

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 23.

Telegrams
"CARIB" LONDON.
A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.
Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

January 8th, 1900.

CODRINGTON COLLEGE FUND.

Since this Fund was closed on the 22nd of November last, and the accounts published in our Circular No. 22, a further sum of £16 10s. has been received by Messrs. Drummond from the Revd. Prebendary Meyrick, and handed over to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

SUGAR TRADE IN INDIA.

The Imports of Sugar Cane and Beet into India during April to July, 1899, are appended as interesting:—

BEET.

	1899. Tons.	1898. Tons.
Austria-Hungary	11,130	13,071
Germany	941	10,479
	12,071	23,550
		12,071
	Decrease ...	11,479

CANE.

	1899. Tons.	1898. Tons.
Mauritius	15,313	12,534
China	3,815	4,875
Strait Settlements	1,511	731
	20,639	17,640
	17,640	
	Increase ...	2,999

The effect of the Indian Sugar Bill is plainly seen by the above figures, which are however only for a comparatively short period.

THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The Lord Mayor has remitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a further sum of £450, making £6,950 in all, for the relief of the sufferers by the hurricanes which devastated Montserrat, St. Kitts Nevis, and others of the West Indian Islands in August last. The Fund has now reached a total of £7,200, but the subscription has come virtually to a standstill since the institution of the various Mansion House funds in connection with the War. The Fund will be finally closed at the end of next week (December 30th, 1899), when it is expected that any balances which may remain in the hands of the provincial mayors, country bankers, and others will have been remitted to the Lord Mayor.

SUGAR BOUNTIES AND THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The second monthly dinner of the present session of the London Chamber of Commerce took place on December 20th at the Trocadero Restaurant. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and among those present were General Sir Henry Norman, M. Yves Guyot, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., Sir H. G. Bergne, Mr. W. E. M. Tomkinson, M.P., Mr. H. J. Jourdain, C.M.G., Mr. Harold Cox, Secretary of the Cobden Club, Mr. Mayson Beeton, Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League. Of those interested in the West Indies there were present, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. Edw. Kynaston, Mr. George Carrington, and the refiners were represented by Mr. George Martineau, Mr. C. J. Crosfield, Mr. Robert Kerr, and Mr. C. T. Mirehouse. The subject of discussion was "Sugar Bounties," and the

Chairman, in introducing it, said that they had with them a gentleman of great eminence in France, M. Yves Guyot. (Cheers.) They all knew that M. Guyot wielded a very powerful pen. In wielding that pen he endeavoured on all occasions to do so with truth and justice. (Cheers.) M. Guyot was one of those men who, when they wrote about England, endeavoured to do us justice, and we were all grateful to him for it. (Hear, hear.) We all felt, on this side of the water, that we wished to live in amity with all foreign nations, and perhaps if there was one foreign nation more than another with which we wished to be on friendly terms it was our nearest neighbour, France. (Hear, hear.) He thought those on either side of the water who endeavoured to rouse feelings of antagonism were no friends of either country. (Hear, hear.) M. Yves Guyot endeavoured to uphold and maintain the dignity of the Press of his country, and he had him a most hearty welcome. (Cheers.) Proceeding to discuss the question of the Sugar Bounties, the Chairman said that the Cobden Club had been obliged to invent a brand new theory of free trade in order to bring the bounty question within the purview of free trade. He believed the argument that we, as a country, were benefiting by the sugar bounties was absolutely fallacious.

Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., and Mr. Lawrence, M.P., spoke in favour of the abolition of the Sugar Bounties, and strongly condemned the apathy of the Government.

Sir Henry Norman reiterated the grounds on which he had, as Chairman of the Royal West India Commission, advocated the imposition of countervailing duties, and while congratulating the Government on adopting that policy in India expressed a strong hope that it would soon be followed in this country.

M. Yves Guyot, who was received with loud cheers, said he was not prepared to denounce the Cobden Club, as he was an honorary member of it (laughter), and approved of its motto—"Free Trade, Peace, and Goodwill among Nations." Looking at the question, however, from the point of view of a Frenchman, he considered that any legitimate means by which the suppression of the bounties could be brought about should be adopted, as their abolition would be advantageous both to the taxpayers and to the consumers of France. It was still necessary to prove this to the French, as they were not convinced of it at present. During the last fourteen years the consumption of sugar had doubled in most European countries, while it had very largely increased in England. In France, however, it had remained stationary, and the reason of that was that it was too dear. (Cheers.) Many methods were suggested for increasing the consumption of sugar in France, but the most efficacious would be the reduction of the price by the abolition of the bounties. The sugar manufacturers, who benefited by the bounties, were powerful in certain departments, and the Government were reluctant to introduce a measure having for its object the abolition of the bounties. But, after all, the sugar industry was not one of the most important in France. He believed that France would agree to abolish her bounties if another conference were to be held at which other nations would also consent to abolish their bounties. (Cheers.)

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Appended is some correspondence between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office, enquiring when the Reciprocity Treaties between the West Indian Colonies and the United States are likely to be brought before Congress.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

"Sir,

West India Committee, December 12th, 1899.

"I have the honour to enquire whether you can give my Committee any information as to when the Reciprocity Treaties arranged between the West Indian Colonies and the United States are likely to come before Congress.

"The fact that the uncertainty as to time is detrimental to trade, obviously to producers as well, is my excuse for troubling you at the present time.

I have, etc.,

"(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, Chairman.

Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., etc.

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COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street, 19th December, 1899.

"Sir,

"I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, enquiring when the Reciprocity Treaties arranged between certain West Indian Colonies and the United States are likely to be brought before Congress.

"As you are doubtless aware, the conventions have already been submitted to the United States Senate, and referred by it to the Committee on Foreign Relations; but Mr. Chamberlain has no information as to when the Committee will report and the Senate proceed to a final decision regarding the conventions. I am to state, however, that an enquiry on the subject will be addressed to the Foreign Office, and that a further communication will be made to you on the receipt of a reply from that Department.

"I am, etc,

"(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

The Chairman, West India Committee.

CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

The President's message to Congress had important paragraphs relating to the future position of Cuba and Porto Rico with respect to the United States.

As to the tariff on Cuban products, all that is conceded is contained in the following extract:—

"So long as we exercise control over the Island the products of Cuba should have a market in the United States on as good terms and with as favourable rates of duty as are given to the West India Islands under treaties of reciprocity which shall be made."

The reciprocity treaties entered into with the West India Islands, and now awaiting ratification, allow, generally, a reduction of duties amounting to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which on sugars of 96 deg. test is equal to \$4.72 per ton of 2,240 lbs.; but Section 4 of the Tariff Act of 1897 gave the President authority, "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate," to reduce duties up to a limit of 20 per cent., in return for reciprocal trade advantages, and future arrangements with Cuba may be such as to secure the maximum reduction of 20 per cent., which on 96 deg. Centrifugals, that form the bulk of the exports, would be equal to \$7.55 per ton, and on 89 test Muscovados and Molasses sugars, \$6.45 per ton.

Porto Rico, as was expected, is regarded by the President as on a very different footing from Cuba. He says as to the tariff rights of the smaller island:

"Our plain duty is to abolish all customs' tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico, and give her products free access to our markets."

This would place the sugar growers in Porto Rico in the same position as those in the United States and the Hawaiian Islands.

Taking the average duty on the various grades of sugar exported from Porto Rico to be \$35 per ton, and taking the crop at 50,000 tons, the abolition of duties would be equal to a bonus to the sugar industry of \$1,750,000.

This will doubtless greatly stimulate sugar production, as has been the case in the Hawaiian Islands, where the crop for the year ending September 30th shows an increase of 53,393 tons over the previous year, the total production, according to the Hawaiian Planters' Association, being 282,807 tons, which is expected to be largely increased in the coming year.

CUBA.—The latest estimates of the coming crop place it at 440,000 tons, but this may have to be modified later.—(Messrs. Czarnikow, MacDougall & Co., Ltd., New York.)

ST. VINCENT.

Mr. Administrator Thompson, in his report to the Colonial Office on the state of this colony in 1898, states that "the revenue for the year was £26,900 15s. 2d., and the expenditure £27,674 2s. 7d., the deficit of £773 6s. 10d. being met out of the Imperial Grant." The damage done to property was estimated at not less than £225,000.

In his general remarks he goes on to say that "though there is still much want and distress, most districts are returning apparently to their normal state. In the lower lands the vegetation has again assumed its usual tropical luxuriance."

Mr. Thompson also points out that "Perhaps the most important direct result of the hurricane, and one which may have an even more important indirect effect on the future of the colony, is the practical extinction of what remained of the sugar industry in St. Vincent. The destruction of the sugar works cleared the way for a reformation in the antiquated processes hitherto in vogue, but there does not seem much probability that central factories on a large scale will be instituted."

From arrowroot, the Administrator remarks, the ordinary labourers derive but little benefit, as for a large part of the year the cultivation requires but little attention, and during that period there is no occupation for them.

In concluding, the Administrator adds: "The immediate outlook for the colony is by no means hopeful, but I do not even now take a despondent view of its ultimate progress if those who have the largest monetary staple in the colony fully appreciate their interests and responsibilities."

JAMAICA.

Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., of the Colonial Office, late Secretary of the West India Royal Commission, has been specially selected by Mr. Chamberlain for service in Jamaica in connection with various measures recommended by, or arising out of, Sir D. Barbour's recent report on the finances of the colony. Mr. Olivier, who leaves for Jamaica in January next, will on arrival take over the duties of Colonial Secretary.

WEST INDIAN AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

The invitations for the next Agricultural Conference for the West Indies have been issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. It is proposed to hold the Conference at Barbados, and the dates fixed are Saturday, the 6th, and Monday the 8th of January next. The Conference will meet in the hall of the House of Assembly, in Bridgetown. Sir James Hay, the Governor of Barbados, has promised to meet the representatives on Saturday morning, and offer them a welcome to the island. The president (Dr. D. Morris) will deliver the opening address. A new feature will be the presence of representatives of the leading agricultural societies in the West Indies.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse:—TRINIDAD.—Owing to the scarcity of supplies in first hands and to the Christmas holidays, business has been on a very small scale since the date of our last report, and public sales have only been held on two occasions, viz.:—the 5th and 19th December. The market opened quietly, but with a fair private demand the tone improved, and at the sales held on the 19th ult., prices showed an advance of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. for good middling to superior qualities. Since then the market has continued firm and rather dearer rates have been paid, but only a small business has transpired, and probably the entire transactions during the last six weeks do not exceed 1,600 bags. Latest quotations are 70s. to 75s. per cwt. for low middling grey to middling red, 75s. 6d. to 77s. for good middling, and 77s. 6d. to 80s. for fine and superior. Deliveries from 1st January, 1899, to 2nd January, 1900, were 40,927 bags, against 50,362 bags in the previous year; landings, 40,214 bags against 33,272 bags; and stocks on 2nd January, 18,635 bags, against 19,348.

GRENADE.—Supplies continue very small, and at the auctions only 790 bags were offered; these were firmly held, but with a good demand, the greater part was sold at and since the sales, mostly at an advance of about 1s. per cwt. Lately small transactions have taken place on private terms at rather dearer rates, and present quotations are about 62s. 6d. to 67s. per cwt. for ordinary to good fair, and 67s. 6d. to 70s. for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January, 1899, to 2nd January, 1900, were 40,486 bags, against 41,787 bags in the previous year; landings, 36,882 against 41,866 bags; and stocks on 2nd January 9,343 bags, against 12,947 bags.

EXPORTS FROM THE WEST INDIES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAN.—A firm tone prevails for Demerara and other brown proof kinds with sales of 700 puncheons Demerara and Berbice at 1s. 8d. to 1s. 8½d. per proof gallon, being previous prices. For Matanzas and Mauritius, the supply of which is out of all proportion to requirements, there is but little demand, and sales are consequently difficult to effect. The stock of Jamaica in first hands being practically exhausted, there is little or no business to report, but the tendency is towards higher prices.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

	1898.	1898.	1897.	1896.
LANDED.—In November	219,998	150,167	154,471	264,562
Eleven months	4,999,266	5,018,450	4,490,755	4,840,917
HOME CONSUMPTION.—In November	495,470	472,518	451,631	552,700
Eleven Months	3,747,514	3,422,771	3,493,871	3,859,053
EXPORT.—In November	97,050	110,351	69,002	81,015
Eleven months	853,066	834,242	820,327	871,193
Stock.—Gals., 30th November	7,341,000	8,162,000	8,384,000	9,175,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

JAMAICA	10,861	12,761	11,810	13,012 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	532	700	599	566 "
DEMERARA	2,607	4,533	5,709	5,835 "
FOREIGN	2,272	736	1,115	1,802 "
BRITISH EAST INDIA	1,553	907	233	335 "
VATTED	3,605	3,656	3,875	4,175 "
Total	21,435	22,713	23,341	25,725 puns.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

During the last fortnight there has been no rain in Clarendon Parish, but it has been delightfully cool and bracing. Trade is very quiet. Late heavy rains have interfered materially with the crops and their gathering-in, a good deal of Coffee being broken off the trees and lost. In open spaces Banana trees and Yam Steaks were broken down, There is a little Coffee, but 50 per cent. less than last year. Cocoa is plentiful, but very little Kola. Ginger is not yet coming into the market, but promises to be a large crop. A little Beeswax and Sarsaparilla and a few Spices still coming in, but very few Bananas and Oranges, the prices being fair. There is a little of Settlers Sugar, and the Ground Provisions are plentiful.

In Portland Parish, the weather at the beginning of last fortnight was very unsettled. Heavy rains at night and north winds during the day. The heavy wind and rain have rendered fruit very scarce. The Bananas were destroyed by the hurricane. There are a few Pineapples, but Oranges are scarce. During the latter part of the fortnight the heavy rains ceased, and the weather became cool and fine. The effects of the recent storms were felt. Trade very flat.

BEET PROSPECTS.

The preliminary estimate of the European beet sugar production, will compare with the preceding campaigns as follows:—

	1898-1900	1898-99	1897-98	1896-97	1895-96
GERMANY	1,730,000	1,721,718	1,852,557	1,836,536	1,615,111 tons.
AUSTRIA	1,120,000	1,051,200	831,667	934,007	791,405 "
FRANCE	930,000	830,132	821,235	752,081	667,853 "
RUSSIA	85,000	776,066	733,715	723,667	712,096 "
BELGIUM	290,000	244,017	265,397	288,009	235,795 "
HOLLAND	170,000	149,763	125,658	174,206	108,829 "
OTHER COUNTRIES	275,000	209,115	193,245	202,990	156,340 "
Total	5,480,000	4,982,101	4,831,774	4,916,586	4,285,429 tons.

Thus the campaign of 1899-1900 is giving hopes of a surplus of about 498,000 tons, against its predecessor (F. O. Licht's circular.)

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffee. Lbs.	Cocoa Lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Pans.			
BRITISH GUIANA—											
Jan. 1st to Dec. 6th, 1899 ..	70,007	13,820	—	124,778	—	101,178	571	4,522			
Jan. 1st to Dec. 6th, 1898 ..	89,234	17,190	—	52,491	—	98,675	19,125	8,588			
TRINIDAD—									Puns.	Tons.	Bris.
Jan. 1st to Dec. 20th, 1899 ..	478,966	1,480	8,640	24,431,040	128,651	—	10,964,350	12,385	298	193	
Jan. 1st to Dec. 20th, 1898 ..	472,395	881	23,200	20,194,640	95,482	—	11,914,166	5,537	127	1,947	

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Dec. 30th, 1899 ... 614,736 tons.
 DELIVERIES " " ... 684,007 tons.
 PRESENT STOCKS ... 57,815 tons, against 76,980 tons in 1898, and 90,029 tons in 1897.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES.

2,433,441 tons against 2,419,452 tons in 1898 and 2,439,452 tons in 1897.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 9s. 2½d. to 9s. 1½d., against 9s. 4¼d. in 1898, and 9s. 4½d. in 1897.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Nov. 27th : "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." Dec. 11th : "Good showers, but partial." Dec. 26th : "Light partial showers." Dec. 27th : "Fine rain generally throughout the Island."

DEMERARA.—(New Colonial Co.) Dec. 4th : "Drought continues." Jan. 3rd : "Moderate rain generally, more sadly wanted." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Dec. 6th : "We have just had a good shower, and there are indications of more." Dec. 12th : "Partial showers have fallen." Dec. 23rd : "Drought still continues." Jan. 3rd : "Nice rain has fallen." (Messrs. John McConnel & Co.) Jan. 3rd : "Some rains have fallen generally." (Messrs. Sandbach Tinne & Co.) Jan. 2nd : "Favourable rains."

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.) Nov. 27th : "Dry weather, canes suffering." Dec. 11th : "Idem." Jan. 1st : "Idem."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications received during the past six weeks can be seen at the Committee Room :—
 "A Glimpse of the Tropics, or Four Months Cruising in the West Indies" by E. A. Hastings Jay, LL.D., F.R.G.S.
 "Halifax Canada." Special Supplement to the *Industrial Advocate*, October, 1899; *Annual Report of St. Vincent, Trinidad, Grenada, British Honduras, and the Bahamas, for the year 1898*; *The Correspondence in connection with the Coolie Transport Service of the Special Session of the combined Court of British Guiana*; *British Guiana Blue Book for 1898-99, April to March*; "The Republic of Costa Rica," from the Philadelphia Commercial Museum; *Grenada Handbook for 1900*; *The International Sugar Journal, Vols. I. & II., Nos. 12 & 13, Dec. and Jan.*; *Jamaica Weather Report for the month of September, 1899*; *Trinidad Royal Gazette, including the Trinidad and Tobago Ordinances, Nos. 24 to 29 of 1899, and Trinidad Council Papers, Nos. 124 to 141 of 1899*; *Jamaica Official Gazette*; *British Honduras Government Gazette*; *The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report*; *Trinidad Prices Current* (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's *Fortnightly Report*; P. O. Licht's *Monthly Report*, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Beid's, Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse's *Circular*.

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 24.

Telegrams
"CARIB" LONDON
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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

February 5th, 1900.

EMIGRATION AGENCIES AT CALCUTTA.

Appended is some correspondence that has passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office relative to the amalgamation of the Trinidad Agency at Calcutta, in consequence of Mr Warner's retirement, with that of the Agency for British Guiana.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

1st January, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that we learn from our Demerara correspondent it is currently reported in the public prints of the colony that the Trinidad Emigration Agent at Calcutta either has retired or is about to retire from the service.

My Committee therefore venture to remind, you, Sir, of your promise to bear in mind the question of amalgamating the Agencies for Trinidad and British Guiana at Calcutta when an opportunity offered.

My Committee further beg to point out that Mr. Warner's retirement would be a very opportune time to give effect to the proposed economy, as they have every reason to believe that Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, the Agent for British Guiana, enjoys the confidence of the people of Trinidad, and that his appointment to the joint offices would be acceptable to both colonies.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed), N. LUBBECK.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street,

5th January, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and to inform you that advantage has been taken of the retirement of Mr. Warner, the Emigration Agent for Trinidad, to amalgamate that Agency with the Agency for Mauritius, Fiji and Jamaica under Mr. A. C. Stewart as joint agent.

This amalgamation will ultimately result in a considerable saving of expense for Trinidad, though Mr. Warner's pension will, for the present, entail a slightly increased charge upon the colony.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), C. P. LUCAS.

The Chairman of the West India Committee.

THE ANTI-BOUNTY LEAGUE.

The first meeting of the year was held on the 18th of January, the Right Honble. Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., presiding. A review of the work of the League during the past year was given by the Chairman, and, after some discussion, it was decided to continue operations, with a view to securing the abolition or neutralisation of Sugar Bounties in British markets.

A special effort is to be made in placing the real facts before the Provincial Chambers of Commerce. It was further resolved to resume active parliamentary work at the first favourable opportunity.

RECIPROCITY TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The New York Press, in discussing the chances of these treaties being ratified, points out that not a word is heard against the Argentine treaty, but that the opponents of the West Indian treaties hope the "time limit" will help them in postponing any action being taken until it is too late to save these treaties.

JAMAICA.

The report of Sir Augustus Hemming, the Governor of Jamaica, for the year ended 31st March last is distinctly encouraging, and it is to be hoped that the colony is gradually emerging from the depression which has enveloped its trade for so many years past. For the period under review the imports amounted to £1,788,432, as against £1,674,380 in the previous year, an increase of £114,052, while exports were £1,662,543, as against £1,448,443, an improvement of £214,100 in value, and 14.8 in percentage of value. Fortunately for the colony the year was one of abundant rain, which benefited both the pastoral and agricultural interests, and in addition to this the export trade to Cuba showed exceptional briskness, especially in live stock and poultry. One of the most satisfactory features in connection with the exports is that an increase is shown under every head with the exception of manufactured articles, in which there was a trifling decrease of £2,895. Taking the staple exports of the colony, it will be found that values have declined in four cases, and prices in seven out of ten. The salient features of the year were the abnormally high price of pimento and the improvement of the sugar industry after a persistent decline for many years. Coffee and logwood continue to suffer from competition, the latter not only from foreign wood, but also from aniline dyes. A curious coincidence is that while the value of the chief products increased from £1,242,171 to £1,381,589, or by 11.2 per cent., minor products and manufactures increased from £135,655 to £150,789, or by 11.1, almost an identical percentage.

The *Times* Kingston correspondent of 24th January telegraphs—Messrs. Elder, Dempster's terms for the establishment of a direct steamship service between Jamaica and England were a subsidy of £40,000 annually for ten years, or £30,000 if the larger steamers were not utilized after three years. Mr. Chamberlain telegraphed that the Imperial Treasury would pay half if the colony contributed the remainder. The firm pressing for an immediate answer, the Governor canvassed the island by letter and telegram. The mercantile community whose interests lie in the United States wished the terms to be rejected, but the great body of producers favoured the acceptance, saying that they were willing to pay a tax on fruit to meet the subsidy. To-day the Privy Council decided to accept the offer on the understanding that the draft agreement should be submitted to their approval. They also urged that the subsidy to the Royal Mail Company should be abolished or considerably reduced. Mr. Chamberlain has been informed of the decision.

Telegraphing further under date 30th January, the *Times* correspondent adds:—The agreement with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. for the establishment of a direct steamship line with this colony has been signed. The service begins in January, 1901.

BARBADOS.

The Second Agricultural Conference for 1900, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was held on the 6th and 8th of January, Dr. Morris, C.M.G., M.A. D.Sc., F.L.S., presiding.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Hay, K.C.M.G. opened the proceedings. Dr. Morris delivered his presidential address, and several valuable papers by Members were read and discussed.

On the evening of the 6th, the Members of the Conference dined together at the Marine Hotel, Dr. Morris in the Chair, and a number of guests were present, amongst whom was included Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, the Secretary of the West India Committee in London.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE:—TRINIDAD.—The public market re-opened after the Christmas holidays on the 9th January, and sales have been held on three further occasions since then, the total quantity offered during the month, being 3,432 bags against 3,709 bags last year. Mainly owing to Government purchases there has been a strong market during the whole month, and prices have advanced from 4s. to 5s. per cwt. since the date of our last report, quotations at the last sales held on the 30th January being 75s. to 79s. 6d. for low middling, grey to middling red, 80s. to 81s. 6d. for middling red, and 82s. to 83s. 6d. for fine and superior. Deliveries from 1st January to 27th January, 1900, were 4,343 bags, against 4,453 bags last year. Landings 1,632 bags against 2,436 bags, and Stocks on 27th January, 15,924 bags against 17,331 bags last year. GRENADA.—Supplies have been unusually small for the time of year, and only 2,088 bags were offered at the public sales, against 4,986 bags during the same month in 1899. The tone has been firm throughout, although a little quieter towards the close, and prices have advanced about 3s. per cwt., ordinary to good fair being now worth 65s. to 69s. 6d. per cwt., and middling to fine 70s. to 73s. 6d. Deliveries for the month were 3,671 bags against 2,664 bags last year. Landings.—1,154 bags against 3,194 bags, and stocks on 27th January, 6,826 bags against 13,477 bags last year.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAN.—The demand for Demerara and Berbice continues good, and the bulk of the recent arrivals amounting to some 1,700 puncheons have been disposed of at full rates, viz., 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d. per proof gallon, the commoner kinds being most in demand. Large quantities of Matanzas rum, packed in chestnut casks are offering at a very low price, but without attracting much attention. A fair business has taken place in old crop Jamaica, chiefly fair common at 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d., and the stock in first hands being practically exhausted, the new arrivals should command very full rates.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
LANDED.—In December	879,378	446,390	444,227	548,251
Twelve months	5,740,895	5,486,417	4,937,324	5,873,904
HOME CONSUMPTION.—In December	698,343	546,417	564,689	608,249
Twelve months	4,356,057	3,969,030	4,058,560	3,962,900
EXPORT.—In December	38,312	78,849	84,701	110,254
Twelve months	941,378	913,860	914,669	1,010,683
Stock.—Gals., 30th December	7,473,000	7,942,000	8,066,000	8,705,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA	9,695	11,872	11,047	12,325 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	478	659	536	534 ..
DEMERARA	4,432	5,897	6,794	7,710 ..
FOREIGN	2,198	633	1,133	1,730 ..
BRITISH EAST INDIA	1,547	234	219	300 ..
VATTED	3,463	3,497	3,601	3,839 ..
Total	21,813	22,792	23,330	26,433 puns.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

During the last fortnight the weather in Clarendon Parish has been generally seasonable. The Coffee crop is small, although prices are much firmer for different grades, showing a decided advance, yet the people are holding for a further rise. Very little for this time of the year is coming to market. There is very little Cocoa and Beeswax. The Orange crop was not a very large one, there is, however, still a good deal of fruit on the trees, but the demand is very small. Bananas are realising a very fair price in the districts where they are grown. In some places the recent storm did great damage. Fair quantities of Ground Provisions are coming into market, good prices being realised as the demand is large. Settlers Sugar is realising fair prices, both in tins and barrels.

The weather in Manchester Parish has also been very seasonable, but just now very little doing beyond preparations for coming crop of Ginger, which will be a much smaller one than last year.

BEET PROSPECTS.

GERMANY.—The present position is better than last year, and there is a prospect of a small increase in the beet cultivation, the want of labour only being an obstacle to a greater extension of the area under cultivation.

AUSTRIA.—The weather has been similar to that in Germany, and a moderate increase in the beet cultivation is also expected.

FRANCE.—An increase in the area of beet cultivation is not improbable, and the same remark applies to Belgium and other beet producing countries in Europe.

Up to the 1st January, 250,000 tons of the excess of the Beetroot crops (the statistical excess does not include Russia, Denmark and Sweden) have already been accounted for.

This leaves, taking the statistical excess at 830,000 tons, 80,000 tons to be accounted for.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Coffec. lbs.	Cocoa lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—											
Jan. 1st to Jan. 18th, 1899 ..	3,535	1,663	—	—	—	—	—	528			
Jan. 1st to Jan. 17th, 1900 ..	2,438	434	—	—	—	—	78	137			
TRINIDAD—									Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to Jan. 18th, 1899 ..	348	150	320	1,644,240	500	—	16,200	403	—	—	—
Jan. 1st to Jan. 17th, 1900 ..	—	—	—	556,920	3,403	—	310,480	353	—	—	—

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Jan. 27th, 1900 ...	37,252 tons, against 38,708 tons in 1899, and 74,380 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES " " ...	36,558 " " 45,873 " " 70,761 " "
PRESENT STOCKS ...	60,455 " " 69,816 " " 107,361 " "

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

2,758,514 tons, against 2,715,652 tons in 1899, and 2,867,460 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 9s. 6½d. to 9s. 5½d., against 9s. 10½d. in 1899, and 9s. 0½d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Jan. 9th : "Seasonable weather." Jan. 22nd "Idem."
 DEMERARA.—(New Colonial Co.). Jan. 11th : "Moderate rain, more is sadly needed." Jan. 23rd : "Too dry here, rain generally in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.). Jan. 15th : "Good soaking showers have fallen." Jan. 16th : "Moderate rains continue." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.). Jan. 10th : "Weather showery." (Messrs. Jno. McConnel & Co.). Jan. 11th : "Some acceptable rains have fallen except in Berbice where there has been little or none." Jan. 15th : "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara, some showers in Berbice, but more rain much wanted." Jan. 24th : "Rain has fallen generally." Feb. 2nd : "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). Jan. 13th : "Too dry." Jan. 23rd : "Rain has fallen heavily." Jan. 30th : "Showery and unsettled." Feb. 1st : Generally moderate rain, more would do good." (Messrs. C. Tennant & Sons). Jan. 16th : "Weather continues dry."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications received during the month can be seen at the Committee Room :—
 "The Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation, New Series, No. III, December, 1899 ; Tropical Colonization," by Alleyne Ireland ; The International Sugar Journal, Vol. II., No. 14, Feb. 1900 ; Jamaica Weather Report for the month of November, 1899 ; British Guiana Ordinances, Nos. 22 to 24 (of 1899) ; Colonial Report for Jamaica, 1898-99 ; Trinidad Royal Gazette, including the Trinidad and Tobago Ordinances, Nos. 30 and 31 of 1899, & 1 and 2 of 1900, and Trinidad Council Papers, Nos. 138 to 146 of 1899 ; Jamaica Official Gazette ; British Honduras Government Gazette ; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report ; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., Messrs. E. Tripp & Co. ; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.) ; Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report ; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse's Circular.

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 25.

Telegrams
"CARIB" LONDON.
A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.
Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.

March 5th, 1900.

Members resident in the Colonies visiting England, should acquaint the Secretary with their addresses if they wish their letters, etc., to be addressed to "the Committee Rooms" and forwarded.

"THE RUM SURTAX."

We append some correspondence which has passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office on this subject.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

9th February, 1900.

Sir,

In a letter received from you on the 11th March, 1899, you proposed to procure from Governors of the West Indian Colonies further particulars as to the nature of the local excise restriction.

It was also stated in the same letter that the matter of the 4d. surtax imposed on Colonial Rum was primarily one for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and bearing on this, we are given to understand that Mr. W. J. Pratt, of Her Majesty's Excise at Canterbury, has lately been in Trinidad and, as he has no doubt reported to the Treasury on the above subject, my Committee would be glad to know whether you could supply them with a copy of his report, and whether you are now prepared to again approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to the removal of the surtax.

In the event of it being considered that any loss to the Revenue at the present time is undesirable, my Committee would humbly suggest that the Customs duty on foreign spirits be raised from 10s. 10d. to 11s. 2d., and the Excise duty on British spirits from 10s. 6d. to 10s. 10d., the Customs duty on Colonial spirits remaining at 10s. 10d. as it is now.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble, obedient Servant,

(Signed), HENRY K. DAVSON,

Deputy-Chairman.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street,
21st February, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Davson's letter of the 9th instant, having reference to the surtax imposed on Colonial rum in this country, and enquiring as to the mission of Mr. W. J. Pratt to Trinidad.

2. In reply to the first paragraph of Mr. Davson's letter, I am to state that the Return regarding Local Excise Duties on Colonial rum was laid before Parliament in dummy during last October, the answers from the Colonies being then nearly all received: since that date a few further answers have been received, and all of them are now in print, but owing to the pressure of more urgent work in the Printing Branch, the revision has not as yet been completed. It is hoped, however, that the Return will be delivered within a month from the present time.

3. Mr. Pratt's mission had no reference to the surtax, but he went to Trinidad at the request of the Colonial Government to assist the Receiver-General's Department in framing Regulations for the inspection, etc., of breweries, and to report generally on matters in connection with the excise revenue of the Colony.

4. With regard to the Committee's suggestion as to the Customs duty on spirits, I am to state that a copy of Mr. Davson's letter will be sent to the Treasury.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), C. P. Lucas.

The Chairman of the West India Committee.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT FOR SELLING SPURIOUS CANE SUGAR.

The Committee had referred to them a point which arose in a recent prosecution, viz., as to the sale of Trinidad for Demerara sugar.

The evidence, however, showed that the alleged Trinidad sugar was dyed sugar, the Committee therefore concluded it could not have been Trinidad sugar, and this view was subsequently admitted to be correct by the parties complaining.

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AT BARBADOS.

At the second West Indian Agricultural Conference, Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, spoke hopefully of the operations of last year, but admitted that the difficulty of dealing with West Indian agriculture in its present condition was enormous. The prominence given to subjects tending to restore the sugar industry was cited as fully carrying out the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Several new canes, notably B. 147, had maintained their position and were regarded by the planters as most valuable varieties. The amount of available sugar was at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. Central factories in Barbados, Antigua, and St. Kitts were again strongly advocated; in fact, without them it was impossible to place the sugar industry in these islands on a sure basis. Reduction in the cost of cultivation was recommended by the more general use of green manuring to replace some of the costly artificial manures now used; by extending the use of silos to supply fodder during periods of drought; by the more general planting of rotation and catch crops, thus saving the purchase of imported food stuffs and supplies; and by associating dairying with cane growing, and raising pigs and small stock. Subsidiary industries such as cacao, etc., were recommended in suitable localities in British Guiana, St. Lucia, and Dominica. Also coffee, fruit, and indiarubber.

TRINIDAD.

A meeting of the members of the West India Committee in Trinidad, who are interested in cocoa, was held at Port of Spain on the 23rd of last month, and was convened to introduce Mr. A. E. Aspinall, secretary to the West India Committee in London, to the representatives of the cocoa industry in that island, and place its position and importance before him.

The cocoa industry of Trinidad is, and has always been more or less prosperous and free from the obstacles which sugar has had to contend against, consequently whilst the West India Committee have watched with interest the development of this great industry, it has not required any direct assistance from them to foster and extend its influence up to the present time, neither have they been ever asked to intervene.

Cocoa proprietors are fully represented in the Legislative Council of Trinidad, and the "wants" complained of by the principal speakers at this meeting, might, we think, be dealt with in the first instance through the above channel, but should they fail to obtain due consideration at the hands of the Government, the West India Committee will gladly use their influence with the Colonial Office to redress their grievances in every way in their power, but unless representatives of the Cocoa industry become members and lay their views before the Committee, it is naturally impossible for the Committee to become acquainted with them.

With regard to Mr. Rene de Verteuil's remarks, that "the great cry of the West India Committee had always been against opening up the country and opening up railways," there is not a vestige of foundation for such a statement.

THE WEST INDIES AND SUGAR BOUNTIES.

