequer for the establishment of Central Factories in Barbados.

We estimate the cost of the special remedies recommended in (2) (3) and (4) at £27,000 a year for ten years, the expenditure to be borne by the mother country. We estimate the amount of the loan to Barbados for the erection of central factories at £120,000. This measure no doubt involves the risk of loss.

Grants will be required in Dominica and St. Vincent for roads, and to enable the settlement of the labouring population on the land to be carried out, and their amount may be taken at £30,000. A further grant of about £60,000 is required to clear off the floating debt in some of the smaller islands.

In addition, the smaller islands should receive grants to enable them to meet their ordinary expenditure of an obligatory nature. The amount may be placed at £20,000 a year for five years, and possibly a reduced amount for a further period of five years.

The expenditure which we are able to estimate may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) A grant of £27,000 a year for ten years.
- (2) A grant of £20,000 a year for five years.
- (3) Immediate grants of £60,000 and £30,000, or £90,000 in all.
- (4) A loan of £120,000 to Barbados for the establishment of central factories.

As to the amount of expenditure which it may be necessary to incur in relieving distress (especially in British Guiana and Barbados), in promoting emigration, and in supporting and repatriating East Indian immigrants, we are unable at the present time to form any estimate, but it might be very great, if there occurred a sudden and general failure of the sugar industry in Barbados and British Guiana, where the population is comparatively large, and the people depend so greatly upon the cultivation of the sugar-cane. In such a contingency neither British Guiana nor Barbados would be able to meet the necessary cost of administration for, probably, a considerable number of years.

(It is assumed that the questions of Relief for British Guiana and Trinidad are retained for the special consideration of the Secretary of State.)

JAMES L. OHLSON, SECRETARY.