In reply to Mr. Sinclair (Essex, Romford), Mr. Brodrick said,—For years past there have been constant complaints from or on behalf of the West Indies as to the effect of the bounty system on the sugar industry. The condition of things has lately improved, owing to the countervailing duties imposed by the Government of the United States.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse :—TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a flat tone after the date of our last report, and prices have continued to give way throughout the month. Supplies have been rather larger, though not heavy for the time of year, the total quantity offered at the Public sales being 5,066 bags, of which about 3,500 bags were sold. The decline in price amounts to fully 5s. per cwt., with still a tendency to further ease. We quote 73s. to 74s. 6d. for low middling grey to middling red; 75s. 6d. to 77s. 6d. for good middling red; and 78s. to 83s. for fine and superior, the latter price being nominal. Deliveries from 1st Jan. to 24th Feb. were 8,760 bags against 8,840 bags last year. Landings 4,369 bags against 6,906 bags, and Stocks on 24th February, 14,925 bags against 17,414 bags. GRENADA.—During the month 7,600 bags were offered at the sales, and with importers willing to meet the market, the greater part has been sold, though at steadily declining prices. The fall has not been so great as in Trinidad, but amounts to 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per cwt. for the month, the greatest reduction being for the less desirable qualities. We quote ordinary to good fair 64s. to 67s.; and middling to fine 67s. 6d. to 72s. per cwt. Deliveries from 1st Jan. to 24th Feb., were 6,697 bags against 6,719 bags last year. Landings 8,313 bags against 11,463 bags, and Stocks on 24th Feb., 11,054 bags against 17,091 bags.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

No report to hand this mail.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. Man.—A good demand continues to prevail for all brown proof kinds, and the sales of Demerara and Berbice aggregate 2,000 puncheons for the month, at 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d. per proof gallon, the later sales marking an advance at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. proof, being nearly 9d. above the prices ruling a year ago, when the stocks of Demerara were only some 400 puncheons less than to-day. For Jamaica the tone is also good, but supplies are exhausted, and the new crop has not yet arrived in sufficient quantity to make a market. We quote fair common Jamaica however at 2s. 8d.

We append the Board of Trade returns :—

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
LANDED.—In January	602,175	523,420	505,250	371,778
HOME CONSUMPTION.—In January	540,225	372,297	343,160	398,276
EXPORT.—In January	84,504	66,033	55,758	46,100
STOCK.—Gals., 31st January	7,426,000	7,963,000	8,351,000	8,563,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA	8,604	10,962	10,425	11,713 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	485	619	482	354 "
DEMERARA	5,211	5,008	8,230	7,387 "
FOREIGN	1,971	665	1,045	1,409 "
BRITISH EAST INDIA	1,153	325	291	273 "
VATTED	3,457	3,440	3,729	3,989 "
Total	20,734	21,619	24,202	25,125 puns.

BEEF PROSPECTS.

The preliminary estimate of the European beet sugar production, will compare with the preceding campaigns as follows :—

	1899/1900	1898/99	1897/98	1896/97	1895/96
GERMANY	1,790,000	1,721,718	1,552,857	1,836,536	1,615,171 tons.
AUSTRIA	1,120,000	1,051,290	831,667	934,007	791,405 "
FRANCE	970,000	830,132	821,235	732,081	667,853 "
RUSSIA	900,000	776,066	738,715	723,667	712,096 "
BELGIUM	300,000	244,017	265,397	288,009	235,795 "
HOLLAND	180,000	149,763	125,658	174,206	106,829 "
OTHER COUNTRIES	270,000	209,115	196,245	202,990	156,340 "
Total	5,535,000	4,982,101	4,831,774	4,916,355	4,260,429 tons.

Thus the campaign of 1899/1900 is giving hopes of a surplus of about 553,000 tons, against its predecessor.

Licht's Circular.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1st to Feb. 14th, 1900 ..	8,820	3,127	3,887	—	—	8,213	78	1,102
Jan. 1st to Feb. 15th, 1899 ..	12,227	3,221	—	—	—	7,279	—	1,185
TRINIDAD—								
	Bags & Brls.							Puns. Tons. Brls.
Jan. 1st to Feb. 14th, 1900 ..	607	3	4,076,940	—	11,119	—	1,056,780	824
Jan. 1st to Feb. 17th, 1899 ..	17,629	426	6,216,730	320	7,042	—	1,290,400	624

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Feb. 24th, 1900 ...	71,222 tons,	against 83,229 tons in 1899,	and 111,890 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES " " ...	74,762 " "	103,103 " "	113,791 " "
PRESENT STOCKS ...	58,221 " "	57,107 " "	87,888 " "

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

2,687,874 tons, against 2,634,783 tons in 1899, and 2,841,306 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 9s. 7½d. to 9s. 5¼d. against 9s. 8¼d. in 1899, and 9s. 8½d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOES.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Feb. 6th: "Dry." Feb. 20th: "Dry weather."
DEMERARA.—(New Colonial Co.). Feb. 12th: "Showery and favourable for cultivation." Feb. 23rd: "Weather showery, and favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.). Feb. 16th: "Rain has fallen heavily." Feb. 26th: "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Jno. McConnel & Co.). Feb. 19th: "Moderate rains generally since last message." Mar. 1st: "Weather showery and favourable to the cultivation."
TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). Feb. 10th: "Fine, with occasional light showers." Feb. 16th: "Rain has fallen heavily." Feb. 20th: "Weather fine for harvesting." Mar. 2nd: "Weather fine for harvesting."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications received during the month can be seen at the Committee Room:—

"The Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation, New Series, No. III, December, 1899; Tropical Colonization," by Alleyn Ireland; *The International Sugar Journal, Vol. II., No. 14, Feb, 1900; Jamaica Weather Report for the month of November, 1899; British Guiana Ordinances, Nos. 22 to 24 (of 1899); Colonial Report for Jamaica, 1898-99; Trinidad Royal Gazette, including the Trinidad and Tobago Ordinances, Nos. 30 and 31 of 1899 & 1 and 2 of 1900, and Trinidad Council Papers, Nos. 138 to 146 of 1899; Jamaica Official Gazette; British Honduras Government Gazette; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse's Circular.*

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 26.

Telegrams
"CARIB" LONDON.
A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.
Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

2nd April, 1900.

Members resident in the Colonies visiting England, should acquaint the Secretary with their addresses if they wish their letters, etc., to be addressed to "the Committee Rooms" and forwarded.

"BRITISH GUIANA."

We append the correspondence which has passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office, relative to the reduction in the Indent for Coolie Immigrants for next season.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

28th February, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that a cable message has been received from our correspondent at Demerara, stating that the Government have reduced the requisition for Coolie Immigrants to two thousand five hundred adults for next season.

This in view of the largely diminished number of coolies which have been introduced during the three years ending 1898, as compared with the previous three years, the figures being 6,500 against 16,000, is in the opinion of my Committee a serious matter for the Colony.

May I respectfully ask if you could give my Committee any information as to the reason for this unexpected reduction in the requirements of the planters, as my Committee desire again to urge the necessity for a continuous and adequate supply of Immigrants into British Guiana if the sugar estates are to be carried on efficiently.

I have the honour to be, SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed), HENRY K. DAVSON,
Deputy-Chairman.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street,
6th March, 1900.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, and to inform you that the decision to limit the number of Coolie Immigrants to be introduced into British Guiana during the ensuing season to 2,500, has been arrived at after careful consideration of the claims of the Planters and the financial condition of the Colony which, as you are aware, contributes one-third of the cost of Immigration.

2. I am to point out that you omit to notice in your letter that the introduction of an exceptionally large number of coolies—viz., 5,000—was authorised last season, and that if 2,500 are introduced in the ensuing season, as proposed, the total number shipped in the three seasons ending 1900-1901 will be approximately 9,900 as compared with 6,000 in the three previous seasons.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), C. P. LUCAS.

The Chairman of the West India Committee.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

10th March, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Lucas' letter No. 6727 1900 dated 6th inst., informing my Committee that the decision to limit the number of coolie immigrants to be introduced into British Guiana during the ensuing season to 2,500, has been arrived at after a careful consideration of the claims of the Planters, and the financial condition of the Colony.

We quite recognise that the present time is an exceptional one in the Colony—the recent drought which has been experienced there, and which we believe is almost unprecedented in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, has undoubtedly reduced the crop considerably, and this means that there has been less money current in the Colony during the last six months. This naturally must have its effect upon the revenue, and we can quite understand that in view of a diminished revenue, the Governor may hesitate about incurring what used to be an annual expenditure on Coolies. But in our opinion, so important is the continuance of this Coolie Immigration, up to such a level as will not only permit of the maintenance of the existing cultivations, but also admit of some increase, that we would urge that rather than forego the introduction of a sufficient number of Coolies, it would be far better that the Government should raise a loan for the purpose of paying their share of the cost. We do not hesitate to say that the introduction of some 3,000 Coolies beyond the number agreed upon would more than amply repay the Colony for the cost and interest of such a loan.

It is a recognised fact that the benefits accruing from the increased population through immigration are not confined to the Planters, but are also shared in by the community generally. Storekeepers, Merchants, Mechanics of all kinds and Farmers, and even professional men, the Medical and especially the legal profession alike profiting thereby.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed), N. LUBBOCK,
Chairman.

P.S.—Since the above letter was written we have been very much relieved by the receipt of a telegram from Demerara, which we hope will be confirmed, intimating that the Combined Court have sanctioned the introduction of 4,000 immigrants next season.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street,

26th March, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant and to inform you that, the Governor of British Guiana having reported that the improved financial condition of the Colony justified the introduction of a larger number of coolies during the ensuing season, he has approved of arrangements being made for shipping 4,000 instead of 2,500 as previously suggested.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Chairman of the West India Committee.

H. BERTRAM COX.

DELIVERY OF MAILS IN LONDON.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Postmaster-General regarding the delay in the delivery of the mails from the West Indies, and we understand complaints were made from other quarters as well:—

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

My LORD DUKE,

2nd March, 1900.

The West India Committee have been asked to bring to your Grace's notice the delay in the delivery of letters from British Guiana and the West Indies, which is causing considerable inconvenience to West India merchants and others.

As an instance of this, the R.M.S. "Tagus" arrived at Plymouth on Wednesday, the 28th February, at 7.30 p.m., and letters were not delivered in London before 4 o'clock next day, being the most recent instance out of many preceding it.

At one time the Post Office authorities always stipulated for a special train for the purpose of conveying the mails immediately on arrival, but owing apparently to motives of economy that excellent provision has lately been abandoned, and my Committee now approach your Grace with the respectful suggestion that the old system should be reverted to.

I need not impress upon your Grace the importance to the commercial community of the prompt delivery of correspondence, against which the small saving to the Treasury by the abandonment of express trains for mail purposes is hardly worth considering. The profit made by the Mint of from 30 to 40 per cent. on silver shipped to the Colonies my Committee think gives them a strong ground for urging this point.

I have the honour to be,

Your Grace's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) HENRY K. DAVSON,

Deputy-Chairman.

His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, E.M., K.G., P.C.,
Postmaster-General, &c., &c., &c.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

General Post Office, London,

10th March, 1900.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, relative to the delivery in London of correspondence from British Guiana and the West Indies, and more particularly to that brought by the "Tagus" to Plymouth on the 28th ultimo, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state, for the information of the West India Committee, that the mails landed from the "Tagus" were forwarded to London at the earliest hour possible under the existing railway arrangements. The mails could not be disembarked until 8.30 p.m., by which hour the night mail train for London had left Plymouth, and they were sent on by early morning train reaching London shortly after midday. In the city the correspondence was sent out by the 2.5 p.m. delivery, though in some of the less central parts of London, it may not have been possible to effect delivery before 4 p.m.

Even that, however, was of course in business hours, and to have secured earlier delivery would, as the Committee appear to be aware, have involved the use of a special train. The principle governing the employment of special trains for the conveyance from Plymouth of mails landed at that port is, as in the case of the Queenstown service, to use special trains when by such means and no other an interval for reply by the next outgoing mail can be afforded. For the correspondence brought by the "Tagus" however, there was an interval of a week for reply.

The Postmaster-General regrets that he is unable to see either in the circumstances of this case or in your allusion to the financial dealings of Her Majesty's Mint, any reason for reverting to the costly practice of employing special trains from Plymouth indiscriminately on all occasions. As a matter of fact, the West India Service, which involves a heavy charge upon the tax-payers, works with great regularity, the mails being generally landed many hours before they are due under the contract, so as to secure the delivery of correspondence in London considerably earlier than that brought by the "Tagus." Even that correspondence, however, reached London by the first train from Plymouth after the time at which the packet was actually due at that port.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. MURRAY.

The Deputy-Chairman, West India Committee.

16th March, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 104,928 of 10th inst. relative to the delay in the delivery of the mails in London from British Guiana and the West Indies.

My Committee regret that the reply is not more satisfactory and without any desire to prolong this correspondence, would point out that there is an error in the interval named for reply in respect to the correspondence brought by the "Tagus" as these mails were only received in London on Friday afternoon and replies had to be posted on the following Tuesday night.

I have the honour to be, SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed), HENRY K. DAVSON,

Deputy-Chairman.

The Secretary, General Post Office, E.C.

ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

At the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, on the 14th of March, Mr. G. T. Harper in the Chair in the absence of Lord Avebury through illness, on the question of "sugar bounties" coming on for discussion, Sir Nevile Lubbock, on behalf of the London Chamber, moved:—"That this Association considers that the time has fully arrived for a settlement of the sugar bounty question, and requests Her Majesty's Government to enter as soon as possible into a convention with Austria, Germany, and other Powers who have expressed their willingness to abolish bounties, such convention to contain, in order to give security to the contracting Powers, that they will no longer have to compete with sugar receiving a bounty, a penal clause prohibiting the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the contracting powers." He said that every one admitted that bounties were contrary to free trade. Free trade did not exist in sugar, and could not exist so long as these bounties continued. The abolition of bounties meant a rise in the price of sugar not exceeding £1 a ton, and such a rise could not seriously affect the industries of the jam-makers, confectioners, and biscuit-makers. It had been shown that in Ireland there were large tracts of land eminently suited to the growth of sugar-beet, and for that reason he claimed the support of the Irish Chambers. Both at Derby and Nottingham there existed large firms engaged in the manufacture of machinery which was used by non-bounty countries, and anything which tended to injure non-bounty countries was an injury to those firms of engineers. Few were aware how largely the engineering industry of this country was affected by the operation of the bounties. He especially claimed that the resolution should be supported by Manchester, inasmuch as when Manchester was placed in an exactly analogous position, in consequence of the Indian cotton duties, she urgently demanded and obtained countervailing duties, in order to remedy this inequality.

Mr. W. H. Holland, M.P., in opposing it, said that to protect one part of the Empire against another part of the Empire was one question; but it was a very different case indeed when they asked that one empire should be protected against another empire. He was astonished to hear that no objection had been received from jam, biscuit, and confectionery makers in this country. He had himself received many letters from firms engaged in those trades, and they had pointed out the great injustice which would be wrought to them if they were not allowed to obtain their raw material on the most advantageous terms. Mr. B. F. Stiebel (Nottingham) supported the motion, appealing to members not to be led away by abstract principles of economy.

After further discussion, in which Mr. John Lee (Bristol), Mr. J. Helm (Manchester), Mr. A. Taylor-White (Wakefield), and Mr. Crosfield (Liverpool), took part, Mr. John Leng, M.P., said the proposed measure would affect adversely the whole population of the country. The Association was asked to pass what would be really a protectionist resolution.

On a vote by Chambers there voted—for the motion, 25; against, 42. It was, therefore, declared to be lost.

The case was ably put forward on behalf of the West Indies by Sir Nevile Lubbock, and on behalf of the refiners by Mr. Glen and Mr. Crosfield. The meeting was evidently impressed by what was said by these speakers, and, although on a division the motion was lost by 42 to 25 votes, it was felt that Sir Nevile Lubbock had the best of the argument. The system by which delegates from small provincial chambers come up with their hands tied deprives the vote of the significance which would otherwise attach to it, and the result is practically a political party vote.

UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Arrangements are being made for the extension of the time fixed for the ratification of the reciprocity conventions with the British West Indies. The fact that the French reciprocity treaty has the preference in the Senate's calendar over these conventions make it necessary to extend the time.—*Heuter.*

LATER.—It is announced in the Journal of Commerce that Lord Pauncefote has arranged with the authorities in Washington that the time for ratification of the treaties with the West Indies should be extended 12 months, and that this ought to give them a fair chance of being passed as the Presidential election will be over before that time.

DOMINICA.

The West India Committee have represented to the Colonial Bank the inconvenience which will be experienced in Dominica by the closing of the branch in that island. The difficulty arises from the fact that the branch has been a source of loss to the bank, and none of the proposals so far put forward seem likely to remedy this. The Committee will be very willing to continue to use their good offices in this matter, but unless the bank can see its way to carry on the branch without loss it can hardly be expected to alter its decision.

JAMAICA.

The general statement of the accounts of Jamaica, just issued by the Government, shows an estimated net debit balance of £6,092 on March 31st, 1900. The total general revenue for 1900-1901 is estimated at £765,286 and the expenditure at £756,991, leaving a balance of £2,203 to the good on March 31st, 1901. The estimate of revenue exceeds the estimate for 1899-1900 by £144,527. The greater part of this apparently large increase is due to the inclusion of an estimate of £125,000 for receipts from the railway, which will shortly pass into the possession of the Government, but there is also an estimated increase of £10,000 in the revenue from Customs duties, and £5,000 in that from rum duties. The

Government expect to spend during the year £154,445 for railway charges under Law 12 of 1889, £22,000 on railway improvements and equipment, and £5,350 on public works chargeable to loan account, but this expenditure will not, under the arrangements contemplated, affect the balance of general revenue account.

In the House of Commons, on the 9th of March, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.), asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the arrangement made by the Colonial Government of Jamaica concerning the Jamaica Railway would be completed and the debentures exchanged for Colonial Stock, as undertaken by the Colonial Government of that Colony.

Mr. Chamberlain (Birmingham, W.).—The arrangements are so far completed that as soon as the decision of the Court in Jamaica has been given, which is now being awaited, the debentures will be exchanged for Colonial Stock.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

A Parliamentary paper just issued gives in full the agreement signed last July between the Canadian Government and Messrs. Pickford & Black, of Halifax, for a steamship service between the Dominion and the West Indies. The service is to begin on July 1st next, and will be fortnightly. The ports of departure in Canada will be St. John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, and calls will be made each voyage at a number of the principal West Indian ports. The steamers are to be all British, of not less than 1,000 tons register, and an average speed of not less than ten knots, and with accommodation for at least 40 first-class, as well as second-class and deck, passengers. The vessels will carry mails, and preference for freight and goods will be given to Canadian, British and West Indian merchants and shippers. The annual subsidy to Messrs. Pickford & Black will consist of \$65,700 paid by the Dominion and a similar sum provided by her Majesty's Government.

OFFERS OF HELP FROM THE WEST INDIA COLONIES.

In the House of Commons, 16th March, 1900, Mr. Caldwell, for Mr. Hedderwick, asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether certain of our loyal colonies in the West Indies offered to contribute contingents to our forces in the field in South Africa; and, if so, whether, with due regard to public policy, he could state the grounds upon which the offer was declined.

Mr. Chamberlain.—Such offers were made and gratefully acknowledged. Any refusal of a contingent, as, for instance, from Trinidad, was mainly due to the number offered not being large enough to constitute a military unit.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE:—TRINIDAD. The Market has continued in a depressed state during the last month, and prices have steadily declined until at the close we have to record a further fall of about 5/- to 6/- per cwt. for all ordinary qualities, while fine and superior sorts show a decline of about 3/- to 4/. At the public sales 11,938 bags have been offered and meeting with a poor demand, barely 5,000 bags were disposed of, though there was rather more bidding at the last sales held on the 27th inst., and more business has since been done privately at the recent declines. We quote 66/- to 70/6 for low middling grey to middling, and 71/- to 73/6 for good middling, and 74/- to 80/- for fine superior. Deliveries from 1st January to 24th March were 11,791 bags against 12,860 bags last year, landings 14,937 bags against 12,848 bags and stocks on the 24th March 21,791 bags against 19,331 bags. GRENADA.—There has been a very fair demand for Grenada Cocoa throughout the month, but prices have again given way, though not to the same extent as Trinidad. The greatest reduction has been for the fine qualities, which have declined from 2/- to 3/- per cwt., while ordinary qualities are only about 1/- lower. At the public sales 7,976 bags were offered and nearly all sold, there being a particularly good demand at the last sales, when nearly the whole of the 2,713 bags offered were disposed of at about steady rates, quotations being 63/- to 65/- for ordinary to good fair, and 66/- to 69/- for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 24th March were 11,154 bags, against 10,511 bags last year, landings 13,383 bags against 13,653 bags, and stocks on the 24th March 11,572, against 21,129 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAN.—The proof market, although decidedly quieter in tone, is fairly steady, and the sales amount to nearly 2,000 puncheons Demerara and Berbice at 18 to 1/9 $\frac{1}{4}$ per proof gallon, being generally previous prices, which must be considered satisfactory, considering the stocks of this class of rum are 1,000 puncheons in excess of last year, while the price is some 60% higher. As regards Jamaica, there is little or nothing to report, the new crop not having so far arrived in sufficient quantity to test the market, but the tone is good, and with a deficiency in stocks of 3,000 puncheons, a higher range of prices is not improbable.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

		1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Landed	In February	500,307	242,447	520,740	788,151
	2 months ...	1,102,482	765,867	1,225,996	1,159,929
Home Consumption	In February	542,046	403,359	333,620	382,230
	2 months ...	1,082,272	775,656	676,789	780,506
Export	In February	87,060	78,960	63,613	81,261
	2 months ...	171,564	144,993	119,371	127,361
Stock ...	28th February	7,056,000	7,618,000	8,473,000	8,883,000
	Galls.				

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA	8,200	10,714	10,249	11,353 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	437	597	475	396 "
DEMERARA	5,201	5,172	8,139	7,608 "
FOREIGN	1,788	578	1,033	1,418 "
BRITISH EAST INDIA	1,021	309	278	272 "
VATTED	3,507	3,471	3,843	3,975 "
Total	20,154	20,841	24,017	25,022 puns.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

For the past fortnight the weather in Clarendon Parish has been seasonable, the area under cane cultivation is yearly increasing and prices stimulate its extension; there was very little coffee or cocoa to be had but the ginger crop was expected to be large. Bananas were very good and in fair demand. In Manchester the weather was very seasonable and the crops were promising if season continues favourable. In St. Ann's Parish the weather was showery and cool and crop prospects good. Owing to the drought of last year ground provisions were scarce, necessitating the importation and consumption of large quantities of American food stuffs.

BEET PROSPECTS.

In GERMANY the severe weather of February interfered with field work, but operations had commenced again in favourably situated districts, and it is expected that sowing will be shortly commenced. It is now admitted only a very moderate increase in the cultivation is possible on account of the want of labour. In AUSTRIA similar weather has prevailed, and it is still thought a moderate increase in sowings will take place, whilst in Hungary a somewhat larger increase is looked for. In FRANCE the weather had been very unfavourable, but a change had lately taken place, favourable for the sowing of the summer grain, and an increase in the cultivation is spoken of as certain. In BELGIUM and HOLLAND things are much the same as in France.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1st to Feb. 27th, 1900 ..	13,352	6,364	7,481	—	—	10,745	78	1,102
Jan. 1st to Mar. 1st, 1899 ..	14,141	3,293	—	—	—	10,373	—	1,425
TRINIDAD—								
Jan. 1st to Mar. 14th, 1900 ..	26,393	3	8,772,000	320	22,307	—	2,879,121	1,336
Jan. 1st to Mar. 14th, 1899 ..	31,733	430	10,133,700	480	11,990	—	1,532,500	1,779
								Puns. Trcs. Brls.

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Mar. 24th, 1900	...	120,187 tons,	against	122,546 tons in 1899,	and	155,946 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES	„ „	126,915 „ „	„ „	146,674 „ „	„ „	151,931 „ „
PRESENT STOCKS	„ „	55,034 „ „	„ „	52,855 „ „	„ „	80,786 „ „

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

2,447,792 tons, against 2,460,494 tons in 1899, and 2,782 826 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 10s. 1½d. to 10s., against 9s. 11½d. in 1899, and 9s. 0¼d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Mar. 6. Some rain would be acceptable. Mar. 20. Seasonable weather.

DESERARA.—(New Colonial Co.).

(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.).

(Messrs. Jno. McConnel & Co.).

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). Mar. 13. Weather fine for harvesting. Mar. 27. Weather fine for harvesting.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications received during the month can be seen at the Committee Room :—

The Engineering Price List, by Jas. Truscott & Son, London; *The International Sugar Journal*, No. 15, Vol. II., for March; *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. I., No. 2; *British Guiana, Volume of Ordinances for 1899. Ordinances Nos. 1, 2, and 3, for 1900; Half-yearly Return of Immigrants ending September 30th, 1900; Antigua, Ordinances of the Legislative Council for 1899; Leeward Islands, Acts of the General Legislative Council for 1899; British Honduras Government Gazette for February, 1900; Jamaica Handbook for 1900; Jamaica Gazette Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8; Supplement Nos. 1 and 2, and Weather Report for January, 1900; Trinidad, Chamber of Commerce Report for 1899, and Council Papers for 1900; Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, January, 1900; Agricultural Society Paper, No. 133, dealing with the Cacao Industry; and Trinidad Royal Gazette for February and March; St. Christopher Nevis Ordinances for 1899; Agreement between Canadian Government and Messrs. Pickford & Black, to establish a Steamship Service between Canada and the West Indies; Jamaica Official Gazette; British Honduras Government Gazette; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co.; Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and E. D. & F. Man's Circular.*

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 27.

Telegrams
"CARIB" LONDON.

A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.

Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

30th April, 1900.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 16th of May, at 8 o'clock in the afternoon.

Members resident in the Colonies visiting England, should acquaint the Secretary with their addresses if they wish their letters, etc., to be addressed to "the Committee Rooms" and forwarded.

Members and subscribers who have not already done so, will greatly oblige by forwarding to the Secretary their subscriptions for the current year at their earliest convenience.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

In the British House of Commons, on the 5th April, Colonel Milward asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government has any official information to the effect that, as reported at Vienna, the French Government is now willing to consider an International agreement to abolish export bounties on sugar; and, whether the Belgian Government is still engaged in the diplomatic negotiations deputed to it by the Brussels Sugar Conference when it adjourned *sine die* in June, 1898.

In answer to Colonel Milward, Mr. Brodrick said, "Her Majesty's Government are informed that, in accordance with the understanding come to at the Brussels Conference, negotiations are still being carried on by the Belgian Government with the view to an agreement between the Powers concerned, for the abolition of the sugar bounties, but Her Majesty's Government have received no official information to the effect indicated in the first paragraph of the question."

"BRITISH GUIANA."

The general meeting of the Demerara Railway Company, held on the 4th April, was largely attended and occupied a considerable time. As an amendment to the resolution put forward by the Board, Mr. Hopkinson, who is believed to have held a majority of the proxies given, moved that, before determining on the course to be pursued in connection with the new railways, an endeavour should be made to obtain "on moral grounds" the recognition of the company's rights which is apparently at present withheld on legal grounds. After much discussion, Mr. Hopkinson withdrew his amendment, and the resolution proposed by the Directors was carried. The resolution was to the effect that arrangements might be made with the Government, without prejudice to the rights of either party, for the resumption of work on the new railways, and for the issue of £50,000 of debentures.

THE QUEENSLAND SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The report of Dr. Maxwell, the sugar expert of Honolulu, upon the sugar industry of Queensland has been presented to the Government. It is very exhaustive, and deals fully with the questions bearing on the relation of the rainfall to temperature, and points out that in the matter of climatic conditions Queensland enjoys supreme advantages. Mr. Maxwell attaches the greatest importance to becoming thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the various soils in respect to the sugar industries of the colony. The startling decrease of averages is chiefly due to the removal of necessary elements from the soil by constant cropping and not restoring those elements; secondly, to poor cultivation; and finally to diseases which are very liable to follow in the train of soil exhaustion, and consequent lessened vitality of plant

life. Dr. Maxwell, in the course of his inquiries, ascertained that no system of rational fertilization existed, and that cane lands in the main have never received manures, and where manures have been used, it has not been done by those methods which are known to command successful results.

Dr. Maxwell states that the principle of small ownership is right and sound, although in numerous cases small holders have leased land almost wholly without conditions. The lessees can, therefore, crop and recrop without manure, and thus reduce the fertility year after year until the lands are beggared and the mills depending on them become seriously affected. He states that in this colony the prevailing mode of juice extraction is in direct opposition to the modes followed in many other cane sugar countries. In this colony the cane does not receive the maximum pressure, and he advocates the application of hydraulic power to the rollers. For this purpose he suggests the formation of a sugar-growers' and manufacturers' association of Queensland, whose chief object will be to introduce modern scientific methods in the growing of cane; also the establishment of three experimental stations, one at Mulgrave, one at Mackay, and one in the vicinity of Bundaberg, and the appointment of a director, with an assistant director, for each station, whose duties would be to examine soils, have them analysed, and advise what manures they require. In addition they could advise generally on all matters tending to the improvement of the sugar industry.

JAMAICA.

The *Times* correspondent telegraphs; "Kingston, April 11th.—The final decree transferring the Jamaica Railway to the Government was made to day by Chief Justice Livingstone."

CANADA AND TRINIDAD.

Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, in the course of his Budget statement in the Dominion House of Commons on the 23rd of March last, referring to the "Commercial Relations" of the Dominion made the following statement:—"West India trade had been somewhat helped by the British preference extended to the British West Indies two years ago, but there was still much room for improvement. Some of the West India Islands were making special conventions with the United States, which were likely to turn trade more than ever in that direction. The Canadian Government had received a delegation from Trinidad to discuss trade relations. They were encouraged to believe that something approximating to Free Trade between Canada and Trinidad would be acceptable to the latter, and the Canadian Government had therefore, on February 27th, communicated to Trinidad a proposal in the following terms:—'In view of your recent representations if details can be satisfactorily arranged, the Dominion Government agree, subject to the approval of the Dominion Parliament, to a free interchange of the productions of Trinidad and Canada, except spirituous liquors and tobacco goods to be carried direct from ships between British West Indies and Canada. A detailed list of special articles representing the principal productions of Trinidad and Canada is to be made on which the duties against other countries are to remain as at present, or not to be less than the minimum rates to be fixed in the agreement. Both Governments are to be free to make such commercial arrangements as may be desirable with any other part of the British Dominions. The agreement is to be for five years, and afterwards to continue till terminated after one year's notice has been given to either of the parties.' Mr. Fielding said he understood that the Legislative Council of Trinidad would meet on Monday next to consider this as well as the proposals received from the United States. The only change he had to propose in the general tariff was to put machinery for making beetroot sugar on the free list. Large Deputations from Ontario had asked for the payment of a bounty on such sugar. The Government were unable to grant this, but willing to aid the industry so far as to allow machinery for it to be free."

We now append the correspondence which has passed between the Colonial Office and the West India Committee on the subject of this important statement, which speaks for itself.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, 2nd April, 1900.

From the report of the speech made by the Minister of Finance in the Dominion House of Commons, on the 28rd of March, when introducing his Budget statement, we learn that negotiations have taken place between delegates from Trinidad and the Canadian Government with a view to establishing free trade relations between Trinidad and Canada.

My Committee look upon this proposal as one which may be fraught with very serious consequences to Trinidad and the rest of the West Indian Colonies, and I should therefore be glad of any information on the subject that you are in a position to communicate to me for the information of my Committee.

I have the honour to be, SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Chairman.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, Esq., M.P., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Downing Street,
16th April, 1900.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, respecting the suggested establishment of free trade relations between Trinidad and Canada, and to state, for the information of the West India Committee, that proposals of the nature indicated in your letter have been made, but without any definite result at present.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), C. P. LUCAS.

The Chairman of the West India Committee.

THE SURTAX ON RUM.

We now append a further letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to this tax.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

24th April, 1900.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 21st February, 1900, No. 4,847, my Committee are now in possession of the Return showing the precise nature of the Local Excise restrictions to which producers of spirits in Her Majesty's Colonies are at present subject.

My Committee would be glad to know whether you are satisfied that the restrictions in the principal rum-producing Colonies are as stringent as those in force in Great Britain.

My Committee would draw your special attention to page 154, paragraph 6, of letter of Mr. A. H. McCarthy, Collector of Customs in Trinidad, to Colonial Secretary, in which he states that Professor Carmody and he agree that it is beyond question that the cost to local distillers of the excise restrictions is markedly higher than the corresponding amount in Great Britain.

In conclusion, my Committee would venture to hope that you will urge upon Her Majesty's Government the principle that fiscal measures for raising revenue in territories administered under the responsibility of Her Majesty's Government ought not to give artificial advantage to important producers of one part of those territories, as against similar producers in other parts of those territories.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed), N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.
Colonial Office, Downing St., S.W.

IMMIGRATION FROM INDIA.

The following letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject:—

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

26th April, 1900.

SIR,

The famine which is now raging in India once more calls attention to a problem which year by year seems to increase in importance, viz. : how its rapidly increasing population is to be spared the evils of recurring famine, or at any rate, how those evils may be mitigated.

Amongst the measures which would appear advantageous to the community, there is one which does not seem to have received the serious consideration which its importance seems to invite. I allude to the question of emigration. There can be no doubt that where there exists a superabundant population, the removal of even a relatively small proportion of the total number has a considerable effect in alleviating the position of those that remain, and if the emigrant's position can be appreciably improved by his migration, the proceeding becomes doubly blessed. It is equally a blessing to those who emigrate and to those who remain.

It may be said that emigration has not been lost sight of: that emigration to Assam, British Guiana, the West Indies, Mauritius, and South Africa, has been going on for many years. This is true, but has this emigration been assisted and encouraged as it might be by the Indian Government? With proper assistance and encouragement could not this emigration be largely increased?

The experience of my Committee is confined to the emigration to British Guiana and the West Indies, of which there has now been upwards of 50 years' experience, and it may safely be said without fear of contradiction, that this emigration has been immensely to the advantage of the emigrants. No doubt if these Colonies alone are considered, the number of emigrants is small, but, in the opinion of my Committee, their number might be very considerably increased. If emigration from India to other Colonies is capable of a similar increase, it may well be that emigration, which has hitherto been but little more than an experiment, might develop into an important factor in dealing with the problem of the growing population of India.

Should this suggestion meet with approval on the part of the Government of India, my Committee would readily give any assistance in their power towards the consideration of the question in regard to the West Indian portion of the problem.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

The Right Honble. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE:—TRINIDAD.—There has been a good demand for Trinidad throughout the past month, and prices have advanced about 3/- per cwt. At the Public Sales 9,507 bags were offered, and of this quantity nearly 8,000 bags were sold in the room, while the remainder have been disposed of privately. At the close the tone of the market is very firm, the present value being about 70/- to 72/6 for low middling gray to middling red; 73/- to 76/- for good middling, and 76/6 to 83/6 for fine and superior. Deliveries from 1st January to 21st April were 16,609 bags, against 16,188 last year. Landings, 26,851 bags against 18,452 bags, and Stocks on 21st April 28,877 bags against 21,612 bags. GRENADA.—The market has been very strong since the date of our last report and the whole of the 11,978 bags offered at the Public Sales was readily taken by the trade at advancing prices; the improvement for the month amounts to about 4/- to 5/- per cwt., quotations at the last sales held on the 24th inst., being 68/- to 70/- for ordinary to good fair, and 70/6 to 72/6 for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 21st April were 15,906 bags against 14,170 bags last year. Landings were 28,622 bags against 27,273 bags, and Stocks on 21st April 22,065 bags against 26,050 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

Messrs. E. D. & F. MAN.—The tone of the proof market continues very steady with sales amounting to 1,260 puns Demerara and Berbice, at 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9½d. per proof gallon, being previous prices, and supplies in first hands are again exhausted. For Jamaica there is a strong demand, which is not to be wondered at, considering the position of stocks, and as much as 2s. 6d. per gallon has been paid for "good common," but it is difficult to obtain the relative advance on the better qualities. We append the Board of Trade returns:—

		1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Landed	In March ...	718,537	357,968	210,172	527,944
	3 months ...	1,821,019	1,165,151	1,438,995	1,662,869
Home Consumption	In March ...	553,841	445,767	401,286	344,434
	3 months ...	1,636,113	1,221,423	1,078,025	1,124,940
Export	In March ...	90,709	74,419	97,182	127,578
	3 months ...	262,278	219,412	216,553	254,939
Stock ...	Galls. 31st March ...	6,799,000	7,202,000	8,132,000	8,747,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA	6,551	9,506	9,442	10,905 puns.
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS	416	659	458	377 "
DEMERARA	4,553	4,164	5,765	7,640 "
FOREIGN	1,278	640	977	1,455 "
BRITISH EAST INDIA	553	535	446	243 "
VATTED	3,492	2,467	3,677	3,945 "
Total	16,843	18,771	21,765	24,565 puns.

JAMAICA CROP AND WEATHER REPORT.

IN CLARENDON PARISH during fortnight ending 7th April the weather had been seasonable, rainfall being 2.55. CROPS.—There is very little Coffee left to clear crop, and but a small quantity of Cocoa coming in. Beeswax and Ginger were plentiful. For Bananas there was a very good demand and the crop was just coming in. Ground provisions were very scarce.

IN MANCHESTER splendid rains had fallen and a slight shock of earthquake had been felt. Everything was looking bright and fresh.

FROM PORTLAND PARISH fruit is reported as being very scarce during the month of March, but that April had opened with brighter prospects.

BEEF PROSPECTS.

IN GERMANY field-work has advanced during the past month, but, on the whole, is somewhat behind the corresponding period of last year.

FROM FRANCE it is stated that the temperature had ranged below the level of the corresponding period of last year, and that sowings before Easter had been small.

IN AUSTRIA the weather had not been favourable, and had delayed sowings, but it was expected they would be soon commenced. Speaking generally, it is still expected there will be an increase in the area under cultivation this year in Europe.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses Puns.		
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to April 11th, 1900..	21,836	9,326	16,500	—	—	22,822	79	1,230		
Jan. 1st to Mar. 29th, 1899..	18,392	3,662	10,554	—	—	18,793	124	1,770		
TRINIDAD—										
Jan. 1st to April 11th, 1900..	125,376	57	12,569,120	748	30,956	—	3,312,021	1,656	—	—
Jan. 1st to April 11th, 1899..	171,915	530	14,173,530	980	19,896	—	3,925,350	2,491	26	23

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to April 21st, 1900 ...	158,476 tons,	against 167,615 tons in 1899,	and 206,173 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES " " " "	165,205 " "	196,234 " "	205,068 " "
PRESENT STOCKS " " " "	55,133 " "	48,365 " "	77,889 " "

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

2,184,179 tons, against 2,171,761 tons in 1899, and 2,552,863 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

Per 88% (Czarnikow) 10s. 6½d. to 10s. 4½d., against 11s. 0½d. in 1899, and 11s. 3d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). April 2. Good reaping weather. April 17. Slow reaping weather.

DEMERARA.—(New Colonial Co.).

(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.).

(Booker Bros., McConnel & Co.). April 2. Weather showery and favourable to the cultivation. April 10. Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message.

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). April 7. Weather fine for harvesting. April 24. Rain has fallen heavily.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following publications received during the month can be seen at the Committee Room:—

Watson, Laidlaw & Co.'s Catalogue of Weston Centrifugals for 1900; The International Sugar Journal, No. 16, Vol. 2, for April; British Guiana Directory for 1900; Leeward Islands Gazettes for Jan., Feb. and March; Bound volume of Leeward Islands Gazettes, Jan. to Dec., 1899; Jamaica Weather Report for Feb., 1900; Trinidad Royal Gazettes for March; Trinidad Council Papers, Nos. 21 to 36, for 1900; Jamaica Official Gazette; British Honduras Government Gazette; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co.; Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet Bryson's Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and E. D. & F. Man's Circular.

JOHN SPOONER,

Acting Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 28.

Telegrams:
CARIB LONDON.

A.B.C. Code Used.
4th Edition.

Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.

28th May, 1900.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at Billiter Square Buildings, London, E.C., on Wednesday, May 16th, at 3 p.m., Sir NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G., the Chairman, presiding. Among those present were: H. K. DAVSON, Esq., Deputy-Chairman, E. ANDERSON, Esq., E. G. BARR, Esq., SPENCER H. CURTIS, Esq., M. GARNETT, Esq., D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., E. KYNASTON, Esq., A. MORIER LEE, Esq., A. MCCONNELL, Esq., C. NEILSON, Esq., J. PRICE, Esq., J. W. PREVITE, Esq., W. P. B. SHEPHEARD, Esq., G. SHUTE, Esq., J. E. TINNE, Esq., P. A. WADE, Esq., T. J. WILKINSON, Esq., and ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Esq., Secretary.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, the Secretary will read the notice convening the meeting.

The Secretary:

11th May, 1900.

Dear Sir,

In forwarding to you herewith the Statement of Accounts for 1899, and the Annual Report of the Acting Committee, I am to inform you that the Annual General Meeting of the **West India Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, May 16th**, at 3 p.m., when the favour of your attendance is requested.

Your obedient Servant,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

AGENDA.

1. To adopt Report and Statement of Accounts for 1899.
2. To elect the Acting Committee for 1900.

The Chairman: The Secretary will now read the Minutes of the last meeting.

The Secretary read the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on April 26th, 1899.

The Chairman: The question is that these minutes be confirmed. Agreed.

The Chairman: In moving that the Report and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for 1899 be adopted, I dare say you would like me, as usual, just to say a few words to you in regard to the matters which have been of interest to us during the past year. In the first place you will all agree in deploring, as we do in this Report, the loss we have sustained in the deaths of the members whose names are mentioned and particularly, I may say, that the death of Mr. Richard Harvey was a very great loss to us. He was a very active member of the Acting Committee and I am sure we shall all miss him very much. I may say we have still with us as one of the Treasurers, his partner Mr. Gurney. The other member, Mr. Washington Eves was also a member I think, of the Acting Committee and his loss will also be much felt.

Coming now to the events of the year, the important question which we have always before us, unfortunately, is that of the sugar bounties, and I think you are all well aware of what has been done during the past year and the only point I wish to bring out rather strongly is this: I gather from our

Secretary that it is not generally known in the West Indies, that the Anti-Bounty League is in very close connection with the West India Committee, that, in fact, a very large portion of the money that is expended by the Anti-Bounty League, comes from the West India Committee; it is very much directed by members of the West India Committee associated with the refiners, with gentlemen interested in Mauritius, Queensland and the other Colonies, but that, as a matter of fact a very large proportion of the funds of the Anti-Bounty League are provided by the members of the West India Committee, through the West India Committee. I think it is desirable to say that, because I understand that it is not generally realised in the Colonies. I am sorry to say as regards any action in regard to the Bounties, that I do not see at the present moment, any very great probability of any action being taken by the Government. I am very glad to see in *The Times* this morning, that many members of Parliament who are interested in the question, intend to raise it when the vote for the salary of the Foreign Minister comes on, and I think it can be but of use to us, to have a discussion on the matter in the House of Commons.

The next point I wish to allude to is the correspondence with the Islands. We have had correspondents in Demerara, in Barbados and in Trinidad for many years past, but we have now got, I am glad to say, correspondents in all the Islands, and I am sure you will all agree with me in being thankful for those honorary correspondents, who are good enough to keep us posted up in the different matters of interest which affect the different islands concerned. Incidentally I may mention here, that I think our Secretary has done something to remove the impression, that we pay no attention to any thing but sugar. We are delighted to pay attention to anything which affects the welfare of the West Indies, but I wish to say very emphatically that it is quite impossible for us to take up matters, unless those matters are brought before us, for we cannot know by the light of nature all the requirements of the West Indies, and that when any matter arises which does concern the welfare of the Islands, it is not quite reasonable of them to expect us to take it up unless they make some representation to us, and give us material to enable us to take action.

Then the next point that is alluded to in the Report, is the question of immigration. That as you know affects only three of the Colonies, Demerara, Trinidad, and I understand Jamaica is getting very keen indeed on the question of immigration. You all know that there was a proposition made—I will not put it any further than that—to reduce the number of coolies to be introduced into Demerara and Trinidad. We, the West India Committee made very strong representations to the Colonial Office, as to the injury which would be likely to result to the Colonies, if that view were carried out and I am very glad to say, that the Colonial Office and the different Colonies did agree to alter that view, and the numbers that have been agreed upon, are such as are satisfactory to both those Colonies. We venture to hope that the action we took in the matter, will have been of some advantage. I think that it was of some use myself. With regard to Jamaica, we have no representation from Jamaica in regard to the matter of immigration, but should we receive any representations, I am sure they will receive every attention on the part of the Committee.

Then, gentlemen, the next point alluded to is the rum surtax. Since our last meeting, a Blue Book has been issued, giving a great deal of information in regard to the Excise arrangements of the different Colonies. In regard to some of them, the material which we derive from that Blue Book is likely to be of great use to us. In Trinidad, the officials have reported that the Excise regulations there, must certainly be more costly to the rum makers of the Island, than the Excise regulations of England can be to the distillers of this country. As you all know, all that we are claiming is, that inasmuch as our Excise regulations are practically the regulations of Her Majesty, just as the Excise regulations of this country are the regulations of Her Majesty, we ought to be treated on the same footing as British Distillers, and that if a countervailing duty in their case of 4d. a gallon is thought to be right and proper, that we are fully entitled to get that 4d. a gallon. I am afraid that the reports from Jamaica are not quite so conclusive. There seems to have been a difference of opinion

there, but still, I think that the tendency of all these reports in the Blue Book is to show that there is no valid reason why the distillers of this country in consequence of the Excise regulations should be put in any different position to the distillers in our West Indian Colonies. But I am afraid that in this case, as in the case of the sugar bounties, our opponents the distillers of this country have a very large number of votes which they can more or less utilise in the House of Commons. We have none, and therefore it is very difficult to get any attention paid to our case.

The next point, I think, that is alluded to, is the visit which Sir Cuthbert Quilter and myself made to the West Indies. Since our last meeting Sir Cuthbert Quilter's report on that visit has been issued to members of the Committee, and I venture to hope it will be read with some interest. I should like to take the opportunity of this occasion once more, to protest against the misunderstanding which apparently our visit to Barbados has created. I think, that that misunderstanding has been removed in Barbados, but I was attacked in *The Times* the other day rather vigorously. I happened to tread on the toes of *The Times* correspondent. Amongst other things, he stated that Sir Cuthbert Quilter and myself had visited Barbados, and that we had made offers to the planters there to erect a factory for a consideration. Well, we made no offers to them to erect a factory at all either for or without a consideration, and therefore that statement was absolutely untrue. Our object and our wish in visiting Barbados was, that if we could facilitate their arrangements for erecting a factory, we should have been only too glad if we could have been of any use. I am sorry nothing came of it, and my own impression now is that Barbados is doing so well since the imposition of countervailing duties in the United States that there is less wish than ever for any foreign capital for the erection of central factories.

Now another question of considerable interest has arisen during the year. It is not a new question. It is the question of reciprocity with the United States, and incidentally in connection with that has grown up the question of reciprocity with Canada. Now, the proposals that came to us from the United States were not such as I think we were, any of us, very enthusiastic about. My own opinion, I must say, coincided with the opinion of the Colonies, and I held they would be a benefit to the Colonies and that they ought not to be rejected. Moreover I thought this, that if some other countries such for instance as Argentina got the benefit of reduced sugar duties it would be rather awkward if our Colonies got no benefit at all, and from that point of view I was entirely in favour of these treaties being accepted. But I confess I am very much better pleased to see all the treaties put an end to and then I should have been pleased to have seen them all come into operation, because under these treaties Argentina would have got considerably greater benefits than we should have got, and I think we are all much better as we are than we should have been with a state of things which gave us a small favour and gave Argentina a very big favour. (Cheers).

Then with regard to Canada there is always this difficulty that we cannot get over. Of course, as you all know, lumber and flour constitute two of our very large imports into British Guiana and into Trinidad. Lumber and flour are both produced in Canada and the lumber and flour which we consume mainly comes from the United States, hence at the first blush it seems an exceedingly reasonable thing for Canada to say: "Why do you not get your flour and your lumber from us?" Well our answer to that is this: "There is nothing to prevent your sending your lumber and flour; you are put on exactly the same terms as the United States; we do not give the United States any favour over you." Then they say, "Oh, but why do you not give to us some advantage over the States and if you do we will give you an advantage with your sugar." They even have gone the length of saying to Trinidad, "If you will allow us to send our lumber and flour duty free into Trinidad we will allow you to send your sugar duty free into Canada." Well now if that proposition were confined to Trinidad, and if the Canadian Government bound themselves not to make that proposition to any other Colony it would be of great advantage to Trinidad, but I think it is obvious that Canada never can be induced to agree to anything of the kind. It would seem to be an unreason-

able thing for Canada to make an arrangement with one of our West Indian Islands that she would refuse to another of the West Indian Islands. Then comes the question supposing this arrangement was made between Canada and the whole of the rest of the West Indies what would happen? Well then the whole arrangement is changed for this reason: Trinidad produces 40,000 tons and Canada consumes 130,000 tons, therefore if Trinidad sugar was admitted free to Canada while all other sugars had to pay a more or less onerous tax it would be an advantage to Trinidad to the extent of the tax but if that principle applied to the whole of the West Indies seeing that the whole of the West Indies make 250,000 tons of sugar, it is quite evident that if the whole of that sugar went to Canada there would be no advantage to anybody in the sugar going free; it would simply make of Canada a free port, and our Colonies would get no higher price in Canada than any other country was getting in the United States. Therefore once that proposition is made to the whole of the West Indies there is no longer any advantage to the West Indies at all. The advantage to Canada would remain, but that I think is the explanation why the Colonies have hitherto been unable to agree to reciprocity with Canada, I am bound to say somewhat unwillingly, because I think we should all from patriotic motives be only too glad if we could see our way to make some working reciprocal arrangement with Canada which would be to the mutual advantage of Canada and the West Indies, but at present I am afraid that is impossible.

Mr. J. E. Tinne: Would not the Canadian consumption increase very rapidly?

The Chairman: Why more rapidly in the next ten years than in the last ten years?

Mr. J. E. Tinne: If the duty on sugar was abolished?

The Chairman: Well the duty on sugar is not very high in Canada. It is less than it is in the States; I think it is only about £5 a ton. I do not think a reduction of £5 a ton would make a very material increase in the consumption. It would tend at any rate in that direction, but I think you would agree that it would be a very risky thing for us to take these favours from Canada, and probably offend the United States in doing so, and it would be very easy for the United States in some form or shape I think to retaliate and make it very disagreeable for us. The United States have behaved exceedingly well to the West Indies; they have imposed countervailing duties which practically allow our sugar to go into the United States on exactly the same terms as beet sugar; in fact, they have done us that justice which our own Government deliberately refuse to accord us. We are shut out of this market by foreign legislation. The United States has refused to allow that foreign legislation to shut us out of the United States markets, and I think, therefore, that we ought to be grateful to the United States.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard: Might I ask Mr. Chairman if it is not interrupting you, why the United States would object to be put on the same terms as Canada: what would be their grounds?

The Chairman: They are on the same terms now;

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard: Exactly so.

The Chairman: What Canada asks is that they should be put on very much less favoured terms.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard: Exactly so, but it would be on the assumption that if the United States gave us the same advantages which Canada proposed to give us, then the United States would also have the same advantages as Canada; there is no other proposition before us than that.

The Chairman: You mean admit all lumber?

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard: Certainly. I am only dealing with the suggestion that the United States might be offended. The answer to that would be "Whenever you are pleased to make the same proposals as Canada you will be put on the same terms; take our sugar free and you will have your lumber entered free."

The Chairman : If we did that Canada would be worse off than she is now.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard : That would be her look out.

The Chairman : The lumber and flour from Canada and the United States come on the same terms. If we admitted lumber and flour from the United States and Canada free, no advantage would be given to Canada.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard : That is her look out.

The Chairman : We do not think Canada would make a treaty on those terms.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard : Not likely at all.

The Chairman : Then gentlemen the next point that is alluded to is the hurricane. We did what we could to get subscriptions in this country, but I imagine that the same thing applies to hurricane funds that applies to canes, that the ratoon crop is not quite such a heavy one as the plant crop. Having had a Lord Mayor's subscription for a hurricane the year before, when the second hurricane came the source of subscriptions had dried up, and I am afraid the subscriptions in the second case were very small, at the same time from all we heard the effects of the hurricane were quite as disastrous to those islands which were unfortunate enough to experience it, as was the case the year before.

With regard to Dominica, As you know, some of you, there was a proposal on the part of the Colonial Bank to close their branch in Dominica. For some years past the Colonial Bank had found it unprofitable. They very naturally proposed to close it. Some very strong representations came to this Committee from Dominica, urging upon us how very undesirable it was in the interests of the Islands, that the branch of the Colonial Bank at Dominica should be closed. We did our best to lay those representations before the Court of the Colonial Bank, and I am very glad to say that the Colonial Bank have now agreed that they will continue their branch for another twelve months, which will give the people of Dominica an opportunity of showing what they can do to reduce the loss on the Bank. And while I am sure there is every disposition on the part of the Bank to give every reasonable facility for the West Indies, of course they can hardly be expected to stand a heavy loss each year in respect of any one branch.

Then, gentlemen, the next thing I wish to allude to is our Secretary's tour. As you know he went to the West Indies in the latter end of last year, and has been four months there, and I think not only will it make him a more useful Secretary to us here, but, I think, it has been a very desirable thing from the point of view of the West Indies themselves, that he should visit them and make himself personally acquainted with the leading representatives in the different Colonies. I think as far as you can judge, that as regards them, his visit has been fully appreciated. I believe as regards the West India Committee, he has done a great deal to open the eyes of West Indians to the fact that we are not quite what they thought we were; that we are ready enough to take up any questions that are brought before us as being of interest to the West Indies, that we by no means confine ourselves to sugar, and I think he has also made them understand that if there are other questions that they want us to take up, they must lay these questions before us, and they will find every disposition to take them up. With regard to ourselves here we missed Mr. Aspinall very much indeed - I, particularly, because of course a great deal of the correspondence that has to pass through the Secretary comes to me, and I must say that I think it is very much to Mr. Aspinall's credit that considering the short time that he has been our Secretary, we should miss him so very much while he was away. At the same time, whilst saying that I think we should also say we are exceedingly grateful to Mr. Spooner for having stepped into the gap and done the best he could, and done it very well. I having nothing but praise for Mr. Spooner. Naturally Mr. Spooner coming in at a moments notice did not have the experience Mr. Aspinall had before him. I cannot help thinking that the

considerable inconvenience which Mr. Aspinall's absence inflicted upon the West India Committee, will be fully compensated for now that he has returned safe and well. We hope that we shall all derive the advantage of his visit.

I have only one other thing down on my notes that I have put down to say, and it is a point I should wish to press on West Indians especially, that, if we are going to do much good for the West Indies we require a greater co-operation on their part than we have hitherto had. The Islands are separated—Demerara is separated from the Islands, and there is not that cohesion between them, which makes their voice effective. Through the West India Committee they have the means all of the most making their views known, more effectively possibly than they could make them for themselves, each individually—they are a bundle of sticks, if they come to us we turn them as it were into a faggot, and therefore, I think if they want the West Indies to have their views well and thoroughly put before the Government they should co-operate with us more heartily than they have done, and they will find us only too ready to take action on their behalf. I am quite sure that I can answer for this Committee, that we have been most careful in the past to refrain from ever taking action which would be likely to be contrary to the views of those who represent the Colonies and that we shall take equal care in the future, but I do think in their interests that I cannot too strongly urge upon them the great advantage which it would be if there was more co-operation on their part. (Hear-hear).

Then as one last word, although I have said it in different ways, one word with regard to cocoa. I believe that there is still a feeling amongst the cocoa proprietors that we do not represent their interests, and a very short time ago Mr. René de Verteuil, of Trinidad, was complaining bitterly that we had not taken action to try and prevent Trinidad cocoa being adulterated before it was sold; that we ought to go for an Act of Parliament to allow no Trinidad cocoa to be sold except in its absolutely pure state as Trinidad cocoa. Well, gentlemen, many of us are more or less interested in cocoa. I am interested in cocoa, and I have made enquiries, and I find that other people have made enquiries, and the information we get from the cocoa brokers is, that if we were to attempt to get any Act of the sort, or if we were to take any serious steps practically to prevent the sale of Trinidad cocoa, unless it is unadulterated, that we should largely diminish the sale of Trinidad cocoa instead of increasing it, that these things they put into it, vanilla and sugar, are quite harmless things and they do promote the sale rather than stop or check it. Therefore I do say I think it is rather hard upon the West India Committee that it should be attacked by Mr. de Verteuil, for not having done something which if they had done it would have been distinctly prejudicial to the sale of Trinidad cocoa. But I wish to say this as regards cocoa, bananas, or anything in the West Indies, that if anyone who is interested in these commodities, who may have any grievance, will send us material, I am sure they will find a very willing ear at the West India Committee to listen to their case, and do what they can for their interests. (Cheers.) I beg now to move the adoption of the Report and the Accounts.

The Motion was seconded by **Mr. H. K. Davson** and carried unanimously.

Before proceeding to the election of the Acting Committee, **Mr. T. J. Wilkinson** said that those Members who had not attended a certain number of meetings during the year should not be re-elected, and further that the old rule as to the qualification to serve on the Acting Committee should be closely adhered to, he accordingly begged leave to move—

“That the qualification to serve on the Acting Committee be a subscription of not less than five guineas (£5 5s.), but that the Acting Committee shall be at liberty to appoint any member of the West India Committee as a Member of the Acting Committee.”

The resolution seconded by the Chairman was put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Edward Kynaston proposed that the following gentlemen be elected the Acting Committee for the current year—

- Mr. Edward G. Barr,
- „ C. Algernon Campbell,
- „ E. A. de Pass,
- „ H. H. Dobree,
- „ T. Du Buisson,
- „ G. McGregor Frame,
- „ Mewburn Garnett,
- „ W. Goodwin,
- „ H. Hales,

- Mr. A. Morier Lee,
- „ F. Lubbock,
- „ E. L. Marshall,
- „ F. McConnell,
- „ Edward Packard,
- „ W. C. C. Park,
- „ John Price,
- „ J. D. Taylor,
- „ P. A. Wade,
- „ Major Trollope

with Mr. W. H. Alty and Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing as Chairmen of the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow respectively. The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd then moved—

“That it be an instruction to the Acting Committee to assist the Cane Sugar Movement in favour of specialising the demand for Cane Sugar under the protection of the Merchandize Marks and the Food Adulteration Acts, which prevent the substitution of Beet for Cane Sugar on inquiry for the latter by Buyers, and thus tend to differentiate in favour of Cane Sugar the market prices of Beet and Cane Sugars.”

Mr. T. J. Wilkinson in seconding the motion said that he thought that the demand for a pure cane sugar had very much revived, and that if a Cane Sugar Association were formed the demand would be better still.

After some discussion the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The meeting then broke up.

PROSPECTS OF A BOUNTY DEBATE.

It is stated that the members interested in the sugar bounty question —Sir Thomas Sutherland, Colonel Milward, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Sir Edward Hill, Mr. McIver, General Laurie Sir M. E. Bhowndegree, Mr. Sinclair, Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Mr. Wylie, Mr. McArthur, Colonel Denny, Mr. Shaw-Stewart, and others—have been pressing the Government to give facilities for a discussion in the House upon the closing of the large sugar refinery of Messrs. Crossfield, Barrow & Co., Liverpool, in November last. It is expected that an opportunity for raising the question will be afforded upon the Foreign Office Vote, when the subject of sugar bounties can be properly discussed in all its bearings, as it affects our foreign, colonial, and home interests.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION:

The following reply has been received to the letter addressed by the Committee to the Secretary of State on this subject on April 26th (vide circular 27, p. 4).

Downing Street,
4th, May, 1900.

Sir,
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the relief of congested districts in India, by encouraging emigration to the West Indies, and to inform you that a copy of it has been communicated to the India Office for the consideration of Lord George Hamilton.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

JAMAICA SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

At a meeting of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, presided over by Col. the Hon. R. Ward on April 10th last, the following resolutions proposed by Mr. George Solomon and seconded by Mr. Charles de Mercado were carried unanimously.

"1st. That this meeting, having heard with much satisfaction the remarks made by Mr Aspinall, the Secretary of the West India Committee, highly appreciate its action in sending to the colony their secretary to ascertain the opinions and interests of this colony.

"2nd. That inasmuch as this Island is not represented by an agent in London as in former years, the advantage of being represented there by such an influential and long-established body is incalculable.

"3rd. That the action of the West India Committee in advocating the abolition of sugar bounties and the abolition of the unfair surtax on colonial spirits deserves and has our warmest thanks.

"4th. To show our gratitude in a more substantial manner, it will be the duty of this society to urge upon its members, and indeed upon the general public, to become subscribing members to an association in London evincing such kindly sympathy for the material interests of this colony."

BEET PROSPECTS.

From *F. O. Lichts monthly report* of May 19th, we gather that in Germany, the variable temperature of the past month and the subsequent rise followed by a fall in temperature has done damage. In some spots the young beet plants suffered so much from frost and snow, that resowing will probably have to be resorted to. Tilling was commenced rather late, but the weather changed so that in high-lying fields with permeable soil, sowing and drilling could be commenced in time, while in low districts with heavy soil, there was a delay of 2 or 3 weeks. Owing to the absence of rain however, field work has progressed and the retardation is only insignificant. The moderate rains which set in near the end of last week, have much benefited the sprouting of the beets. In some districts, hoeing has already commenced, but warmer weather with moderate showers of rain is desired for the more rapid development of the beets.

IN AUSTRIA the weather has been more favourable than in Germany. Sowing and Drilling are well advanced, and occasional rains assisted the shooting of the seeds. Warmer weather and occasional moderate rains are much desired, and would certainly cause a rapid development. In HUNGARY up to the end of April the Beets suffered considerable damage through cold and frost, so that in many places fields had to be re-ploughed. Near Fünfkirchen it is stated that a large sugar factory is to be erected.

" DEMERARA " SUGAR.

The following correspondence has passed between Messrs Joseph Travers and Sons and the West India Committee as to the nature of the term "Demerara" as applied to sugar :

DEAR SIRS,

We take the liberty of addressing you on a matter which we think is of some importance to the Raw Sugar Industry, and venture to ask you to take the present condition of matters into consideration.

We think we are correct in saying that the Vacuum Pan (so far as the countries producing Yellow Sugar are concerned), was first used in Demerara. The product was highly approved by English consumers, and led to the same process being adopted in many of the West Indian Islands. Whether manufactured in the latter, or on the mainland, this Crystallised Raw Sugar came to be known to consumers, and to the smaller grocers by the generic term "Demerara".

It is doubtless within your knowledge that there have lately been some convictions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, for selling under this generic title, Crystallised Raw Sugar produced in one or other of the West Indian Islands. We are strongly of opinion that the cases in question have not been properly defended; and that certainly under the above mentioned Acts, no conviction ought to have followed. Section 6 of the 1875 Act, under which the vendor is charged, says: "No person shall sell to the prejudice of the customer any article of food - - - - - which is not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded". It would seem to us impossible that it could be with justice contended that the purchaser could have been *prejudiced* by the sale of, say Trinidad Sugar, under the generic description of "Demerara"; or that the article so sold, was not of the *nature*, or the *substance*, or the *quality* of the one demanded. The magistrates have probably been under a misapprehension in the matter, caused by a confusion of ideas in regard to Yellow Beet Crystals, manufactured in England, which have in many cases been sold as Demerara. It seems possible that having had these cases before them, and having quite rightly convicted the offenders, they have been brought to regard "Demerara," as something superior to all other kinds of Crystallised Raw Sugar, instead of being practically identical with them. Be this as it may, the grocer is now placed in an awkward position, and one in which we find it exceedingly difficult to advise him. He has four courses open to him:—

- (1.) To run the risk of prosecution.
- (2.) To sell the sugar under the name of the country of production.
- (3.) To cease selling it altogether.
- (4.) To sell Demerara only when obtainable.

In regard to the first of these, apart altogether from the fine which he may be called upon to pay, the stigma attaching to a conviction is so great, that in common fairness he can hardly be expected to adopt such a course.

In the second case, to offer the consumer (who has for many years been accustomed to buy all Crystallised Raw as "Demerara" sugar) Trinidad, or Surinam, or St. Kitts, or St. Lucia, or Jamaica, is to say the least, inconvenient, and raises unnecessary doubt in his mind; while in regard to the third alternative the evils are too evident to need comment. We may add parenthetically that if such convictions continue, and the grocer is compelled to buy actual "Demerara" sugar to supply his trade, the result is to place it at a very considerable premium, and the various other growths of West Indian Sugar, (which are practically identical with it) at a considerable discount.

The above is a statement of the present position, as it appears to us; and the very natural question which arises, is how to remedy these evils. We venture to ask your Committee if it would consider the practicability of defending some of the cases; and we feel convinced that with the great power it could bring to bear, an entirely new light might be thrown upon the question; and after probably securing acquittal in one or two cases, the Inspectors would cease to prosecute, and the trade assume its normal condition.

We beg, therefore, to put to you the following questions:—

1. Would your Committee consent to defend any grocer accused, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, of selling any kind of Crystallised British West India Raw Sugar, under the generic title of "Demerara?"
2. If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, would your Committee allow us to make known the fact to the grocers; or would your Committee take steps to do so through the medium of the trade press?

Trusting that you will be kind enough to take the matter into consideration, and awaiting the favour of your early reply,

We are, etc.

For J. TRAVERS & SONS, Ltd.

H. STABLEFORTH.

To the above a reply was posted on May 24th inst as follows:

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

DEAR SIRS,

I have the honour to inform you that your letter of the 16th instant, respecting the meaning of the term "Demerara" as applied to sugar was laid before a meeting of my Committee on the 23rd instant.

In reply thereto I am to say, that you are quite correct in stating that the Vacuum pan (so far as the countries producing yellow sugar is concerned), was first used in Demerara, and that the product was highly approved and led to the same process being adopted in many of the West India Islands and my Committee entirely concur with you in holding that yellow sugar made by the Demerara process, no matter from which of the British West India Colonies it may come, is all of the same nature, substance and quality as crystallized raw sugar manufactured in Demerara. On the other hand, I am to state that the same remark does not hold good in the case of sugars from the French West India Islands where the system in vogue is substantially different to that in use in Demerara.

My Committee have not had their attention drawn to any convictions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, for selling under the generic title "Demerara," Crystallized Raw Sugar produced in one or other of the West India Islands, and though they could not see their way to sustain the cost of defending any grocer prosecuted on these lines, a memorandum on the subject is in course of preparation and will shortly be published by them, through the medium of the trade press and otherwise, which they feel will materially assist the elucidation of any case which may arise. A copy of this memorandum shall be posted to you within the next few days.

I am to thank you for courteously bringing this matter before the notice of my Committee, who welcome the opportunity of defining the true nature of the term "Demerara."

Your obedient servant,

N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

THE JAMAICA DIRECT STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

The contract between the Crown Agents for the Colonies, and Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company for the Steamship Service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom, has been laid on the table of the House. Each steamer to be employed, is to be of 3000 tons, up to the 16th of January, 1904, and afterwards of 5,000 tons. The steamers are to be capable of attaining 15 knots an hour, but when employed on the service are to maintain an average speed of not less than 13 knots. They are to be furnished with cargo space suitable for carrying 20,000 bunches of bananas and are to have accommodation for 40 first-class and 15 second-class passengers up to 16th January, 1904, and afterwards, for 100 first-class and 50 second-class passengers.

The Jamaica Ports are to be Kingston and Port Antonio, while the Port in the United Kingdom is to be decided upon by the contractors three months before the commencement of the service on Jan. 16th, 1901, on which day the first steamer is to leave the English Port, while the service from Jamaica will commence on Feb. 4th, 1901. The service is to be fortnightly, and passengers are to be carried at the following rates, 1st Class single fare £25, return fare £40; 2nd Class single fare £20,

return fare £30 in either direction. As regards the purchase of bananas, by virtue of clause seven, the contractors are to purchase at the current market rates of the day, not less than 20,000 bunches of bananas for each voyage from Jamaica to the English Port and convey them to the English Port. The price for such bananas is to be paid by the Contractors on the delivery to them of the fruit. Subject to the shipment of fruit purchased under this Clause the Contractors are to ship at specified rates all fruits and other cargo offered them.

The Contractors are to provide six skilled Agents to improve fruit cultivation in Jamaica, and to instruct fruit growers as to the best and most approved method of harvesting and packing the fruit.

The Contractors are to pay one-fourth the cost of any improvements or additions which may be made by Colonial Government to their hotels in Jamaica, but are not to pay more than £10,000 in all.

Mails are to be carried by the steamers free of charge. No definite announcement has yet been made as to the English Port, but we may state that Manchester has been mentioned in this connection.

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a firm tone, and the greater part of the supplies at auction on the 1st May found a ready sale at fully previous rates. At the subsequent public sales there was less disposition to buy, but as holders shewed no intention of submitting to any reduction in value, prices remain unchanged. The total quantity submitted to public competition since the 24th April, amounts to 8,400 bags, of which about 6,000 bags have been disposed of at 71s. to 75s. for low middling to good middling, 76s. to 78s. 6d. for fine, 79s. to 85s. for very fine to superior. Deliveries from 1st January to 19th May were 21,416 bags, against 18,744 bags last year. Landings 35,389 bags against 22,561 bags and stocks, on 19th May 32,608 bags against 23,165 bags.

GRENADA.—When the public sales were held on 1st May the market was quiet, and only about the third of the quantity then offered found buyers, prices shewing a decline of 6 to 11 per cwt., at which reduction the balance was subsequently disposed of. During the past three weeks there has been no change in the position, the tone being quiet but quite steady. Deliveries from 1st January to 19th May were 22,756 bags, against 17,568 bags in 1899. Landings 30,154 bags, against 28,319 bags and stocks on 19th May, 16,741 bags, against 23,698 bags. (C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE)

THE RUM MARKET.

The proof market although quiet in tone, is quite steady, with further sales of 300 Puns Demerara and Berbice, at 1s. 8d. to 1s. 8½d. per proof gallon, being previous prices. For Jamaicas there is a good demand, and the recent arrivals have all been disposed of at very full prices, particularly for the commoner kinds, which are relatively scarce. There has also been a brisk demand for medium export descriptions, owing to the contemplated raising of the duties in Germany. We append the Board of Trade returns:— (E. D. & F. MAX)

			1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Landed	In April	...	337,381	265,362	600,998	491,825
	4 months	...	2,132,353	1,449,135	2,081,164	2,181,936
Home Consumption	In April	...	280,755	374,821	347,075	341,717
	4 months	...	1,916,868	1,596,244	1,425,160	1,466,657
Export	In April	...	68,528	73,277	65,961	57,499
	4 months	...	330,801	292,689	282,514	312,438
Stocks	Galls.	30th April	6,634,000	6,959,000	8,319,000	8,839,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

Jamaica, Puns.	6,250	9,746	9,852	11,795
Other West India Islands	449	624	598	585
Demerara	4,387	2,877	6,436	7,933
Foreign	1,419	660	923	1,421
British East India	370	221	333	227
Vatted	1,089	3,448	3,708	3,815
Total	15,964	17,576	21,870	26,776

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocon. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalte. Tons	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	
BRITISH GUIANA—									
Jan. 1st to April 24th, 1900	33,457	9,364	16,500	—	—	28,679	73	1,230	
Jan. 1st to April 26th, 1899	20,315	3,720	39,592	—	—	28,102	144	1,863	
TRINIDAD—									Puns. Tons. Brls.
Jan. 1st to May 9th, 1900	197,900	57	16,008,220	1,540	37,783	—	4,717,421	3,300	—
Jan. 1st to May 9th, 1899	317,966	830	17,055,930	2,400	29,212	—	3,998,262	4,256	81 48

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to May 19th, 1900	193,977 tons,	against 217,064 tons in 1899,	and 263,722 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES	211,878	“ “	243,148 “ “ 270,559 “ “
PRESENT STOCKS	43,959	“ “	50,900 “ “ 80,212 “ “

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

1,811,441 tons, against 1,965,632 tons in 1899, and 2,301,604 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 10s. 9½d., against 11s. 3d. in 1899, and 9s. 9d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). May 3: “Seasonable Weather.” May 15: “Good reaping weather.” DEMERARA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co). May 8: “Weather favorable for cultivation, moderate showers daily.” (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.). May 8: “Weather showery and favorable for cultivation.” May 22: “Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message.” TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). April 28: “Weather showery and unsettled.” May 8: “Weather fine with occasional light showers.” May 14 “*Idem.*” May 19: “Showery and unsettled.” (Messrs. C. Tennant Sons, & Co.), May 9: “Heavy rains continue.”

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading.

The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms in addition to the Current West Indian Newspapers:

The Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters Journal, Vol. 6, No. 3; The Colonial Office List for 1900; Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, Leeward Islands and Trinidad Official Papers, Gazettes, &c.; Further Correspondence relating to the finances and Government of Jamaica, (Cd. 125); The International Sugar Journal, Vol. 2, No. 1, (May); West Indian Illustrated, Vol 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.; Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet, Bryson & Co's. Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Park Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and E. D. & F. Man's Circular.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 29

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LONDON, E.C.

25th June, 1900.

THE ACTING COMMITTEE.

Since the General Meeting, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard and Mr. W. A. Wolseley have been appointed members of the Acting Committee. In future the fortnightly meeting will be held on the Thursday after the outgoing mail.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

We note with some surprise that the Legislative Council of Trinidad has refused to apply for an extension of time for the ratification of the proposed reciprocity treaty with the United States. It does not appear why this sudden *volte face* has taken place and we hope it is not with a view of sacrificing the interest of Trinidad to meet the wishes of Canada.

THE MAIL CONTRACT.

The contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the West India Mail Service, has been renewed on the existing terms for five years. On enquiry, we are officially informed by the Company, that on 30th September, 1899, they tendered for the West India Mail Service, in response to the public invitation from the Postmaster General, on the various forms issued by the department, which included a service at 14 knots on the main line and also calling at Trinidad, outward and homeward between Barbados and Jamaica. The Company however, did not receive till the 15th ult., any indication from Her Majesty's Government of the course which would be taken by them, the present contract expiring on the 30th instant.

It has since been intimated to the Company, that the existing service is to be continued for five years at the present speed of 13 knots, although the Company pressed upon the Government the adoption of 14 knots at a slight increase of subsidy, with a call at Trinidad outward and homeward, while affording a generally quicker communication for the whole of the West Indies, to neither of which proposals however, have the Government seen their way to accede.

JAMAICA PINEAPPLES.

A shipment of pineapples, brought over from Jamaica by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, was sold at Covent Garden Market on June the 15th inst. The bidding for them was brisk and spirited and the pines fetched from 1/6 to 2/6 each, a price which must be considered satisfactory considering the thousands of packages of soft fruits and St. Michael's pines on the market. The latter often fetch from 3/- to 8/- each, so the prospects of a pineapple industry from Jamaica, especially in view of the new fruit steamer service to commence on February 4th next, would seem undoubtedly bright.

CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

At the above Congress, the first meeting of which will be held at the Fishmongers Hall, to-morrow, the West Indies will be represented as follows:—BRITISH GUIANA, J. H. DeJonge, Esq., and J. Ernest Tinne, Esq. JAMAICA, (Institute of Jamaica), Wm. Fawcett, Esq., B. Sc., (Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce, and Merchants Exchange), Col. the Hon. C. J.

Ward, C.M.G., E. A. DePass, Esq., and William Gillispie, Esq. TRINIDAD, Chamber of Commerce, the Hon. W. Gordon Gordon, the Hon. W. S. Robertson and Edgar Tripp, Esq. On the Agenda paper stand anti-bounty resolutions in the names of the London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Hawick Chambers, while the Trinidad Chamber is to move a resolution on the subject of "prohibitive Surtaxes imposed on imports from British Colonies, such as the duty of 30% levied in Venezuela over and above the ordinary duty upon all goods coming from these Colonies," and Jamaica one regarding the injustice of the Surtax on Rum.

At a special meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, convened at the request of Lord Avebury, Mr. R. Biddulph Martin, M.P., Mr. H. W. Price, Mr. G. R. Vivian, Mr. E. Waterhouse, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., and Mr. G. Martineau, on June 20th, the following resolution, adopted at a largely attended meeting of the Chamber on June 12th, 1899, was proposed by Sir Nevile Lubbock, seconded by Mr. J. Innes Rogers, reaffirmed, and ordered to be placed on the agenda of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire by a majority of 28 to 6 votes.

"That this Chamber, having regard to its resolution of February 4th, 1898, thinks the time has fully arrived for a settlement of the Sugar Bounty question, and requests Her Majesty's Government to enter as soon as practicable into a convention with Austria, Germany and other Powers who have expressed their willingness to abolish bounties, such Convention to contain a Penal Clause prohibiting the entry of Bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the contracting Powers."

A PETITION FROM ST. KITTS.

The Hon. Edward G. Todd, Hon. correspondent for St. Kitts, has forwarded to the Committee a copy of a largely signed petition from that Presidency to the Secretary of State, praying him in view of the disastrous effects of the hurricanes of August 8th and September 10th last, and the subsequent drought on the sugar crop which is consequently 50 per cent. below the average of ordinary years, to authorise the remission of the land tax for the current year and to urge upon the local Government the necessity of starting relief works at an early date, so as to mitigate to some extent the great poverty and distress that must prevail amongst the labouring population when the present half crop has been reaped. The terms of this petition were considered and fully endorsed by the Committee at a meeting held on June 14th, and a letter has been sent to the Secretary of State expressing a hope that under these exceptional circumstances he will accede to the prayer of the petitioners.

"MOTH BORER IN SUGAR CANE."

Through the courtesy of Dr. Morris we have received copies of a pamphlet issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture on the subject of the Moth Borer. This publication gives the result of the original investigations of Mr. H. Maxwell-Lefroy, Entomologist to the Department, and contains practical recommendations for the extermination of the Moth Borer, a pest which is responsible for so much damage to the growing crops. Mr. Lefroy follows the life of the Moth Borer from the egg to the moth, describing fully the caterpillar and chrysalis stage through which it passes, and finally suggests three possible remedies against its ravages; (1) Collecting the eggs; (2) Destroying the moths; and (3) Cutting out affected canes. Mr. Lefroy strongly recommends that the eggs should be collected once a week and burned, though in the case of "black eggs" which are parasited by a small fly he is of opinion—and his view is endorsed by Dr. Morris—that it would be desirable not to gather and destroy these, the fly being a valuable ally of the planter, and therefore to be encouraged. Mr. Lefroy also recommends that the moths, when on the wing should be caught by lights at night as has already been done with good effect in some parts of the West Indies. If lanterns are hung out in fields of cane, the moths are attracted to the light and can be caught in pans of molasses or kerosene hung underneath. To be successful this plan must be adopted generally, and it is to be hoped that the Department will be able to bring about the necessary co-operation to give effect to this very practical suggestion.

THE RUM SURTAX.

The return showing the precise nature of the local excise restrictions in the Colonies, which was recently laid on the table of the House, summarizes and gives extracts from the Spirit ordinances of British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad. The British Guiana spirit ordinance which is based on the British Act speaks for itself, as to the similarity of the regulations in force in British Guiana and the United Kingdom. In a letter from the Supervisor of Revenue in Jamaica to the Collector of Customs dated April 29th, 1899, the former states that "the restrictions (in Jamaica) are of such a mild character as to involve no practical cost to the production per gallon of the spirits distilled," a statement which is hardly in accordance with the extracts from the Jamaica Law 10 of 1878, which follows and is moreover in direct conflict with those of the distillers of Jamaica, whose views were invited by the Secretary of State, and expressed to him in memorial which appears to have been suppressed. In this memorial, the Jamaica distillers "fairly and moderately" estimate the additional cost of the production of Rum per gallon, in consequence of legal restriction on the manufactures as under:—

- 1.—Compliance with the Laws in regard to the security and structure of Registered Stores, and distilling apparatus, the regulations as to vessels and Still Licence per Gallon 1d.
 - 2.—One half of the pay of the person in charge of a distillery, part of the time of the person in charge of the Estate, compulsory attendance on Revenue Officer, and labour required by Law 1d.
 - 3.—Average cost throughout Colony of conveyance of Rum to a bonded warehouse 1d.
 - 5.—Compulsory warehouse fee ½d.
- Total 3¼d. per gallon.

As regards the Trinidad excise restrictions, the Collector of Customs, after consultation with Professor Carmody whose knowledge of excise matters he considers more thorough than his own, points out that the Trinidad excise law is based on the British Act, and that every obligation imposed by the latter is imposed by the Trinidad Act. He adduces the completeness with which the attendant expenditure has wiped out small distilleries to prove the onerous nature of the obligations. He then quotes several restrictions and hardships upon the Trinidad distiller from which his British confrère is free, and concludes by saying that though not prepared without closer inquiry to commit themselves to a precise estimate of the cost to local distillers of excise restrictions, he and Professor Carmody agree that it is beyond question markedly higher than the corresponding amount is in Great Britain.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chamberlain has replied to the Chairman's letter of April 24th on this subject as follows:—

Downing Street,
21st May, 1900.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th of April, and with reference to the opinion expressed by the Collector of Customs of Trinidad, as to the cost to Local Distillers of the Excise restrictions in that Colony, to which you draw attention, I am to transmit to you, for the information of the West India Committee, the accompanying copy of a later Report signed by the Receiver-General and Collector of Customs, which has been since received from the Colony, from which it will be seen that Mr. McCarthy has, on further enquiry, corrected the opinion he previously expressed.

2. Mr. Chamberlain does not clearly apprehend the meaning of the last paragraph of your letter, but, as the West India Committee must be aware, he is not in favour of any artificial advant-

ages to producers in one colony as against another. They must, however, also be aware that variety of local conditions makes absolute uniformity in the excise systems of the different colonies, almost, if not quite, impossible.

(3) I am to add that copies of your letter and of this reply will be communicated to the Treasury.

I am, etc.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

In the report of the Receiver-General and Collector of Customs referred to in this letter they state that within the specified limit of time allowed for their replies—only two of the four distillers applied to furnished an estimate of the increased cost due to excise restrictions. In the opinion of one it amounted to 5.79 per puncheon, or about 5 cents per gallon. The other estimated the cost at 7 cents per gallon, and pointed out that the expense of extra buildings and appliances required by the excise rules was increased by the fact that they are not used for more than three months of the year. The report then continues—

“ Security by separate bonds is required for the due observation of the regulations relating (1) to the manufacture, (2) to the removal (a) to warehouse, and (b) for exportation. There is no complete separation, as in England, of the periods of brewing and distilling, but the spirit is under official control from the time of manufacture until it is removed from the warehouse either for consumption or exportation. The only Public Warehouses in the Colony belong to the Government, and are situated at Port-of-Spain and San Fernando respectively. The distillers pay for storage a monthly rent of one shilling, and threepence per puncheon. There are minor restrictions similar to those to which English distillers are liable, such as: the payment of an annual license duty of £10; distillers cannot be retailers; limitation in size of stills and of casks (minimum size of casks, 24 gallons); entry of premises and apparatus; permits and request notes for authority to remove spirits; liability to provide accommodation for officers; inability to alter entered premises or appliances without previous official sanction, or to make alterations in case of accident except in the presence of an officer, &c. Besides these there are some disabilities to which English distillers are not liable. For instance: Distilleries cannot be situated in either of the two principal towns of the Colony—Port-of-Spain or San Fernando.

“ The other members of the Committee fully endorse the statement made by the Receiver-General (in his report of the 26th of April) to the effect that “ no complaint is, or can be, made with regard to the restrictions imposed on the distillation of rum.” As a matter of fact, the utmost latitude consistent with the safety of the Revenue is allowed by his Department. But every restriction, however leniently applied, necessarily involves loss or delay; and it is only when the subject is gone into technically that some of these losses become apparent. For instance the operation of weighing spirits, owing to the officer having to come from a distance and usually by rail, is carried on during the hottest part of the day. As a consequence the loss by evaporation is much greater than would be the case if the spirits were weighed in the cooler hours of the morning, as is customary in England where the distiller has an officer on the spot. In this connection it must be borne in mind that the distilleries are far from each other, and from Port-of-Spain; that the railway service consists of two upward and two downward trains per day; that rum distillation is but a subsidiary and comparatively unimportant part of sugar manufacture; and that consequently the distilleries (with perhaps one exception) are too small to warrant the employment of an officer at each. Cases of breakdown in the plant are unusual; but when they do occur, serious losses may arise from leakage or evaporation of spirit, or conversion into acetic acid by prolonged fermentation before the officer (who is probably at the time performing his other duties at a considerable distance from the distillery) could attend to give the necessary sanction to whatever alteration may be necessary. And although the Ordinance allows the erection of a warehouse at the distillery, (vide section 75 Ordinance 19 of 1892), this provision has not been taken advantage of by the distillers, nor would the extent of their operations justify the Government in providing officers to give the necessary facilities for frequent removal from such warehouses. But when considered altogether apart from the question of the power of distillers to erect warehouses at the distilleries, or the additional cost thereof to the Government; the warehousing system carried out under present conditions necessarily entails some expenses, *e.g.*, extra freight and handling, liability to pay duty on excessive leakages or losses in transit, warehouse rent, and increased premiums on insurance.”

Finally they state that though the members of the Committee have been unable to agree upon a precise estimate, they are of opinion that the increased cost of production due to excise restrictions probably amounts to 2d. per gallon.

SEEDLING CANES.

Mr. Chamberlain has forwarded to the Committee a copy of a letter received from the Commissioner of Agriculture, regarding improvements in the sugar cane. Dr. Morris' letter will be read with much interest and we invite the views of Planters in British Guiana and the Islands as to the value of the B 147 cane, and shall be glad to receive statistics as to the results obtained from this seedling. Appended is Mr. Chamberlain's letter.

Downing Street, 23rd May, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the West India Committee, a copy of a letter which has been received from the Commissioner of Agriculture reporting on the success which has attended past efforts to improve the sugar cane, and placing on record his opinion that the sugar industry of the West Indies can be placed on a thoroughly satisfactory footing by means of improved canes and central factories.

I am, etc.,

THE SECRETARY TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Barbados, 28th, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter received from Mr. Alistair Cameron who is in local charge of the Estates owned lately in this island by the firm of Thomas Daniel and Company, Limited.

2. Mr. Cameron is largely interested in sugar cane cultivation in Barbados. The estates supervised by him were visited by members of the Royal Commission, and they were well maintained.

3. It will be observed that Mr. Cameron furnishes very interesting information respecting the new B. 147 cane raised by Mr. Bovell at the Dodds Botanic Station about seven years ago, *i.e.*, before the creation of the present Department of Agriculture. This cane has been under continuous observation since that time, and it has uniformly yielded results far exceeding those of any other cane. I referred to this new cane in Addresses to the Agricultural Conference in 1899-1900. (West Indian Bulletin, pp. 13 and 14 and p. 148.)

4. The Secretary of State will be glad to learn, that the planters who have taken up the regular cultivation of the new cane and who are now reaping their crops are obtaining from one-half to nearly one ton more sugar, per acre, from B. 147 than from any other cane. Mr. Cameron states, that the yield of B. 147 with him has averaged two tons per acre—in some cases $2\frac{1}{4}$ and in others $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. The old canes with Mr. Cameron have in no instance yielded more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons "and in many cases not so much." At Stepney Estate, on one field, the yield, an exceptional one, was at the rate of 4 tons per acre. The new cane has also the advantage that, without further planting, it yields a good second crop at the rate of nearly two tons per acre.

5. I would hesitate to attach too much importance to results like these if they were not based on long and exhaustive trials, and supported by general consensus of opinion amongst the planting community.

6. There can, however, be no doubt as to the facts stated by Mr. Cameron and in view of short crops, caused by drought, it is gratifying to find that the planters are greatly assisted in their difficulties by a new cane which has been placed within their reach by scientific workers in the Colony.

7. I would desire once more to place on record, the opinion, that with new and improved canes, such as that described above, and the establishment of Central Factories in Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, the sugar industry of these islands could be placed on a thoroughly satisfactory footing, and within a very short period they would cease to be a source of anxiety and concern to the mother country.

I have, etc,

(Signed) D. MORRIS.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

Mr. Cameron to Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

Plantation Kent,

26th April, 1900.

DEAR DR. MORRIS,

Regarding "No. 147" seedling cane plants. I find I can account for 3,209,840 plants disposed of.

I have been paid for 893,370 plants sold locally, and 240,140 plants exported. In addition I have reaped 60,030 plants in 1899. There are 604,480 plants covering 500 acres being reaped, this 1900 crop; and 1,411,120 plants, covering about 11,000 acres planted for 1901 crop. The total plants, so far dealt with, as shown above, amount to 3,209,840.

The "No. 147" canes cut this crop have yielded 2 tons per acre, in some cases $2\frac{1}{2}$, and in others $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. In other canes than "No. 147," the yield has not exceeded $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton, and in many cases not so much.

In all I am reaping 500 acres of "No. 147" canes this crop. Next year I hope to reap over 1,100 acres.

Yesterday I asked the manager of Hampton to inspect a field of *second crop* "No 147" canes, now standing at Kent. I enclose his letter received to-day. I do not remember to have ever seen juice polarising as high as 2.18 pounds of sugar per gallon.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) A. CAMERON

Dr. MORRIS,

Commissioner for the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Attwell to Mr. Cameron.

Hampton,

April 26th, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I saw the 2nd crop No. 147 canes at Kent yesterday and they are very fine indeed, the test of juice of two canes I brought up is as follows:—

Density Beaume	12.
Specific Gravity	1.889
Polarisation lbs. per gall.	2.18
Percentage of Sucrose	20.0
Non Sugar.	1.4
Purity quo:	93.4

I am, etc.,

(Signed) E. A. ATWELL.

A. CAMERON, ESQ.

" DEMERARA " SUGAR.

The recent prosecution by the Birmingham Town Council, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, of a grocer, for selling aniline-dyed sugar as Demerara sugar, has attracted much attention in the trade. As there appears to be considerable misapprehension of the whole question and some mis-statements having been made in the course of the proceedings before the Magistrate, the West India Committee think it desirable to make known certain facts with regard to Demerara Sugar, and the question generally.

It is a fact, that where factories are provided with modern machinery, as in Demerara, Trinidad and St. Lucia, and in one or two isolated cases in other British West India Colonies, the process of manufacture of yellow crystals is practically the same in all cases, and it therefore may be safely maintained that crystallised yellow sugar, as it comes to this market, from the British West Indies or British Guiana, is all of the same " nature, substance, and quality," and therefore, any conviction of a grocer under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for selling Trinidad crystallised yellow sugar as Demerara, could only be made under a misapprehension of the facts of the case.

The case of aniline-dyed sugar, however, is materially different, and sugars which are coloured by means of aniline dyes, cannot fairly be said to be of the same " nature, substance and quality " as Demerara Sugar.

The yellow colour in Demerara Sugar is the result of a fine layer of molasses, which, as a result of the process, remains adherent to the otherwise white crystals. This molasses has a very distinct and very agreeable flavour, and it is due to this flavour that Demerara Sugar has become so generally popular.

In the case of aniline-dyed Sugars, the white crystal is surrounded by a thin layer of aniline dye and water, which has no appreciable aroma or flavour, in fact, whatever slight flavour it may add to the sugar, is distinctly of a disagreeable nature.

It is perfectly true, that so far as the percentage of pure sugar is concerned, aniline-dyed sugar may contain as high a percentage as Demerara sugar, just as ordinary claret at 16/- a dozen, may contain as much alcohol as the finest Lafitte worth 160/- per dozen. In the case of both sugar and claret, the value depends partly on the flavour.

It was stated before the Magistrate at Birmingham that aniline dyes are used in the manufacture of Demerara Sugar. This is not the case. It is true that some fifteen years ago, certain experiments were made in Demerara with aniline dyes, but as a result, it was found that :

1. They did not improve the colour of the sugar.
2. They added appreciably to the cost.
3. They deteriorated the flavour.

Hence they were universally given up, and no aniline dye is now used in Demerara; and the same thing holds good in the British West India Islands which manufacture yellow crystallised sugar on Demerara lines. What the West India Committee would distinctly understand by Demerara Sugar is sugar made in Demerara, Trinidad, or any other British West India Colony by the usual well-known Demerara process. If sugar were exceptionally made in Demerara by some new process, involving the use of aniline dye, or involving any serious modification of its character, it is doubtful whether such sugar could be fairly said to be of the " nature, substance and quality " of what has been known for the last forty years as Demerara Sugar. Hence, in the opinion of the West India Committee, sugars coloured with aniline dye, no matter where they may come from, are not of the " nature, substance and quality " of what is known as Demerara Sugar.

It was freely stated before the Magistrate in Birmingham that Demerara sugars are dyed, and it was also stated that what is known as "Bloomer" and "Phosphoric Acid," are used as dyes. Both the one and the other are used in order to restore to the sugar the natural colouring matter which is affected by the use of lime.

Sugar, whether made from cane-juice or beet-juice, cannot be extracted until the juice has been treated with lime. This lime affects the colouring matter in the cane-juice, and the action of Bloomer and Phosphoric Acid, is to set free the organic acids which the lime takes up, and thus to restore and fix the colouring matter existing in the juice in the same condition in which it existed prior to the introduction of lime.

ANTIGUA.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, our Antigua Correspondent sends us the following significant figures as to the number of paupers who received outdoor relief in that island during the year 1899.

City List	866
Country List	373

1,239

The Number of pauper burials from Hospital and poorhouse during the same year amounted to 348.

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," June 20th, 1900. From :

BARBADOS.—Mr. G. Skeeton, Mr. G. Evelyn, Capt. Coningham and Lieut. Reeves. DEMERARA.—Mrs. Rowland and two children, Mrs. Dickson and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad, Rev. and Mrs. Wylie and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Perot, Mrs. J. Downer, and Messrs. C. Bromley, Surie, G. Smith. JAMAICA.—Major and Mrs. Crawford and son, Messrs. C. P. and E. K. Aldrey, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Ellis, Miss Milward, Mr. and Mrs. W. Branday, Mr. W. R. Kempson, Col. and Mrs. Pennock, Lady Clarke, Mr. J. Cassis, Mr. A. Charley, Mr. H. Sallas, Miss Calchier, Col. and Mrs. C. J. Ward and daughter, Dr. E. Lewis, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Scandamore, Mr. and Mrs. Duran and three children, Miss Landow, Miss Fowler, Miss Alexander, Mrs. Anderson and two daughters, Mr. D. J. Evans. TRINIDAD.—Messrs. E. Norton and J. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh and two children, Miss Mcleod, Hon. and Mrs. M. Browne, Messrs. C. Herolt, R. Alcott, A. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Hendy, Mr. A. L. Smith, Mr. P. Maillard, Hon. E. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson and three children, Capt. Saunders, Dr. Secombe, Hon. and Mrs. Cipriani, Messrs. A. Alonzo, E. Hernandez, W. H. Richardson, Miss Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald. ANTIGUA.—Mr. and Mrs. Henzell, Lady Fleming and child, Mr. and Mrs. Muller and two daughters, Hon. W. E. Foster. DOMINICA.—Mr. A. G. Ogilvy, Miss Fadelle, Mrs. Danbiny and Mrs. Inverney, Mr. Rivierre and two nephews. GRENADA.—Miss Commission, Mrs. Harford. ST. KITTS.—Mr. Shelford. ST. LUCIA.—Hon. W. Peters. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. H. A. Hazell. TOBAGO.—Mr. T. R. Blakeley.

Departures and forward bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," June 27th, 1900. For :—

BARBADOS.—Forster M. Alleyne, Mr. H. J. Tiffen. JAMAICA.—Mr. A. O'Reilly King, Mrs. Cowie.

Per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 11th, 1900. For :

DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Davson and child, Col. and Mrs. McInnes, Mrs. G. A. Stewart and child. ST. KITTS.—Dr. Morse.

COCOA.

Messrs. C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE:—TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a flat tone after the date of our last report, and at the public sales held on the 29th May, out of a total of 1524 bags offered, only 406 were sold, and that at a decline of 1s. per cwt. Public sales have only been held on one occasion since, viz. : on the 12th June, when the market showed no improvement, and a few sales were made at a further decline of 6d. to 1s. per cwt., but Importers generally would not accede to the reduction. Low middling to good middling sold at 69s. to 73s. 6d. and fine to superior 74s. to 84s. per cwt. There is a little more steadiness at the close. Deliveries from 1st January to 16th June were 24,241 bags, against 22,580 bags last year. Landings 39,468 bags against 28,414 bags, and stocks on 16th June 33,862 bags against 25,182 bags.

GRENADA.—At the sales held on the 29th May, only 90 bags were offered which sold steadily, but at the last sales, when 1899 bags were brought forward, the tone of the market was very dull, and barely 350 bags were disposed of. Prices shewed a decline of 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Ordinary to good fair selling at 67s. to 68s. 6d., and middling to fine at 69s. to 72s. 6d. per cwt., but since then the market has shewn considerable improvement and fair business has been done privately at better prices. Deliveries from 1st January to 16th June were 26,305 bags, against 21,879 bags last year. Landings 32,898 bags against 31,811 bags and stocks on 16th June, 15,936 bags, against 22,879 bags.

THE RUM MARKET.

The rum market is firm and the sales amount to 300 Puns Demerara and Barbice at 1s. 8½d. to 1s. 9d., also 300 Puns Trinidad at 1s. 8d. proof gallon, being very full rates. Jamaica continue in good demand, and prices are again rather dearer all round, more particularly on the medium export descriptions, owing to the increase in the German duties, which we hear comes into force on the first of July. We increase our minimum quotation to 2s. 7. Board of Trade returns appended:—

Landed	In May	1900.		1899.		
		459,804	410,275	476,352	718,041	
5 months	...	2,590,141	1,864,472	2,575,049	2,852,286	
Home Consumption	In May	274,975	300,488	269,839	288,515	
5 months	...	2,189,843	1,896,732	1,694,339	1,735,172	
Export	In May	176,176	61,463	67,938	58,490	
5 months	...	506,977	354,152	350,442	370,928	
Stocks	Galls	31st May	6,549,000	6,939,000	8,452,000	9,186,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

Jamaica, Puns.	7,025	9,314	10,862	13,787
Other West India Islands	611	1,006	1,106	965
Demerara	4,070	2,370	5,844	7,366
Foreign	1,381	726	932	1,399
British East India	278	416	289	221
Vatted	2,991	3,444	3,758	3,874
Total	16,356	17,276	22,791	27,612

BEET PROSPECTS.

According to *Licht's circular* of 16th June, in GERMANY, the weather during the past month was not equable, warm days being succeeded by cold nights. The precipitations were below the average for May, but copious rains have fallen in the current month, accompanied by a rise of temperature, though in the eastern part more moisture is needed. Planting was finished almost everywhere up to time. Owing to the irregularity of the crop, transplanting and singling the beets has been rendered difficult, and a second careful singling will be necessary. With the more rapid growth of the beet, weeds have developed similarly and their extirpation occupies all available hands, but this work will be finished in time, unless a spell of warmth hardens the ground too much.

In AUSTRIA, the weather, at first unsatisfactory, has been dark, cool and rainy. Early in June a change set in, bringing summer heat and dry weather but for a few thunder showers. Much of the backwardness of the crop has been made up for. First hoeing is finished everywhere and singling out has made good progress. In HUNGARY, beets had in many places to be resown. The weather has changed for the better. From FRANCE reports vary. Unfavourable ones however predominate, heavy rains having been reported from the Ardennes only. Resowings have had to take place. The beetfields are said still to show a delay of a fortnight. In BELGIUM and HOLLAND, the state of the beetfields cause satisfaction, though some districts are backward.

The accounts from DENMARK and SWEDEN are fairly favourable. In RUSSIA, 276 factories will be running this year. The damage done by frost has been rather serious, though that due to insects is less than usual. A beet factory is being erected in TURKEY and in ITALY, the growing of corn is giving place to beet cultivation.

EXPORTS FROM BARBADOS, BRITISH GUIANA, AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalte. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1st to 6th June, 1900	24,602	10,039	16,500	—	—	41,471	128	1,332
Jan. 1st to 24th May, 1899	20,830	3,981	82,229	—	—	36,625	244	1,898
BARBADOS—								
Jan. 1st to 9th June, 1900	22,870	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,975
Jan. 1st to 9th June, 1899	24,106	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,441
TRINIDAD—								
	Bags & Bils.						Puns	Tres.
Jan. 1st to 6th June, 1900	323,385	317	17,928,880	1,540	48,988	—	4,699,821	4,091
Jan. 1st to 6th June, 1899	431,648	1,305	19,900,200	3,040	40,329	—	5,124,622	6,710
							72	74
							215	112

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to 16th, June 1900	...	240,296 tons,	against	280,308 tons	in 1899,	and	326,610 tons	in 1898.
DELIVERIES to	„	258,220	„	292,843	„	„	328,460	„
PRESENT STOCKS	...	43,771	„	64,449	„	„	85,211	„

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

1,552,033 tons, against 1,849,693 tons in 1899, and 2,069,990 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 11s. to 11s. 0½d. against 10s. 9¼d., in 1899, and 9s. 6½d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). May 29: "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." June 12: "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." DEMERARA.—(New Colonial Co.) May 28: "Heavy rains, cultivation suffering." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) June 11: "Weather favourable for cultivation." June 23: "Weather rather too wet." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.). June 11: "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) June 16: "Weather all that can be desired." TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.) May 29: "Weather showery and unsettled." June 20: "Heavy rains beneficial for cultivation." (Messrs. C. Tennant Sons, & Co.), June 11: "Showery, very favourable and general."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading.

The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms in addition to the Current West Indian Newspapers:

Cane Sugar—W. L. Bass, New York, (11 pamphlets). I. *Defecation and Elimination*. II. *Transportation*. III. *Extraction*. IV. *Fuel and Steam*. V. *Classification*. VI. *Concentration*. VII. *Scum and By-Products*. VIII. *Crystallization*. IX. *Purging*. X. *Bagging and Handling*. XI. *Cane Contracts between the Crown Agents and Messrs. Elder Dempster and Co., for Steamship Service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, and Trinidad Official Papers, Gazettes, Ordinances, &c.* "Moth Borer in Sugar Cane." *Imperial Department of Agriculture. West Indian Bulletin, No. 3. The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, Vol. IV, No. 5. The West Indian Illustrated, Vol. I, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7.*

The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.; Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet, Bryson & Co.'s, *Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s* (London and New York), *Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Park Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and E. D. & F. Man's Circular.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

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23rd July, 1900.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Much inconvenience will be avoided if those gentlemen who have not already done so will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscription for the current year.

THE IMPERIAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

At the recent meetings of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, two resolutions respecting matters largely affecting the interests of the West Indies—the Sugar Bounties and the Rum Surtax—were carried, the former by an overwhelming majority. The Anti-Bounty resolution, the text of which was given in the last Circular, was proposed by Sir Nevile Lubbock on behalf of the London Chamber, seconded by Mr. M. G. Thorburn, South of Scotland Chamber, and supported by Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., Mr. C. J. Crosfield (Liverpool), Mr. Arthur Lee (Bristol), Mr. W. F. Cockshutt (Toronto Board of Trade), Mr. Macfarlane (Ottawa), Mr. J. E. Tinne (Georgetown), Mr. G. H. Dick (Glasgow), Mr. G. W. Simmons (St. Albans), Mr. A. D. Cotton (Brisbane, Queensland), Mr. E. Snell (Durban), and the Rt. Hon. Lord Avebury. It urges the Government to enter as soon as practicable into a convention with Austria, Germany, and other Powers who have expressed their willingness to abolish bounties, such a convention to contain a penal clause prohibiting the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the contracting Powers. In the House of Commons on July 13th, Mr. Brodrick, in reply to a question from Mr. Lawrence, said that no negotiations were then proceeding with reference to the abolition of sugar bounties on the part of Her Majesty's Government, but that there was reason to believe that certain communications had recently passed between some foreign Governments relative to this question, though the Government had not yet learnt whether those communications were likely to lead to any practical result. In view of Lord Selborne's significant statement at the opening meeting of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, that he felt confident that the deliberations of the Congress would not be unfruitful, we may fairly hope that the expression of public opinion contained in this resolution may lead to a speedy reassembling of the Brussels Conference at which the British delegates may have full powers to assent to a convention with a penal clause. Through the courtesy of the London Chamber, a full report of this important discussion will shortly be published by the Anti-Bounty League and posted to members.

THE RUM SURTAX.

The following is the text of the resolution regarding the Rum Surtax, which was proposed by Mr. E. A. DePass, on behalf of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, seconded by Mr. J. E. Tinne, Delegate of the Georgetown, Demerara, Chamber of Commerce and carried:—

"That this Meeting of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire recognising the injustice of the Surtax or extra duty of 4d. per gallon levied on Spirits from Colonies whose excise regulations are under the Control of the Colonial Office, urges her Majesty's Government to place such Colonies on a Free Trade basis with the Mother Country."

In the House of Commons on the 25th ult, Mr. Lawrence asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why the reports on this subject, issued in response to his invitation by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and the Sugar Planters Association of Jamaica, setting out the effect of the local excise restrictions on the cost of production of rum, were not included in the return recently published. Mr. Chamberlain in reply said that the reports referred to did not come within the Order of the House of February 13th, but were furnished for the information of Her Majesty's Government in response to a separate despatch addressed only to certain West Indian Colonies. These, together with further official correspondence received from Trinidad would be laid on the table of the House.

In continuance of the correspondence, the following letter was despatched to the Secretary of State on the 5th inst—

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lucas' letter 122,669,1900, written at your direction on the Subject of the Rum Surtax and a copy of a later report signed by the Receiver General and the Collector of Customs, as to the cost to local distillers of the excise restrictions in Trinidad.

With reference thereto I am to say that my Committee fail to see that Mr. McCarthy has in any way "corrected the opinion he previously expressed" on this subject, either in his former report, where he states that he and Professor Carmody agree that the cost to local distillers of excise restrictions in Trinidad, "is beyond question markedly higher than the corresponding amount is in Great Britain," or in his evidence before the Royal Commission, when, in reply to the question: "Have you formed any opinion as to the soundness of the principle on which that charge (the surtax) is levied," he replied, "I do not think it is sound: it is a disguised bounty to the English distiller." (Trinidad evidence p. 262. question 700). It is true that in this later report he says that the increased cost of production of Rum in Trinidad due to excise restriction probably amounts to 2d. per gallon, but he does not state that in his opinion the increased cost of production of spirits in the United Kingdom amounts to 4d. per gallon and it must be remembered, that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in their report 1870 c 82, say that 1½d. per gallon is "a sufficient allowance to compensate the home distillers for these excise regulations."

My Committee note with satisfaction that you, Sir, are not in favour of any artificial advantages to producers in one colony against another and assume that the same holds good as between the Colonies and the Mother Country. I am to point out however, that at the present moment, the fiscal measures for raising Revenue in territories administered under the responsibility of Her Majesty's Government, are giving artificial advantage to spirit producers in Great Britain, as against similar producers in Her Majesty's Crown Colonies.

With regard to your remark that the variety of local conditions makes absolute uniformity in the excise systems of the different colonies almost impossible, I am to point out, that the question is not as to the regulations being identical, but whether they impose equal disabilities on producers, and the evidence so far, seems to show that these disabilities in the West Indies, have been proved to be fully as great as those experienced in this country. Taking into consideration that a large staff of officials are paid in the Colonies and that the supervision has always given satisfaction, if the Treasury is not satisfied with the restrictions, it should surely be their duty to point out what defects, if any, they consider to exist.

Distillers in the West Indies, are willing to submit to any restrictions that the Treasury may think fit for the protection of the Revenue of the Colonies, but they wish to be charged the same duty for their Spirit in Great Britain as the British distillers.

As you, Sir, are doubtless aware, at the recent meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, at the instance of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, a resolution was passed condemning the Surtax as unjust and urging its abolition, so my Committee feel that an apology is not necessary for their pressing this matter, more especially as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has admitted that the Surtax may operate in some measure to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies.

I have etc., (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

To the above letter a reply was received by the Chairman on the 17th inst. as follows:—

Downing Street,

17th July, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, on the subject of the Rum Surtax; and to inform you that he cannot usefully add anything to his letter of the 21st May, but that a copy of the correspondence has been sent to the Treasury for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

THE "IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE" CODRINGTON COLLEGE, BARBADOS.

We learn from Canon T. Herbert Bindley, the Principal, that the interest taken by the West India Committee in the sustentation of Codrington College, has been fruitful of good results. The first (Academical) year of its renewed life closed on June 23rd, and the work accomplished has been most satisfactory. The students, whose course would have been uncompleted had the College been closed in June, 1899, have been able to pass their examinations, one gaining a second class in the honour classical school at Durham University. Another proceeded to his Licence in Theology in December and no failure has to be chronicled. Two new Students entered in October and five more are expected for next Term—two from Barbados, two from Antigua, and one from Trinidad. The numbers are still small, and it will no doubt take a long time to re-establish in the West Indian Islands a conviction that the College can really be depended upon to continue its good work without fear of further interruption, but the prospects of the College, both financially and otherwise, seem to be brighter than they have been for some years past.

"DEMERARA" SUGAR.

A letter on this subject, signed by Mr. A. Summerson and Mr. J. H. De Jonge has been addressed to the Press by the British Guiana Planters Association and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce in the following terms:—

"The attention of those interested in the production of Demerara Crystals having been called to the recent proceedings in the Law Courts of Birmingham, against a grocer for 'selling Demerara Sugar which was not of the nature, substance and quality of the article demanded, inasmuch as it contained 100% of dyed sugar crystals.' We have to say that there is no truth whatever in the statement that aniline or any other dyes are used in the manufacture of Demerara Cane Sugars.

In support of this statement, we have sent certificates from the 54 Sugar Factories in this Colony, signed by the respective Managers, to the West India Committee, London, where they can be seen, by anyone interested, and we challenge the fullest investigation into the correctness of this assertion."

ST. KITTS TAXATION.

Mr. Chamberlain has decided with regret that he cannot sanction the remission of the land tax in St. Kitts. In a letter to the Committee he points out that such a remission would mean a large increase to the deficit of the Presidency towards the liquidation of which the Imperial Treasury is already contributing a substantial sum, in addition to the grant which it has given to the Leeward Islands in consideration of the hurricanes of last year. The question of poor relief, he says has received and will receive the attention of the local administration and the Secretary of State. A letter on this subject was addressed to the local branch of the West India Committee as the "only body which fairly represents the planting industry" in St. Kitts, by the Administrator on March 19th last. After reviewing the prospect of the crop which he estimated would be 8,000 tons instead of 12,000 in the preceding year, and the danger of labourers in consequence leaving the island, he urged for consideration the necessity for prompt action in the direction of inducing these people to remain in their island either by grants of land on which they could form homesteads of their own, or by any other means which might be preferred. For the moment the Government are, he says, powerless, as with the exception of "La Guerite," which is in cane cultivation, all the land in the island from sea-shore to mountain is claimed as private property.

THE "IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE."

Mr. Stockley, of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., who, it will be remembered, visited Jamaica early last year to report on the prospects of the fruit industry, will sail for Jamaica by the way of New York on August 18th next, in order to make arrangements for the purchase of bananas in accordance with the contract entered into between Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co. and the Government, for the direct fruit service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom. Captain Parsons, who will be Commodore of the Fleet, has just returned from a visit to Jamaica. He reports unfavourably as to the suitability of Port Antonio for big steamers, so it is understood that the contract will undergo some modification and some other port be chosen instead of Port Antonio. Mr. Withers, who has had much experience with banana cultivation at Teneriffe, has been appointed local fruit manager in Jamaica. Bristol will be the English port of the service.

THE CABLE QUESTION.

In the House of Commons on Thursday July 19th, Mr. Tomlinson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he was aware that, although the Island of Jamaica was now in direct telegraphic communication with the British Empire through British cables by Turks Island, Bermuda, and Halifax (Nova Scotia), no steps had yet been taken to establish a direct communication between Jamaica and the other West Indian Islands, and that the cables connecting Jamaica with the fortified coaling station of St. Lucia and the Islands of Barbados, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and the other West Indian Islands, as well as the mainland of British Guiana, all touched foreign soil at one or more points. Whether he was aware that British Honduras was also dependent upon foreign cables, and that if a colonist in British Honduras wished to telegraph to the United States or England, he had to take a journey into the neighbouring Republics of Guatemala or Spanish Honduras in order to do so. Whether the Colonial Office had these matters under consideration. And, whether he could hold out any hope of being able to deal speedily with these grievances. In reply, Mr. Chamberlain said, "The facts are as stated. The points raised in the question have been carefully considered, and will not be lost sight of. Considerable expenditure would be involved, and I cannot promise any immediate action in the matter."

RECIPROCIETY.

The Canadian delegates to the recent Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire attended a Meeting of the Acting Committee, presided over by Sir Nevile Lubbock on the 28th ult. when the desirability of the establishment of closer trade relations between the West Indies and Canada was discussed. The Chairman pointed out, that pending the abolition of bounties, the West Indies were practically dependent on the markets of the United States, who had imposed countervailing duties on bounty fed sugar, for the sale of their sugar, and there was a danger, that if they were to enter into reciprocal arrangements with Canada, who consumed at the present time about one half of the total amount of sugar produced in the British West Indies, the United States might retaliate and shut out their sugars. The Canadian delegates, who gave their views on the subject, were unable to show that any advantage would accrue to Trinidad from the proposed reciprocal arrangement with their Country. Subsequent to a further meeting, the following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State:—

Sir,

My Committee have learnt with much surprise, that the Legislative Council of Trinidad has decided not to agree to an extension of time for the ratification of the proposed reciprocal treaty with the United States. They have reason to believe that this *volte face* is due to a desire supposed to exist in Trinidad, to enter into reciprocal negotiations with Canada.

Assuming this to be the case, I am to point out to you, Sir, the prejudicial effect such a course might have on the interests of the other West Indian Colonies.

If a reciprocal arrangement with Canada were made on behalf of Trinidad, whereby Canadian produce would be favoured as against American produce, there is a danger that the United States might retaliate by closing their markets to West Indian produce, a result that would be disastrous to the welfare of the West Indian Colonies.

I have, etc.

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK.

Chairman.

BRITISH GUIANA CHEMISTS ORDINANCE.

The Secretary of State has forwarded for the information of the Committee, a copy of Ordinance 13 of 1900, passed by the Legislature of British Guiana, to amend the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance No. 3, of 1899, in the points referred to in the Committee's letter of 11th May, 1899, (see circular No. 17, P. 1). From this amending Ordinance it appears, that in accordance with the recommendation of the West India Committee, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, and Caustic Soda are omitted from the operation of the act.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION TO TRINIDAD.

The suggestion that a uniform number of Indian Immigrants should be introduced into Trinidad each year, has been accepted by the local Government and the Colonial Office. The number was fixed at 2,400, only to be varied under exceptional circumstances.

PROPOSED CENTRAL FACTORY FOR BARBADOS.

A recent letter from Mr. G. A. Sealy to the "Agricultural Reporter," on the subject of co-operative central factories, has attracted much attention. According to the packet summary of that Journal, which is to hand by the mail, it appears, that Mr. Sealy convened a meeting at the Bridgetown Club, on Tuesday evening, 3rd of July, to see whether those who accepted his views and thought that they

could be carried into practice at once, would come forward and aid in the forming of a company. In response to his call there appeared Messrs. R. Haynes, planter; D. C. DaCosta, merchant; Thos. Clarke, planter; J. Challenor Lynch, merchant and landed proprietor; T. W. Wilkinson, merchant; G. Elliott Sealy, planter; C. J. Greenidge, landed proprietor; and J. H. C. Leacock, merchant. Having fully discussed the matter in an informal manner, it was determined that a company should at once be formed. All the gentlemen present pledged their words to become shareholders; and it was further decided the capital of the concern should be £60,000, to be made up of £1 shares, that it should be registered under the Joint Stock Companies Act, and that Messrs. Carrington and Sealy be appointed Solicitors of the Company and be instructed to draw up the Articles of Association.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

At a meeting of the Dominica Agricultural Society, held on the 30th ult., the following important resolution was passed concerning this increasing evil.

"Whereas by the Act known as No. 6, of 1886, briefly termed the 'Cocoa, Coffee, and Spices Growers Protection Act 1887,' the offence of Praedial Larceny has in no way been efficiently prevented in this Island. We are of opinion, that corporal punishment is the only means by which the offence in question can be eliminated, and we accordingly consider that this addition should be made to the penalties already applicable under the Act."

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Don," July 5th, 1900. From:—

BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. D. Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. Greaves, Miss M. Browne, Miss Greaves, His Honour H. H. Bree, Capt. Rew, wife and child, Mr. R. L. Watson, Mr. G. Hurne, Mr. and Mrs. Bartel and child, Mrs. Scully and child, Dr. J. E. A. Fergusson, Hon. H. Wrightson and wife. DEMERARA.—Mr. Blair, Miss Edmonds, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell and child, Mr. J. W. Forshaw. JAMAICA.—Mrs. McGill and 5 children, Mrs. Church and 2 children, Miss Pigou, Miss Mills, Mr. Renoz, Mr. S. M. Pierre, Miss Violet Robinson, Master A. Sherlock, Master Pawsey, Mrs. Braham, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Dewar, Mrs. Sherlock, Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Mrs. Steer and child, Miss Woolcott, Mr. and Mrs. Pawsey, Mr. W. Couran, Capt. Cowie, Lieut. W. P. Marley, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Mr. F. E. W. Butt. TRINIDAD.—Mrs. Carry, Miss Carry, Mrs. E. Bowen and child, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Miller, Mrs. L. Mothieu, Mr. and Mrs. Laurie and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross, Miss A. Gonzalez, Mr. and Mrs. Bristow, Mr. C. F. Bentier, Miss Ida Wallace, Mr. H. S. Smith, Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Lange and 3 children, Mrs. W. Knox and child, 2 Misses Sellier, Mr. Archibald. ANTIGUA.—Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Lane, Miss Lane, Mr. and Mrs. E. Grant, Master H. Baynes. GRENADA.—Mr. J. La Mothe, Mr. J. Cathcart, Lady Moloney. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. J. M. McDonald.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," July 19th, 1900. From:—

BARBADOS.—Mrs. Maix, Capt. Chancellor, Mr. Hugo Tietz, Mrs. E. Booth, Mr. W. L. Spence, Dr. H. F. Sturdie. DEMERARA.—Mr. H. E. Kent, Mr. H. Rickford, Mrs. Turner and 2 children, Mrs. A. Weber, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Duncan and 5 children, Mrs. Massey and 2 children, Hon. and Mrs. E. C. Luard and 2 children, Miss A. Fitzgerald, Messrs. J. Guillot, R. F. Johnson, Kortright, Dr. W. F. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Messer and 2 children, Mr. H. Deverill, Capt. A. Duncan, Mr. H. S. Dykes, Mr. G. F. Franks, Mr. A. Medorn. JAMAICA.—Rev. K. and Mrs. Johnstone and 3 children, Mrs. Seiter and 2 children, Miss Alexander, Miss McDaniel, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Kerr, Mrs. H. Thompson, Miss L. Levy, Miss A. Boyd, Capt. and Mrs. Barthorpe and 2 children, Miss L. H. Heron, Dr. P. Preuss, Mr. R. H. B. Hotchkin, Mr. F. Cundall, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Vickers, Mrs. L. Verley, Miss Verley, His Grace Archbishop Nuttall and Miss J. Nuttall, Mr. A. Munro, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Johnson and 3 children, Mrs. Roxburgh and child, Miss V. Nickers, Miss G. Morris, Mr. E. W. Coke, Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Hall, Miss H. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Farquharson, Mr. J. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. R. Craig, Mr. Aitken, Mr. J. W. Hill, Lieut.-Col. J. Lees Hall. TRINIDAD.—Sir H. E. Hubert Jerningham, K.C.M.G., Mr. F. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sanger Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. A. Riddell, Mr. J. S. Lillywhite, Dr. F. A. A. de Verteuil, Mr. R. J. Nanco, Mr. J. F. A. Redhead, Miss Buckingham, Hon. E. Agostini, Q.C., Hon. S. Henderson, Mr. A. H. Cook, Mrs. M. F. Berson, Mr. J. P. Bain, Mr. M. F. McBean, Mrs. H. R. Harwood and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. T. Gashard, Mr. Uncker, Mrs. A. Briggs, Mr. E. Gerold, Mr. J. W. Warren. ANTIGUA.—Mr. K. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. G. Roden. DOMINICA.—Mr. A. K. Agar. ST. LUCIA.—Miss Harrison. ST. VINCENT.—Rev. A. R. Moss, Mr. A. M. Mackie, Mr. H. L. Thornton, Mr. H. Sworder.

Departures per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 11th, 1900. For:—

BARBADOS.—Mr H. B. G. Austin, Miss Austin, Mrs. Quinn, Capt. H. D. Harvest. DEMERARA.—Mrs. D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Davson, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Stewart, Mr. C. Bromley, Mr. J. B. Bruce, Mr. Lloyd Dornford. JAMAICA.—Miss Gladys Trench, Miss H. Brandon, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Nunes, Miss Wright, Mr. P. J. O. L. Bradbury. TRINIDAD.—Mr. G. Maingonnet, Mr. A. P. G. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Pereira, Mr. C. W. C. Horne, Mr. and Mrs. Ligaron. DOMINICA.—Mr. J. Coxfillan. ST. KITTS.—Dr. Nourse. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. H. Endoxie.

Forward bookings per R.M.S., "Para," leaving Southampton July 25th, 1900.

BARBADOS.—Master Bancroft, Master E. Lorando, Rev. Canon Venn, Master Clifton Wright, Master D. L. Pile. DEMERARA.—Mr. A. Russell, Mr. Sedorff and family, Mr. Francis Dias. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. Dowden, Mr. H. G. Sturridge and wife, Mr. C. W. Bantes, Lieut. R. F. Danbuz.

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—After the date of our last report no further public sales of Trinidad Cocoa were held until the 3rd July, when there was more demand, and nearly half the quantity offered was sold at firm prices; subsequently the market steadily improved, and at the auctions held on the 10th and 17th July almost the whole supply brought forward found buyers at dearer rates, prices at the close showing an advance of about 2s. per cwt. Sales for the month amount to about 4,000 bags, closing quotations being 71s. to 75s. for low to good middling red, and 75s. 6d. to 85s. for fine to superior. Deliveries from 1st Jan. to 14th July, were 26,572 bags, against 24,600 bags last year. Landings 41,673 bags, against 33,011 bags. Stocks on 14 July 33,736 bags against 27,759 bags.

GRENADE.—The tone of the market has been firm throughout the past month, and the 1,761 bags offered at the auctions were sold at advancing prices, and in addition about 700 bags have been sold privately at the same rates. The improvement since the date of our last report amounts to fully 3s. per cwt., and the market closes with a strong tone. Deliveries from 1st Jan. to 14th July were 29,951 bags, against 24,939 bags last year. Landings 34,502 bags against 33,391 bags, and stocks on 14th July 13,894 bags, against 21,399 bags. Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

THE RUM MARKET.

The tone of the proof market continues steady, but owing to absence of supplies no sales are recorded for the past month, and quotations for Demerara remain the same, viz., 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9½d. per proof gallon. The "Saba" has arrived from Demerara with 700 puns, but samples are not yet ready for market. Jamaicas continue in good demand for home trade descriptions, and prices are again rather dearer, good common selling at 2s. 8d., but for the medium export kinds there is much less enquiry, the German market having been filled up for the time being. We append the Board of Trade returns:—

			1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Landed	In June	...	439,753	499,443	464,922	215,971
	6 months	...	2,024,486	2,346,169	3,074,589	3,094,463
Home Consumption	In June	...	186,237	211,338	230,159	227,084
	6 months	...	2,376,080	2,108,070	1,925,098	1,982,253
Export	In June	...	154,487	64,593	84,752	72,192
	6 months	...	661,464	418,745	435,194	443,120
Stocks	Galls	30th June	6,598,000	7,093,000	8,597,000	9,050,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

Jamaica, Puns.	7,803	10,981	12,721	14,357
Other West India Islands	792	1,065	1,266	957
Demerara	3,627	2,454	5,010	6,948
Foreign	1,348	767	892	1,319
British East India	248	607	252	295
Vatted	3,046	3,399	3,837	3,860
Total	16,846	19,333	23,978	27,846

BEEF PROSPECTS.

In FRANCE, beet cultivators express satisfaction at the recent tropical weather. The development of the crop however, shows great inequality and in some cases points to an inferior yield. Conditions in the other EUROPEAN COUNTRIES are somewhat analogous. Part of the crop was resown and is accordingly backward and gives rise to loud complaints. But the present temperature is generally propitious to the growth of the plant and the next few weeks may make great changes. *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre.*

EXPORTS FROM BARBADOS, BRITISH GUIANA, AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalt. Tons	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1st to June 20th, 1900	28,202	10,102	16,500	—	—	16,037	128	1,469
Jan. 1st to June 20th, 1899	27,855	4,766	97,957	—	—	47,452	384	2,749
BARBADOS—								
	Hogsheads.							
Jan. 1st to July 6th, 1900	36,599	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,394
Jan. 1st to July 6th, 1899	33,637	—	—	—	—	—	—	22,392
TRINIDAD—								
	Bags & Brls.							
Jan. 1st to July 4th, 1900	362,143	78	20,177,130	1,860	58,904	—	5,036,381	5,332 72 74
Jan. 1st to July 4th, 1899	460,803	1,479	21,851,970	3,520	59,750	—	6,221,581	8,863 272 183

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to July 14th, 1900	322,105 tons,	against 322,105 tons in 1899,	and 378,632 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES to	298,042	"	336,597
PRESENT STOCKS	48,571	"	62,493

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

1,224,551 tons, against 1,396,321 tons in 1899, and 1,792,467 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 12s. against 10s. 8½d. in 1899, and 9s. 3d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller.) June 26: "Seasonable weather." July 10: "Rains have continued." DEMERARA.—(New Colonial Co.) June 25: "Heavy rains generally." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) June 27: "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) June 25: "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message." TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.) June 27: "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation." July 12: *Idem.*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading.

The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms in addition to the Current West Indian Newspapers:

"Canada's Interests in the West Indian Islands," Canadian Pacific Railway Co.; "International Sugar Journal," Vol. 2, No. 19; "Planting in Tobago," Imperial Department of Agriculture; "Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad"; "Some protected British Industries," a paper read by Professor Carmody at the Victoria Institute, Trinidad; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.; Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet, Bryson & Co's., Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co's (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Park Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co's, C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and E. D. & F. Man's Circular.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 31.

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August 20th, 1900.

THE ACTING COMMITTEE.

At a meeting held on August 8th, Mr. Alfred L. Jones, of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., proposed by Mr. Edward G. Barr and seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, was unanimously elected a member of the Acting Committee.

Unless anything unforeseen occurs to render such a course necessary, no meetings will be held and no circulars issued during the month of September. During the holidays, the Committee rooms will remain open from the hours of 11 to 1 and 2 to 3 daily, Saturdays excepted.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

We understand that the Colonial Office are still entertaining the idea of a fiscal arrangement between Canada and Trinidad, which it is assumed will be on the basis of Canadian products being admitted free to Trinidad, whilst the existing duties would remain on similar products coming from other parts of the world. The loss of revenue on flour and lumber under such an arrangement would be upwards of £30,000, whilst there are commodities which at present partly come from Canada and partly from other countries, and which produce a revenue of about £15,000. Thus, an arrangement with Canada on the above basis may involve Trinidad in a loss of £45,000 revenue, and the question arises—How is this to be made up?

It is quite obvious that sugar can bear no increased taxation, especially if such an arrangement as the above is made, since the position of sugar, will, in all probability, be distinctly worse than it is at present, unless the advantages offered by Canada are to be absolutely confined to Trinidad, and it is hardly conceivable that the United States would not at once retaliate, and, practically, put a stop to the importation of West India Sugar altogether.

It is needless to remark that if such an action were taken by the United States it would mean the ruin of the Sugar industry of the West Indies. Nor does it appear that Cocoa would be able to stand any further taxation, inasmuch as the United States would be likely to retaliate upon Cocoa, as well as Sugar, in which case Cocoa would lose a useful and, what appears to be, a growing market. It is therefore difficult to see how such an arrangement can be of any possible advantage to Trinidad, whilst it is easy to see that its results may be of a most serious and far-reaching character to the West Indies as a whole.

THE RUM SURTAX.

In *Circular* No. 29, some reference was made to the recently issued "Spirits Ordinance" Blue Book, and we remarked that the statement of the Supervisor of Revenue in Jamaica therein contained as to the nature of the local excise restrictions in Jamaica, seemed hardly to accord with the Jamaica Law 10 of 1878, and was directly opposed to the views of the distillers of Jamaica, as expressed in a memorial to the Secretary of State. It was hardly to be expected that the Distillers of Jamaica would allow the statement of the Supervisor of Revenue to pass unchallenged, and we have now received copies of a strong protest adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Planters' Association. The Association which characterises the assertions of the Supervisor of Revenue as to the mild character of the excise regulations as "gross mis-statements and wholly contrary to fact,"

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refers to its reply to the Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking for information as to Excise Restrictions as containing a fair, moderate and truthful estimate of the cost of these restrictions to the Rum manufacturer. In this reply it will be remembered that the Jamaica distillers "fairly and moderately" estimated the additional cost of production of Rum per gallon, in consequence of excise restrictions, at 3½d. a gallon. The Association refers to the subsequent correspondence which took place with the Government on the subject of that reply, and points out that notwithstanding the attempt and the failure of the Government to discount statements of the Association, and the subsequent protestation of His Excellency the Governor "that the interests of the Sugar Industry held a foremost place in his regard, and would always receive his best attention and his strongest support," the groundless assertions of a subordinate local official were furnished to the Home Government, as the answers of the Local Government, without reference to the facts and calculations prepared by the Association at the request of the Secretary of State, which facts, as embodied in the Laws of the Island, cannot be disputed. Copies of this protest, have, in accordance with a resolution of the Acting Committee, been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to those Members of Parliament who have taken an interest in this question, the importance which to the West Indian Rum producing Colonies cannot be over-estimated.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

The "Bann" has sailed from Demerara with 560 return adult immigrants. One more ship will leave this season. The estimated value of jewellery taken away by the returning immigrants in the "Bann" is \$4,600, and the amount deposited for remittance to India \$27,543.89.

The scarcity of labour in Trinidad is very great, and seems likely to be aggravated in the near future, as we are informed officially that no dates have yet been fixed for the sailing of the next coolie ships from Calcutta to Trinidad. This is what was feared might result from one agent acting for several Colonies. But no doubt the Legislative Council of Trinidad will put pressure on the Government to see that in future their interests are not subordinated to those of all the other Colonies.

THE CANE SUGAR MOVEMENT.

This movement is making progress and funds are about to be subscribed to a body of Trustees upon a Declaration of Trust, under which the funds will have to be applied for the sole and special object of promoting and safe-guarding the sale of cane sugars of the West Indies and British Guiana. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. H. K. Davson, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard and Mr. T. J. Wilkinson have expressed their willingness to act as trustees of the fund.

THE BRITISH GUIANA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

We have received a copy of the statement of accounts of this Association which has done such good work for the Colony of British Guiana since its inauguration by Mr. E. G. Barr in 1872. At the Annual General Meeting held on the 19th ult., Mr. A. P. Mackey was elected Chairman for the current year, and Messrs. B. Howell-Jones, G. Wyatt and J. Monkhouse, Members of Council, with Mr. A. Summerson as Secretary and Treasurer. The Association has voted a handsome donation to the Anti-Bounty League.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

In the House of Commons on August 7th last, **Mr. C. McArthur** (Liverpool Exchange), asked the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in view of the continued effect of the Continental bounty system upon the British sugar refining industry, as evidenced by the closing of two more important refineries at Liverpool during the past year, her Majesty's Government intended to take any decisive measures for the relief of that industry from a system which was calculated to result in its extinction.

Mr. Balfour.—"Before I can give any answer about the decisive measures of which my hon. friend speaks in his question, I ought to have some clear idea of what those measures are."

Mr. C. McArthur said he should like to ask whether the Government would consider the advisability of entering into negotiations with other bounty-giving States, with a view of prohibiting the use of bounty-fed sugar under a penal clause.

Mr. Balfour.—"I have hopes that all the chief bounty-giving countries—France, Germany, Russia, and Austria—will abandon the bounties; but I would not like to pledge myself to that."

THE FRENCH SUGAR BOUNTIES.

A decree has been issued in Paris fixing the export bounties as from the 1st prox. as under:—

	1900-1901.	1899-1900.	1898-1899.	Maximum amount allowable by law of April 7th, 1897.
Candy Sugar	fcs. 2.86	fcs. 3.55	fcs. 3.11	fcs. 4.50
Refined Sugar above 98% ... ..	.. 2.55	.. 3.16	.. 2.77	.. 4.00
Sugar of 65-98% ... ..	.. 2.22	.. 2.76	.. 2.42	.. 3.50

WEST INDIAN LIME JUICE.

The following letter has been addressed to the Press by the West India Committee on this subject:—
Sir,

The attention of the West India Committee has been called to the fact, that at the present time Lemon Juice is being largely mixed with Lime Juice in this country, and the compound is being sold as "Lime Juice," to the detriment of the buyer and of those British West India Colonies, such as Montserrat and Dominica, where the lime fruit is extensively grown.

The West Indian Committee, therefore, confidently appeals to the British Public to further the interests of those Colonies by asking for "Pure West Indian Lime-Juice" and "Cordials," sold in bottles marked as such, or so described in the invoices. By this precaution every buyer will secure for himself the benefit of the Merchandize Marks Act (1887), which forbids any false trade description and thus secures the buyers in obtaining the goods they have asked for.

Your, etc.,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.
Secretary.

JAMAICA POTATOES.

The West India Committee received by the Mail which arrived July 19th, a consignment of potatoes from Jamaica, grown at Sea View near Stoney Hill in St. Andrew's Parish. The potatoes which were of mixed sorts and sizes were submitted for inspection to several potato merchants in Covent Garden Market. They do not seem to consider the seed at all a good one, and several of the potatoes showed signs of blight. Of course it very largely depends upon the price potatoes can be grown at in Jamaica, as to whether it will pay to ship them over here. But certainly, the potatoes

give promise, that if the right sort of seed is planted, Jamaica can produce a good potato. The round potatoes are not marketable here, except at a very low price; the best and most saleable are medium sized kidneys, and prices vary greatly according to demand. In February, prices are usually from 8/- to 10/- per cwt, and then only for very small quantities. In March, April & May, from 12/- to 16/- per cwt. From the end of May, prices are low, 7/- to 9/- per cwt, owing to Jersey potatoes arriving. It is essential in packing for London, that each description of potato should be packed separately, and also the sizes, viz:— Large, Medium and Small, each package to be marked accordingly 1, 2 or 3. The best packages are flat boxes containing 56 to 60 lbs. nett, and packed without paper. The Committee will always be glad to submit such consignments of potatoes, tropical fruits, etc., from members, to expert opinion.

TWO WEST INDIAN BANQUETS.

The Earl of Selborne delivered a noteworthy speech at the banquet given by the West Indian Club at the Grand Hotel to the West Indian Cricket Team, which has just brought its very successful tour to a close, on Monday, August the 13th. Replying to the toast "The Colonial Office" proposed by Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P., he said that the public conception of the Colonial Office was that it was a very odd mixture. He often saw in a certain kind of the Press, allusions to the Colonial Office as if it were a conglomeration of individuals of the most astonishing ignorance, and of the most persistent perversity, who were always delighted in flying in the light of common sense, and the doing of the wrong thing. That was not the Colonial Office as it now existed. The Colonial Office was a collection of permanent civil servants presided over by two birds of passage who were Parliamentary. Those Parliamentary heads, no doubt, had a great influence on the policy of the Colonial Office of their day, but the civil servants, through whom alone they could work, were the most loyal and devoted set of public servants the world had ever known. Of course they made mistakes; but their hearts and souls were in the colonies and in the work of the colonies. They had devoted their whole lives to the service of the colonies, and had gradually accumulated in themselves a most astonishing mass of experience and opinion. Their centralized opinions were properly and necessarily checked by local opinion, and that local opinion was as necessary to them as the check of their experience was to the local Governments. Turning to the object of the present gathering, he said that it would be impossible to exaggerate the importance in our Imperial unity sports might play; but he was sure that he would be a foolish man who denied that cricket, and our taste, as a race, for sport, had had a real influence in harmonising and in consolidating the different parts of the Empire. The West Indies might take an example from Australia. There were some people who said that the West Indies had suffered from want of common interest, that they were too much like the unbound sticks that might have been a bundle of faggots but were not. Not long ago the Australian colonies were like a disunited bundle of sticks. They had now united into a great Commonwealth; and who would say that the difficulty there once was in selecting a united Australian cricket team was not a really important factor in that consolidation. (Cheers.) There was a time when Australia found that the telegraphic service was so inadequate to supply the people of this country with a proper report of the cricket matches that they insisted upon having a Pacific cable. (Laughter.) Again, a squadron of New South Wales Lancers were sent over here to perfect their drill and discipline. He was not quite sure whether one reason why they were sent over was not that they might be able to supply any deficiencies that might arise in the Australian cricket team over here at the time. (Laughter.) Putting cricket aside, all that Australia could offer to the mother country they had offered, all that it had been in their power to do to help in this great national struggle they

had done. And just as the mother country would never forget, and never could forget, what Australia and Canada had done, let it not be believed that because what the West Indies had been able to do had been less in quantity, England regarded it in the least bit as less in quality. (Cheers.) He hoped that the West Indies would endeavour to copy the example of Australia, according to their comparative means, and promised that any assistance the Colonial Office could give them would be gladly afforded. (Cheers.) The Chair was occupied by Lord Harris, G.C.S.I., G.C.L.E., and the dinner was largely attended. For a detailed account of the function we would refer members to the "Times," of August 14th last.

At the invitation of Mr. A. L. Jones a number of gentlemen chiefly interested in the West Indies attended a banquet at the Constitutional Club on Tuesday, August 7th last, to inaugurate the Imperial West Indian Mail Service. Among the guests were Major-Gen. Sir H. Norman, G.C.B., Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G., Sir R. Moor, K.C.M.G., The Hon. W. Fawcett, Mr. C. P. Lucas, Mr. R. Craig, Mr. Malcolm Kearton, Mr. T. T. Lindrea President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and several members of the West India Committee. The toasts "Prosperity to the West Indies," "Success to the Imperial Mail Service," and "Success to the Jamaica Fruit in the Home Market," were received with enthusiasm.

THE BARBADOS CENTRAL FACTORY CO.

It is expected that the prospectus of the Barbados Central Sugar Factory Co., Ltd., will shortly be issued. Meanwhile through the courtesy of Mr. G. A. Sealy the originator of the enterprise a preliminary prospectus has been laid on the table for the information of Members. The Capital of the Company is to be £60,000 in shares of £1 each, and the factory is to be capable of turning out 5,000 tons of sugar during the four months crop. The Provisional Committee of the Company have in view a site in St. John's Valley, where a combination of estates would supply the conditions and requirements necessary for working a factory such as they contemplate erecting, and they have taken steps to obtain the consent of the owners of those estates to carry out their purpose.

The prospectus contains the following paragraph as to the prospects and possibilities of such a factory:—

The numerous carefully prepared calculations which have appeared from time to time, after making ample provision for all the requirements of such a Factory at full cost, and with the products of the Factory at the same time placed at a low and safe value, show that there would remain, after all working expenses are provided for, a sum available for distribution sufficient to pay a total of 10 per cent on the capital subscribed, and at least 15s. 7½d. per ton for the canes furnished to the Factory each season, and this latter sum would probably be increased to 18s. per ton, in the event of a small advance in the value of the Factory's products, which have been purposely fixed at lowest figures, or by the very possible saving in cost and working of the Factory, as will be seen from the following statement:—

Estimated cost of Central Sugar Factory	£60,000	
Sale of 5,000 tons Sugar @ £10 13s. 8½d.	...	53,427
(Equivalent to Crystals @ 9/7 @ 100lbs.)		
Sale of Rum @ 12/6 per ton sugar	...	3,126
		£56,553
Cost of 50,000 tons canes @ 10/.	...	£25,000
Manufacturing 5,000 tons sugar @ £2 6s. per ton	...	11,500
(average cost in Queensland for 6 years £2 4s. 4d)	...	6,000
Interest @ 8% on £60,000 and 2% depreciation ...	...	£42,500
		£14,053
Amount to be divided	...	
£14,053 ÷ 50,000 tons canes = 5s. 7½d.		

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," on August 1st, 1900. From:—

JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. F. A. C. Collymore and child, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Parris, Miss Connell, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Collymore, Mr. and Mrs. E. Packer, Mr. D. C. DaCosta, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Haynes, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Manning and boy, Mr. J. W. Laborde, Mr. G. A. Goodman, Miss Mahon, Mrs. Wall, Miss H. M. Laborde, Mr. J. Walton, Messrs. W. B. Ransom, L. J. Howitz, J. E. Meikle, Mrs. and Miss Knox. **DEMERARA.**—Miss J. Brumell, Mrs. and Miss D. Davis, Ven. Archdeacon Heard, Dr. O. D. Horniball, Mr. P. Hemery, Hon. and Mrs. H. A. Bovell and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bollers, Mr. H. K. Davson. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. H. C. R. Saunders, Mrs. A. Saunders, Master and Miss Saunders, 2 Misses Cobbold, Miss Silva, Miss A. E. Blake, Mr. H. Grove, Capt. J. de C. Laffan, R.E. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. H. Finlayson and 5 children, Dr. L. Fabien, Mr. A. Halm, Mr. A. Schmidt, Mr. J. B. Russell, Dr. and Mrs. Boucaud and 2 Misses Boucaud, Miss J. Crosbie, Messrs. A. Arbuckle, I. Camacho, J. M. Zamorra. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. E. G. M. Dupigny, Master F. Gomes. **ST. KITTS.** Mrs. and 2 Misses Kirton, Dr. J. Foreman.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," August 15th, 1900. From:—

BARBADOS.—Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Dr. Morris, C.M.G., Lieut.-Col. J. J. Levenson, Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. F. Gregory, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. J. Campion, Mr. J. Staal, Mr. W. McGarth, Mr. Fred. Trambley, Mr. Geo. Simpson, Mr. P. Maloney, Mr. W. Vortman. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. J. D. Smith, Mr. J. D. Smith (junr.), Miss Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod, Mr. R. Jeffery, Mr. A. Kingdon, Mrs. Stuart and ch., Miss Stewart, Mrs. Brodie and 3 ch. and Mrs. Brodie, senr., Mr. M. K. North, Lady Sendall, Mr. J. W. Stephens, Mr. H. W. R. Greig, Mr. P. F. Smith, Mr. E. C. Havley, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Pollard and son. **JAMAICA.**—Miss E. Parry, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Stephens, Mrs. Chisholm, Miss Stephens, Rev. Chas. Chapman, Mrs. McKimmon and 4 ch., Mr. E. B. Kaye, Mr. Vernon Tivy, Mr. E. B. Ledger, Mr. John Murray, Mr. A. Bonderson, Mr. and Miss Coldie, Mrs. Goldie, Mr. H. de C. Hamilton. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. J. B. Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. G. A. Warner, Mr. B. H. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. J. Skloch, Mr. L. Devenish, Miss E. M. Knollys, Mr. P. L. Prada, Mr. John Phillips, Miss Gilbert, Mr. S. Herbert. **DOMINICA.**—Rev. Father O'Brien. **GRENADA.** Mr. C. Risk, Mrs. Chambers, Master and Miss Cross. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. J. D. Adamson, Master Burns. **ST. LUCIA.**—Mr. W. Smith, Mr. E. Labilian.

Departures per R.M.S. "Para," on July 25th, 1900. For:—

BARBADOS.—Rev. Canon and Miss Venn, Masters Bancroft, Lorando, D. Pile, C. Wright, A. Brown, and S. Bagot. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. A. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Seedorff, neice and 2 nephews, Mr. F. Dias, Mr. W. Bull, Masters A. C. and H. Richter's, Mrs. W. Naish. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Dowden, Mr. H. G. and Mrs. Sturridge and child, Mr. C. W. Banks, Lieut. R. Danbuz, R.A., Mrs. and Miss Vaughan, Miss H. Lewis, Second-Lieut. Edwards, Mr. W. W. Fisher, Mr. A. C. Motta. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. Short and child, Mrs. E. C. Coryat, Mrs. A. Guiseppi, Mr. C. Bessela. **ANTIGUA.**—Dr. Edwards.

Departures per R.M.S. "Elbe," August 8th, 1900. For:—

BARBADOS.—Miss Nixon, Mr. Mark Kerr, Miss Bagot. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Parratt, Dr. F. C. Shaw, Mr. W. White, Mr. de Cairos, Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Veendam, Col. and Mrs. McInnis, Miss Bull. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. J. M. Gibb, Mr. G. V. Livingstone, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Earle, Mrs. Levitt, Mr. A. S. Ormsby, Mr. H. M. Sollas, Sisters Deschantal and Margaret, Mrs. Rosser, Mr. B. Isaacs, Mrs. Scudamore, Miss Richards. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. Jules and 2 Misses Cipriani, Dr. J. M. Garcia Parra, Dr. E. V. Garcia, Hon. S. Henderson, Hon. E. Agostini, Q.C., Rev. H. A. Sawyer, Miss Innes. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. F. N. Camacho. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. H. W. Etherington.

Members of the West India Committee are requested to notify to the Secretary on a post card their address when visiting or leaving this country.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Park Macfadyen & Co., of 25, Lime Street, we are enabled to state the Prices Current of the undermentioned West India Produce—(Landed terms)

PIMENTO 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.

GINGER 37/6 to 56/- per cwt.

HONEY 23/- to 28/- per cwt.

BEE SWAX £6 17/6 to £7 10s. per cwt.

LIME JUICE 1/3 to 1/6 per gallon.

LOGWOOD £4 10s. Roots £2 per ton.

SATINWOOD £6 to £8 per ton.

LIGNUM VITAE £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.

BEET PROSPECTS.

In FRANCE the mean temperature has been generally below the normal. Till the 10th, there were frequent rains but since then atmospheric conditions have been more seasonable. The continuation of fine weather is much needed by cultivators, who complain in some quarters of the backwardness of the beets and the lack of heat. The Beets generally are less forward than last year and the beet fields less regular. There is no hope of the later sowings affording an average crop, but earlier sowings give promise of a satisfactory yield as to weight, though development of the roots is at present rather inferior to that of last year. In GERMANY field work was carried on without difficulty till the 8th, when it was interrupted by the abundance of rain. The Beets have generally made satisfactory progress, though complaints are made as to the dryness of the high and light soils, and the roots have slightly gained in weight. The state of the crop is still irregular, and it seems that the weight of the roots will be lower than that of last year, although the difference will be moderate. In AUSTRIA the saccharine content is the same as last year, but the average weight of the roots appears to be less than last year by 14 grammes.

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a firm tone after the date of our last report, and at the sales held on the 24th July, the greater part of the 1,150 bags offered were sold at full rates to an occasional advance of 6d. per cwt.: this was not maintained and at the subsequent sales held on the 31st July and 14th August the demand was slow, and only a small proportion of 2,769 bags offered buyers; however, holders were very firm, and prices are barely 6d. per cwt. lower, closing quotations being much the same as those ruling a month ago, viz:—71s. to 75s. 6d. for low to good middling red, and 76s. to 85s for fine to superior. Deliveries from 1 Jan. to 11 August were 28,179 bags, against 26,868 bags last year. Landings 45,402 bags, against 35,225 bags, and Stocks on 11 August 35,858 bags against 27,705 bags.

GRENADA.—The course of this market has been very similar to that of Trinidad, a fair demand existing at the commencement of the month under review, which afterwards diminished, and at the last sales held on the 14th August the tone was very dull. At the public sales 2,636 bags were offered, and of these about 2,000 have been sold at and since the sales: prices have tendered rather in favour of buyers, although there is no quotable alteration except for fine which is fully 6d per cwt. lower, ordinary to good fair being worth 70s. to 72s. per cwt., and middling to fine 72s. 6d to 75s. per cwt. Deliveries from 1 Jan to 11 Aug. were 31,496 bags, against 27,298 bags last year. Landings were 37,333 bags against 34,886 bags, and stocks on the 11th Aug. 15,180 bags against 20,535 bags.

(Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse.)

THE RUM MARKET.

The proof market continues very firm, with sales of 680 puns Demerara and Berbice per "Saba," at 1s 8d. to 1s. 9½d., also 200 puns Trinidad at 1s. 8d. per proof gallon, being previous prices. The "Benedick" has arrived from Demerara with 420 puncheons, which, however, are not yet ready for market.

Jamaicas are in good demand for all home trade descriptions, but sales are small, owing to absence of supplies, which, however, are now coming forward more freely. We append the Board of Trade Returns:—

(Messrs. D. & F. MAN.)

			1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Landed	In July	...	722,060	756,975	612,528	507,875
	7 months	...	3,744,474	3,075,407	3,699,214	3,602,338
Home Consumption	In July	...	190,703	194,977	199,342	213,150
	7 months	...	2,566,783	2,303,047	2,124,440	2,193,406
Export ...	In July	...	40,442	64,390	57,672	61,511
	7 months	...	701,906	483,135	492,866	504,631
Stocks ...	Galls	31st July	7,033,000	7,541,000	8,870,000	9,292,000
STOCKS IN LONDON						
Jamaica, Puns. ...			7,724	12,968	13,576	15,152
Other West India Islands			757	1,132	1,043	960
Demerara ...			3,678	2,939	5,087	6,996
Foreign ...			1,519	836	1,103	1,479
British East India			1,035	460	211	198
Vatted ...			3,095	3,580	3,938	3,942
Total ...			17,808	21,915	24,958	28,727

EXPORTS FROM BARBADOS, BRITISH GUIANA, AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalt. Tons	Gold. oz.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA —								
Jan. 1st to July 18th, 1900	37,455	12,682	16,699	—	—	54,677	128	1,593
Jan. 1st to June 30th, 1899	30,257	5,805	114,674	—	—	51,985	384	3,119
BARBADOS—								
	Hogsheads.							
Jan. 1st to Aug. 4th 1900	44,978	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,324
Jan. 1st to Aug. 4th, 1899	43,911	—	—	—	—	—	—	43,911
TRINIDAD—								
	Bags & Brls.							
Jan. 1st to Aug. 1st, 1900	373,632	578	22,480,880	2,180	73,257	—	5,652,571	6,438
Jan. 1st to Aug. 1st, 1899	471,340	1,479	22,405,330	3,520	75,130	—	7,044,307	9,319
								Puns Tves. Brls
								72 74 293 183

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS to Aug. 11th, 1900	333,003 tons,	against 359,053 tons in 1899,	and 433,589 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES to	344,084	„	386,788
PRESENT STOCKS	51,328	„	49,332

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

961,711 tons in 1900, against 1,378,885 tons in 1899, and 1,488,742 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 11s. 10½d. against 10s. 6d. in 1899, and 9s. 3¼d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller.) July 24: "Weather all that can be desired." August 7: "Idem." DEMERARA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.). (New Colonial Co.).—July 30: "Fine with occasional light showers." August 17: "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.). August 9: "Weather favourable for the cultivation." TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). July 30: "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation." (Messrs. C. Tennant & Co.). August 16: "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms in addition to the Current West Indian Newspapers: *International Sugar Journal*, August, No. 20, Vol. 2; *Jamaica Agricultural Society's Journal*; "The Trinidad Reviewer, 1900," T. Fitz-Evan Eversley, F.R.G.S., F. J. Inst., The Robinson Printing Co., Ltd., Lombard Court, E.C.; *Annual Report of the Protector of Emigrants for 1899 (Trinidad)*; *The Leeward Islands Blue Book, 1899*; *The Louisiana Planter*, Vol. XXV, No 5; *Royal Colonial Institute Report of Proceedings, 1899-1900 Vol. 31*; *The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report*; *Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.)*; *Messrs. G. W. Bennet, Bryson & Co's., Fortnightly Report*; *F. O. Licht's Monthly Report*, and *Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co's (London and New York)*, *Edward Kynastou's, Paines & Reid's, Park Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smillett & Co's., C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and E. D. & F. Man's Circular.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 1s. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year. Subscriptions are due on Jan. 1st for the year then current. Subscriptions from new subscribers received during the last 3 months of any year, are considered as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 32.

Telegrams: CARIB LONDON.

A.B.C. Code Used. 4th Edition.

Telephone: 4358 AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS LONDON, E.C.

October 15th, 1900.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

In our last Circular we pointed out that no possible benefit could accrue to Trinidad from a reciprocal trade arrangement with Canada, and that moreover if such an arrangement were entered into there would be a danger of the United States retaliating and closing her markets to West Indian produce, a result which would be disastrous to the West Indies and British Guiana while the Foreign Bounty System continues unchecked. The abolition or neutralisation of the Bounties is essential to the success of closer trade arrangements between Canada and the West Indies, and that this is appreciated in Canada is evinced by the following resolution, which was brought forward by Mr. I. C. Stewart of Halifax, who has recently made a tour of Commercial Enquiry in the West Indies, and adopted at the meetings of the Board of Trade of the Maritime Provinces held in Nova Scotia in August last.

"Whereas the British West India Islands and British Guiana are very important markets for Canadian products, and whereas anything which retards the industrial progress of these countries is of serious consequence to Canada:

"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention is in entire sympathy with, and cordially supports the representations made by the British West Indies to the Imperial Government in favour of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugars."

A letter was addressed to the Colonial Office on this subject on August 21st last, and this together with the answer received, we give below. The reply of the Colonial Office cannot be considered satisfactory, inasmuch as it ignores altogether the question of Reciprocity with Canada, and the prejudicial effect on the West Indian Colonies as a whole such reciprocity would under existing circumstances involve.

Sir,

August 21st, 1900.

On July 5th, last, I had the honour to address you on the subject of reciprocity between Trinidad and the United States. I pointed out that my Committee had reason to believe that the refusal of the Legislative Council of Trinidad to agree to an extension of time for the ratification of the proposed reciprocal treaty, was due to a desire supposed to exist in Trinidad to enter into reciprocal negotiations with Canada. I further pointed out that if such a reciprocal arrangement were made with Canada, there would be a danger of the United States retaliating by closing her markets to West Indian produce, a result that would be disastrous to the welfare of the West Indian Colonies.

2. Subsequent information which has reached my Committee tends to confirm their view expressed in the letter above referred to. I am desired accordingly to address to you, Sir, the following remarks:

3. From the United States Treaty as negotiated nothing but good could have resulted to Trinidad. It did not discriminate in favour of any country, and general trade relations were not disturbed in any way. This Treaty can be revived at any time, and it is to be feared that, if Trinidad concludes a Treaty with Canada, discriminating against the products of the United States, that Government will refuse to ratify the Treaties pending with Demerara and Barbados, and will impose retaliatory duties on the produce of all the West Indian Colonies.

4. From the proposed Treaty with Canada no good can result to Trinidad. The only article for which any possible benefit can be claimed is sugar. The consumption of sugar in Canada is under 120,000 tons per annum, so that she could not consume the crop of Trinidad alone during the time it comes forward to market. If Canada is left free to make similar Treaties with other Colonies her market will be swamped with sugar, and prices will sink to a free trade level. When to this is added the fact that Trinidad sugars will in all probability be penalised in the United States, the prospects of the planters in Trinidad become serious indeed. The fact that the great majority, if not all, of the proprietors of Sugar Estates are against this Treaty should be sufficient proof of the danger of carrying it out.

5. About one-third of the Cocoa produced in Trinidad is now exported to the United States, and the demand for this article there is steadily increasing. To this industry the Treaty promises only the loss of one of its most valuable markets without the possibility of any compensating advantages whatsoever.

6. To asphalt the Treaty promises the loss of its principal market, and in this article the revenue of the Colony is directly interested to the extent of about £35,000 per annum. The obligations of the Concessionaires of the pitch lake are fulfilled by the payment of £10,000 per annum; they control deposits in Venezuela, the quality of which is much superior to those of Trinidad, and the competition from which is already being severely felt in Trinidad; and if Trinidad Asphalt is penalised by the United States the loss of revenue to the Colony will probably amount to £20,000 per annum.

7. Presuming that the Canadian Treaty has the designed effect, the bulk of the food stuffs now imported from the United States (under a tariff producing a yearly revenue of about £40,000) will come in free from Canada. The deficit must be made good by direct taxation, which will lead to dissatisfaction amongst the small native agriculturists and labouring classes. A large proportion of the taxation will doubtless be levied on Sugar Estates, and if, as the majority of the Planters believe, this Treaty proves the ruin of that industry, the revenue of the Colony will be in a precarious position.

8. Such a Treaty, negotiated with the United States, while it would entail the loss of £40,000 of revenue to the Colony, would have compensating advantages in the way of cheaper food supplies for the labouring classes. The extra cost of food stuffs in Canada, the extra charges for conveyance to Ports of Shipment in Nova Scotia during the Winter Season, and the extra freight and insurance thence to Trinidad, will absorb the greater part, if not all, of the reduction of duties, and no material cheapening of the food supplies can be looked for.

9. In view of these considerations the West India Committee, are of opinion that a Treaty with Canada offers no advantages to Trinidad, to compensate them for the loss of the United States Market. For the last few years the United States Market, has been the salvation of the sugar industry throughout the West Indian Colonies, and they view with alarm any proposal which would have the effect of closing that Market. I am confident that you, Sir, will therefore give this matter your most and careful consideration.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

To the above letter, the following reply has since been received by the Chairman:—

September 14th., 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st., ultimo, on the subject of commercial relations between Trinidad and Canada, and the United States respectively.

2.—Mr. Chamberlain, will always be glad to give his best consideration, to the views of the West India Committee, but he desires me to observe on the present occasion, that the Legislative Council of Trinidad, was left perfectly free to decide whether it would consent to the extension of the period for ratifying, the Reciprocity Convention with the United States of America, and that it unanimously declined to do so. Mr. Chamberlain is not prepared to invite the Council to reconsider its action.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

From the report of the Organising Committee just issued it appears that the number of Associations participating in the recent Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire was 196, made up as follows: Europe 95, India 8, Africa 16, Canada 38, East and West Indies 5, Australasia 25, Egypt, Ceylon and the Far East 9. The registers give the total number of delegates as 560. The Committee trust and think that the deliberations of the Congress are likely to bring about changes which will ultimately result in a closer commercial union between the Mother Country and the Colonies, and the furtherance of one of the great aims of the Congress, the consolidation of the Empire. The report is accompanied by a précis of the correspondence subsequent to the meetings. The Sugar Bounties resolution was forwarded to Lord Salisbury with an enquiry whether he would be willing to receive a deputation. Lord Salisbury in reply expressed regret that owing to the pressure of public business at that time he was unable to do so. A copy of the resolution concerning the Surtax on Colonial Spirits was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies who replied that a copy of the letter had been forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that further correspondence relating to Colonial Excise Regulations would shortly be published. Copies of the third resolution of importance to the West Indies, that affecting Imperial Telegraphic Communication were sent to the Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for India and the Colonies, the Postmaster-General, and the Governors of Self-Governing Colonies. Through the courtesy of the London Chambers of Commerce the Anti-Bounty League has been enabled to publish a verbatim report of the discussion on Sugar Bounties, copies of which are already in the hands of members.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

The *Times* Berlin correspondent stated on October 7th, that it was semi-officially announced that in a few days a fresh interchange of views on the question of the sugar bounties would take place in Paris between plenipotentiaries of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and France, and that the resumption of negotiations was due to the initiative of France. The German plenipotentiaries who proceed to Paris have, in the meantime, received no definite instructions. A subsequent *Reuter's* telegram states that the first meeting of this informal Conference was held at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on October 11th. If France shows herself disposed to make concessions, a reassembly of the Brussels Conference may result. At present absolute secrecy is preserved as to the deliberations.

THE WEST INDIES FOR SETTLERS.

From the pen of Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator, there appeared in the *Times* of September 20th, an important letter on the advantages afforded by the fertile island of Dominica for the investment of capital. In this letter which lack of space alone prevents us from reproducing in full, Mr. Bell extols the advantages of soil and climate in Dominica, and points out that by means of the grant in aid voted last year by the Imperial Parliament the magnificent highlands and valleys of the interior are now being made accessible. Over 100,000 acres of virgin soil well suited to the cultivation of cocoa, bananas, oranges, pine-apples, coffee, vanilla and rubber, are thus being rendered available for cultivation. Mr. Bell urges the advantages offered by Dominica to men of the class who have made Ceylon and Burmah what they are. They should be young, healthy and energetic; supplied with not less than £1,000, willing to work hard and to wait three or four years for a good return. Given this sum there is every reason to believe that an energetic man would in a few years realise a handsome sum from his plantation.

In this connection we may add that the Emigrants Information Office has just issued a pamphlet containing general information for intending settlers in the West Indies. British Guiana, British Honduras and the various islands are fully described with special reference to the openings which they afford to emigrants. This useful brochure the only fault of which is perhaps a slight lack of uniformity of arrangement, can be obtained from the Emigrants Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, at a cost of 6d. a copy.

CENTRAL FACTORIES.

H. E. Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., has consented to attend a meeting of Leeward Island proprietors on Wednesday, Oct. 24th, to discuss the question of Central Factories. The way has been cleared for such discussion by an opinion furnished by Mr. Francis Watts to the Governor as to what owners of estates would be prepared to do to obtain such factories. The following are the propositions which the representatives of absentee proprietors consider would be acceptable by their principals:

- (1).--In order to obtain sugar factories the owners of groups of estates are desirous of borrowing money for the erection of machinery.
- (2).--They are willing to give as security for this loan mortgages on the machinery, etc., procured by the loan, and the properties from which the cane supply is derived.
- (3).--They are prepared to guarantee to maintain certain areas in cultivation in sugar-cane to supply the factory.
- (4).--They are prepared to sell such cane to the factory at 12/- per ton delivered on the railway, reasonable railway facilities being given.
- (5).--They are agreeable to the payment of a reasonable rate of interest, together with the formation of a sinking fund, and—after the payment for canes—to permit these to be a first charge on the earnings of the factory, to the extent of the redemption of the loan.
- (6).--It is suggested that the directorate of any factory so obtained should be chosen partly by the Government and partly by the owners of cane-contributing estates.
- (7).--There are possible instances where an individual owner, or group of owners, possess a sufficient area to warrant the erection of a small factory: in these instances there should be little difficulty in arranging terms for a loan and its repayment. In this direction Antigua presents unusual facilities.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

In order to afford a more stable labour supply, Mr. Chamberlain has approved of a resolution being submitted to the Combined Court, fixing 4,000 as the number of coolie immigrants to be introduced into British Guiana in each of the next three seasons should so many be applied for, the number only to be varied under exceptional circumstances. It will be remembered that for Trinidad the normal indent each season has been fixed at 2,400.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

At the half-yearly General Meeting of the Colonial Bank, held on Oct. 4th last, Mr. H. H. Dobree, the Chairman, made some trenchant remarks as to the condition of the West Indies. He quoted the report of the Colonial Secretary of Barbados for 1899 to show that the Board had not exaggerated the description of the depressed condition of the West Indies, for which, he said, the main or perhaps not the only reason was the practical exclusion from our own markets of British Colonial Sugar through the free admission of Bounty Fed Sugar. Our sugar producing colonies were almost entirely dependant on the American market, and now that the United States owned Cuba and Puertorico, that market might be closed against them at any moment. Apart from the bounty question and what was incidental thereto, the immediate prospects of the West Indies were better than they had been for many years. Crops promised exceedingly well, and the seasons had been unusually favourable. So far as it was possible to forecast markets, the prospects of good prices being maintained

for sugar for some months to come were favourable. He thought it was more than probable that those might be fairly maintained, at all events until the crops now on the ground had been turned into money. He also thought there was very good reason to hope that, with the conclusion of the War and with the almost certainty of an ample Unionist majority being returned at the polls, Mr. Chamberlain would resume his position at the Colonial Office, and he hoped that he would have more time to devote to the affairs of the West Indies, in which he had always evinced a warm interest. He (the chairman) thought that with those grants in aid which Mr. Chamberlain had obtained from the House Commons, Barbados, St. Vincent and Dominica would be in a very much worse position than they were in to-day. He thought that what perpetuated and accentuated the dullness and depression and prevented the return of confidence and the influx of capital was more than anything the uncertainty which prevailed as regarded the bounty question. The accounts submitted to the shareholders showed that the bank was thoroughly sound, and the statement also indicated the caution which had been exercised by the directors and the management throughout very difficult times not unduly to lock up the funds of the bank—to keep the assets thoroughly liquid. He could assure the shareholders that when any improvement set in the bank was in a better position than ever to take advantage of it; but until some return of prosperity came to the West Indies he could not hold out any hope that their institution would be able to make larger profits.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

The alarmist reports which were circulated regarding the recent outbreak of plague in Glasgow, and the fear that they might lead to unduly severe quarantine restrictions being imposed in the West Indian Colonies against Glasgow and possibly other Ports of the United Kingdom, induced the West India Committee to address the following letter to the Principal Officers of Health at London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Southampton. Copies of the letter and the replies received, which we give below, were forwarded to the Medical Officers of the Principal Ports of the West Indies, and have, it is hoped, served to allay any undue apprehension which might otherwise have been felt.

THE PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR THE PORT OF _____
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
13th Sept., 1900.

Sir,
The West India Colonies view with anxiety the cases of plague which have recently occurred in Glasgow.

From cablegrams received, my Committee fear that quarantine restrictions of exceptional severity are in contemplation against Glasgow, and will extend to other ports if occasion arise.

My Committee wish to place as correct a view of the actual situation as possible before the Colonial Sanitary Authorities, in order that quarantine measures, whilst sufficient for the protection of the Colonies, shall not unduly letter trade with the United Kingdom.

I am therefore instructed to ask if you will be good enough to furnish the West India Committee in time for transmission by Mail of 18th inst. with statements:—

- (1.)—Of the state of health of the Port of _____ at present time.
- (2.)—The number of days necessary in your judgment for the development of the disease of Bubonic Plague in the patient, from the time of infection.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) N. LUBBOCK,
Chairman.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, CHAIRMAN, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.
SANITARY CHAMBERS, GLASGOW,
15th Sept., 1900.

Sir,
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 13th inst, addressed to the Principal Officer of Health, for the Port of Glasgow

In reply to the queries appended to your letter, I beg to observe as follows:—

(1)—The death-rate for the City of Glasgow in each of the following four weeks was as follows:—

Week ending August 18th, 19.1 per 1,000.

.. 25th, 17.5

September 1st, 17.5 ..

.. 8th, 17.5 ..

This is considerably below the average for the year and indicates a good state of health of the community.

(2)—I am keeping "contacts" under observation for 14 days from the last date of exposure, but in the Bombay outbreak the incubation period was not known to be longer than 10 days, while the majority sickened between 4 and 6, and I find in a pamphlet by Surgeon-General Wyman, of the United States Marine Hospital Service, a recommendation that the period of observation for contacts should extend to 15 days. I think, however, it should be quite definitely known that although the disease we have in Glasgow is undoubtedly plague, as a disease affecting life it is of an extremely mild nature.

As to the possibility of transmitting the disease through merchandise, you may permit me to refer you to the 28th Annual Report of the Local Government Board (England), Medical Officer's Supplement, in which you will find at pages 31 and following, a reference by the late Sir Richard Thorne to the relatively unimportant part which this plays.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) A. K. CHALMERS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

LIVERPOOL.

14th Sept., 1900.

SIR N. LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G., WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, stating your apprehension that quarantine restrictions of exceptional severity may be put into force in Glasgow, and asking for information upon the two undermentioned points:—

(1)—Of the state of health of the port of Liverpool at the present time.

(2)—The number of days necessary in your judgement, for the development of the disease of Bubonic Plague in the patient, from the time of infection.

I have to state in reply to (1) that the health of the City and Port of Liverpool at the present time is exceptionally good, in fact during the past five or six weeks the amount of sickness and mortality has been very greatly below the average of the corresponding periods of former years.

With regard to your second question, the number of days necessary for the development of Bubonic Plague after a patient has been infected, is laid down by the authorities as from 4 to 6 days.

For international purposes, and to give a wide margin of time, the Venice Convention has extended the possible period of incubation of 10 days, with the object of course of arriving at a safe outside limit.

Under the terms of the Venice Convention, a vessel which has left an infected port for 10 days or more, and has had no case of plague on board, is regarded as a healthy vessel.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) E. W. HOPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Similar replies have been received from the Port Medical Officers of London and Southampton.

TRINIDAD ASPHALT.

We have pleasure in recording that the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company have been awarded a Gold Medal for their exhibit of Asphalt at the Paris Exhibition.

BRISTOL AND THE WEST INDIES.

The arrangements for the New Steamer Service to Jamaica continue to attract much attention in the Press. The deputation of Bristol Merchants to foster the development of trade with Jamaica, have arrived in the Island, and an exhibition of Bristol manufactures has been opened in Kingston. The Governor of Jamaica, Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G., was entertained at a banquet at Bristol on October the 11th by the West India section of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce to inaugurate the New Service. The Chair was taken by Mr. T. T. Lindrea, President of the Chamber, and among those present were Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Bristol (Sir Herbert Ashman, Kt., J.P.), Mr. Alfred L. Jones, J.P., the High Sheriff of Bristol (Mr. G. A. Wills, J.P.), the Right Hon. Walter H. Long, M.P., Sir Frederick Wills, Bart., M.P., Sir F. Fleming, K.C.M.G., Alderman W. Howell Davies, J.P., Sir Raylton Dixon, Sir David Wilson, K.C.M.G., Justice C. F. Lumb, LL.D., the Hon. E. J. Cameron, Surgeon-General C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G., Major Ross, Professor Robert Boyce, Lieut.-Colonel Pinnock, Canon Glazebrook, Archdeacon C. Henderson Davies, Professor Lloyd Morgan, the Hon. W. Fawcett, Sir James Poole, Messrs. Robert Craig, E. F. Evans (collector of H.M. Customs), Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. W. Branday, Mr. Arthur Johnson.

In the course of the evening the President read a cablegram which he had received from Jamaica, "Acting Governor opened exhibition this morning. Success may be considered certain. Indications of a good result, Hamilton," and later in the evening a suitable acknowledgment was sent.

Responding to the toast of "Prosperity to Jamaica," Sir Augustus Hemming said that the full value of the West Indies was far from being known. In the face of the unequal competition developed by the iniquitous system of foreign bounties the sugar industries had decayed, and it was now recognised that it was important to turn attention to fruit cultivation on a large scale, with a view to exportation to English markets, for which purpose facilities would be provided by the new service. That scheme was looked to to restore the prosperity of the colony. The Colonial Secretary, perhaps the ablest man who had filled that office, had entered heartily into the scheme, and threw into it his usual energy, giving the help of his great influence.

Mr. Alfred L. Jones replying to the toast of "Success to the direct West India Mail Service," said that there was an opportunity for a great development of trade, but if Bristol men wanted to bring back the good old time of their forefathers they must act differently from what they had done in the last 200 years. Between the Colonial Secretary and the Governor of Jamaica he had been induced to go into this new steamship business. He emphasised the importance of facilities being afforded for young people to be brought to this country from the tropics for educational purposes, thereby giving them better chances in life and improving their relations with the mother country. The conditions under which the new steamship service would be controlled would admit of vessels carrying boys to help the mercantile marine.

THE RUM SURTAX.

A new light has been thrown on this all important question by a recent utterance of the Acting Governor of Jamaica, Mr. Sydney Olivier in his speech at the annual general meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Mr. Olivier stated that year after year the Colonial Office had been writing to the Treasury on the subject, and had been urging that the Surtax should be removed. As a remedy for this admitted grievance he suggested that the example of England should be followed and a rebate given on export, a course which it will be remembered was advocated some time ago by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who after admitting that the Surtax acted to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies, went so far as to say that financial assistance was to be given by the Government for this purpose—assistance which by the way has not been forthcoming—forgetful that the effect of dealing with the grievance in this way would be as was pointed out in the report of the Royal Commission of which Mr. Olivier was secretary, to nullify the effects of the whole system. Section 101, p. 15, states :

"We cannot consider this . . . satisfactory, inasmuch as the revenues and financial condition of the Colonies do not enable them to follow the example or adopt the advice given by the richer mother country, and if this advice were followed generally by the Colonies and by foreign countries the inevitable result would be practically to nullify the effects of the whole system." Mr. Olivier if correctly reported went on to say that he could not give the planters any great encouragement with regard to what they might hope to receive from the Colonial Government.

THE CANE SUGAR MOVEMENT.

The West India and British Guiana Sugar Planters' Fund which was established by a Declaration of Trust dated the 24th August, 1900, is being gradually brought to the attention of those interested in the production of sugar in the British West Indies and Guiana. Among the first supporters are the following: The Colonial Co., Ltd., £50, Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller £50, Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co. £50, while some Barbadian proprietors, including Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, have expressed their willingness to contribute on the basis of a production rate of half a cent. per 100lbs. weight of sugar. The Trustees of the Fund are Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., and Messrs. H. K. Davson, W. P. B. Shephard, T. J. Wilkinson, and Cyril Gurney.

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Don," on 11th October, 1900. From:—

BARBADOS.—Mr. E. E. H. Thorne, Lieut. F. E. Whitton, Dr. and Mrs. W. K. Chandler, Dr. A. Ramage, Mrs. E. R. Anson and two children, Mr. L. Mesritz, Master D. Pile. **DEMERARA.**—Capt. J. G. Bellamy, Mr. J. A. Britton, Mr. A. Richter. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. V. Hosking and Son, Miss M. Ormsby, Miss A. Stennet, Miss M. Brotherhood, Mr. A. S. Ormsby, Mr. G. W. Harris, Major G. F. Lowry. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. R. M. Fitt, His Grace Archbishop Flood. **ST. LUCIA.**—Lieut. H. T. Maffett. **GRENADA.**—Mrs. G. D. Humphreys. **TOBAGO.**—Mr. L. F. Miles.

Forward bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," leaving on 17th October, 1900. From:—

BARBADOS.—Mrs. S. Smith, Mrs. F. Smith and Miss Smith, Miss L. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, Master Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Collymore, Dr. and Mrs. Archer and two children, Dr. and Mrs. Greaves. **JAMAICA.**—H. E. Sir Augustus Hemming and family, Mr. E. W. and Mrs. Astwood, Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Chisholme, Major and Mrs. Daniell and son, Lt. Col. Wearne, Col. and Mrs. Barthrop, Mr. and Mrs. Farquahson, Mr. and Miss Hoag Scott, Mrs. Pickering, Colonel Ward, C.M.G., Miss Ward, Miss Calchin, Mr. and Mrs. Halliday, Miss Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Blagrave, Messrs. J. W. Mitchell, R. Gillard, J. Warmington, W. Gerwin, C. H. Davis, W. Franklin, F. Ward, Harcourt. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. G. F. Bowen, Miss Bunclé, Mr. L. Agostini, Mr. G. Murray, Rev. and Mrs. Allen, Rev. H. Donegan, Rev. J. Kirwan, Rev. N. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Miller, Mrs. Bain, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Rev. M. O'Reilly, Rev. Hull, Mrs. Knox, 2 Misses Sellier, Dr. J. De Verteuil, Mr. and Mrs. N. Cox. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. and Mrs. G. Roden. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. A. K. Agar, Rev. J. Dowling. **GRENADA.**—Mr. and Mrs. M. Browne, Mr. Hawkes, Dr. and Mrs. Hatton, Dr. and Mrs. Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. Macintosh, Mrs. Walcott, Mr. R. G. Delgale, Miss MacLeod. **ST. LUCIA.**—Mr. W. Smith. **ST. VINCENT.**—Mrs. Dassent.

THE RUM MARKET.

The proof market continues very firm in tone, but owing to absence of supplies, business is confined to 116 puns Demerara at 1/9 to 1/9½ per proof gallon, being an advance of ½d. The "Torgorm" has arrived with 590 puns Demerara, but samples are not yet to hand.

For Jamaica, there is a good steady demand for all useful home trade descriptions, which are scarce, but for the finer kinds for export, there is very little enquiry, and business is difficult to effect. We append the Board of Trade Returns:—

		Messrs. E. D. & F. MAX.				
Landed	...	In Sept.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
		9 months	4,458,933	365,312	272,680	320,958
Home Consumption	...	In Sept.	4,841,807	4,328,244	4,562,032	4,274,675
		9 months	235,129	272,080	242,959	293,727
Export	...	In Sept.	3,019,986	2,794,969	2,578,776	2,691,238
		9 months	41,262	87,903	77,326	83,311
Stocks	Galls.	30th Sept.	785,768	622,734	622,404	647,475
			7,425,000	7,979,000	8,976,000	9,199,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

Jamaica, Puns	9,848	13,454	15,177	14,864
Other West India Islands	536	804	890	943
Demerara ...	3,559	3,584	4,969	6,150
Foreign	1,791	1,499	1,028	1,511
British East India	1,024	1,493	403	271
Vatted	3,387	3,631	3,760	3,751
Total	20,145	24,465	26,227	27,490

BEET PROSPECTS.

C. CZARNIKOW'S CIRCULAR.—The crop reports do not show much change this week; the water in the Oder is so low that navigation in the upper reaches is almost stopped, which confirms the complaints of drought in Eastern German, and Austrian districts, where the much better quality probably cannot quite compensate for falling off in weight, even with rain reported from Prague to-day. The Western and Central provinces will perhaps more than make up any deficiency in Eastern Germany, but in Austria there is no such set off. Bohemia seems to show a deficiency, while Moravia and Hungary are only expecting last year's quantity. Of course, Austrian estimates, since the surprise of 1898, are viewed with suspicion, but the weather, as shown by the state of the rivers, had evidently been too dry. Anyhow, the larger part of Europe sends very satisfactory reports, though Mr. Gieseke, whose figures are printed below, shows less than 200,000 tons increase.

Gieseke's Indications:—	1900/1901.	Gieseke. 1899/1900.	1899. Actual yeild—Licht.	Sowings, 1900.
Germany.....	1,810,000 Tons.		1,795,000 Tons.	3 per cent. increase
Austria	1,053,000 "		1,110,000 "	4 " "
France.....	1,065,000 "		975,000 "	10 " "
Russia.....	900,000 "		915,000 "	7½ " "
Belgium	320,000 "		300,000 "	16 " "
Holland	185,000 "		170,000 "	3 " less
Sweden	100,000 "			9 " increase
Denmark	50,000 "		275,000 "	unchanged
Others	130,000 "			25 per cent. increase.
	5,615,000 Tons	5,435,000 Tons	5,540,000	6 per cent. increase.

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—During the eight weeks that have elapsed since the date of our last report, there has been scarcely any alteration in the market, and the only feature of any interest, has been the greater willingness on the part of the trade, to buy the good middling red qualities, and the almost entire neglect of the fine superior grades, until quite recently, when business, amounting to about 200 bags has taken place in these descriptions @ 80/- to 85/- per cwt. Transactions for the two months, amount to about 6,000 bags, chiefly at 74/6 to 75/6 per cwt, closing quotations being 71/- to 75/6 for low to good middling red, and 76/- to 85/- for fine and superior. Deliveries from 1st Jan. to 6th Oct., were 35,238 bags, against 32,288 bags last year. Landings were 53,357 bags against 37,382 bags, and stocks on 6th Oct. 36,754 bags against 24,442 bags.

GRENADA.—The market opened with a good tone, and prices advanced 1/- to 1/6 per cwt, but lately a somewhat dull feeling has prevailed, and prices have fallen back about 6d. per cwt. Supplies in first hands, are now almost exhausted, and the entire business for the two months only amounts to 2,500 bags. There was no Grenada included in the last Public Sale, held on the 9th inst., but on the 2nd., the small quantity of 289 bags was offered, and was all sold @ 71/- to 72/6 for ordinary to good, fair @ 73/- to 76/- for middling to fine. Landings were 39,851 bags against 36,087 bags, and stocks on the 6th Oct. were 11,795 bags against 15,193 bags (Messrs. C. M. & C Woodhouse.)

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

As the List of Subscribers to the West India Committee for the current year will shortly be published, the Secretary hopes that Members will notify to him any change of their address. Attention is called to the fact that subscriptions from new subscribers received during the last 3 months of any year, are considered as an account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January. The Committee hope shortly to publish a Circular fortnightly instead of monthly as heretofore, but their power to do so depends largely upon the amount of support received from subscribers.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

Messrs. Park Macfadyen & Co. (Landed terms)—

PIMENTO 2½ 3d. per lb.

GINGER 34/- to 56/- per cwt

HONEY 23/- to 28/- per cwt.

BEEWAX £7 7s. 6d. to £7 17s. 6d. per cwt.

LANCEWOOD SPARS 4/- to 6/- each

LIME JUICE 1/3 to 1/4 per gallon.

LOGWOOD £4 10s. Roots £4 per ton.

SATINWOOD £5 to £8 per ton.

LIGNUM VITAE £4 to £4 10s per ton.

FUSTIC £3 10s to £3 15s per ton.

EXPORTS FROM BARBADOS, BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.	Gold. oz.	Corals.	Molasses. Puns.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1st to Sept. 26th, 1900 ...	39,995	13,762	20,629	—	—	79,135	128	1,730
Jan. 1st to Sept. 27th, 1899 ...	41,766	8,901	124,778	—	—	78,743	496	4,077
BARBADOS—								
	Hogsheads.							
Jan. 1st to Sept. 14th, 1900 ...	49,259	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,089
Jan. 1st to Sept. 14th, 1899 ...	45,787	—	—	—	—	—	—	29,186
TRINIDAD—								
	Rees & Bils.							Puns Trea. Bils
Jan. 1st to Sept. 26th, 1900 ...	373,968	578	25,172,325	2,580	100,422 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	850,871	7,099 72 88
Jan. 1st to Sept. 26th, 1899 ...	474,912	1,479	23,666,890	6,240	99,936	—	8,974,860	10,040 293 183

SUPPLIES OF UNREFINED SUGAR AT THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PORTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTS TO Oct. 6th, 1900 ...	406,835 tons,	against 448,624 tons in 1899, and 547,548 tons in 1898.
DELIVERIES TO ...	430,764	“ 486,637 “ 555,223 “
PRESENT STOCKS ...	39,480	“ 39,072 “ 83,635 “

VISIBLE SUPPLIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

543,859 tons in 1900, against 877,986 tons in 1899, and 1,000,004 tons in 1898.

PRESENT PRICE OF BEET.

88% (Czarnikow) 9s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. against 9s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in 1899, and 9s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9s. 8d. in 1898.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller). Aug. 21: “Rains have continued since last cable.” Sept. 4: “Heavy rains generally throughout the island.” Sept. 18: “A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable.” Oct. 1: “Seasonable weather.” DEMERARA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.). Aug. 20: “Weather very favourable for bringing out the Arrow.” TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.). Sept. 6: “Showery and favourable for cultivation.” Sept. 26: “Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation.” Oct. 11th: “Showery and favourable for cultivation.”

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms in addition to the Current West Indian Newspapers: “Cricket in many Climes,” with chapter on Cricket in the West Indies by P. F. Warner, Messrs. Heinemann & Co., 5s. 8d. nett. Photograph of Kingstown Harbour, St. Vincent from Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.; The International Sugar Journal, Vol. II., No. 21 and 22 September and October.; The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, Vol. IV., Nos. 8 and 9; Colonial Secretary's Report, Barbados 1899, “Correspondence relating to the hurri canes of 7th August and 8th September, 1899”; “The Louisiana Planter,” Vol. XXV., Nos. 6-12. The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet, Bryson & Co's., Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Park Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co.'s, C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and E. D. & F. Mun's Circular.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year. Subscriptions are due on Jan. 1st for the year then current. Subscriptions from new subscribers received during the last 3 months of any year, are considered as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 33.

Telegrams:
CARIB LONDON.

A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.

Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

November 13th, 1900.

THE SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.

Informal negotiations on the question of Sugar Bounties have been proceeding in Paris, which it is hoped may lead to a reassembling of the Brussels Conference which was adjourned on June 25th, 1898. It appears that the French Government approached the Cabinets of Austria and Germany last March, and made a proposition to abolish the direct Bounty and reduce the indirect Bounty by one-third. Though this was not acceptable to the other countries, in return for the abolition of their Bounties, it has led to an important exchange of views at a Conference recently held in Paris. The Delegates from Germany, Austria and Hungary included some of those who took part in the negotiations in Brussels. France was represented by some high officials, in addition to M. Seblin, who was senior French Delegate at Brussels, though representing mainly the interests of the manufacturers. The German and Austrian Delegates possess such complete knowledge of the details of the French indirect Bounty, that it is certain, now that France has at last permitted that important element in the question to be discussed, that a very full examination of the French system and its effects has taken place.

The first counterproposal was made on the 13th October, when the Austrian representatives asked that France should reduce her indirect Bounty to one-third of its present amount. Germany supported this proposition and France apparently made a counterproposal, because on the 16th of October, M. Seblin withdrew on the ground that the French Government had made concessions involving great injury to the industry.

It is believed that a definite agreement has now been arrived at between the three countries, and that the other interested Powers will be sounded with the view of reopening the Brussels Conference and formulating a Convention likely to meet with general acceptance.

The French Government, as was anticipated, are tired of losing more than ninety million francs a year in sugar bounties. They are also afraid that the recent decision of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire may lead to the countervailing of bounties in this country or the prohibition of the importation of bounty-fed sugar.

The German and Austrian Governments see that their industry is now capable of running alone without State assistance, and that it is even capable of helping itself by a combination which raises the price of sugar for home consumption to a very remunerative figure. There are, therefore, very strong reasons, so far as these three countries are concerned, for pushing the matter to a successful issue.

A LEEWARD ISLANDS MEETING.

His Excellency, Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., attended a Meeting of Members of the West India Committee interested in the Leeward Islands, on Wednesday, October 24th last. Sir Neville Lubbock presided, and among those present were:—Mr. Colin M. Gillespie, Mr. Wm. Goodwin, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. Stewart (Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co.), Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. E. L. Marshall

(Messrs. Boddington & Co.), Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. P. A. Wade (Messrs. Sendall & Wade), Mr. C. C. Tudway and the Secretary.

In the course of a discussion on the question of Central Factories for the Island, Sir Francis Fleming made the following remarks:—"Shortly before I left Antigua on leave of absence, I received a deputation asking that the Secretary of State might be approached with the view of obtaining an Imperial Loan for the establishment of a Central Sugar Factory, inasmuch as it appeared that the attempts which had been made to obtain capital from private sources had proved unsuccessful. I informed the deputation that I considered it would be useless to ask the Secretary of State to apply to the Imperial Parliament for a loan as suggested, unless the request were accompanied with a statement of such conditions as the planters or proprietors were willing to enter into, and it was upon this suggestion that the conditions, which I believe the gentlemen present are in possession of, were prepared by Mr. Watts and agreed to by those whose signatures are affixed thereto. In my opinion the establishment of Central Sugar Factories is the sole hope of Antigua and St. Kitts, the former Island being especially well adapted for Sugar growing in every respect. Its soil is good, it has no mountains nor obstacles to hinder Sugar being easily transported to such places as it can be shipped away from, while the droughts, which from time to time visit Antigua, affect Sugar less than any other product. I have no great faith in what are called minor industries ever replacing Sugar in Antigua; in any case minor industries on a large scale could not be established without capital, and if capital is necessary, I would rather see it procured for the cultivation of Sugar than for experiments in other directions.

"But while saying this much I do not wish to discourage in any way the cultivation of such minor industries as can easily be attended to, such as the proper cultivation and export of pines, &c. But the principal grounds upon which I advocate the establishment of Central Factories are the following:—Firstly, on account of the enormous waste of saccharine matter which is the result of making Sugar with old-fashioned machinery, and, in the second place, because the Sugar as now manufactured would not find a sale in our English Markets. I doubt whether the planters have much to complain of at the present moment, inasmuch as the West Indian Sugars are allowed to enter the United States under more or less favourable conditions, but it is impossible to say how long the Fiscal Policy of the United States Government will remain as at present, at all events it would be unsafe to rely upon its continuance. It must then be admitted that Central Factories are desirable if not absolutely necessary, and such being the case how can the means be obtained for their erection? If this cannot be procured through private individuals there is only one other way of obtaining it, viz. : by means of an Imperial Loan or a Colonial Loan with or without an Imperial guarantee. In either case the conditions under which the loan is obtained would have to be clearly specified, more especially as regards the security the planters would be willing to give and the interference the Government would have in the management of the Factory. It might, and probably would be difficult, for the Island to raise a loan in the present condition of West Indian affairs, except at a high rate of interest, without an Imperial guarantee, but I see no reason why, if reasonable conditions were agreed to, there should be any difficulty in raising a Colonial Loan at a moderate rate of interest upon such an Imperial guarantee being given for a certain period. So long as Sugar Bounties exist the security would not be the same as if they did not, but I think we have every reason to hope that their abolition, or at all events considerable modification, is within a measurable distance of coming to pass. Hurricanes and droughts, &c., may no doubt occur, from time to time, but there is no security in this world absolutely certain, and when it is borne in mind how seldom a hurricane or drought affects a Sugar crop, except to a limited extent, and how seldom hurricanes do occur, the security to be given under reasonable conditions should be regarded as practically safe. You must be aware, Gentlemen, that my term of service in the Leeward Islands is drawing to a close and it would be a great gratification to me could I see a real commencement made in a matter in which I have taken much interest before I bid farewell to a Colony which I have tried to serve to the best of my power and the future of which I shall watch with the deepest concern."

Sir Nevile Lubbock thanked Sir Francis Fleming for his attendance, and the meeting adjourned. We learn that as the outcome of the meeting negotiations on the subject are in progress with the Colonial Office, which it is hoped may be brought to a successful issue.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

A very large majority of the Sugar Planters and attorneys of Trinidad have expressed themselves strongly opposed to any negotiations for a reciprocal trade arrangement with Canada. Sir Courtenay Knollys, the Acting Governor of Trinidad, on October 15th last, in a circular letter, invited them to inform him whether in their opinion it would be to the advantage of the Sugar Industry that negotiations should be entered into with Canada for a Commercial Agreement, and how far their views would be confirmed or changed, as the case might be, if it were possible to make an exclusive agreement for Trinidad, by which Canada would be precluded from making a similar agreement with any other tropical Government.

A meeting of Sugar Planters was held, with a view to sending a collective reply, and the following letter was sent to Sir Courtenay Knollys :—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR C. C. KNOLLYS, K.C.M.G.

TRINIDAD, 23rd October, 1900.

SIR,

At a meeting of sugar planters and attorneys, held this day for the purpose of considering Your Excellency's circular letter to them of 15th instant, the undersigned have decided, in view of the serious importance of the question, to send a collective reply.

We beg to state that, in our opinion, it is not to the advantage of the Sugar Industry that negotiations should be entered into with the Canadian Government for a Commercial Agreement, even if it be possible to make an exclusive agreement for Trinidad by which the Canadian Government would be precluded from making a similar agreement with any other tropical Government.

We base this opinion on the fact that Canada has no advantages to offer us which would make it worth while to run the risk of losing the profitable market at present afforded us by the United States. Even with an exclusive treaty Canada cannot take all our Sugar. The total consumption for 12 months being at most 120,000 tons, including about 6,250 tons refined from United States, while we should throw upon the market about 60,000 tons in little over four months and so force prices down to a free trade level. Any difference in our favour in the duty on Sugar would be absorbed by this and by extra freight and handling expenses.

Your Excellency's enquiry is limited to that single point, and we therefore refrain from introducing any of the many weighty considerations which make a Commercial Agreement with Canada not only undesirable, but absolutely impossible, in the interests of the Colony at large.

(Signed) G. TOWNSEND FENWICK.
L. BERT (per C. T. Vaughan).
S. HENDERSON.
RÉNÉ DE VERTEUIL.

E. L. BOVELL.
J. CUMMING.
JAMES GAUL.
JOHN HENDERSON.

JAMAICA POLITICS.

Members of the West India Committee interested in Jamaica met at the Committee Rooms on Wednesday, November 7th last, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, to consider a certain telegram which appeared in the *Times* of October 24th last. The *Times* correspondent had stated that Mr. Chamberlain having finally refused to give any pledge to withdraw the four additional nominated members of the Council, appointed last year, "a serious political agitation for the restoration of the former régime is

now anticipated." Since the Meeting was summoned, a Mail has come to hand from Jamaica bringing letters and newspapers up to October 24th, and, as from these, there appears no evidence sufficient to justify so alarming a forecast, the Committee do not at present think it necessary to take any action upon what would appear to be erroneous information.

CABLE COMMUNICATION.

We have received a copy of correspondence which has recently passed between The West India and Panama Cable Company and the Colonial Office. On April the 9th last, the Company addressed an urgent appeal to Mr. Chamberlain for Imperial assistance on the grounds that great reductions of tariff had been made to meet the wishes of the Colonial Office, and in support of the efforts which were to be made to further the commercial and general interests of the West Indies. The Company drew his attention in 1898 to the probable effect of these reductions, but owing to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the loss of revenue anticipated was not felt till 1899, when, for the half-year ended December 31st, upon a capital of £1,275,530 the balance of receipts over expenditure was no more than £1,211 as compared with £12,456 for the half-year ended 31st December, 1897. The Company pointed out that, since 1898 the Jamaica subsidy of £2,000 per annum had been withdrawn from the Company, while those of St. Kitts and Antigua were reduced by £600 per annum, and that of Barbados £1,000 per annum, and that this, with the reductions of tariff, had brought the Company into a condition of insecurity, which the Directors viewed with serious concern, and they called attention to the fact that the Company had never received any Imperial assistance whatever, while the Halifax and Bermuda and Direct West India Company received, in addition to £2,000 per annum from Jamaica, an annual grant of £16,100 from Her Majesty's Government. To this letter Mr. Chamberlain replied on the 20th June, that he was unable to recommend the Government to grant any Imperial assistance from the Imperial Funds.

A further letter was accordingly sent to Mr. Chamberlain on the 14th August, in which the regret of the Directors was expressed that he altogether failed to recognise any claim by the Company upon Her Majesty's Government on account of the unfortunate position which the action of the Government had itself created. This claim they based on the fact that the Company was brought into competition with an undertaking organised and maintained by State support. After a comparison of their position as to subsidies with that of the Direct West India Cable Company they pointed out that, "notwithstanding the long continued inactivity of West India trade, and a very inadequate revenue, the Company has for nearly 30 years succeeded in maintaining without any aid whatever from the Imperial Government a duplicated and thoroughly efficient system of telegraphic communication, which has worked admittedly to the very great advantage both of the Colonies and Her Majesty's Government." They then appealed for an Imperial subsidy of £15,000, or as an alternative a guarantee of a like amount, to enable the Company to carry on its operations without increasing its rates, which it would otherwise be compelled to do between Jamaica and its eastward stations, "a measure for which the Directors would hope to obtain from Mr. Chamberlain cordial approval and support." On the other hand, if the Imperial Government and the Colonies thought fit to acquire the Company's lines the Directors were of opinion that very low and advantageous terms for their transfer would be accepted by the shareholders. In a letter of October 3rd, the Company referred to the accounts of the Direct West India Cable Company and Halifax and Bermudas Company, and contended that the existing West Indian tariffs were too low and could not be maintained without extraneous aid. Mr. Chamberlain replied on October 25th that he could not reconsider his decision as to an Imperial subsidy, and that Her Majesty's Government was unable to consider the purchase of the cables belonging to the Company. The report of the Company for the half-year ended June 30th last, commenting on this correspondence, states that the Directors will have to carefully consider this decision with a view to taking future action in the interests of the Company.

DOMINICA ORANGES.

We have received from Mr. E. A. Agar, who has been recently appointed an Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee for Dominica, a consignment of oranges from that Island. They were grown at Plantation "La Haut" and cost :—

	s.	d.
150 at 1s. per 100 (local value)	1	6
Box	1	6
Wrapping	0	3
Porterage, &c.	0	6
Freight	2	3
	6	0

The fruit arrived in very good condition and has been pronounced by an expert at Covent Garden, to whom we submitted it, to be of excellent quality. There had apparently been no attempt at grading or sizing the fruit, a most necessary thing for this market, and there were many small oranges in the case which would have been far better left out. In Jamaica, the Florida grading machine is used, which enables the packer to make all his cases of uniform size and fruit. The Florida orange box is made to contain either, 126, 150, 176 or 200 oranges. This fruit was evidently most carefully handled and presented an excellent appearance. Such oranges properly graded and in good condition could be counted upon to fetch 12/- to 15/- a box during October, November and December. We are fully aware that this is by no means the first shipment of Dominica oranges to this Country, but we give the above details feeling that the requirements of the home market cannot be too widely known throughout the West Indies, and to show what can be done when the fruit is really well packed. It is most disheartening to merchants to find that their suggestions are not carried out. One firm wrote to their Dominica friends in October, 1899, as follows :—

"We have been going carefully into the question of oranges, and we think with the expenditure of a little care and trouble on your side this trade may be considerably developed, if it can be so arranged that the shipments reach here between say end of August and middle of October; after the latter date other oranges are in the market and compete with yours. Again, we find buyers much prefer fruit packed in cases to barrels, as they consider the latter package too unwieldy, and fruit packed in the smaller packages travels much better. Care should be taken that the cases are quite full, so that the oranges do not shift in transit and become bruised; the oranges should be sorted before packing and the large and small packed separately. The number of oranges should be marked on each case so that the buyers know exactly what they are bidding for, and each orange should be wrapped in a piece of white fruit paper."

But these instructions have been ignored with the result that instead of realising about 12/- per case for large oranges and 6/6 for small, a price of 7/- per case has been obtained. We trust that our friends in Dominica will take this to heart and realise that if West India fruit is successfully to compete with fruit coming from other parts of the world, it will not do to bundle it into cases anyhow, it *must* be selected and packed carefully and presented to our markets in an attractive and showy manner.

COASTAL STEAMERS FOR TRINIDAD, TOBAGO AND DOMINICA.

News has been received by telegram from Trinidad of the acceptance by the Government of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's tender for Steam Coastal Services round the Islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Assuming that no subsequent modification of the proposed services has been made since tenders were advertised for in the *Trinidad Royal Gazette* of April 12th last, the services will be as follows :—

1. A weekly steam service round Trinidad to commence on February 10th, 1901. The Steamer to be of 500 tons gross register.
2. A weekly steam service round Tobago, proceeding twice each week to Port of Spain, and if required, calling at Toco once each week to connect with the service round Trinidad. The Steamer to be 300 tons gross register.

The speed of the Steamers, which are to be fitted up with accommodation for Passengers and Mails, with special provision for the safe custody of Prisoners while on board, will be 9 knots.

At the same time, we are able to announce that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are making arrangements for a Steamer service for the conveyance of fruit, passengers and general cargo round the Island of Dominica. It will be remembered that the West India Committee endorsed and forwarded to the Secretary of State a Memorial from the Island, praying for such a service, on January 11th, 1899.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.

No effort is being spared to ensure the success of the New Direct Service to Jamaica. Mr. Stockley has now returned from the Island, where he has been to arrange the contracts for fruit. These have been arranged satisfactorily, and it is gratifying to learn how heartily the people in Jamaica are backing up the efforts of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. to make their venture a success. Following up the successful exhibition of Bristol manufactured goods at Kingston, it is now proposed to hold an exhibition of Jamaica products at Bristol. The exporters in Jamaica have offered to send samples of their goods free, and lectures on Jamaica will be given daily. Over 60 competitors have sent in essays on Jamaica for the prizes of 50 guineas offered by the firm, and most of these have come from the Colony. An education agent has been appointed in Jamaica to work out a scheme for bringing children from the Island to the schools of this country. In view of the increasing number of tourists who are likely to visit Jamaica in the near future, an illustrated booklet by Mr. Thomas Rhodes, dealing with the Island from a tourist's point of view is, we learn, in the Press.

HOME-GROWN BEET.

In the *International Sugar Journal* for November, Mr. Sigmund Stein repeats his offer to supply gratuitously, a quantity of sugar beet seed to farmers for experimental purposes. Encouraged by the success which has attended his experiments in Sugar Beet growing in different parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland for several years past, he intends to continue them in 1901. Having found in many previous experiments, that a manuring with basic slag (supplying phosphoric acid and lime to the land) has given satisfactory results, he thinks it desirable that this fertiliser should be more extensively tried in this country, especially as the Germans use it very largely, and with good results, sowing it broadcast, during Autumn and Winter, preferably before ploughing. Mr. Stein also offers to supply gratis to farmers who undertake to make careful experiments with the seed, basic slag, a quantity of which has been placed at his disposal by a leading firm of producers.

THE CIRCULAR.

A Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. H. K. Davson, Mr. Colin M. Gillespie, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and the Secretary, is now sitting to report on the possibility of issuing a Circular fortnightly instead of monthly as heretofore, and to consider what revision of the rules of the Committee may be necessary.

COLONIAL GOVERNORSHIPS.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the following appointments:—

Sir Cornelius Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G. (Governor of the Windward Islands), to be Governor of Trinidad and Tobago in succession to Sir Hubert Edward Henry Jerningham, K.C.M.G.

Sir Frederic Mitchell Hodgson, K.C.M.G. (Governor of the Gold Coast Colony), to be Governor of Barbados on the approaching retirement of Sir James Shaw Hay, K.C.M.G.

Sir Robert Baxter Llewelyn, K.C.M.G. (Administrator of the Gambia), to be Governor of the Windward Islands in succession to Sir Cornelius Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G.

Sir Charles Anthony King-Harman, K.C.M.G. (Administrator of St. Lucia), to be Governor of Sierra Leone in succession to Colonel Sir Frederick Cardew, K.C.M.G.

Sir Harry Langhorne Thompson, K.C.M.G. (Administrator of St. Vincent), to be Administrator of St. Lucia in succession to Sir Charles Anthony King-Harman, K.C.M.G.

THE CANE SUGAR MOVEMENT.

The essential point in this movement lies in the fact that The Merchandise Marks Act has converted the designation "Cane Sugar" into as valuable a property for all Sugar Planters as any well advertised trade-mark is to a manufacturing firm. When in 1886, several Members of the West India Committee, including the Chairman, Mr. Audley Miles, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, and Mr. Shephard pressed the claims of the cane sugar interests to specialization at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, a serious difficulty arose because the law which then existed failed to protect the trade designation of our "Cane Sugars." But directly the Merchandise Marks Act, of 1887, was passed, Cane Sugar Producers became possessed of the exclusive right to the use of the trade designation of "Cane Sugar." The law on the sale of cane sugar was thus settled beyond question to be that every purchaser asking for cane sugar must have cane sugar, and none other delivered to him. Hence our Planters have now a valuable interest in this trade description: it serves to protect their produce when sold in packages marked "Cane Sugar" against the competition of the dyed imitations made from beet. These dyed imitations are also subject to proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drug Acts.

THE NEW COLONIAL COMPANY, Ltd.

The Third Annual Report of the New Colonial Company was adopted at the Ordinary General Meeting on November 1st last. The Company, shows for the year, a net profit after payment of interest on Debenture Stock of £11,887 9s. 1d., to which has to be added £11,717 os. 8d. brought forward from last year, making a total of £23,604 9s. 9d. Out of this £10,000 has been set aside to be invested by the Trustees for the Debenture Holders, to the credit of a special reserve fund under the terms of the Trust Deed. The Directors declared a Dividend for the year ending 30th June, which was payable on the 3rd November, 1900, of 5 per cent. on the Preference Shares, which will absorb £11,718 10s. 0d., leaving a balance of £1,885 19s. 9d. carried forward to the next account.

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," November 8th, 1900:—BARBADOS.—Messrs. F. E. Harrison, J. Milne, F. G. Knight, Miss A. Garraway, Mrs. and Miss Trimmingham, Captain W. E. Wales, Mr. and Mrs. K. K. Tinckler, Captain and Mrs. J. C. Austen, Miss C. Field, Major K. E. Hill, Lieut. Windrum, Dr. du Hearme. DEMERARA.—Mr. W. Bull. TRINIDAD.—Rev. W. H. Morton, Mrs. A. Miller and four children, Mr. C. Turpin, Miss Haynes. JAMAICA.—Miss Ichwell, Mr. L. P. Pearce, Mr. B. Thompson. DOMINICA.—Mr. C. F. Browne.

Forward bookings per R.M.S. "Trent" leaving on November 14th, 1900:—BARBADOS.—Mr. G. Evelyn, Mr. and Mrs. Packer. DEMERARA.—Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mr. C. Walter, Mr. Jameson. JAMAICA.—Mr. J. Mathieson, Hon. W. Fawcett, Mrs. Constantine and daughter, Mr. and Miss Roper, Dr. R. Verley, Mrs. Colam and son, Colonel and Mrs. Pinnock, Miss Anderson, Miss Leahe, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and son, Miss Holiday, Mr. G. Pinnock, Mrs. Gould, Mr. R. Hotchkin, Hon. and Mrs. H. Sewell, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Miss Johnstone, two Misses Wauchope, Hon. Lieut. Goddard and wife, Mr. Cousins. TRINIDAD.—Miss Blake, Mrs. and Miss Stollmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Routledge, Mr. W. Dyett, Miss Dyett, General Sir F. Scott and wife, Miss Ward. ANTIGUA.—Sir F. Fleming, K.C.M.G., Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Lane, Miss E. Greene, Mrs. Heath. GRENADA.—Mrs. and Miss K. Gregson, Mr. and Mrs. Astley Berkeley. ST. KITTS.—Mr. S. Horsford. ST. LUCIA.—Sir Harry Thompson, K.C.M.G. and Lady Thompson.

BEET PROSPECTS.

The weather in France has been rainy and mild. The moisture has facilitated field work, and the pulling of the beet is well advanced. Planters have, however, to take into consideration frosts, which may at any moment supervene. The cultural yield has improved under the influence of the moisture, and the quality of the beet is, with few exceptions, better than that of last year. From the point of view of keeping the beet, a dry and low temperature is desirable, all the more so as the crop in some regions, the north especially, is abundant, and the work of extraction of juice will be prolonged more than usual. Sugar manufacture follows its normal course in other countries of Europe. Generally speaking, the quality of the crops gives satisfaction, but the cultural yield frequently leaves much to be desired. The World's production is now estimated at 9,121,000 tons, as against 8,293,782 tons in 1899-1900, or an increase of 827,218 tons for the present campaign.

RUM.

There was a good demand for all proof kinds at the beginning of the past month, resulting in sales of 500 puns. Demerara and Berbice at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per proof gallon, being generally full prices to a further advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in a few cases, but the market closes quietly and the advance is not is not now obtainable. Jamaicas continue in steady request for home trade kinds, but the better descriptions are quite neglected, with only an occasional sale at easier rates.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

		1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
LANDED	In Oct:	93,740 ..	381,338 ..	268,310 ..	54,439
	10 months	4,862,534 ..	4,699,250 ..	4,853,830 ..	4,335,470
HOME CONSUMPTION ..	In Oct:	408,556 ..	457,075 ..	371,477 ..	350,952
	10 months	3,428,542 ..	3,252,044 ..	2,950,253 ..	3,042,190
EXPORT	In Oct:	57,086 ..	133,282 ..	101,487 ..	83,850
	10 months	842,854 ..	756,016 ..	723,891 ..	731,325
STOCK (Galls.)	31 Oct:	6,954,000	7,675,000	8,703,000	8,793,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA PUNS	9,734	13,977	14,658	13,754
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	479	697	825	905
DEMERARA	3,663	2,955	5,501	5,243
FOREIGN	1,573	1,972	983	1,450
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	820	1,626	333	276
VATTED	3,542	3,458	3,639	3,799
TOTAL	19,811	23,763	25,919	25,427

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a flat tone after the date of our last report, and has continued in that state throughout the month, without any sign of improvement in the demand. Business has been of an insignificant character, and it has only been possible to effect sales by accepting lower prices. The decline amounts to fully 1/- per cwt; except for the superior marks, the value of which has been maintained, quotations at the last sales held on the 6th inst., being 70/- to 74/6 for low to good middling red; and 75/- to 85/- for fine and superior. Deliveries from 1st January to 3rd November were 40,939 bags against 34,376 bags last year. Landings 54,734 bags against 37,751 bags, and Stocks on 3rd November 33,430 bags against 22,723 bags. GRENADA.—This market has been almost completely neglected during the past month, and sales have been of a retail nature. The total quantity offered at the Public Sales only amounts to 444 bags, and a considerable proportion of this was Cocoa of old import. Quotations are very nominal, but ordinary to good fair may be quoted to-day about 71/- to 72/6, and middling to fine 73/- to 75/- per cwt. Deliveries from 1st January to 3rd November were 39,315 bags against 36,486 bags. Landings 39,483 bags against 36,253 bags, and Stocks on 3rd November 9,511 bags against 12,714 bags.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

Pimento	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	Lime Juice	rod. to 1s. per gall.
Ginger	35s. to 68s. per cwt.	Logwood	£4 7s. 6d. to £4 10s. Roots £4 per ton.
Honey	23s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. per cwt.	Lignum Vitæ	£4 10s. per ton.
Beeswax	£7 10s. to £7 15s.	Cocas Ebony	£6 to £9 per ton.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD.

BRITISH GUIANA—	Sugar Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
Jan. 1st to 10th Oct., 1900	49,828	14,012	29,537	—	—	83,211	128	1,730			
Jan. 1st to 10th Oct., 1899	42,294	8,901	124,778	—	—	83,726	496	4,077			
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Bris.								Puns.	Tres.	Bris.
Jan. 1st to 24th Oct., 1900	374,051	578	25,937,215	3,540	107,660	—	6,618,006	7,216		72	88
Jan. 1st to 24th Oct., 1899	473,699	1,479	23,969,660	6,240	116,253	—	9,725,560	10,553		293	183

EXPORTS FROM GRENADA AND THE GRENADINES.

Crop. 1st Oct. to 30th Sept.	Cocoa. Bags.	Spice. Packages.	Cotton. Bales.	Cotton Seed. Bags.	Coffee. Bags.
1895-1896	46,504	2,913	885	5,738	80
1896-1897	54,597	2,920	574	3,339	58
1897-1898	53,441	3,451	783	5,254	10
1898-1899	52,141	3,976	641	4,281	2
1899-1900	53,388	5,633	995	5,816	134

All were shipped to Europe, excepting :

	Cocoa.	Spice.	
1895-1896	1,280	—	} To North America.
1896-1897	2,180	—	
1897-1898	1,390	525	
1898-1899	1,713	819	
1899-1900	4,180	1,673	

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.	1896 Tons.
United Kingdom 3rd November.....	40,100	39,350	75,503	61,757	145,247
France 1st October.....	95,722	206,563	109,595	173,527	220,999
Germany 1st October.....	41,366*	14,730*	84,356*	86,471*	104,042
Hamburg 7th November.....	43,600	94,300	79,000	58,600	66,000
Austria-Hungary 1st November.....	285,000†	229,183	304,759	249,160	296,113
Holland 15th October.....	2,537	823	5,592	25,058	17,631
Belgium 15th October.....	3,125	11,750	38,307	25,109	40,824
United States 7th November, Total Stocks.....	511,450	596,699	697,112	670,682	890,856
Cuba, six principal ports, 7th November, Total Stocks	67,000	187,548	133,194	385,040	298,618
Cargoes afloat, 8th November.....	2,500	12,980	32,179	3,650	39,568
Total.....	81,113	160,167	104,983	16,550	12,529
Total.....	662,063	957,394	967,468	1,084,922	1,241,571

* Total stocks, not Licht's. † Estimated.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 16th, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island, with appearances of more." October 30th, "Seasonable weather."

DEMERARA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), October 30th, "Weather too dry for the cultivation." (New Colonial Co.), October 24th, "Fine, with occasional light showers." November 1st, *idem*.

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.), October 24th, "Fine, with occasional light showers." November 8th, "Showery and favourable for cultivation."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The West India Committee invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms in addition to the Current West Indian Newspapers: Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, Vol. 6, No. 9; The West India Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 4 (Imperial Department of Agriculture); The Louisiana Planter, Vol. 25, No. 13-16; International Sugar Journal, Vol. 2, No. 23; The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, 16th Annual Report, 1899-1900; The Demerara Fortnightly Market Report; Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros. & Co.); Barbados Market Report (Messrs. W. P. Leacock & Co.); Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.; and Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.); Messrs. G. W. Bennet, Bryson & Co.'s Fortnightly Report; F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, and Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York), Edward Kynaston's, Paines & Reid's, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Wilson, Smithett & Co.'s, C. M. & C. Woodhouse's and E. D. & F. Man's Circulars.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 is. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year. Subscriptions are due on Jan. 1st for the year then current. Subscriptions from new Members received during the last 3 months of any year, are considered as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

Table with multiple columns and rows, likely containing sugar supply data for various regions. The text is mirrored and difficult to read.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS—(Newspaper) A general... the island, with appearance of mists...
TRINIDAD—(Newspaper) A general...
JAMAICA—(Newspaper) A general...

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 34.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.
A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.
Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.

December 11th, 1900.

THE SUGAR BOUNTIES CONFERENCE.

It appears that the Austrian Minister of Finance had a Conference of Officials at Vienna a few days ago to discuss the preliminary arrangement arrived at in Paris on the 22nd October, between France, Germany and Austria, for the abolition of bounties. It is stated in the foreign journals that the arrangement is based on the following concessions on the part of France, in exchange for the complete abolition of bounties in Germany and Austria. "Entire suppression of the bounties on Exportation, and reduction of the indirect bounty arising from the interior fiscal régime, so that the difference between the full duty on Consumption and the reduced duty shall be reduced from 30 francs to 20 francs, and that the sugar extracted beyond the yield of 10.5 per cent. shall be subject to the full duty."

Mr. Martineau informs us that if this information is correct, the reduction of the indirect bounty, as calculated on the figures for the crop of 1899-1900, will be from fr. 8.61 to fr. 4.67 per 100 kilos (3s. 6d. to 1s. 10½d. per cwt.), and that this figure will be a maximum for the future, because no increase can take place if sugar above the limit of 10.5 per cent. is to be subject to the full duty. The reduction is therefore about 46 per cent. This preliminary arrangement between the three Countries is, according to the news from Vienna, to be subject to the other Countries represented at the Brussels Conference consenting to make equivalent concessions. The Austrian Experts, after a full discussion, are stated to have pronounced in favour of these bases for an agreement, their future attitude depending on the course of events at the projected Conference at Brussels.

The Anti-Bounty League forwarded to Lord Salisbury on December 4th last an exhaustive letter recapitulating under nineteen heads the chief arguments which it is hoped will induce Her Majesty's Government not to refuse the opportunity afforded by the re-assembling of the Brussels Conference of co-operating with the Powers concerned to secure the abolition of the bounty system as applied to sugar by an International Convention, framed in principle on the precedent set by Mr. Gladstone in 1864. The question is treated on broad Imperial lines, but special reference is made to the West Indian Sugar Industry. A reply has since been received from Lord Salisbury to the effect that the representations of the League will receive his most careful consideration.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

We are glad to note from latest mail advices that both the Government and the leading people of Trinidad are alive to the impossibility of entertaining the idea of Reciprocity with Canada while the Foreign Bounty System continues and the British West Indies are in consequence dependent on the markets of the United States.

IMPROVEMENT IN SUGAR CANES.

As far back as the year 1885 the West India Committee strongly urged the Colonial Office to move the Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica to take action to improve the Sugar Cane, suggesting 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." The Committee's letter was referred to the authorities at Kew who after recapitulating the efforts made to supply fresh varieties of cane to the West Indies, suggested that all that was necessary had been done. The Committee, however, insisted that it was not the mere addition of varieties that was required, but a careful selection of the best specimens of varieties then cultivated and the steady cultivation of these, and experiments were subsequently inaugurated in British Guiana. In a recent circular (No. 29, June 25th, 1900) we published a letter from Imperial Department of Agriculture as to the result of experiments with seedling canes, notably the B 147, conducted in Barbados for seven years, latterly under the auspices of that Department. The cane had uniformly yielded results far exceeding those of any other cane—in Barbados—averaging as it had 2 tons to the acre, as compared with $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons, the yield of the old canes. We then invited members in British Guiana and the Islands to send us statistics as to the results attained with this variety in their Colonies. Messrs. A. M. Lee & Co. have favoured us with some interesting figures, which show that in Antigua the success of experiments with the B 147 at Bendals and the Diamond Estates falls considerably short of that achieved by the D 95, which yielded as much as 39.7 tons of cane per acre, and 2.31 lbs. of sugar per gallon of juice, against 33 tons per acre, and 1.95 lbs. of sugar per gallon of juice, the result with the B 147.

Mr. Adamson, an estate's proprietor and planter in St. Kitts, has informed us that in that island, from years unknown, the "Bourbon" has been the cane most used, its yield in properly cultivated lands being easily $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. He was tempted to try fresh canes because the "Bourbon" was devastated with moth borer. On several estates, however, the moth borer has now been stamped out, and on these a return is being made to the "Bourbon" cane. Mr. Adamson expresses doubts whether any cane can be introduced that will withstand the moth borer, as the seedling B 147 seems to fall a greater victim to it in infected districts than any other. In St. Kitts the B 147 appears to grow prolifically in the light soils, but, so far, no fields large enough to test the actual yield have been grown. In the coming season, however, such results should be able to be proved.

In their interesting Report on the result of operations at the experimental station at St. Clair, Trinidad, Mr. J. H. Hart and Professor Carmody, state that the T 211, a clean healthy yellow cane of the "Bourbon" type with over 50 medium-sized canes to the stool has given for a seedling the highest sucrose content for the year. In Trinidad, the B 147 has not proved to be of any special value in the local experiments, but of the Barbados seedlings B 156 has shown greater vitality than any other of the set and is followed in this respect by the B 208.

The uncertainty of these experiments even when continued over an extended period is shown in a remarkable way in the current number of the West Indian Bulletin (Vol. 1, No. 4), which contains a summary of the results of such experiments in British Guiana by Mr. Scard, the Analytical Chemist to the New Colonial Company. The object of Mr. Scard's paper is to show that no variety of cane can be accepted till it has been submitted to the rigorous conditions of estate cultivation, and come successfully through such a crucial test. To this end a nursery was started in 1886 at "Plantation Peter's Hall" for the most promising of the upwards of 46 known varieties of seedling canes which had been experimented on at the botanical gardens between the years of 1881 and 1886 with a view to placing them under observation, with the ultimate intention of comparing the best with the "Bourbon" in general cultivation. In the nursery these canes were, however, disappointing, and to only one variety was it considered worth while to apply the test of field cultivation, this was the "Scard" cane. Though exuberantly vital in early years—and in 1890 Mr. Jenman referred to this cane as having 47 canes to the stool, of an average length of 15 feet, and weighing altogether when cleaned 650 lbs.—in general cultivation it was unsatisfactory, for though it gave a somewhat heavier yield of cane than

the "Bourbon" this advantage was more than neutralised by poverty of juice. No cane being found superior to the "Bourbon" up to this time, experimental work at Peter's Hall was suspended till 1896, when Mr. Jenman and Professor Harrison, who were then conducting the nursery experiments, strongly advocated the seedling Nos. 95, 78, 74, 145, 115, 109, 102, and supplied sufficient of them to afford definite cultivation results. Plots of these canes were accordingly planted out, and so arranged as to give actual comparison with the "Bourbon." No less than five canes gave on this occasion a better yield than the "Bourbon," as is shown by the following comparative table, taking as the basis the "Bourbon" as 100:—

No. 78	126
145	122
95	119
74	109
109	103
"Bourbon"	100
No. 102	99
" 115	93

Prior to the results which placed the canes in the above order of merit, the canes had been judged by their laboratory behaviour, and opportunity was taken to ascertain how this would compare with the actual factory milling. To this end each plot was sampled as carefully as possible, and the canes thus selected crushed in a laboratory mill.

The sugar content of the laboratory juice was much higher than that of the factory juice, but the complete want of relation was quite unexpected, and Mr. Scard lays stress on it to show the necessity for not accepting any new variety until it has been cultivated on a scale of normal factory work. With tops from the five varieties of cane showing a better yield than the "Bourbon" a fresh series of experiments was started, while the original canes were carried on as first ratoons.

On second reaping, a complete reversal of the former order of merit was shown. Compared with the "Bourbon" taken as 100, the yields were as follows:—

No. 95	129
" 78	127
" 109	118
" 74	109
145	105
"Bourbon"	100
No. 102	95
" 115	83

Nos. 95, 74, and 115 were condemned as they arrowed early.

The results shown by the canes springing from the tops of the canes which excelled the Bourbon were even more striking. The relative yield was as follows:—

"Bourbon"	100
No. 74	94
" 109	80
" 145	78
" 78	76
" 95	49

The "Bourbon" once more proving the most valuable cane. Mr. Scard puts forward the above figures, without wishing in any way to minimise the value of seedling cane experiments, but to show

the absolute necessity for prolonged and careful investigation before a cane can be pronounced better than the "Bourbon." Cultivation on experimental lines of the above seedlings and others, including the B 147, has been inaugurated on four other British Guiana estates of the New Colonial Company, which it is hoped will result in a few years' time in a mass of practical experimental evidence being available.

THE CABLE QUESTION.

We received by last mail from the Government Secretary's Office, British Guiana, a copy of correspondence with reference to improvement of cable communication between the British West Indies and the United Kingdom. On September 4th, 1900, Sir Cavendish Boyle, the Acting Governor of British Guiana, addressed a circular letter to the Governors of the West Indian Colonies inviting the views of their Governments on this important subject, pointing out that as the existing contract between British Guiana and the West India & Panama Telegraph Company would expire at the end of 1901, the necessity for obtaining a cheaper and improved cable communication with the United Kingdom and the West Indian Colonies—preferably over British lines—presented itself with additional force. He suggested that as the Home Government had appointed a Departmental Committee to enquire into the present system of telegraphic communication between different parts of the Empire it seemed doubly necessary that some movement should be made by the various Colonies as soon as possible.

In reply, the Acting Governor of Trinidad stated that, in order to obtain freedom of action, he proposed to give the West India and Panama Cable Company notice that their contract with that Government would cease on 31st December, 1901. He referred to the good done by the construction of the Halifax-Bermuda Line as far as Jamaica, it having reduced the price of telegraphic communication between Trinidad and England from 10s. 5d. to 5s. 1½d. per word, but he expressed a fear that if the West India and Panama Company were deprived of the subsidies now granted it would cease to exist, and the Colonies would once more be at the mercy of a monopoly. The Governor of Barbados said that he had long been impressed with the desirability of combined action being taken for obtaining cheaper and improved cable communication pointed out that as the Colony was now bound for one year only, it was free and in a position to take part in any united action on the question. He thought it expedient that each Colony should address the Secretary of State expressing its willingness to consider terms with any Company prepared to lay a complete British Cable, and to offer a moderate tariff, and suggesting that such terms should be submitted by competing Companies to the Secretary of State. The Acting Governor of Jamaica stated that the Island was well served in the matter of telegraphic communication, but referred to the resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, recommending that the Direct West India Cable Company's lines should be extended to other West India Colonies. While heartily sympathising with the object of the Chamber of Commerce he said that the Government would not be prepared to increase the amount of subsidy at present given.

THE INJUSTICE OF THE RUM SURTAX.

The further papers relating to the cost of local excise restrictions in the West Indies, which were recently presented to Parliament, tend to confirm the belief that, though the Colonial Office is endeavouring to secure the redress of this grievance, the Treasury, while admitting the justice of our case, remains obdurate. The Blue Book contains details of the cost to distillers of special apparatus and arrangement for buildings required by the excise laws and of the supervision of distillation by excise officers or otherwise invited by Mr. Chamberlain on April 4th, 1899, which we have already summarised in a previous circular, our correspondence with the Colonial Office on the subject since

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February 9, 1900, which was submitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for an expression of their views, and the Treasury's reply to the Secretary of State, dated September 4th. This letter runs as follows:—

" SIR,—

" The main contention of the West India Committee is that the surtax levied on rum imported into the United Kingdom operates to the detriment of the West India Colonies, and that for this reason it ought to be abolished.

" The views of My Lords on this question were fully set out in the letter addressed, by direction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the Chairman of the West India Committee, on 5th August, 1898, a copy of which was communicated to your Department; but it may be convenient to summarise them here.

" My Lords, while prepared to admit that the surtax may operate in the manner alleged by the West India Committee, are unable to admit this circumstance as a ground for its abolition or modification.

" The surtax is a part of the general system of taxation of spirits in the United Kingdom, and its abolition would be felt by the manufacturers of British and Irish spirits as a grave injustice in their competition with foreign and Colonial producers. It could not be abolished in favour of the West Indies alone, without accepting the principle of differential duties in favour of our Colonies—nor with regard to rum alone, without involving claims from France and Germany, which could not be resisted in argument, for the same concession to other spirits of a similar nature. My Lords do not think they can reasonably be asked to take a step entailing so serious a dislocation of our existing system of taxation to remedy a grievance which, even if it is proved to exist, is practically confined to two West Indian Colonies, and which could, in their opinion, be more effectively dealt with in another way.

" The surtax, which is levied not only on rum coming from the West Indies, but on all foreign or Colonial spirits imported into the United Kingdom, was imposed owing to the fact that producers of British spirits are subject, in addition to the current duty on spirits, to certain restrictions that enhance the cost of production. The amount of such enhancement is determined with reference to the actual facts of the system in force in the United Kingdom, and not with any reference to the facts of foreign or Colonial systems.

" A surcharge is accordingly levied, in addition to the current rate of duty, on spirits imported into the United Kingdom, and, carrying the system to its logical conclusion, allowances are paid on British spirits exported.

" If, owing to Excise regulations in force in the West Indian Colonies, the production of spirits is there, as here, subjected to extra cost, it would, My Lords presume, be perfectly possible to adopt there as here a system of allowances on exportation, adapted to the circumstances of each Colony; and the very liberal assistance recently given by Parliament to the West Indian Colonies, especially to Jamaica, should render such action by no means difficult. But whether this course or any other be adopted, the grievance to which the West India Committee direct attention should, if admitted, be dealt with by a modification of the system of taxation, not of the United Kingdom, but of the Colonies affected.

" In these opinions, which My Lords formed after careful consideration two years ago, they are confirmed by the evidence published in the recent Return entitled 'Colonial Production of Spirits (Restrictions).'

"It is clear from that Return that the objects aimed at by the West India Committee could not be attained by the abolition of the surtax in the United Kingdom, as the conditions present in the various rum-producing Colonies vary so greatly as to afford no basis for equal treatment.

"The views of My Lords on the main question being as above stated, they do not feel called upon to express any opinion upon the special points raised in the letter of 5th July and previous letters addressed by the West India Committee to the Secretary of State.

"Such questions as the exact amount of extra cost imposed upon the producers of rum in any particular Colony by the Excise restrictions, and the possible desirability of their amendment, appear to be well worthy of careful consideration by the Colonial Governments, especially as it appears (not only from the correspondence as to Trinidad now under review, but also from a 'Protest' from the Jamaica Sugar Planters' Association, dated 13th July, 1900, of which copy has no doubt been sent to your Department by the West India Committee) that there exists great divergence of opinion and considerable doubt as to the facts of the case.

"But matters of this kind are not relevant to the question of the abolition or retention of the surtax in the United Kingdom, and, therefore, however important they may be in themselves, it does not fall within the province of My Lords to consider them.—I am, &c.,

"E. W. HAMILTON."

It will be noted that the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer made in a letter to the Committee, dated August 5th, 1898, that he admitted that the surtax might operate in some measure to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies and therefore agreed that the assistance to be given them by the Imperial Government should be on a more liberal scale than that recommended by the Royal Commission in order that the Colonies might be enabled to deal with the difficulty themselves by making allowances on the export of Rum, is repeated in a modified form in this latest letter, although we pointed out that British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad had received no Imperial assistance of the nature indicated, and any financial assistance since accorded to Jamaica has been hypothecated to objects wholly unconnected with Rum. The statement of the Lords Commissioners that the surtax could not be abolished in favour of the West Indies alone without accepting the principle of differential duties in favour of our Colonies appears to be an admission on their part that the surtax of 4d. constitutes a differential duty in favour of this country. It is difficult to see how a fiscal arrangement made with a view to place the produce of our Crown Colonies on an equality with home produce in our markets can give foreign Governments any just ground for claiming that a similar position should be accorded to their products unless they are at the same time willing to make their own excise regulations subject to our approval and administration, and they would even then have no right whatever to claim it. The West Indian Colonies are in a different position to foreign countries, and self-governing Colonies, of whose excise regulations we know nothing, inasmuch as they are under the control of the Home Government, and they may fairly claim in justice and equity to be placed on the same footing as the British distiller. The West India Committee are not allowing this matter to drop, but have addressed a further letter regarding it to the Secretary of State, which will be published in a subsequent letter.

WEST INDIAN LIME JUICE.

The Committee, having reason to believe from information received that the War Department had been supplied with the mixture referred to in our letter to the Press of August last (Circular 31,

p. 3) in place of pure lime juice, a letter was written calling the attention of the War Department thereto. The War Department replied, through the Colonial Office, as follows:—

War Office, London, S.W., 31st October, 1900.

Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 23rd instant, No. 32848/1900, forwarding a copy of a letter from the West India Committee, with a copy of a communication addressed by the Committee to the Press of the United Kingdom, on the subject of the adulteration of Lime Juice with Lemon Juice, and to acquaint you in reply that no order has at any time been given by this Department for adulterated Lime Juice.—I am, etc.,

The Under Secretary of State, (Signed) G. FLEETWOOD WILSON.
Colonial Office.

To this letter the following acknowledgment was sent:—

November 16th, 1900.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, No. 15720 transmitting one from the War Office dated 31st October, 1900, 53/ Gen. No. 11438, stating that "no order has at any time been given by this Department (the War Department) for adulterated Lime Juice."

(2.) In reply thereto I am to say that my Committee never wished to suggest that the War Department had knowingly placed an order for such an article.

(3.) They hope, however, that their caution may serve for future guidance in view of the fact that Lemon Juice is being mixed with Lime Juice, to the detriment of the Consumer and of those British Colonies where the lime fruit is grown.—I have, etc.

The Under Secretary of State, ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Colonial Office. Secretary.

OUR WEST INDIAN COLONIES.

Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., delivered an address before the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool on Monday, December the 10th, entitled "The present position of our West Indian Colonies." The Chair was taken by Mr. Alfred L. Jones, J.P., President of the Chamber, and among those present were The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, The Earl of Stamford, Mr. A. F. Warr, M.P., Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., Mr. George Martineau, and a fully representative gathering. Sir Nevile Lubbock reviewing the condition and prospects of each Island in turn, laid stress on the advantages likely to accrue to Jamaica from the new Imperial Direct West Indian Mail service. He pointed out that should the trade of Jamaica continue to be so largely carried on with the United States as at present, it might be very difficult a few years hence for our Government to resist a claim from the United States for the cession of the Island to them on the grounds that the trade of the Island is mainly with their country. The crux of the situation was, he said, the Bounty Question. At the present time the West Indies were doing better owing to the fact of the United States having imposed countervailing duties on Bounty-fed sugar. The question was "How long would they continue to do so?" He believed the answer to be "Only until the United States territory is able to produce all the sugar they require for their own consumption." The abolition of the Foreign Bounties was therefore essential to the prosperity of our West Indian Colonies. He also advocated the shortening of the mail service to Barbados, which could be done at a very small cost to the Colonies. The difficulty here, he said, lay with the Post Office, who refused to improve the speed. He further referred to the praedial larceny or the stealing of growing crops, which so largely hampered minor industries, and remarked that the West India Committee were now taking steps to get a concensus of action on the part of the different Colonies to call attention to what was recognised to be a great impediment to the development of the Islands.

In the evening Sir Nevile Lubbock was entertained at a Banquet by the Chamber of Commerce at the Adelphi Hotel. Sir Nevile Lubbock's interesting paper is now in the Press, and copies of it will shortly be posted to Members.

THE CANE SUGAR MOVEMENT.

It will be remembered that at the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee on May 16th last, on the motion of Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, seconded by Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, a resolution was passed unanimously, instructing the Committee to assist the Cane Sugar Movement in favour of specialising the demand for Cane Sugar under the protection of the Merchandise Marks and the Food Adulteration Acts, which prevent the substitution of Beet for Cane Sugar on enquiry for the latter by buyers, and thus tend to differentiate in favour of Cane Sugar, the market prices of Beet and Cane Sugars. As the outcome of this resolution, a special Fund was opened under a Declaration of Trust, and Trustees were constituted to take charge of such money as should be collected for the purposes in view. The Trustees so appointed are Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. Henry K. Davson, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard and Mr. T. J. Wilkinson. At the desire of the Trustees of the Fund and the Acting Committee of the West India Committee, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall has expressed his willingness to afford every assistance towards placing the Cane Sugar Movement upon a sound basis, and has been appointed Honorary Secretary *pro. tem.* of the W. I. & B. G. Sugar Planters' Fund. We trust that every support will be accorded by Members of the West India Committee to this important movement. In this connection we may mention that Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., have readily acceded to our suggestion that only Cane Sugars should be used on the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," December 4th, 1900:—BARBADOS.—Messrs. J. Evelyn, C. J. Coates, S. C. Hovenden, O. H. T. Dudley, R. H. Creswell, Mrs. Schoener. DEMERARA.—Mr. B. Gainfort. JAMAICA.—Mrs. A. H. DaCosta. TRINIDAD.—Mr. S. H. Henderson, Mr. J. Wilson and wife. GRENADA.—Mrs. Payne. DOMINICA.—Rev. Father Branchercan. ST. LUCIA.—Mrs. Renshaw.

Departures per R.M.S. "Orinoco," November, 23th, 1900:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. P. Cave, Mr. W. Medford, Miss Layne, Mr. E. Emptage, Mr. J. Larborde, Mrs. Besant. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Lubbock, Dr. Fowler, Dr. and Mrs. Irwin, Mr. W. D. Bain. JAMAICA.—Mr. Max Noeldechen, Mr. C. B. Vickers, Second-Lieut. J. Briscoe, Mr. R. Roy, Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. C. Jacobsen, Rev. and Mrs. J. Yair, Mr. and Mrs. K. Naden, Miss A. Fore, Miss Foster, Miss Stanigar, Mr. A. DeMercado, Mrs. Kemp, Mr. N. Linares, Mr. H. C. Scrutton, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Bourke. TRINIDAD.—Miss F. Stedall, Miss E. Holt, Mr. A. Arbuckle, Dr. C. W. Howlett, Mr. K. F. Bubendey, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. R. Pitt, Mr. L. Mathien, Mrs. E. Bowen, Miss S. Black, Mrs. Kirton and family, Mr. Atkinson and family, Miss E. Jones, Mr. A. Anciani, Rev. and Mrs. Wilson. ANTIGUA.—Miss A. Walter. DOMINICA.—Mr. A. Hervey, Mr. G. Shaw. GRENADA.—Sir R. and Lady Llewelyn, Miss G. Llewelyn, Mr. Preston. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. T. and Miss DuBoulay, Miss Belmar, Mr. L. DeLaubencque, Mr. J. R. Simpson, Second-Lieut. W. Caddell. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B. TOBAGO.—Mr. W. Archibald, Mr. E. and Miss Archibald. TOUR.—Mr. W. B. Scott, Mr. F. Demuth.

Forward bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato" leaving December 12th, 1900:—BARBADOS.—Mr. Noel Gill, Dr. and Mrs. Bowen, Miss Bowen and Miss Skinner, Miss A. Bowen, Mrs. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. F. Collymore, Master Hanschell, Mr. J. N. Gurney, Sub-Lieut. J. Harvey, Sub-Lieut. J. Forbes, Mr. J. E. Harrison, Mr. E. J. Shelford. DEMERARA.—Sir W. Sendall, K.C.M.G., and Lady Sendall. JAMAICA.—Second-Lieut. Stephenson, Second-Lieut. Price, Mr. C. Bogler, Miss J. Mann, Miss H. Daubeny, Mr. M. Lyon, Mr. R. Pontifex. ANTIGUA.—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sprankling. DOMINICA.—Mr. J. Musgrove. TOBAGO.—Messrs. H. Thornton, H. Sworder, T. Orde. TOUR.—Mrs. E. Shearman, Colonel The Hon. J. P. Bouverie and Hon. Mrs. P. Bouverie, Mr. and Mrs. R. Thom and three Misses Thom, Mr. Suten, Mr. and Mrs. McGeogh, Miss McGeogh, Miss McIntyre.

MEMBERS OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ARE EARNESTLY REQUESTED TO NOTIFY TO THE SECRETARY THEIR ADDRESS WHEN VISITING OR LEAVING THE COUNTRY.

BEET PROSPECTS.

In FRANCE the weather of the past fortnight commenced mild and rainy, but has since become dry, with a lower temperature and a tendency to frost. Damp and mild weather is bad for the preservation of the Beet, and complaints are made of the roots shooting in the silos causing deterioration of the sugar contents. In the course of the month many factories will have finished crop, and will so avoid this disadvantage, which will be felt more by those obliged to continue manufacture over January and February. Up to now the yield of sugar exceeds that of last year, but it will be yet necessary to take into account the effect of the widespread adoption of the process of returning the molasses to the vacuum pan in order to increase the production of first jet sugar. In RUSSIA, AUSTRIA, and GERMANY many factories have finished crop; others will finish in December. The last estimates of the crop have not been altered. On the other hand, Willett & Gray, of New York, have increased their estimates of cane sugar by 52,000 tons, indicating a crop of 600,000 tons of cane over last year. The same authorities estimate that the total production of cane and Beet sugar will amount to 9,218,000 tons, or an excess of 890,000 tons over last year.—“*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre.*”

RUM.

The proof market is decidedly quieter, probably owing to the mild weather, and business is confined to 480 Puns. Demerara and Berbice at 1s. 8½d. to 1s. 10d. per proof gallon, being steady to occasionally easier rates. Owing to the lightermen's strike business is much impeded, no samples are yet to hand of the “Naparima” or “Cheniston” marks.

In Jamaica there is little or nothing to report, supplies of home trade kinds being practically exhausted, while the demand for the finer descriptions shows no improvement.

We append the Board of Trade Returns:—

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
LANDED	In Nov: 593,508 ..	219,998 ..	150,167 ..	154,474
	11 months 5,456,042 ..	4,899,266 ..	5,013,450 ..	4,490,755
HOME CONSUMPTION ..	In Nov: 506,672 ..	495,470 ..	472,518 ..	451,681
	11 months 3,935,214 ..	3,747,514 ..	3,422,771 ..	3,493,871
EXPORT	In Nov: 67,109 ..	97,050 ..	110,351 ..	89,002
	11 months 906,963 ..	853,066 ..	843,242 ..	820,327
STOCK (Galls.)	30 Nov: 6,895,000	7,231,000 ..	8,162,000 ..	8,384,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA PUNS	8,827 ..	12,044 ..	13,713 ..	12,674
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	471 ..	573 ..	758 ..	637
DEMERARA	3,482 ..	2,528 ..	4,656 ..	4,700
FOREIGN	1,712 ..	2,524 ..	967 ..	1,274
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	1,459 ..	1,707 ..	288 ..	258
VATTED	3,504 ..	3,649 ..	3,557 ..	3,842
TOTAL	19,455 ..	23,025 ..	23,939 ..	23,385

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—The market has been very flat during the past month, and, with the trade generally showing much unwillingness to make offers, only a small proportion of the quantity submitted to public sale was disposed of, prices showing a decline of 1/- to 1/6 per cwt. Since the last auctions, however, holders have shown much more disposition to sell and business to some extent has been transacted at a further reduction of 1/- per cwt., fully middling red quality having been sold at 70/- per cwt. Fine has not been quite so depressed, and recently sales have been made at 73/6 to 77/- for export. We estimate the total transactions for the month at about 3,000 bags. Deliveries from 1st January to 1st December were 45,444 bags against 38,133 bags last year. Imports 55,385 bags against 39,141 bags, and Stocks on 1st December 29,576 bags against 20,356 bags. GRENADA.—Transactions during the month have been of a most insignificant character, the total quantity offered at the public sales only amounting to 114 bags. The tone has been very slow and the few small sales that have occurred show a decline of about 1/- per cwt., latest quotations being 70/- to 72/- for ordinary to good fair and 72/6 to 74/- for middling to fine. Deliveries from 1st January to 1st December were 41,957 bags against 39,116 bags last year; imports 40,223 bags against 36,562 bags, and Stocks on 1st December 7,629 bags against 10,393 bags.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

Pimento	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	Logwood	£4 10s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton, landed.
Ginger	36s. to 62s. per cwt.	Logwood Roots	£4 to £4 5s. per ton, landed.
Wax	£7 12s. 6d. to £8 per cwt.	Fustic	£3 15s. to £4. Roots £3 5s. per ton, landed.
Honey	24s. to 28s. per cwt.	Lancewood Spars	3s. 6d. to 5s. each.

EXPORTS

From—	Sugar, Tons.	Rum, Puns.	Cocoa, lbs.	Coffee, lbs.	Gold, ozs.	Diamonds, Single Stones.	Co'nuts, Puns.	Molasses, Puns.	Bananas, Bunches.	Oranges.	Asphalt, Tons.	Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BRITISH GUIANA—														
Jan. 1st to 21st Nov., 1900	69,136	17,365	32,072	—	96,327	1,842	320	2,107						
Jan. 1st to 22nd Nov., 1899	60,337	11,610	124,778	—	97,059	—	571	4,422						
JAMAICA—		Galls.	cwts.	cwts.										
April 1st to 27th Oct., 1900	11,148	1,012,069	8,017	21,747	3,109,660	32,693,337	6,934,343	—						
April 1st to 28th Oct., 1899	14,952	1,075,053	10,158	24,622	6,704,661	38,752,812	11,621,885	—						
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.	Puns.	lbs.	lbs.										
Jan. 1st to 21st Nov., 1900	375,251	579	26,772,952	3,540	127,283	—	7,902,106	7,483	72	89				
Jan. 1st to 21st Nov., 1899	476,248	1,479	24,207,490	6,400	123,502	—	10,416,530	11,343	293	183				

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.	1896 Tons.
United Kingdom 1st December	49,943	41,197	71,699	71,855	134,716
France 1st November	310,000†	390,000†	265,000†	273,636	348,645
Germany 1st November	487,888*	404,687*	441,498*	466,034*	436,983
Hamburg 5th December	72,950	107,800	100,000	98,800	110,300
Austria-Hungary 1st November	285,000	229,183	304,759	249,160	296,113
Holland 15th November	41,938	31,751	35,857	61,108	46,019
Belgium 15th November	34,102	53,288	89,066	71,844	85,171
	1,281,821	1,257,906	1,307,879	1,292,437	1,457,947
United States 7th December, Total Stocks	69,000	209,897	86,523	324,639	264,868
Cuba, six principal ports, 5th December, Total Stocks	1,000	11,542	9,704	1,770	36,409
Cargoes afloat, 6th December	40,116	83,531	139,325	57,353	21,137
Total	1,391,937	1,562,876	1,543,431	1,676,199	1,780,361

* Total stocks, not Licht's. † Estimated.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 13th, "Very dry, rain wanted." November 26th, "Fine rains, but partial."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.), November 13th, "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." November 19th, "Raining since last message." November 22nd, "Nice rains have fallen." November 29th, "No rain worth speaking of since last message." December 4th, "Weather dry, and rain much wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), November 19th, "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County." November 20th, "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Berbice." December 3rd, "Weather dry, and rain wanted." (New Colonial Co.), November 19th, "Over 2 inches of rain fallen generally." December 4th, "Weather too dry."

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co.), November 22nd, "Showery, favourable for cultivation." November 29th, *idem*.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The West India Committee invite contributions of Books and Papers relating to the West Indies and photographs of West Indian Scenery, which will be duly acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following publications received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms :—

Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, J. H. Hart, F.L.S., Botanical Department, Trinidad. *Colonial Reports*: *The Bahamas*, 1899; *Trinidad and Tobago*, 1899; *International Sugar Cane*, December, 1900. "The Morphology of the Malarial Parasite," Harold R. D. Spitta, M.B., B.S. "British Guiana Blue Book," 1899-1900; *The Louisiana Planter*, Vol. XXV., 18-19; *The Produce Markets Review*, Vol. XXXIX., Nos. 1747-50; *The West Indian and Commercial Advertiser*, November; *The Proceedings of the Grenada Agricultural Society*; *The Journal of The Jamaica Agricultural Society*, November, and the following West Indian newspapers :—

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| <i>The Antigua Standard.</i> | <i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i> |
| <i>The Antigua Observer.</i> | <i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Advocate.</i> | <i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Globe.</i> | <i>The St. Christopher Gazette.</i> |
| <i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i> | <i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i> |
| <i>The Demerara Daily Chronicle.</i> | <i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i> |
| <i>The Dominica Guardian.</i> | <i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i> |
| <i>The Federalist (Grenada).</i> | <i>Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad).</i> |
| <i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i> | |

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Subscribers of £1 rs. and upwards to the West India Committee are entitled to the Monthly Circular, Weather Telegrams, and other Publications for the year. Subscriptions are due on Jan. 1st for the year then current. Subscriptions from new Members received during the last 3 months of any year, are considered as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.
